

## SUPPORT FOR DATA, INDICATORS AND STATISTICS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDIA

**R.R. Shinde**

Department of Commerce, K.V.N. Naik Arts, Commerce & Science College, Nashik, MS, India  
rupalikiranpatil@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*In 2015 the UN adopted a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals focusing on social, economic and environmental concerns. It has laid down a road-map for achieving an all-inclusive growth and development. Countries across the globe have set up mechanism to monitor their progress on achievement of these 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In India agencies like the NITI aayog and the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) are working towards providing the data, measurement and monitoring support to ensure that India is on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A mechanism known as the National Indicator Framework (NIF) has been established to monitor the progress. This paper reviews the monitoring mechanism put in place by the Indian Government and highlights steps taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation in bridging the information gaps in the performance measurement system.*

**Keywords:** UN Sustainable Development Goals, National Indicator Framework, Monitoring of progress.

### 1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the plan for accomplishing a superior and manageable future for all. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly in its 70th Session held on 25th September 2015, fully intent on requiring forward the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, taken on the report named "Changing our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" comprising of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and furthermore related 169 targets. The SDGs came into effect from first January, 2016. The SDGs are a complete rundown of worldwide objectives incorporating social, monetary and environmental components of improvement. Besides, the SDGs are all inclusive (for all countries – developed, developing and under developed), interconnected and unified and thus require far reaching and participatory methodologies in uniting very one with the goal that nobody is abandoned. Nations are essentially liable for following up and assessing the advancement made in executing the objectives and focus at the public level till 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals give a worldwide system to move by 2030 towards more evenhanded, serene, tough, and prosperous social orders - while living inside economical planetary limits. The SDGs are not lawfully restricting, yet have become accepted worldwide commitments and

can possibly reorient homegrown spending needs of the nations up till 2030. Nations are relied upon to take proprietorship and build up a public system for accomplishing these objectives. Execution and achievement will rely upon nations' own economical advancement strategies, plans and projects. The 2030 Agenda likewise highlighted the way that quality, solid and disaggregated information would be required for estimation of progress on the objectives and for guaranteeing that "Nobody is Left Behind".

India is resolved to execute the SDGs dependent on the broadly characterized pointers reacting to public needs and needs. In this work, towards coordinating SDGs into nation's on-going public and sub-public strategies and projects, at public level, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has planned the SDGs with halfway supported projects of various Central Ministries/Departments. The incorporated idea of the 2030 Agenda expects legislatures to work across strategy storehouses and set eager and interrelated financial, social and environmental goals that go past momentary political cycles. Legislature of India is working with the way to deal with key visioning, need setting, and execution. The Government of India is emphatically dedicated to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. Following its responsibility towards accomplishing the SDGs, Government has additionally started a

progression of cross country government assistance and formative projects. The Government is focused on guaranteeing "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" in the soul of the Sustainable Development Goals' proverb of "Nobody is Left Behind".

## 2. Literature Review

Engebretsen et al. (2017) state that in 2015, the UN General Assembly committed to 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda. The Agenda is a plan of action for people, the planet, and for prosperity. The implementation of the Agenda requires strong commitment and accountability. However, as stated in *The Lancet* by the University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health, mechanisms to hold states accountable for their obligations under international conventions are generally weak.

Galli et al. (2018) write that following the UN adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Government of Montenegro entered in the final phase of revising of National Strategy for Sustainable Development (*NSSD 2030*). Under the supervision of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, an NSSD team of national and international experts was assembled under the coordination of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism. To demonstrate commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda, Montenegro decided to center the *NSSD 2030* on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and indicators.

Georgeson and Maslin (2018) conclude that further critical attention to the "Implementation", "Monitoring", and "Finance" framework is vital to ensure accountability and transparency from an ever-growing number of state and non-state development actors. This review also seeks to further the potential for greater links between development theory, development geography, and development actors and institutions to improve development under the SDGs and increase engagement from geography on the SDGs. This framework points towards a basis for critical engagement on the sustainability,

equality, and quality of development, while challenging the primacy of economic growth-based paradigms in SDG implementation.

