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UNITED  
NATIONS  
INDIA



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AND THE UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION  
FRAMEWORK  
(2023-2027)

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• Launch Edition •



# Foreword



## Suman K Bery

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

As one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world and as home to more young minds than any country, India plays a critical role in the global development agenda. With national development priorities aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India has made considerable progress in inclusive development, for both its own people and therefore the planet. While challenges remain along this path, opportunities will continue to emerge.

Marking the halfway point towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the next five years will be pivotal for an innovation driven, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable India. With the common goal of 'development for all', the Government of India's thrust echoes as 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. For India, the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" is particularly important due to its vast and diverse demography, as well as its potential due to tremendous demographic dividend.

The Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-27 (SDCF) has been developed through a collaborative and inclusive process involving the Government of India, led by NITI Aayog, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Department of Economic Affairs, States/ Union Territories together with the UN Country Team. It is a blueprint for the partnerships, outcomes and outputs that will contribute towards joint achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals in a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of UN' approach.

The four pillars of the cooperation framework - People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation - are anchored to India's own national priorities and represent a comprehensive and integrated approach for the activities of all UN entities working across the country.

The vision of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan (developed India mission) will be realized if we align development efforts with the SDGs and work towards their implementation across all stakeholders, from the government, private sector, civil society, and citizens alike. This involves accelerating progress in critical areas including health, nutrition and food security, education, gender equality, access to clean water and energy, youth empowerment, and climate change among many others.

Over the five-year period of this SDCF therefore, we also look forward to generating valuable best practices and implementation lessons for the benefit of countries beyond India.

This Cooperation Framework represents the UN's collective offer to the Government of India for the next five years to support India's development pathways in line with its national vision. As we embark on this crucial journey, NITI Aayog, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, concerned Outcome Ministries, States and Union Territories and the UN in India, will come together, to form a coordinated and collaborative governance mechanism that will support planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this cooperation framework. Together we will generate positive outcomes across society to ensure that no one is left behind and that our future generations can inherit a country and planet that is more sustainable, peaceful, prosperous and inclusive.

I wish the framework all success.

(Suman K Bery)

Dated: June 16, 2023  
New Delhi

# Joint Statement

Being home to almost one-sixth of humanity, India is uniquely placed to influence and accelerate achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring that the voices of developing countries find prominence in global discourse. It is no surprise that several of India's development priorities are aligned to the SDGs. India has made substantial progress in eradicating various forms of deprivation, strengthening livelihoods and ensuring the wellbeing of citizens, besides lifting millions out of poverty. This will in turn drive SDG results at a global scale, thanks to India's embrace of SDG localization, commitment and innovation. In the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly - "When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms". The same sentiments were also echoed in the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres remarks in October 2022 in Mumbai, "It is India more than any other country that can make the 2030 Agenda a reality".

While significant challenges remain, including addressing issues such as malnutrition, health, education, gender equality and rapid urbanisation, India has advanced steadily in its ability to deliver development and resilience at scale. This includes transforming India's social welfare system and safety nets, underpinned by a robust ecosystem of digital public infrastructure and a range of national missions. India's leadership in climate action and resilience continues to grow, including robust Early Warning Systems, the Prime Minister's Panchamrit targets, investments in renewable energy and low-carbon development, Mission LiFE, support to the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. At the midpoint to 2030 and the first year of this Government of India-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-27, India has used its G20 Presidency as an important leadership opportunity for global SDG acceleration.

India continues to play a vital role in the United Nations, including as a major contributor to international peace and security. At the same time, the UN development system is also well-positioned to partner in sharing models of Indian best practices with other countries on the international stage. This two-way partnership is now reflected for the first time formally in the UNSDCF.

In line with UN development system reforms, this is the first "new generation" UNSDCF in India, mutually owned, and based on national development priorities, the 2030 Agenda and the principles of the UN Charter. This UNSDCF 2023-27 represents the collective offer of UN agencies, funds, and programmes in partnership with the Government of India and other stakeholders to support the national development priorities of India on its envisioned journey to becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) over the next 25 years to its centenary of Independence by 2047.

This Cooperation Framework will contribute to four pillars of sustainable development; (i) People; (ii) Planet; (iii) Prosperity; and (iv) Participation and differs from previous Frameworks in important ways. This includes the application of new standards for UN coherence, an emphasis on partnerships and policy support, and a focus on South-South and triangular cooperation, with renewed commitments to gender equality, youth empowerment, human rights and leaving no one behind.

The UN in India will deliver the UNSDCF 2023-27 as a collective result of synergies across individual Agency country programmes, jointly with Government nodal Ministries, civil society, and other partners, and under the overall coordination and leadership of NITI Aayog and the UN Resident Coordinator. The coming five years will bring tremendous change both in India and through India's growing role in the world. We hereby commit to working together to help support national aspirations and ensure that India's robust growth trajectory is both sustainable and brings the most vulnerable communities along a path of shared prosperity.



Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam  
CEO, NITI Aayog



Mr. Shombi Sharp  
UN Resident Coordinator in India



In witness, thereof the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed this Government of India and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023-2027 on 16 June 2023, in New Delhi, and underscore their joint commitment to its priorities, expected outcomes, and strategies.

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CEO, NITI Aayog,  
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# Table of Contents

## CHAPTER 1: India's Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

1.1	Country Context	1
1.2	India's Vision for Sustainable Development	3
1.3	India's Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals	6
1.4	Gaps, Challenges and Megatrends Affecting India's Development	13
	SDG progress varies across	17
	India's vast geography of states and UTs	
1.5	Designing the Cooperation Framework	19

## CHAPTER 2: UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda

2.1	From Common Country Analysis to Cooperation Framework	23
2.2	Theory of Change for the Cooperation Framework, Strategic Pillars and Outcomes	27
	Strategic Orientation of the UN for Pillar 1—People	33
	Outcome 1: Health and well-being	37
	Outcome 2: Nutrition and food security	43
	Outcome 3: Quality education	49
	Strategic orientation of the UN for Pillar 2—Prosperity	55
	Outcome 4: Economic growth and decent work	57
	Strategic Orientation of the UN for Pillar 3—Planet	67
	Outcome 5: Environment, climate, WASH and resilience	69
	Strategic Orientation of the UN for Pillar 4—Participation	79
	Outcome 6: Empowering people, communities and institutions	83
2.3	Synergies between Cooperation Framework Outcomes, Sustainability and Major Assumptions	93
	Synergies between Cooperation Framework Outcomes	94
	Sustainability	96
	Major assumptions	97
2.4	UN Support to SDG Financing in India	99

## CHAPTER 3: Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan

3.1	Outline of the Governance Arrangement	101
	Joint Steering Committee	105
	Outcome Standing Committees	106
	Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs	107
3.2	Cooperation Framework Management Structure	112
3.3	State Coordination	118
3.4	Risks	119
3.5	Resourcing the Cooperation Framework	121
	Estimated resource requirements	121
	Funding the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	122
	Types of support	123
3.6	Joint Work Plans	124
3.7	Programme and Risk Management and Cash Transfers	124
	Cash Transfers	125

## CHAPTER 4: Common Country Analysis Updating, Monitoring And Evaluation Plans

4.1	Updating the UN Common Country Analysis	132
4.2	Monitoring Plan	133
4.3	Annual Reviews and Annual Reporting	133
4.4	Evaluation Plan	134
4.5	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	134

## Annexes

Annex 1: Cooperation Framework Results Framework	146
Annex 2: Legal Annex	191
Annex 3: United Nations Country Team Configuration	195
Annex 4: Terms of Reference of Committees and Groups Constituted for Cooperation Framework Governance	198
Joint Steering Committee	198
Outcome Standing Committees	199
Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs	200
Outcome Groups	201
Operations Management Team	202
Gender Task Team	203
Monitoring and Evaluation/Data Group	204
Youth Task Team	205
United Nations Disaster Management Team	206
United Nations Communications Group	207
Partnerships Group	208

# Abbreviations

## United Nations Agencies and Bodies

APCTT	Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
BTCA	Better Than Cash Alliance
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPPA	Department of Peacekeeping and Political Affairs
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HRC	Human Rights Council
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RCO	Resident Coordinator’s Office
UN	United Nations
UN SG	United Nations Secretary General
UN GA	United Nations General Assembly
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNV	United Nations Volunteers Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## Others

AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
AIU	Association of Indian Universities
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ASC	Area Security Coordinator
ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CF	Cooperation Framework
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
Co-WIN	Winning over Covid-19 (Vaccine Intelligence Network)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DEA	Department of Economic Affairs
DFPD	Department of Food and Public Distribution
DG	Director General
DGT	Directorate General of Training
DMT	Disaster Management Team
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPFO	Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
ESIC	Employee's State Insurance Corporation
FACE	Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures
FLFPR	Female Labour Force Participation Rate
FP	Family Planning



FPLMIS	Family Planning Logistics Management Information System
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GMDAC	Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
Goi	Government of India
GTT	Gender Task Team
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HMIS	Health Management Information System
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisations
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual plus
LiFE	Lifestyles for the Environment Initiative
LMIC	Lower Middle-Income Country
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MIS	Management Information System
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MOSPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
MoV	Means of Verification
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NAPCC	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NCVET	National Council for Vocational Education and Training
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEP	National Education Policy
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NFSM	National Food Security Mission
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NIEPA	National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration
NIOS	National Institute of Open Schooling

