



Achieving SDGs in South Asia: Role of India

Workshop on Systems Thinking and Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into National Planning

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Rajan Sudesh Ratna
Economic Affairs Officer
South and South West Asia Office
UNESCAP, Delhi
Email: ratna@un.org

Points to ponder

World without
South Asia

South Asia
without India

Can Global SDGs be achieved without South Asia?

- **South Asia accounts for 25 per cent of the world population, yet it contributes to only 4 per cent of the world GDP.**
- **South Asia houses 36 percent of the world's poor and nearly half of undernourished children.**
- **Share of vulnerable employment in the subregion is high at roughly 72 per cent.**
- **Low rates of female labour force participation (27.6 per cent) prevent South Asia from achieving its economic growth potential.**

ESCAP: 7 South Asian Priorities for SDGs

- 1. Creation of jobs through industry oriented structural transformation.**
- 2. Universal provision of essential basic services and sustainable infrastructure.**
- 3. Universal access to health and education and skills to harness the youth bulge.**
- 4. Universal social protection and financial inclusion.**
- 5. Sustainable agricultural productivity improvements.**
- 6. Fostering women's entrepreneurship.**
- 7. Enhancement of environmental sustainability through low-carbon climate resilient pathways.**

Source: UNESCAP Report on *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia* (2018)

Common challenges of South Asian countries

- **Increasing inequalities and social exclusion**
- **Marginalization of poor and vulnerable sections of the population**
- **Climate change, limited disaster resilience**
- **Weak stakeholder engagement, especially with the private sector**
- **Lack of data availability and disaggregation**
- **Absence of robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms**
- **Paucity of technical and professional capacities**
- **Technology and financing constraints**

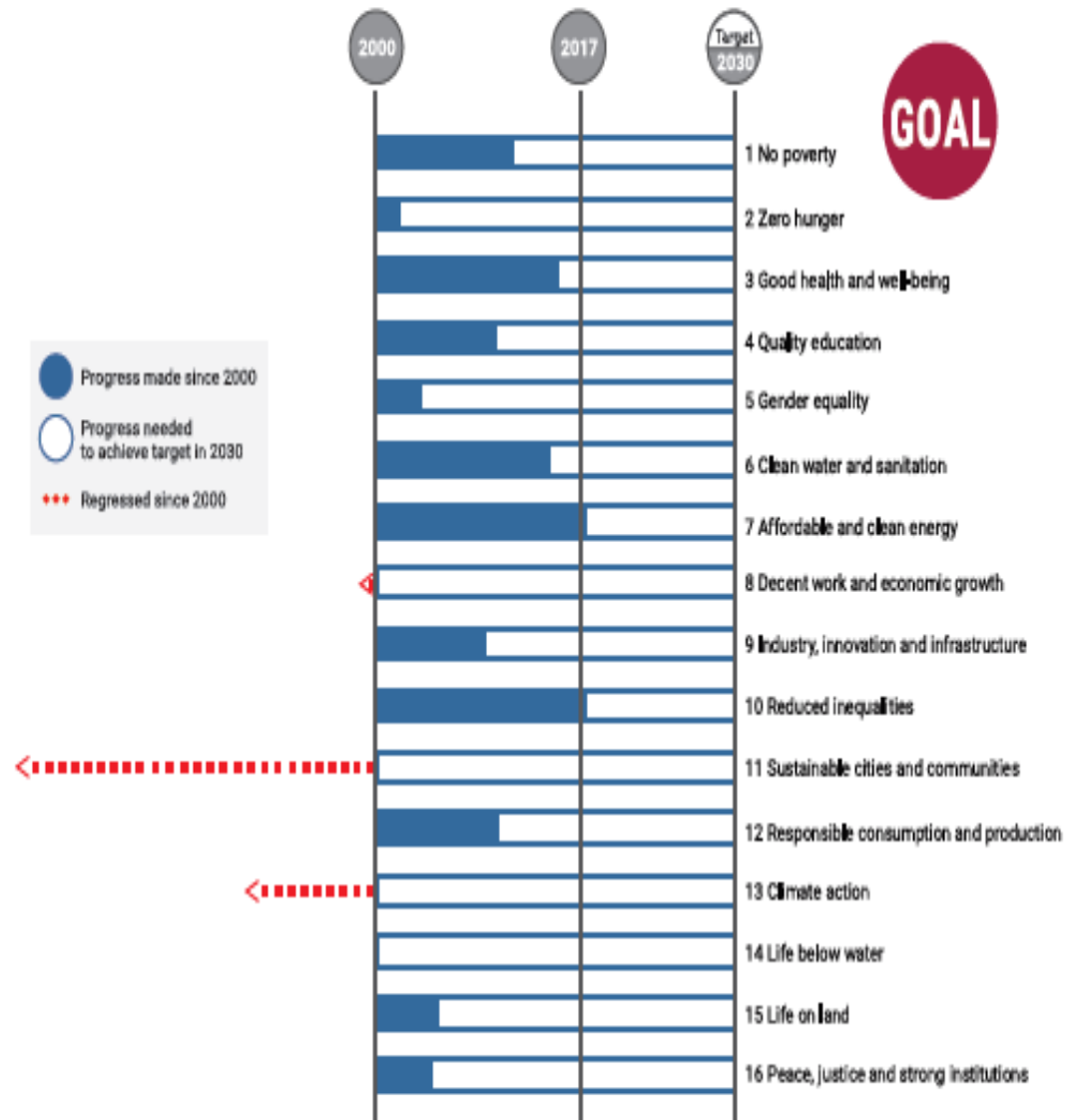
Source: South Asia SDG Forum 4-5 October 2018

