

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 global objectives adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, forming part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were in effect from 2000 to 2015. The main aim of the SDGs is to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, and promote prosperity and peace worldwide by 2030. Approved by 193 UN member states, the SDGs are universal principles that apply to all countries, not just developing nations.
2. The transition from MDGs to SDGs is a significant shift in the global development agenda. This evolution reflects a more comprehensive approach to sustainable development, encompassing not only social aspects but also economic, environmental, and global dimensions.
 - MDGs had eight goals, with a primary focus on social development in developing countries. Their approach was a top-down strategy, monitored through narrow indicators.
 - The SDGs, in contrast, are a comprehensive set of 17 goals that address a wide range of issues, from poverty and hunger to gender equality and climate action. Their approach is inclusive and participatory, and they are monitored through 231 unique global indicators.
3. List of 17 SDGs with description -

SDG 1 - No Poverty, focusing on eliminating extreme poverty worldwide.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger aims to end hunger, enhance nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for everyone across all age groups.

SDG 4 - Quality Education aims to ensure inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality, focusing on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation focuses on guaranteeing the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy ensures access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy sources.

SDG 8 – Promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth along with decent work.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure focuses on developing resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive, sustainable industrialization.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities involves decreasing inequality both within and between countries.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities involves creating cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production that ensures sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 13 - Climate Action involves addressing climate change and its effects.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water involves conserving and sustainably using oceans and marine resources.

SDG 15 – Life on Land involves protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions involves promoting peaceful societies, ensuring access to justice, and building accountable institutions.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals involves enhancing global collaborations to help achieve the objectives.

4. Implementation Mechanism

Global Monitoring

- It includes global monitoring that coordinates the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- It uses the Global Indicator Framework (231 Indicators)
- It contains Data collected by national statistical agencies and UN bodies

National Level Implementation

- It encompasses countries that are localized within the SDGs via Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- Embedded within national development plans and policies.

Financing Mechanisms

- Public and private investment
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) provides the global framework for financing development.
- It highlights the importance of SDG-aligned budgeting and green finance.

5. India's implementation of SDGs

The Nodal Agency, NITI Aayog, oversees the implementation of SDGs throughout India and is also responsible for publishing the SDG Index.

The State Involvement section evaluates States and Union Territories based on their SDG performance, emphasizing the decentralization of goals to district and panchayat levels.

Progress Highlights (as of 2024) SDGs 1 and 2 show significant progress in reducing poverty and hunger, instilling hope for a more equitable future. However, it's important to note that inequality persists, and more work needs to be done in this area.

- SDGs 1 and 2 show progress in significantly reducing poverty and hunger, but inequality persists.
- SDG 4 incorporates the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes inclusive learning.
- SDG 5 encompasses initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
- SDG 6 – Jal Jeevan Mission for safe drinking water
- SDG 7 – Significant Investment in Renewable Energy
- SDG 13 – National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

6. Challenges in Achieving SDGs

- COVID-19 setbacks in health, education, and poverty
- Climate crisis and extreme weather events
- Inequality, especially regarding gender and the digital divide.
- Insufficient funding in developing countries.

- Conflict and political instability in some regions
- Data gaps in progress monitoring

7. Importance of SDGs

- Holistic development encompasses social, economic, and environmental aspects.
- Encourages worldwide cooperation and inclusive growth.
- It strengthens communities and supports local governments.
- It is essential for fostering resilience, adapting to climate change, and promoting peaceful societies.

8. The monitoring tools –

- SDG Global Index released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- The UN SDG Progress Reports are updated annually.
- SDG India Index, now part of the Expanded Multidimensional SDG Framework by NITI Aayog
- Countries showcase their achievements at the UN through Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

9. Timeline of key milestones –

- The 2015 milestone was adopted at the UN General Assembly.
- The 2016 milestone marked the implementation of the SDGs.
- The 2017 milestone marks the adoption of the Global Indicator Framework.
- The first SDG India Index was released, marking the 2019 milestone.
- The 2020 milestone highlights how the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted progress.
- 2023 features a mid-year review of SDG progress.

The SDGs act as a worldwide rallying cry to build a sustainable future for humanity and the Earth by 2030. Reaching these objectives depends on international collaboration, inclusive policies, and robust political dedication at every level. It's a global effort, and everyone's contribution matters.



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