NSDC	National Skill Development Corporation
NSS	National Service Scheme
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
OBC	Other Backward Class
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OMT	Operations Management Team
OSC	Outcome Standing Committees
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
PDS	Public Distribution System
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PLFS	Periodic Labour Force Survey
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PM	Prime Minister
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RG	Result Group
RH	Reproductive Health
RMNCHA+N	Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
RTE	Right To Education
SAPCC	State Action Plan on Climate Change
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SBM	Swachh Bharat Mission
SC	Scheduled Caste
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSC	Sector Skill Council
SSDM	State Skill Development Missions
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
SR	Special Rapporteur
ST	Scheduled Tribe
TOC	Theory of Change
UGC	University Grants Commission
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDF	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework
UN-SWAP	UN system-wide Action Plan
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USD	United States Dollar
UT	Union Territory
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WP	Work Plan



An aerial photograph of a wooden boat on a river. The boat is moving from the top right towards the bottom left, leaving a white wake. Inside the boat, there are four people: one person in a purple shirt is at the stern, and three people are seated towards the bow. A small outboard motor is mounted at the stern. Various items, including boxes and bags, are scattered inside the boat. The water is a murky brown color, and the surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. The image is framed by a colorful, multi-colored border at the top and bottom.

## CHAPTER 1

# India's Progress Towards the **2030 Agenda**



# 1.1: Country Context

India is a founding member of the United Nations and one of the original signatories of the United Nations Charter. It has been an independent nation since 15 August 1947 and celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> year of independent statehood in 2022. As of 2023, India is the world's most populous nation. It is the world's largest democracy and a federal union comprising of 28 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs), which are geographically and linguistically diverse, with the Constitution of India recognizing 22 different scheduled languages. The largest country on the South Asian subcontinent, India is the seventh-largest country in the world by landmass. Having recently surpassed the UK as the world's fifth-largest economy<sup>1</sup>, India's position is expected to continue to rise in the coming years as one of the fastest growing major economies. India is in a unique position as the only lower middle-income country (LMIC) among the Group of Twenty (G20) major economies and is a strong advocate for giving developing countries a greater voice in global governance.

In 75 years of independence, India has transformed from a slow-growing predominantly rural and agriculturally-based food-deficit economy to a fast-growing, more urban, service-dominated food exporting economy with a sizable manufacturing sector and emerging middle class. India already accomplished steady extreme poverty reduction over a long period beginning in the 1970s.<sup>2</sup> This was first thanks to productivity improvements in agriculture due to the "green revolution" and then thanks to growth driven largely by pro-business reforms beginning in

the 1980s, culminating in the liberalisation of the economy in the 1990s. This was followed by an important increase in foreign investment and trade, particularly in information technology, pharmaceutical and business services. In the 2000s, urban growth emerged as a major driver of absolute poverty reduction both in urban and rural areas, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty.

With unparalleled growth in mobile connectivity, India has over a billion people connected to the internet, with one of the highest per capita data consumption rates in the world. India has already emerged as a global information technology powerhouse, with the sector accounting for 8 per cent of GDP.<sup>3</sup> The delivery of digital public goods has been scaled up through the growing use of the Aadhaar biometric identity, which, together with payment and data-management systems, forms the foundation of the "India stack" of financial technology. Digital public service technology has also been aligned with financial

inclusion, with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for universal banking generating over 480 million bank accounts from its launch in August 2014 through January 2023.<sup>4</sup>

