

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2015-2030

June 2016

Briefing Note




Dignity


People


Planet


Prosperity


Justice


Partnership

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

What are the SDGs?

The Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) are successors to the 'Millennium Development Goals-MDGs'. The MDGs were adopted in 2000 by governments to make global progress on poverty, education, health, hunger and the environment. The MDGs expired at the end of 2015. During 25-27 September 2015, the member states of the United Nations converged in New York for the United Nations (UN) Summit on Sustainable Development and adopted the new global goals for sustainable development. The world leaders pledged their commitment to the new '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', encompassing 17 universal and transformative SDGs.

The SDGs are a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that all UN member states are expected to use to frame their development agendas, socio-economic policies, and actions towards low carbon pathways for the next 15 years, in order to achieve a sustainable world where 'no one is left behind' without compromising sustainability of the planet. These new global goals are much broader and comprehensive than the outgoing MDGs, as they attempt to address all three dimensions of sustainable development- economic, social and environmental.

Why do we need a new set of goals?

The MDGs were highly influential in mobilizing international efforts to reduce poverty in the developing countries during the period 2000-2015. Although significant progress has been made in tackling poverty, the goal of reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters is unlikely to be met in Africa and much of Asia. While the MDG to reduce the mortality of children aged under-five by two-thirds is unlikely to be achieved in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia and Oceania.

Currently, around one billion people still live on less than \$1.25 a day - the World Bank measure on poverty - and more than 800 million people do not have enough food to eat. Extreme events, and climatic changes are causing widespread damages to humans and physical systems. Across the globe, women are still facing difficulties for their rights, and millions of women still die in childbirth. The MDGs' progress review clearly suggests that achieving environmental sustainability and human wellbeing is a challenge, especially while considering the emerging threats of climate change. The fossil fuel based economic growth, unsustainable consumption, income inequality, unchecked urbanization, deforestation and climate change remain barriers to ensuring sustainable development for all.

The global community has adopted SDGs to complete the MDG's unfinished development agenda and meet sustainability challenges. The main difference between the MDGs and the SDGs is that the new proposed development goals are universal in nature. Therefore, they are meant to apply to all countries. 'Sustainable Development' is not something that only 'developing' countries should do. Each UN member state should work towards a sustainable world for future generations. The SDGs will expand the focus of development goals to rich countries. In short, these goals will now apply to the whole world.

What are the new global goals?

In September 2015, world leaders gathered in New York to agree on a new development plan or Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, incorporating the 17 Goals. The newly adopted SDGs reflect a coherent, holistic, comprehensive and balanced framework incorporating the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental with recognition of the direct linkages between human well-being, economic development and a healthy environment. The SDGs aim to end poverty in all its forms, and promote healthy lives and wellbeing for all; end hunger for all; and ensure availability and sustainable management of water and energy for all. The six essential elements of SDGs provide conceptual guidance towards achieving all the SDGs. These elements are dignity, people, prosperity, our planet, justice and partnership.

After the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly of the United Nations set up the 'Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators' (IAEG-SDGs) within the

Sustainable development is development that improves the living conditions in the present without compromising the resources of future generations. Development is NOT sustainable when we spend or use all our resources now, leaving future generations with nothing. Sustainable development is growing together, improving the thinking of others and respecting the environment.

Characteristic of SDGs

- Action-oriented
- Concise
- Easy to communicate
- Limited in number
- Aspirational
- Global in nature
- Universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.



Goal	Pakistan Baseline
1 End poverty in all its forms	21.04% population below poverty line \$1.25 60.19% population below poverty line \$2
2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	58.1% Food insecure Households 169 kcal/person/day Intensity of food deprivation
3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	88 <5y mortality rate (per1000livebirths) 170 Maternal mortality ratio (per100K live births)
4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning	58% Overall Literacy Rate 25.02 million Children (5-16) are not in school.
5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	144 ranked out of 142 rank on women economic participation 132 rank on women education attainment
6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	35% doesn't have access to safe drinking water 52% doesn't has access to improved sanitation
7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	91.4% Population with access to electricity <1% Share of renewable energy in total mix
8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	53.1% Labour force participation rate 6.2% Unemployment rate
9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	20.3% Industry's contribution in GDP 10.9% Population use Internet
10 Reduce inequality within and among countries	30 Income Gini coefficient 1.55 Palma Index (ratio of consumption of top 10% to the bottom 40%)
11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	47% Urban population lives in 9 cities only 5.0 Cities population growth rate
12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	68.3% Electricity generation from fossil fuels 25% Energy losses in all sectors
13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	310 m.t of CO2 eq. Total GHG emmissions 6% Budget allocation for climate fiancing
14 Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	222 rank on global Ocean Health Index 350 million gallon/day raw sewage and untreated industrial waste flows into the Arabian Sea from Karachi
15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	2.1% National forest cover 68 million hectares Land affected by desertification & degradation
16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	9000 Avg. annual deaths from terrorist activities 3 million Cases pending before judiciary
17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	

United Nations Statistical Commission to develop framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. The IAEG-SDGs submitted its first report on indicators to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in January, 2016. During 47th session in April 2016, the UNSC presented final agreed 231 targets that will be validated by General Assembly later this year.

