



# **Coordination and Monitoring**

## **Implementation of the IPoA and SDGs in Afghanistan**

### **Meeting for the LDCs NFPs**

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# Afghanistan's Development Framework

- **The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF)** which was presented to the latest international conference on Afghanistan in Brussels in 2016, sets out the strategic policy priorities towards achieving self-reliance; outlines priority investments needed including in achieving the SDGs and highlights key reforms.
- **The Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF)** which outlines the mutual commitments between Afghanistan and the international community in support of reform and development.
- **The Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs)** document, which is being finalized through a participatory process, will provide the roadmap and guidance on achieving SDGs in Afghanistan.
- **The National Priority Programs (NPPs)** include important areas such as rural and community development, agriculture development, human capital development, effective governance, infrastructure development, urban development, private sector development, natural resources development as well as women's economic empowerment.

# High-level Institutional Arrangements

- **The Inter-ministerial Development Councils** set development priorities, oversee policymaking, eliminate fragmentation of mandates, monitor progress and facilitate measures for development in their respective sectors. They are responsible for overseeing the NPPs.
- **Several coordination mechanisms** exist for high-level review and follow-up regarding the implementation of the mutual commitments between the international community and Afghanistan as reflected under SMAF and the outcome documents of the international donor conferences on Afghanistan. The current coordination mechanisms in this regard include the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and the Heads of Agency (HOA) framework.
- **The Council of Ministers** oversees the nationalization, alignment and implementation of SDGs in Afghanistan, making sure that all budget entities have fully included the SDGs targets and indicators in their development strategies and policies.
- **The Executive Committee on SDGs** within the Office of the Chief Executive aims at overseeing the overall coordination to attain the SDGs within the overall aegis of ANPDF and NPPs.

# Two levels of integration and synergy:

## 1) Integration of SDGs into ANPDF & NPPs:

- The SDGs have been integrated into ANPDF and NPPs based on the fact that the ANPDF, NPPs and A-SDGs all aim at advancing sustainable development including through increasing productivity, creating jobs and improving the delivery of essential services to people, thus, helping with the realization of IPoA.
- The A-SDGs have been incorporated into the budget process as well as development planning at the national and sub-national levels. The 17 goals have been divided into 8 national sectors and 17 sub-sectors in order to clarify the SDGs Agenda for the respective line ministries and to better coordinate the programmes and to align its goals and targets with the government budget and development plans.

# Two levels of integration and synergy:

## 2) Integration of IPoA, VPoA and SSC into the work of ECSDGs

- According to A-VNR 2017: “The objectives of the SDGs and of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) are cross-cutting and both should eventually see the LDCs achieve sustainable development. Means of implementation of one will fuel realization of the other.”
- To ensure greater synergy and coherence, the IPoA and VPoA have been recently incorporated into the work of the Executive Committee on SDGs which will include the utilization of the Executive Committee as a national mechanism for coordination, monitoring and reporting including in the area of data collection and analysis on the two programs of action.
- Most recently, with a view to better coordinate and facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of A-SDGs, IPoA and VPoA, South-South cooperation has been incorporated into the work of the Executive Committee on SDGs

# The Afghanistan SDGs (A-SDGs)

2015

Preparation

- Awareness raising
- Consultation Meetings
- Survey Design for Data Collection of SDGs Indicators

2016

Official Process

- High Council of Ministers Decree on SDGs
- TORs and Action Plans
- High & Tech Level Committees
- Series of Technical and Consultation Conferences, Seminars, Meetings & Workshops

2017

Nationalization

- Nationalization process
- Localization and Alignments with National Policies, Plans and Strategies
- SDGs National Document
- The presentation of the VNR to HLPF 2017

2018-2030

Implementation

- Implementation
- M&E
- Reporting

# Voluntary National Review – HLPF 2017

- The Government of Afghanistan presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The report provided a clear picture of the SDGs nationalization process and the relevant targets and indicators,
- It provided an overview of the progress made on the goals with an assessment of their respective nationalized targets and indicators.
- The report also highlighted main areas of improvement as well as the challenges and areas that require further improvement.