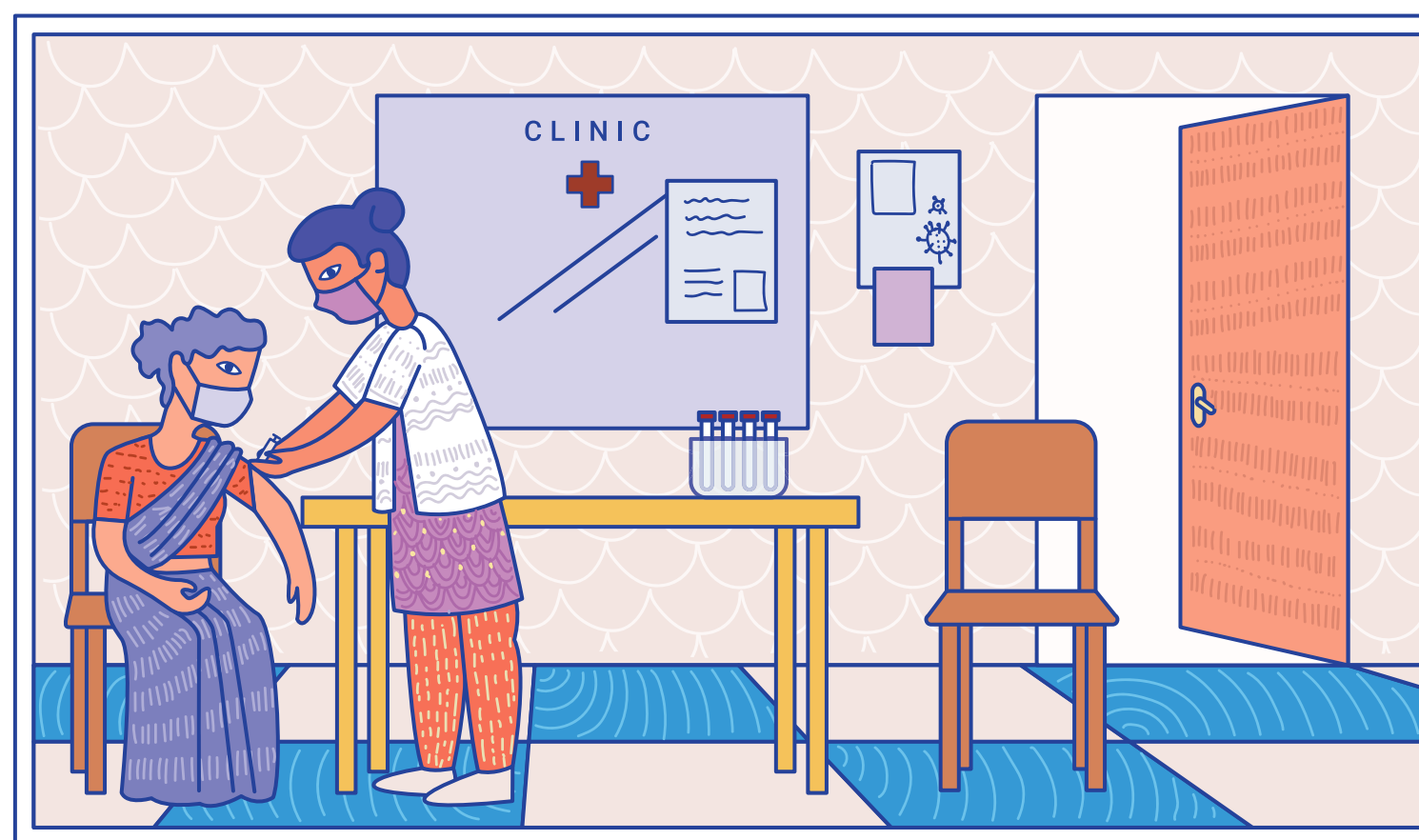
With 1.425 billion women and men, India is the world's most populous nation, according to the latest United Nations estimates with a potentially significant demographic dividend based on favourably low dependency ratios.<sup>5,6</sup> At the same time, India remains home to one of the world's largest populations of women and men living in poverty. Considerable scope also exists to reduce the number of informal workers. Focus also needs to be put in reducing air pollution levels, particularly in major cities.

As the world faces complex and multidimensional crises that threaten to undermine progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India's role and leadership in meeting the 2030 Agenda will be critical.

Transforming the future of India's large population - especially its women and girls - over the next five to seven years will determine the success of the 2030 Agenda not just in India, but globally, with one quarter to one half of the burden of meeting some global SDG targets weighing on the country. India therefore has a pivotal global leadership role to play in meeting the world's SDG commitments. As the Honourable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi explained at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly:

**"Today, every sixth person in the world is an Indian. When Indians progress, the development of the world also gets a boost. When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms."**

India also plays an important and growing role internationally. India is a leading voice on behalf of the Global South at the United Nations (UN), as part of the Group of 77, and as the only LMIC member of the G20. India's 2023 G20 Presidency is a major opportunity to showcase India's approach to the SDGs and influence the global development discourse from the perspective of the Global South. The G20 Presidency also coincides with the first year of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The extensive UN presence in the country is increasingly helping to identify and share Indian best practices at the international level for the benefit of other countries.



<sup>1</sup> International Monetary Fund (2022), World Economic Outlook October 2022 database

<sup>2</sup> Gaurav Datt, Martin Ravallion and Rinku Murgai, 'Poverty and Growth in India over Six Decades', American Journal of Agricultural Economics, vol. 102 (1), pp. 4-27 (2020).

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, <https://www.meitv.gov.in/content/software-and-services-sector>

<sup>4</sup> Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, <https://www.pmdy.gov.in/>

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Population Fund (2023), 8 billion lives, infinite possibilities: the case for rights and choices, State of World Population Report 2023, New York.

<sup>6</sup> UN DESA. Policy Brief NO 153, April 2023

## 1.2: India's Vision for Sustainable Development

India has embraced the SDG framework extensively at all levels of government, from the union and state governments down to the district and gram panchayat (village council) levels. This reflects the country's decentralized federal structure and its pursuit of "unity in diversity"—a national ideal guiding India's development over the course of its independence. The Constitution of India defines the country as a union of states. With support and guidance from the Government of India, states and UTs are taking ownership of achieving the SDGs by adopting them as a guiding framework to steer development action. Initiatives guided so far include state SDG vision documents and roadmaps, state and district indicator frameworks, implementation of robust review and follow-up systems, and capacity building across all levels of government.

