



# MAPS – A Common Approach to the UNDG’s policy support to the SDGs - An update on implementation

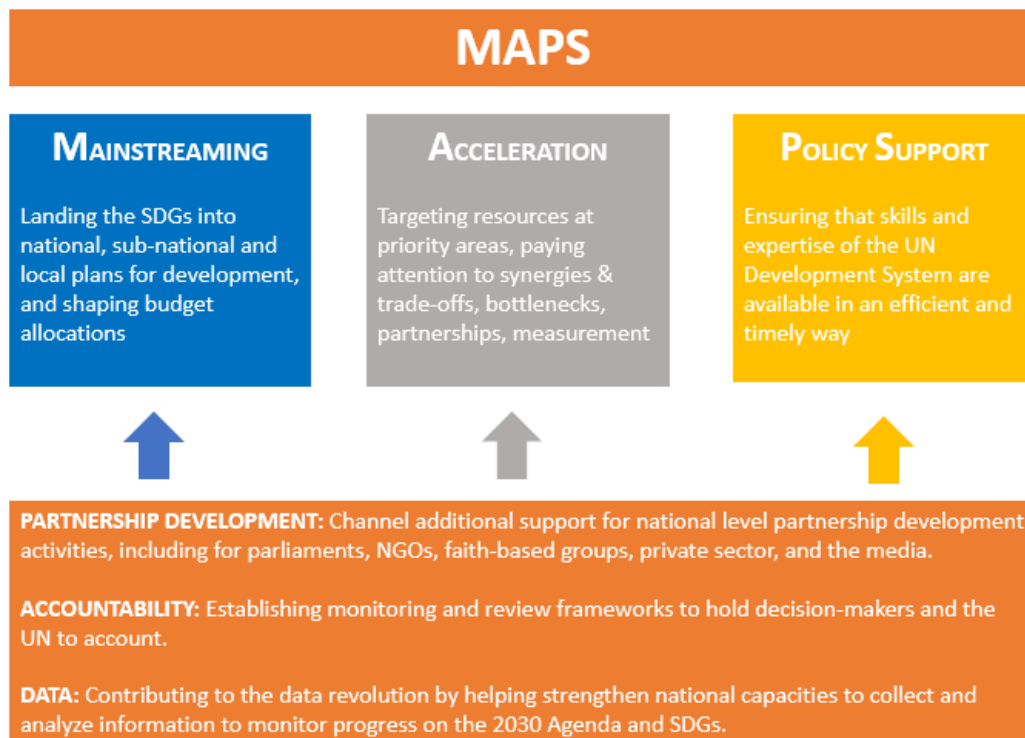
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## What is MAPS?

MAPS stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support. MAPS was adopted by the UNDG in October 2015 as a common approach to its support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. The MAPS approach captures the core components of the UNDG’s upstream support to the SDGs:

1. Mainstreaming work to raise public awareness on the 2030 Agenda and ensure that the principles and goals of sustainable development found in the 2030 Agenda are fully integrated into national and sub-national policy formulation, planning and budgetary processes.
2. Analytical work that informs policy makers of the drivers and bottlenecks to sustainable development at the country level, and that contributes to the design of policy interventions that can accelerate progress towards achieving national SDGs by 2030.
3. Policy Support, in terms of joined-up approaches that will enable the UN to deploy its technical expertise and advice to Member States in support of SDG implementation in a coherent and integrated way.

In addition to these three core elements, the MAPS common approach recognizes the importance and the need to support partnership development, accountability and data efforts, as key ingredients to the success of its policy engagement on the SDGs at the country level.





## How does it work?

The UNDG has been developing a number of tools, guidance and expertise to support country-level efforts in SDG mainstreaming, acceleration, policy development, data, partnerships and accountability. These resources are being made available to a wide range of potential users, from UN Country Teams, to Member State governments, local authorities, civil society organization, policy and research institutions.

Work undertaken by the UNDG and its members under the MAPS common approach is guided by the following principles:

- ✓ MAPS-related support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be demand driven and tailored to specific country conditions and needs;
- ✓ It should complement and build on existing capacities and resources available in the UN development system; and
- ✓ It should encourage working together, using more integrated approaches and teamed-up support, so that the UN can deliver together for higher impact, to help countries with progress on the SDGs.

