



SDGs Support Unit
Planning & Development Board, Government of Sindh

“Adopting structured and inclusive approaches to achieve SDGs in Sindh”



By:

Ms. Rehana Ghulam Ali Memon

*Member (Development), Planning & Development Board Government of Sindh
Project Coordinator for SDGs Support Unit-Sindh*

UN's global Agenda 2030 is an action plan for people, planet, and prosperity. Through 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the agenda aims to end poverty in all its forms, promote healthy lives and well-being, end hunger, and ensure availability and sustainable management of water and energy for all. Pakistan was one of the first few countries to express commitment to the Agenda 2030, at its launch in New York in 2015, setting forth onto a bold and transformative journey. In February 2016, under a unanimous resolution, the National Assembly of Pakistan endorsed the SDGs as Pakistan's Development Goals, and the Federal Government effervescently initiated a National Initiative on SDGs, endeavoring focused efforts towards the ambitious, universal policy agenda for sustainable development. The same year, with similar optimistic disposition, Government of Sindh spearheaded structured efforts to support the mainstreaming, localization, and implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a support project for SDGs implementation in Sindh, at a cost of Rs. 594 million, jointly-

funded by Government of Sindh and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the aim to address soaring socio-economic challenges in the province and steer it in a progressive direction. Gearing up for the transformation, Government has instructed all departments to link planned schemes under the Annual Development Plans with the SDGs, and has so far spent Rs. 29 billion for 750 new schemes in 2016–2017 and allocated Rs. 56 billion in 2017–2018 for 541 new schemes related to SDGs achievement. These efforts go hand-in-hand with the Sindh Growth Strategy and the Sindh Vision 2025, aimed at multi-sectoral development to place Sindh at the trajectory of continued growth.

Achieving sustainable development in Sindh calls for balancing three dimensions: Social, economic and environment, in strategies and policies. This requires a structured, and integrated approach, which ensures appropriate financing and resource allocation and inclusion of multiple stakeholders, including provincial government, politicians, line departments, divisional and district governments, as well as civil society, and private sector. With support from UNDP, a provincial SDGs Support Unit has been established in the Sindh Planning and Development Board, Government of Sindh. Guided under the UN’s global Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support (MAPS) approach, the SDGs Support Unit will support in mainstreaming the SDGs into provincial development plans and strategies, strengthening coordination, monitoring, and reporting, developing integrated and innovative approaches, and policy, research, and knowledge management, and at the same time ensuring multi-stakeholder engagement across strategic and implementation activities.

To ensure that the strategic actions taken on towards SDGs implementation in Sindh endure the province’s priorities and issues, Government of Sindh is actively involved in providing programme’s oversight and strategic guidance in the form of a Provincial Technical Committee, with Chairman, P&D Board, Government of Sindh, as its chair and members comprising secretaries of key Government of Sindh’s line departments. At the same time, a Core Group is leading efforts to ensure policy coherence and structured approaches through engagement with multiple stakeholder groups. The group will help develop a consolidated and thoroughly aligned framework for SDGs implementation in Sindh, keeping in perspective the region’s priorities.

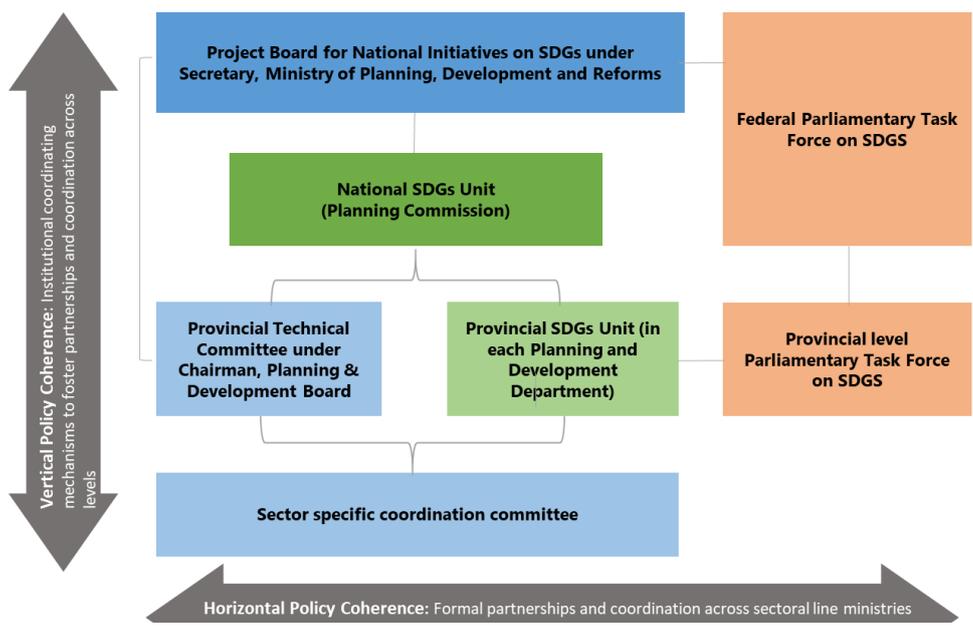
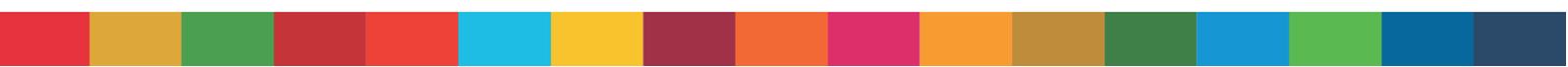