The Centre provides overall guidance for the "direction of travel" of national SDG achievement by setting national-level standards and benchmarks, such as the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and the SDG India Index (SGDII), which ranks states and UTs by performance. The Centre also has been key in aligning flagship schemes with the SDGs, such as Ayushman Bharat Yojana (national health scheme), POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission); however, in terms of ultimate accountability, India's federal structure means that state governments and UT administrations play the lead role in SDG implementation.

Decentralization at the state/UT and district levels leverages community participation, strengthens local ownership of SDG achievement, as well as increases agency and accountability of individuals, communities, civil society organizations and the private sector. Decentralization, therefore, will be key to SDG acceleration in India, given the country's diversity. This is the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism, as practised by policy-making organs in India at different levels. Decentralization is also one of the motivations behind India's Aspirational Districts/Block Programme, for example. Delineating progress at the district/block level on a wide range of SDG indicators can enhance analytical understanding of sectoral issues as well as data gaps while assisting in designing future courses of action and fostering evidence-based policy making in the country.<sup>7</sup> Decentralizing to the grassroots level supports even more granular SDG localization. This can provide stronger accountability and agency at the gram panchayat level and can tap into India's existing strong spirit of community engagement. Decentralisation also offers important opportunities for knowledge sharing and peer learning across Indian communities.

With the major Indian states comparable in size to countries elsewhere in the world, the notion of decentralization and cooperative and competitive federalism in India at the state-level can function much like a domestic form of "South-South Cooperation". India's knowledge sharing and peer learning across states and UTs in the context of SDG achievement can be further leveraged over the next five to seven years for mutual benefit of generating good practices and implementation lessons for strengthening South-South Cooperation beyond India's borders.

India's clout as a global actor in international development cooperation is significant and growing. India has an important role to play in

global governance as a voice on behalf of developing countries in forums where other major political and economic powers may not always put development issues at the fore. Given its history, size, diversity, and growth trajectory India's foremost priorities are related to development. Indeed, during the COVID-19 pandemic, India emerged as not only a central actor in global vaccine production, especially for the developing world, but also led proposals for a waiver on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) at the World Trade Organization, championing the Global South's advocacy for vaccine equity.

India has novel significant opportunities to bring its voice and perspective on development issues to the highest tables of international diplomacy. India has had a leadership role in global institutional initiatives with a South-South and triangular cooperation focus, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Additionally, as chair of the relevant working group at the UN Statistical Commission in 2022, India led the development of the first internationally agreed conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of South-South cooperation. This initiative, led by countries from the Global South and building on country-led mechanisms, is a breakthrough in a long-running international discussion, which has permitted adoption by the UN Statistical Commission of the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 under SDG target 17.3 (mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources). India's G20 Presidency in 2023 also coincides with the International Year of the Millets, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at India's proposal and is an opportune moment for highlighting the potential of this nutritious and climate resilient native crop.