# Major challenges identified under the A-VNR

1 Technical and Professional Capacity

2 Financing for SDGs implementation

3 The challenge of security

4 Technologies and Skills

5 Realistic and accurate data for setting baselines and annual targets

# The challenge of data availability

## According to the A-VNR:

- ❑ Generating accurate data is a challenging task in Afghanistan.
- ❑ The difficulties in data collection are due to lack of technical capacity, inadequate resources and insecurity in some areas
- ❑ Under the A-SDGs process, the Ministry of Economy endeavors, the Central Statistics Organization and line ministries are now working together including under the Executive Committee on SDGs to address these issues in order to improve the flow and accuracy of data.
- ❑ The data incorporated into the first draft of the A-SDGs national document demonstrated both accomplishment and limitation.

# A-SDGs Data Sources

## Data Sources

CSO - Surveys

DAD System

AFMIS

Private Sector

Budget Entities

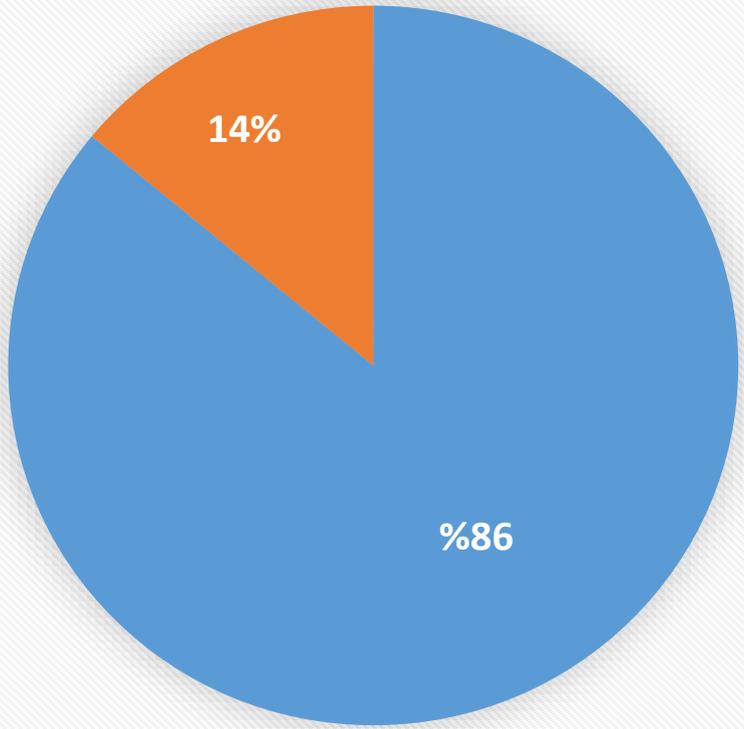
Int Agencies

Geobase

NGOs

# Data Availability for Indicators

Data Availability for Indicators



■ Currently Available    ■ Not Available

# National institutional dealing with data collection and analysis

## 1) The Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

- The capacity of the CSO has been improved over the past 16 years including in doing a variety of surveys. According to a recent study by the World Bank, “the CSO has developed significant capacity for survey implementation including sampling, questionnaire design, and data collection...The CSO also undertook efforts to reduce data gaps by conducting new surveys, though implementation challenges remain prevalent.”
- As a result of these improvements, the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator for Afghanistan increased from 31 points in 2005 to 51 points in 2017, yet, still much lower than the average of International Development Association (IDA)2 countries (63 points) and other South Asian countries (74 points).

## 2) Other national institutions

- The SDGs database under the Ministry of Economy
- The Survey/research units in a number line ministeris

# Key recommendations (1)

- ❖ **In order to improve the national capacity to monitor the implementation of A-SDGs, IPoA, ANPDF and NPPs:**
  - Pursue a more systematic approach to capacity building in the CSO and other national agencies involved in data collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination. The international support should go beyond project-based support which is usually provided on an ad hoc basis.
  - Improve coordination and synergy both at the national and international levels with a view to avoid duplication of efforts. At the national level, there should be greater synergy between the CSO and line ministries including in conducting surveys and data sharing.
  - Place a greater focus on improving the technical capacity to conduct surveys as an important source of primary statistics and data for SDGs

## Key recommendations (2)

- Further utilize IT in the work of CSO and other relevant national agencies with a view to make statistical activities more cost-effective and efficient.
- Help develop and establish a national statistical data center under the CSO,
- Provide greater support to the dedicated database for SDGs under the Ministry of Economy
- Implement targeted South-South and triangular cooperation programs focusing exchange of good practices, expertise and technology in the areas of data collection and analysis including in setting the baselines and annual targets for indicators □