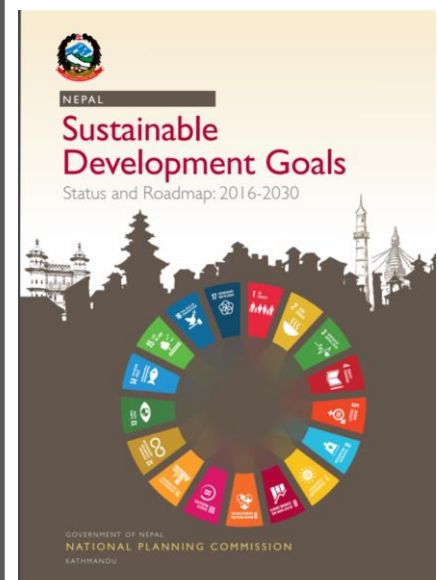
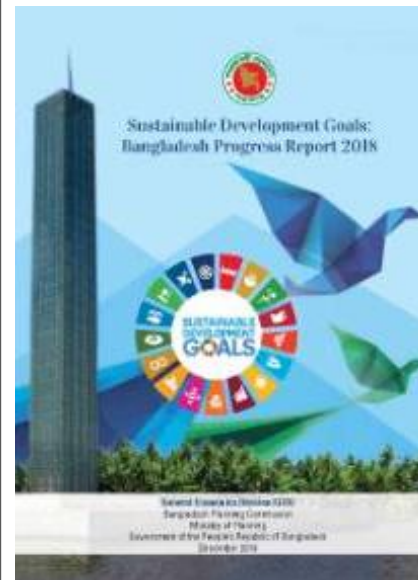
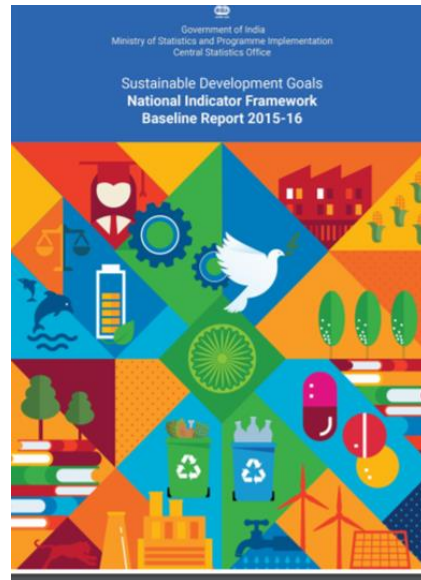
Policy recommendations