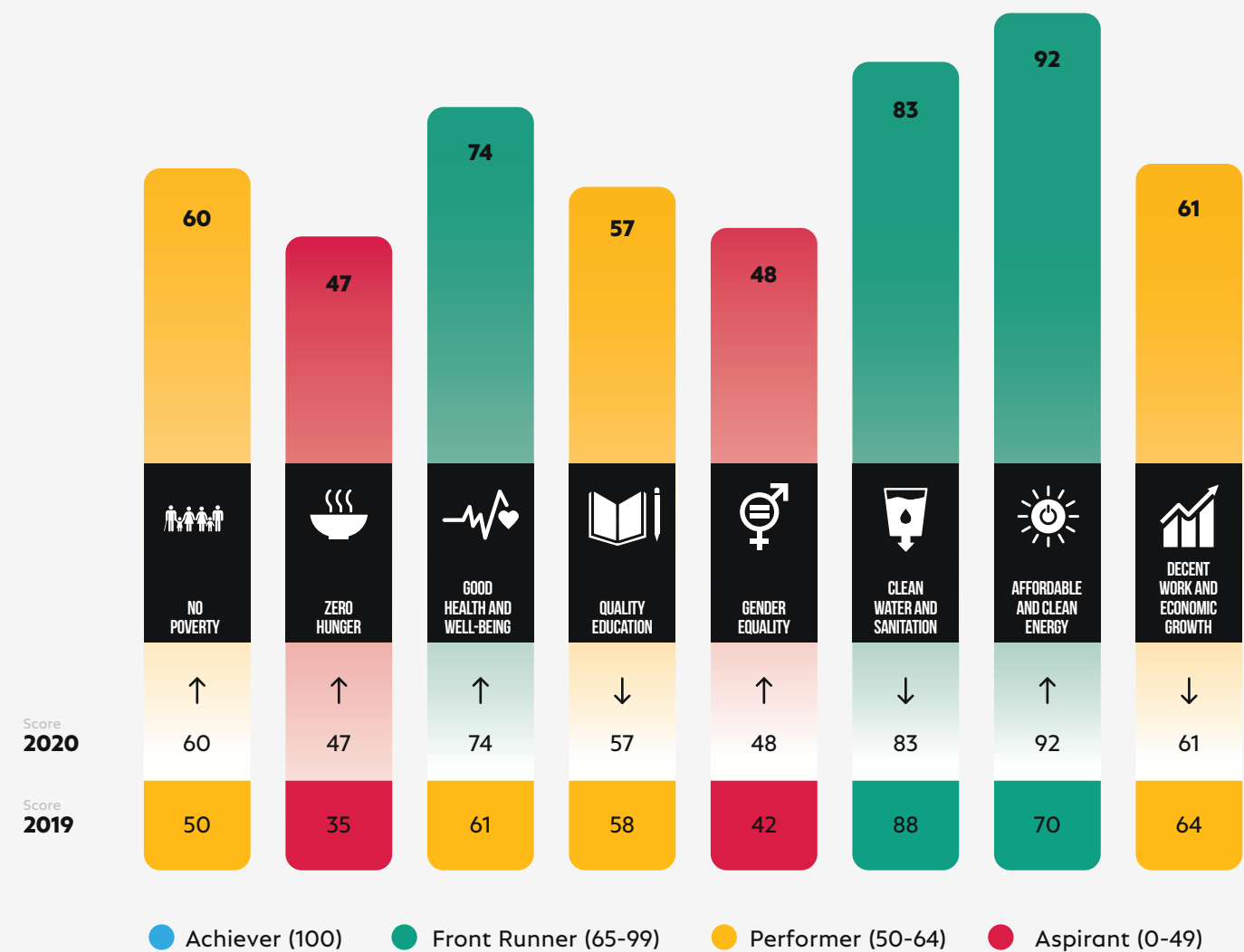




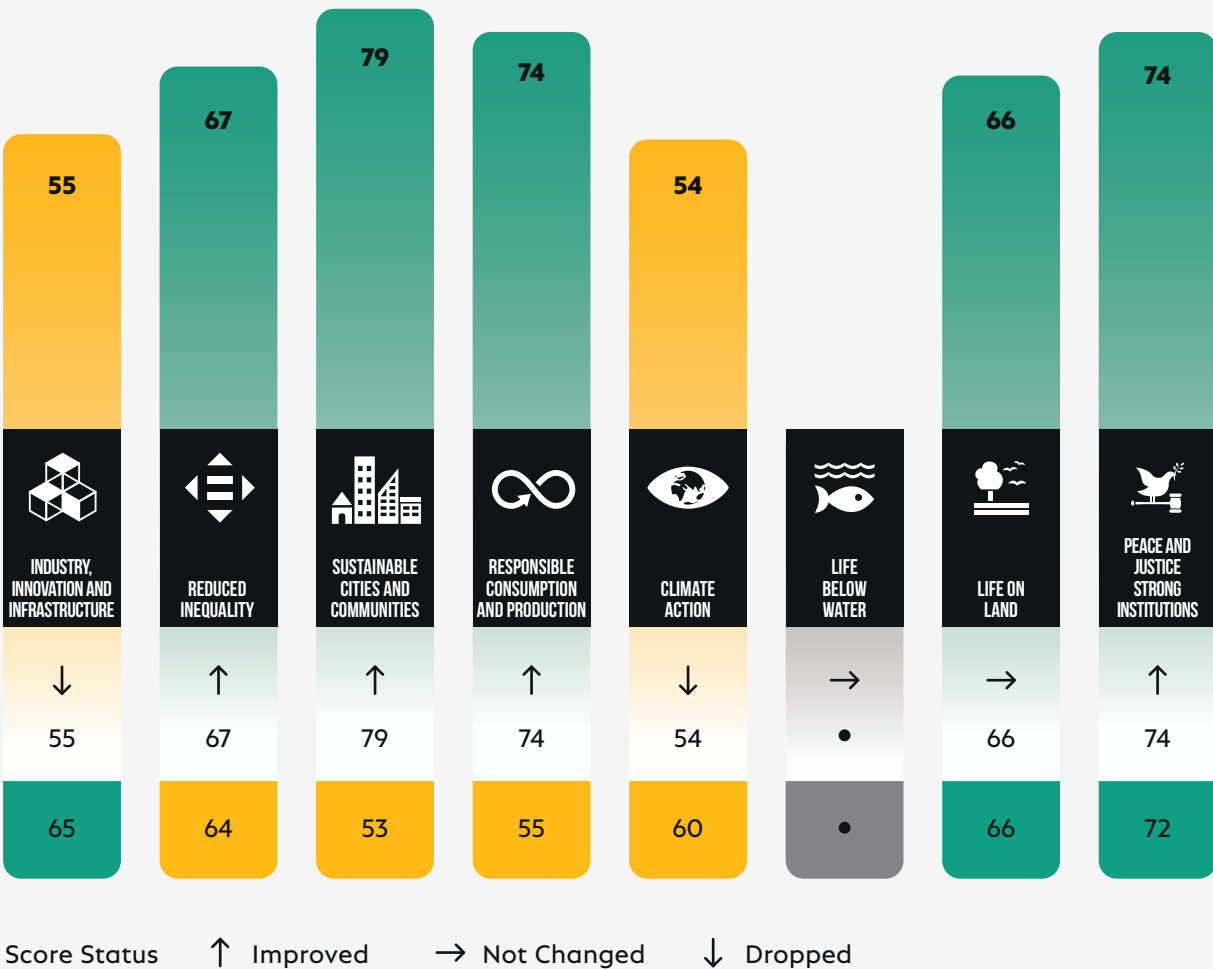
## 1.3: India's Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals

India has made great progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and continues to drive its policy action, innovation, and development priorities to ensure the country stays on track to address emerging and legacy challenges. At the outset of the SDG journey, India carried a disproportionately large share of the burden of many global SDG targets. With India accounting for a high number of malnourished children, illiterate adults and informal workers, the world's stake in India's SDG success is therefore extremely high. Now, as the halfway point to 2030 approaches, taking stock of India's progress along the 17 SDGs can assess scope for accelerating progress and showcasing a model for the world. As outlined in the Common Country Analysis (CCA), India's progress on the SDGs needs to be sustained according to data from NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, the government's official monitoring tool (Figure 1.1).

# Snapshot of SDG performance in India: challenges and opportunities



**Figure 1.1 :** SDG achievement in India has been varying, with the highest achievement in Goal 7 "affordable and clean energy" and Goal 6 "clean water and sanitation", with a need for acceleration on other goals.



source: NITI Aayog, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020%20%E2%80%9321, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021). Available at <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking,%20accessed%20on%2019%20January%202023>.

According to SDGII, 2020–21, progress has been lagging on 7 of the 16 SDGs. SDG achievements have been highest on Goal 7 "affordable and clean energy" followed by Goal 6 "clean water and sanitation". However, achievements have been slower on Goal 2 "zero hunger", Goal 5 "gender equality", Goal 8 "decent work and economic growth",

Goal 9 "industry, innovation & infrastructure", and Goal 13 "climate action". The CCA found that this mixed progress towards achieving the SDGs presents persistent challenges but also emerging opportunities to accelerate progress.



## People (SDGs 1-6)

Significant progress in recent decades has improved the lives of people (SDGs 1-6) in India, although the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has halted or reversed some of this progress. It highlighted the need to consolidated gains made and renew the social contract and upgrade essential services to accelerate progress.



Tracking progress on ending poverty (Goal 1) has been challenging due to data gaps on some key indicators, which has made measuring the impacts of COVID-19 on the poor difficult, especially as the nature of poverty is changing, especially in urban areas.



Progress towards ending hunger (Goal 2) has been slower than others, with the persistence of malnutrition, wasting, anaemia, as well as the emergence of new nutritional challenges like obesity. At the same time, the National Food Security Act, 2013 and associated programmes have boosted resilience in the face of the recent global food crisis.



Sizable gains in health and well-being (Goal 3), for example, in infant and maternal mortality, and reductions in the infectious disease burden can be consolidated to build momentum towards stronger health systems post-pandemic. This will help in battling new challenges such as rising non-communicable diseases.



The new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) holds promise but must overcome the impacts of learning loss and digital divide in education (Goal 4), considering the lingering effects of COVID-19 lockdowns.



Progress towards gender equality (Goal 5) needs to be accelerated. Discriminatory social norms and obstacles to women's participation in society and the economy have to be addressed. The Prime Minister has promoted a women-led development model, which has also become an important theme of India's 2023 G20 Presidency.



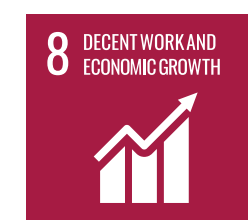
Following dramatic progress in the last five years, improvements in hygiene, access to sanitation and water supply (Goal 6) can now be sustained for improved basic infrastructure and lasting behaviour change.

## Prosperity (SDGs 7-11)

As the world's fastest growing major economy over the last five years, India has created greater prosperity (SDGs 7-11) at a dramatic pace; however, more can be done to improve the quality of this rapid economic growth. The COVID-19 pandemic and structural issues have had a serious negative impact but the economy has bounced back robustly in the last year. The government has taken concrete steps to boost economic growth; more can be done to improve the quality of growth. For example, policies that leverage India's endowments in demography and technology could help further transform the structure of production to create better jobs that harness 21st-century skills.