How the goals were chosen?

The process of creating the SDGs grew out of the two recent United Nations meetings and agreements. First, in 2010, there was an 'MDG Summit,' where the world's national governments asked the UN Secretary-General to initiate thinking on the global development agenda up on the expiry of MDGs in 2015. This process is commonly known as the 'Post-2015 Agenda'. Second, in June 2012 the UN held a 20-year follow-up meeting to the original 'Earth Summit' of 1992, which was held in Rio de Janeiro. The outcome document of this 2012 'Rio+20' meeting, The Future We Want, includes a global commitment to create the SDGs through an inclusive process. An Open Working Group (OWG) was housed in General Assembly and tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs. The OWG, with representatives from 70 countries, published its final draft, with its 17 suggested goals, in July 2014. The aim of this document was to guide global efforts to ensure people around the world live better, without damaging the planet. In June, 2015 the President of General Assembly issued the zero draft document for SDGs negotiations. In September, 2015 these intergovernmental process ultimately converged in to a new global development agenda called 'Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development'. The process that led formulation of SDGs is convoluted, as it has been a far more participatory consultative process than the MDGs, which were developed by a small group of organizations and donors in 2000.

What is Post 2015 development agenda?

The year 2015 was a pivotal time for the international development. In addition to the 3rd UN conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, in Sendai Japan that yielded Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the Financing

for Development (FfD) Conference in July 2015 at Accra Ghana, the world leaders gathered in September 2015 to agree the next set of goals, to replace the existing MDGs. The climate negotiations under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Paris during Nov-Dec, 2015 resulting in Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Overall, the year 2015 proved as a successful year for multilateralism as ambitious agreements have been made. These agreements collectively referred as post-2015 agenda, have the potential to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, tackle inequalities and promote a universal model of development, which is truly sustainable and in line with the pressing climate change commitments. These agreements collectively offer a once-in-a generation opportunity to end extreme poverty, create climate resilience and avoid dangerous levels of climate change by committing to zero net carbon emissions. All the major agreements made in 2015, acknowledged the interlinkages of healthy environment in addressing development challenges including poverty, climate change, food security, water scarcity, vulnerabilities to disasters, ensure health, and sustainable and resilient cities.

How the SDGs will be financed?

The SDGs are more ambitious than the MDGs, covering a broad range of interconnected issues, from economic growth to social issues to global public goods. To realize this vision, an ambitious plan for financing and implementation is needed.

The post-2015 development agenda will require full range of means of implementation that include financial and non-financial, public and private and domestic and international. It is estimated that the cost of eradicate extreme poverty would require about \$66 billion dollars per year, and the UN estimates that developing countries will face a gap of \$2.5 trillion per year if they are to achieve the SDGs.

Domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance are anchors of development finance. Country leadership and ownership are

fundamental to the success of financing the post-2015 agenda. Moreover, financing from the private sector will also be required. In addition, new measures are needed to speed up tax reform, control corruption and illicit financial flows, and expand tax net.

Elements of SDGs



Source: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

ABOUT LEAD

LEAD, or Leadership for Environment and Development, is a think tank with a focus on policy relevant research. In this connection, LEAD launched three special initiatives in 2015: Pakistan 2047; Knowledge Hub on SDGs; and Sustainable Cities. These are the strategic steps with an ambitious agenda and are aimed at shaping the development framework of the government of Pakistan in line with the global trends and requirements.

LEAD has been pursuing an ambitious research agenda (policy as well as action research) regarding various dimensions of climate change, environment, water, governance, health, education and other thematic areas relevant to its programmes. In addition to the demand driven research, we generate knowledge products, including case studies from all our project interventions to adduce evidence for contributing to the larger development discourse. With a history of successful delivery of more than 180 development initiatives, we look forward to producing greater developmental impact through sophistication in design and implementation of projects and interventions.

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KEY DOCUMENTS

- Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level: Report of the Secretary General. (Jan, 2016). The Secretary General of the UN, in consultation with Member States, submitted a report for consideration at the 70th session of the General Assembly in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the HLPF which outlines critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – The draft text of the SDGs covers the four components of the agenda: an opening Declaration; the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership; and Follow-up and Review.
- Briefing to the General Assembly on the global SDG indicator framework: The report includes 231 proposed indicators, covering all 169 targets of the 17 SDGs. The final report on indicators was agreed during 3rd meeting of IAEG-SDGs held in April, 2016.
- Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2015: The report asks how well prepared the scientific community is to inform the sort of integrated and multidimensional problem solving and policy making that will be needed for implementing post-2015 agenda.
- Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda: The report proposes one universal and transformative agenda for sustainable development, underpinned by rights, and with people and the planet at the centre.