- **Recognizes the high cost of non-cooperation.**
- **Criticality of cross-border collaboration and regional cooperation.**
- **Developing a regional framework towards achieving the SDGs in South Asia.**
- **Formation of a South Asia network of think-tanks for SDGs (SANS) facilitated by the UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office.**
- **Stakeholder engagement, including the government and civil society and the private sector.**

SDG Progress Report 2017

Figure 2.9 - Snapshot of SDG progress in 2017: South and South-West Asia





National efforts

Data issues

Goals	Targets	Indicators as per UNSD (244)	UNSD Number of Specified (Disaggregated) Data Series	Total number of Indicators as per ESCAP	Indicators as per ESCAP with defined data series	Number of indicators without defined data series	ESCAP Number of Specified (Disaggregated) Data Series
1	7	14	350	14	8	6	85
2	8	13	51	13	11	2	47
3	13	27	98	27	25	2	106
4	10	11	142	11	10	1	133
5	9	14	279	14	8	6	204
6	8	11	69	11	8	3	46
7	5	6	6	6	4	2	15
8	12	17	208	17	15	2	239
9	8	12	22	12	11	1	33
10	10	11	36	11	5	6	40
11	10	15	534	15	5	10	43
12	11	13	62	13	4	9	78
13	5	8	194	8	3	5	23
14	10	10	10	10	4	6	9
15	12	14	31	14	9	5	27
16	12	23	44	23	12	11	50
17	19	25	64	25	17	8	76
17	169	244	2200	244	159	85	1254

Availability of data

Goal	ESCAP Number of Specified (Disaggregated) Data Series	Afghanistan 2015	Bangladesh 2016	Bhutan 2015	India 2015	Maldives 2015	Nepal 2015	Pakistan 2015	Sri Lanka 2015
1	85	30	41	37	25	14	32	31	43
2	47	24	4	23	27	7	21	21	25
3	106	80	77	60	61	62	78	66	77
4	133	6	34	26	2	13	20	12	8
5	204	7	4	10	3	3	3	4	3
6	46	11	6	13	13	7	19	18	11
7	15	10	8	10	15	10	15	15	15
8	239	96	113	102	106	89	101	118	110
9	33	11	20	13	21	14	16	24	18
10	40	22	27	22	31	24	27	27	25
11	43	13	15	25	13	0	11	13	33
12	78	67	66	59	73	61	70	73	70
13	23	10	9	13	10	0	8	10	20
14	9	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2
15	27	15	8	16	16	11	16	15	15
16	50	22	17	15	22	13	16	18	16
17	76	38	36	36	37	26	27	35	37
Total	1254	462	487	480	477	356	480	502	528

37 indicators have no data across South Aaia

1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies

2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies

3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

South Asia and Role of India

- While most of the SDGs can be explained in terms of regional cooperation, **climate action (SDG13)** and **Infrastructure, connectivity and sustainable industrialisation (SDG9)** are found as most prioritised from most of the country perspectives.
- Harness the benefits of science and technology
- Enhance the official statistical capacity
- Develop common format of comparable data
- Effort for localisation
- Free trade agreement and other development cooperation

India's role in achieving SDGs in South Asia

- **Food security cooperation in South Asia (SDG 1,2)**
- **Health cooperation arrangements (SDG 3)**
- **Energy cooperation, including new, renewable and non-conventional energy (SDGs 7,9)**
- **Conserve cross-border environmental resources (SDGs 13-15)**
- **Means of implementation (SDG 17):**
 - **Assisting in baseline studies**
 - **Data capturing**



UNCT India's role

- South Asian UNRCs meeting
- UNCT – interacting with other CTs in South Asia – sharing their knowledge and skills, building capacities
- Triangular cooperation