## Illustrations of what has been done so far?

### On Mainstreaming

- The UNDG has produced a ***Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda Reference Guide to UNCTs*** providing guidance, resources and background material to help land the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. This reference guide, has been shared widely, and is already being used by UN agencies and UNCTs for their SDG mainstreaming work. Over 80 countries have been requested formally by government for support on the national response to the SDGs, on mainstreaming the SDGs in national development plans, measurement and reporting.
- UNITAR, with the UNDG, has developed the ***UNITAR-UNDG Preparing for Action National Briefing Package: The 2030 Agenda and SDGs*** as a targeted resource to raise awareness among policy makers and other key national stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda. These are being used to initiate the dialogue on integration of the SDGs into national development plans.
- Individual UN entities are responding to calls on their expertise, engaging other members of the UNCT. DESA, for example, is using MAPS mainstreaming material in its SDG capacity building workshops in countries such as Jordan, Morocco and Togo, working together with the UNCTs in these countries. UNDP is supporting a first group 20 UNCTs to work with national governments to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into national planning frameworks.<sup>1</sup> It has also developed a prototype for a ***“Rapid Integrated Policy Assessment”***, a tool that helps countries assess their readiness for SDG implementation by reviewing national plans against the SDGs. So far, this tool has been used in Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Tonga, Jordan, Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador and Guinea.

### On Acceleration

- Work is underway to develop a basic set of modelling and analytical tools for acceleration. The focus will be on tools that address the challenges of (i) integration and system-wide dynamics; (ii) last-mile analysis to leave no one behind, reaching first those furthest behind, and (iii) risk-informed

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<sup>1</sup> Lao PDR, Mongolia, Bhutan, Tonga, Somalia, Morocco, Algeria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Botswana, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago.



development planning to tackle vulnerability and boost resilience by better anticipating, managing and adapting to shocks and volatility. This work builds on long-standing collaboration between UNDP, DESA and the World Bank on system-wide modelling for human development, in addition to contributions from UNICEF.

- UNDP and UNICEF are working on the development of a community of practice that brings together organizations from within the UN system and also from outside, working on similar acceleration and analytical approaches. This community of practice will operate as a knowledge sharing platform among users and systems developers, and also make these analytical policy tools publicly available.

### **On Policy Support**

- UNDG has produced a compendium of policy support resources that are available in the UN Development System.
- Future work on this component will be geared at defining joint, integrated approaches that help deploy the UN's policy services at the country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The actual form and effect of the MAPS Policy Support effort will largely depend on how the Acceleration work evolves, and on the resources the UNDG is able to mobilize in support of the MAPS.

### **On Reporting, Data and Accountability**

- UNDG is currently preparing guidelines for support to the preparation of national SDG reports. These reports are country led and owned, and the guidelines are UN Country Teams that may be approached by Member States support to national SDG review and reporting. The national SDG reporting guidelines could potentially be used by a wider audience, including governments, civil society, policy-makers and development practitioners.
- These guidelines provide a practical orientation to UNCTs on the operationalization of the principles outlined in the 2030 Agenda for national SDG review and follow up processes. They build on 15 years of experience of supporting MDG national review exercises (from more than 500 national MDG progress reports in countries around the world, produced with technical and financial support from the UNCTs).
- More than 100 UN Country Teams are currently engaging on national data and statistical systems, the majority providing capacity development services. In others, direct data, as well as technical expertise and financial support for data management and systems operation is being provided.
- Through these efforts, the UNDG and UNCTs stand ready to support SDG national review, data and national accountability mechanisms as requested.

### **A MAPS website**

To support these efforts on the various components of MAPS, and to ensure maximum outreach and knowledge sharing on MAPS related activities, DOCO is developing a MAPS website. This on-line site will act as a public repository of MAPS related material and will make resources available in an interactive manner, providing a platform users to share knowledge, experiences and best practices on SDG mainstreaming, analytics for acceleration and policy support work.