Figure 1: Integrated Strategic Efforts towards SDGs Implementation in Sindh



Political commitment and engagement is also very crucial for inducing effective strategic forethought around localization and achievement of SDGs. The SDGs Support Unit is maintaining regular liaison with local politicians, such as Mr. Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, Minister for Planning & Development, Government of Sindh, who is strongly supporting the initiative in the province. Furthermore, a devoted Provincial Parliamentary Task Force has been formed, where Barrister Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, Member Provincial Assembly Sindh, is playing an active role as the convener. The Provincial Parliamentary Task Force will undertake strategic review of policies that support SDGs. There are further plans to sensitize majority of the parliamentarians in the Provincial Assembly Sindh and generate greater awareness around Agenda 2030, which can help promote and strengthen political commitment and strategic thinking towards sustainable development in Sindh.

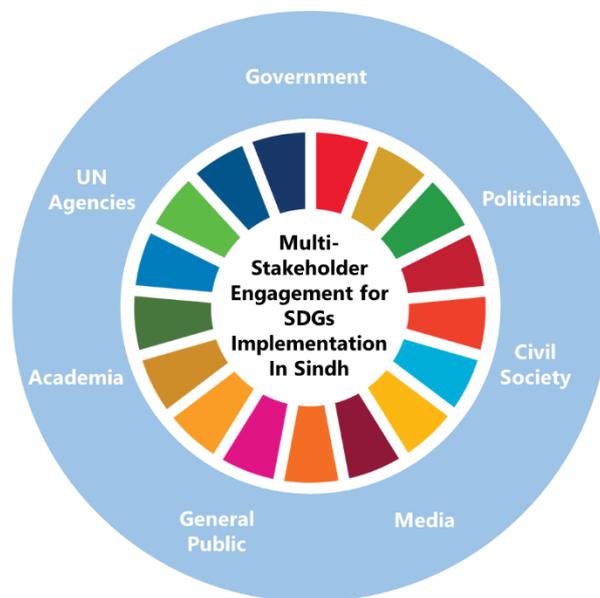


Figure 2: Multi-Stakeholder Engagement for SDGs Implementation in Sindh

Not only politicians and local government but according to the Agenda 2030, everyone at every level has a role to play in achieving sustainable development, but this needs to be actively advocated and communicated to build a strong sense of ownership and commitment. Offline and online knowledge sharing platforms are being utilized to incessantly keep multiple stakeholder groups abreast about the pertinent issues related to sustainable development, way forward, and the inherent roles of organizations and individuals in achieving Agenda 2030. At the provincial level, the SDGs Support Unit has led three consultative workshops with line departments UN agencies, civil society organizations and academia, advocating the roles of each stakeholder group. In addition, six divisional workshops have sensitized district governments on their crucial role in achieving Agenda 2030. Not leaving behind the common man in the multitude of advocacy efforts, plans are in place to educate and communicate with the public and highlight their inherent, individual responsibility towards supporting and developing sustainable development in Sindh.

Across the horizontally and vertically aligned multi-stakeholder networks engaged in supporting SDGs implementation in Sindh, gender equality, innovation, research, information technology, and pertinent capacity building, thereof, are cross-cutting themes which are embedded in all planned activities, ensuring an integrated and inclusive approach towards sustainable development in Sindh: *'reaching the furthest behind first'* and *'leaving no one behind'*. These coordinated, structured, and synergized efforts, under the collaboration between Government of Sindh and UNDP Pakistan, are laying a solid foundation for the achievement of sustainable development goals, and are spawning a breakthrough for the province in progressing towards the national and global agenda for people, planet and prosperity.