Hogan et al. (2018) write that achieving universal health coverage, including quality essential service coverage and financial protection for all, is target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). As a result, an index of essential health service coverage indicators was selected by the UN as SDG indicator 3.8.1. Authors have developed an index for measuring SDG 3.8.1, describe methods for compiling the index, and report baseline results for 2015.

Lu et al. (2015) observe that the SDGs place greater demands on the scientific community than did the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which they replace. Addressing climate change, renewable energy, food, health and water provision requires coordinated global monitoring and modelling of many factors — social, economic and environmental. Much remains to be done: the 17 goals comprise 169 targets, 91 of which need to be specified in more detail. Metrics need to be developed to measure progress towards the targets on local, national, regional and global levels and across sectors. Monitoring and evaluation procedures and standards need to be set up. To guide action, the connections between targets need to be better understood. Some synergies and trade-offs depend on scale — for instance, greater fertilizer use might increase food production and incomes locally, but would exacerbate pollution. Climate-change mitigation tends to happen at a local scale, but the consequences are global.

Nilsson et al. (2016) opine that implicit in the SDG logic is that the goals depend on each other — but no one has specified exactly how. International negotiations gloss over tricky trade-offs. Still, balancing interests and priorities is what policymakers do — and the need will surface when the goals are being implemented. If countries ignore the overlaps and simply start trying to tick off targets one by one, they risk perverse outcomes. For example, using coal to improve energy access (goal 7) in Asian nations, say, would accelerate climate change and acidify the oceans (undermining goals 13 and 14), as well as exacerbating other

problems such as damage to health from air pollution (disrupting goal 3).

Reyers et al. (2017) observe that the imperative to measure progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has resulted in a proliferation of targets and indicators fed by an ever-expanding set of observations. This proliferation undermines one principal purpose of the SDGs: to provide a framework for coordinated action across policy domains. Systems approaches to defining Essential Variables have focused monitoring of climate, biodiversity and oceans and offer opportunities to coordinate SDG monitoring.

### 3. National Indicator Framework

Observing and assessment are fundamental for evaluating the degree to which arrangements and asset distributions forexecuting the SDGs bring about significant results. It is obvious that solid information is the spine for better observing of SDGs and furthermore need for information driven dynamic arrangements. Considering the perplexing and interconnected nature of the SDGs, Government of India began dealing with a sound checking and assessment system. Partners interest is basic to guarantee that public needs for SDG execution are perceivedand acknowledged. Towards this undertaking, the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India fostered a National Indicator Framework(NIF) in 2018 comprising of 306 public indictors alongside recognized information sources and periodicity following due interview process with concerned Ministries/Departments, UN Agencies and different partners. NIF is the spine for working with observing of SDGs at the public level and gives proper heading to the approach creators and the executing organizations of different plans and projects. By and by, at public level, information stream from National Statistical Office and almost 30 information source Ministries/Departments are associated with the most common way of giving information on SDGs. MoSPI arranges with these line Ministries for systematizing the information stream for SDG pointers. Legislature of India has established a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Statistician of India (CSI) and Secretary,

MoSPI with individuals from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Finance and MoSPI to occasionally audit and refine the NIF. The line in istries/Departments propose changes in the NIF keeping the pertinence of pointers and information accessibility in view. These recommendations are put before the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), established incompatibility of the Terms of References of HLSC under the chairpersonship of Director General (Statistics), MoSPI between alia to look at, survey and suggest the proposal(s) of refinement/ erasure/expansion of pointers in NIF for endorsement by HLSC.

**Table 1: The306 indicators for the 17 SDGs  
SDG Indicators**

SDG	Indicators
SDG 1: No Poverty	19
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	19
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	41
SDG 4: Quality Education	20
SDG 5: Gender Equality	29
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	19
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	5
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	40
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	18
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	7
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	16
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	17
SDG 13: Climate Action	4
SDG 14: Life Below Water	13
SDG 15: Life on Land	21
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	18
SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals	0
Total Number of Indicators	306

(Source: National Statistics Office, MoSPI, 2019)

