



A-SDGs and ANPDF



Background

As a practical vision for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, ANPDF II outlines critical areas of intervention during the next five years to **build peace, strong and resilient institutions and functioning markets to stimulate sustained and long-term economic growth and create decent jobs for all Afghans**. A number of Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs) are already aligned with ANPDF II and are grounded in the **15 National Priority Programs (NPPs)**.

Through continuous support from UNDP, the Government of Afghanistan has developed a national SDGs framework that includes the most relevant SDG goals, targets and indicators. More recently, UNDP initiated the technical process to estimate the costs of achieving national SDG targets in Afghanistan and conducted diagnostics in support of assessing the wider financing landscape in Afghanistan to influence public and private investments and attract additional resources needed to achieve SDGs. UNDP also developed a macroeconomic framework—the single-country and regional Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models—to build a base of evidence for properly integrating the SDGs into the national planning system and for enabling evidence-informed policy design and implementation.

However, to fully articulate and realize the sustainable development aspirations of Afghanistan—as reflected in the national SDGs framework—through ANPDF II and the 15 NPPs, the Government needs to instigate an integrated approach to planning and financing. It will also be necessary to build an integrated, robust and sound monitoring and reporting framework for the SDG-aligned ANPDF and the 15 NPPs through data innovation.

An Integrated Planning and Financing System for SDGs in Afghanistan

The A-SDGs and ANPDF II have set the right vision for realizing the sustainable development aspirations of Afghanistan. While the A-SDGs sufficiently articulate priority SDGs for the next decade, these sustainable development objectives will have to be fully integrated in Afghanistan’s national development planning system. Currently, innovative approaches and tools that properly enable integrating SDG priorities into ANPDF II and the broader development planning system are either lacking or under-utilized.

Therefore, UNDP is working with the Government of Afghanistan to develop a macroeconomic framework, such as the single-country and regional Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models, and other integrated modelling platforms such as the SDG Calculator and Systems Dynamics to integrate SDGs into the planning system in Afghanistan. The CGE models were effectively used to estimate socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Afghanistan. UNDP will also provide technical expertise to address key sustainability issues, particularly those related to properly balancing and articulating environmental protection, tackling inequalities and promoting equitable economic growth in the national development plans.

A national integrated financing framework (INFF) and a financing strategy will also be necessary to mobilize sufficient finance for SDGs—from a range of alternative and innovative sources—and organize policies and institutional structures of the Government of Afghanistan to engage with all types of public and private financing for SDGs and medium-term priorities of ANPDF II and NPPs. The development of an INFF and the SDG financing strategy will also be key instruments through which UNDP in Afghanistan could support the Government influence and tap into a range of public and private investments to finance A-SDGs and the medium-term goals of ANPDF and NPPs. These resources often go beyond public finance and development cooperation and focus on influencing and scaling up private investments and other sources of alternative finance. In sum, UNDP’s support in this area will fully integrate SDGs into the national plans, medium-term expenditure frameworks annual budgets and will build a sustainable financing architecture for SDGs.

A robust and integrated Monitoring and Reporting System for Afghanistan SDGs

UNDP worked with the Ministry of Economy and the National Statistics and Information Authority to develop a national SDGs indicator framework. Given the number of new indicators that need to be measured to monitor and report progress on all A-SDGs and the medium-term outcome indicators of the national development plans, the official statistics in Afghanistan should be cognizant of, and complemented by, non-traditional methods, non-traditional sources of data and new partnerships to deliver official statistics. UNDP has already provided a strategic direction to the Government of Afghanistan on how data innovation, particularly by trialing new methods and technologies could be used to develop a robust and integrated Monitoring and Reporting System for SDGs in Afghanistan.

UNDP is also planning to support the Government of Afghanistan in the development of an online dashboard for SDG indicators to allow for accessing, analyzing and visualizing data on all the A-SDG indicators in Afghanistan. The online dashboard will be instrumental for decision-making and advocacy on SDGs, particularly when data are disaggregated by geography, gender, age and other necessary levels.

These efforts for developing an integrated Monitoring and Reporting Framework for SDGs will also be complemented by the development of an effective framework for monitoring SDG financing in Afghanistan, directly feeding information and lessons into policy design and implementation. This framework will be pivotal in building the requisite capacity to connect and monitor how outcomes of short-term policies contribute towards the SDG attainment in Afghanistan. Therefore, an information/data repository, with properly defined indicators, on what is being invested, what sort of progress is being made and what SDG-related outcomes are generated by different types of public and private investment.

Theory of Change

The analytical framework underpinning the project takes inspiration from systems theory and frames each intervention in the context of a people-centred planet-sensitive systems approach.

***If** integrated policy solutions are provided to Afghanistan SDGs, including the incubation and transfer of knowledge such as macroeconomic modelling, integrated financing solutions and systems thinking and state-of-the-art data analytics;*

***And** SDGs are thoroughly integrated in the national budget and development policy and local plans through the adoption of sound and evidence-based macroeconomic policies and long-term development plans with the required sustainable financing instruments at hand;*

***Then** the Government of Afghanistan, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations and Afghanistan's development partners can together achieve the most pertinent and priority SDG goals and targets in Afghanistan by 2030;*

***Resulting in** sustained efforts in the eradication of poverty, creation of decent and sustainable jobs, better health and education outcomes for Afghanistan through tackling inequalities*

***This will in turn contribute to** strengthened institutions, Afghanistan's self-reliance and sustained and balanced economic growth and social development while protecting the environment and natural ecosystems of Afghanistan.*

Expected outcomes

The UN Country System in Afghanistan will help the Government of Afghanistan and its development partners to address issues related to enhancing accountability and building partnerships through the development of an integrated monitoring, reporting and evaluation system for APF and ANPDF II. In doing so, the UN Country System in Afghanistan will support and collaborate towards the following key outcomes:

- A SDG Dashboard—as a critical web/online data repository on SDG indicators of APF and ANPDF II—will be established to allow for continuous analysis and monitoring, reporting of development objectives as committed to in APF and ANPDF II;
- Through data innovation and analytics, a strong and integrated Monitoring and Reporting Framework will be established to measure A-SDG indicators and the outcome indicators of APF and ANPDF II;
- A wider range of modeling tools, such as CGE models, integrated modeling tools like the SDG calculator and systems dynamics tools, will be developed and provided to the Government of Afghanistan for continuous priority setting and decision-making purposes. These tools will allow for economy-wide modeling and integrated assessment of climate, land, energy and water systems in Afghanistan as well as household survey based micro-simulations of socio-economic impacts.
- The SDG Dashboard and the suite of modeling tools provided through the UN Country System will enhance accountability in achieving the APF and ANPDF II development objectives.
- The suite of modeling tools will build a base of evidence and help the Government of Afghanistan set the right short- and medium-term development priorities in Afghanistan.