### 4. Steps Taken By MospI In Bridging Data Gaps

MoSPI has made a few strides in connecting the information gaps identifying with SDG pointers. Service hold standard discussions with line Ministries/Departments and the

particular Custodian Agencies. To systematize such considerations, MoSPI, NITI Aayog and the United Nations addressed by United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), New Delhi, India have gone into a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) identifying with help for Data, Indicators and Statistics for observing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India. The general reason for the MoU is to work together on issues identified with help for factual checking of Goals and Targets of SDGs, including the utilization of new advances, limit improvement to follow SDG related results and some other arising prerequisites. In this manner, in compatibility of the arrangement of MoU, MoSPI has set up a Data for Development Coordination Forum (DDCF) on SDGs, under the co-chairmanship of Director General (Statistics), NSO, MoSPI and UN Resident Coordinator for fostering the information plan, aiding the improvement of a sound estimation, further developing the marker system after an intensive audit with all partners and so on. This is a fundamental gathering to talk about the SDGs related issues with every one of the partners and UN Agencies at a bound together stage. MoSPI has comprised six topic put together Sectorial Committees with respect to SDGs comprising of individuals from significant information source Ministries, UN Agencies/Development Accomplices, Research Institutions and so forth fundamentally to work together for developing technique for SDGs worldwide pointers in Indian setting and recognizing information gaps in observing of SDGs. The consultations held in such advisory groups have been exceptionally valuable in improving the SDG checking structure. The topic of these six sectorial advisory groups are under:

- i. Poverty, Agriculture and Food Security
- ii. Work and Employment and Education
- iii. Wellbeing and Gender related issues
- iv. Climate and Climate Change
- v. Good Governance and Capacity Building
- vi. Big Data, AI, Block Chain and Machine Learning for SDGs.

MIS is being directed interestingly by the MoSPI for giving appraisals identifying with some significant marks of SDGs from a solitary overview. Moreover, a couple studies of MoSPI like Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS), Time Use Survey (TUS), Situational Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households and so forth have been lined up with SDGs according to its information prerequisite principally to connect the information gaps.

### 5. Conclusion

No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and, Partnership for the Goals are the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN for 2030. Towards this undertaking, the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India fostered a National Indicator Framework (NIF) in 2018 comprising of 306 public indicators alongside recognized information sources and periodicity following due interview process with concerned Ministries/Departments, UN Agencies and different partners. Further to systematize such considerations, MoSPI, NITI Aayog and the United Nations addressed by United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), New Delhi, India have gone into a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) identifying with help for Data, Indicators and Statistics for observing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India. In this manner, in compatibility of the arrangement of MoU, MoSPI has set up a Data for Development Coordination Forum (DDCF) on SDGs, under the co-chairmanship of Director General (Statistics), NSO, MoSPI and UN Resident Coordinator for fostering the information plan, aiding the improvement of a sound estimation, further developing the marker system after an intensive audit with all partners.

### References

1. Engebretsen, E., Heggen, K., & Ottersen, O. P. (2017). The sustainable development goals: Ambiguities of accountability. *The Lancet*, 389(10067), 365-365.
2. Galli, A., Đurović, G., Hanscom, L., & Knežević, J. (2018). Think globally, act locally: Implementing the sustainable development goals in Montenegro. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 84, 159-169.
3. Georgeson, L., & Maslin, M. (2018). Putting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into practice: A review of implementation, monitoring, and finance. *Geo: Geography and Environment*, 5(1), e00049.
4. Hogan, D. R., Stevens, G. A., Hosseinpoor, A. R., & Boerma, T. (2018). Monitoring universal health coverage within the Sustainable Development Goals: development and baseline data for an index of essential health services. *The Lancet Global Health*, 6(2), e152-e168.
5. Lu, Y., Nakicenovic, N., Visbeck, M., & Stevanec, A. S. (2015). Policy: five priorities for the UN sustainable development goals. *Nature News*, 520(7548), 432.
6. National Statistics Office, MoSPI, (2019). Accessed from [http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_reports/SDG-NIFProgress\\_March%2031.pdf](http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/SDG-NIFProgress_March%2031.pdf)
7. Nilsson, M., Griggs, D., & Visbeck, M. (2016). Policy: map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals. *Nature News*, 534(7607), 320.
8. Reyers, B., Stafford-Smith, M., Erb, K. H., Scholes, R. J., & Selomane, O. (2017). Essential variables help to focus sustainable development goals monitoring. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 26, 97-105.