India has taken encouraging steps in its energy transition (Goal 7)—especially in increasing renewable energy generation capacity—but continues to depend on fossil fuels for a large share of its energy mix. Achieving a just transition to sustainable and clean energy in India can be assured by lowering cost of capital and accelerating ambitions to net zero.



High informality of labour and businesses, skills mismatches, and unemployment are challenges to be addressed. Efforts at improving the women's female labor participation rate, and improving data collection methods hold out promise for important ways forward.



The development of India's industry, infrastructure and innovation (Goal 9) remains a key opportunity for leveraging the country's significant capabilities in advanced production and frontier technologies to harness new opportunities from the "fourth industrial revolution", in line with the Government of India's stated objective of "Make in India".



Reducing India's inequalities (Goal 10) can power a new engine for growth. The CCA specifically identified gender inequalities, in particular, as one of the factors holding back SDG progress. Overcoming obstacles to women's participation in the economy are necessary for realizing India's demographic dividend over the Amrit Kaal period.<sup>11</sup>



Continued rapid urbanisation (Goal 11) has increased awareness of spatial inequalities and drawn policy attention to various factors of rural-urban linkages and opportunities, including smart and inclusive cities. Improved climate resilience, adaptation and disaster risk reduction are important priorities.

<sup>11</sup> The term "Amrit Kaal" is derived from Vedic astrology and signifies a period of time that is considered to be the best and most auspicious to start any new task. The term was first used by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the 75th Independence Day celebrations (India @75) while speaking about the priorities for the next 25 years (India @100).

## Planet (SDGs 12-15)

India is committed to the planet (SDGs 12-15) and is taking balanced steps to put the country's green and blue transitions at the centre of its efforts at environmental sustainability. Flagship programmes addressing drinking water supply and management and sanitation, including waste management and pollution mitigation, have taken on progressively more climate-resilient approaches to ensure sustainable access to critical resources for generations to come.



Policies to reduce the use of plastic bags and raise awareness on responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) choices are already under implementation. However, more can be done to improve the efficiency of productive activities beyond climate-smart agriculture and renewable power generation. The India-led global initiative on Lifestyles for the Environment Initiative (LiFE) also offers an unparalleled opportunity to align the consumption choices and behaviours of India's 1.4 billion population with the principles and objectives of sustainability.



India has made ambitious incremental climate action (Goal 13) commitments at both COP26<sup>12</sup> and COP27. At the international level, India has championed climate justice in global forums, including the need to invest in adaptation as well as mitigation, and compensation for loss and damage.



Coastal and nearshore marine wetlands along India's long coastline have been recognized as sensitive resources. India's draft National Policy on the Blue Economy (2022) links responsible and sustainable use of marine resources to (Goal 14) 'life below water'. However, plastic and marine waste continues to be a challenge.



Forest ecosystems (Goal 15) will be a major focus of efforts in the country considering commitments made to restore approximately 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

## Peace (SDG 16)

India has reiterated its commitment to peace (SDG 16), justice and strong institutions. Available data, especially to track those at risk of being left behind, could be significantly improved and institutions further strengthened.



India has taken important steps to tackle trafficking, anti-national violence, drugs and crime in recent years. At the same time, there are areas which need improvement. The findings of India's 4<sup>th</sup> Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights holds important suggestions for moving forward further.

## Partnerships (SDG 17)

Although India does not track its quantitative progress on partnerships (SDG 17), multistakeholder dialogues with the private sector and civil society remain strong. Specific partnerships can help India expand the private sector financing of SDGs to support on the ground action by involving civil society to localize SDG implementation. India continues to play an instrumental role in global discourse, urging developed countries to make good on their commitments to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development embodied in Goal 17.



Informal estimates suggest that half of India's approximately \$500 billion annual SDG financing gap will require additional resources from the private sector, domestic resources or traditional sources of development finance. India has an important role to play mobilizing all relevant partners for implementation of the SDGs and for advocating for a strong international enabling environment for sustainable development.

<sup>12</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of Parties



# 1.4: Gaps, Challenges and Megatrends Affecting India's Development

The structural transformation of India's society and economy continues as new challenges and opportunities emerge, especially those related to the "green" and "blue" transitions or the "fourth industrial revolution".

In the recent decades, though the composition of economic output shifted from rural and agricultural sectors towards the urban, manufacturing and service sectors, the structural transformation of employment did not keep pace with this shift. Accordingly, there is a need to migrate people to more formal, better paying jobs especially in manufacturing and service sectors.

There is also scope for improving female labour force participation rate bringing India in line with countries with similar levels of development. It is also important to improve thrust on climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, air pollution and waste management.

India can maintain a balance between its aspirations for faster economic growth, broad-based social development and its commitments to achieving sustainable development with less adverse impacts on the environment and ecosystems. For that, it will need to decarbonize the expanding economy with a focus on critical sectors such as energy systems and industry. India will need to chart a significantly less resource-intensive new course for its economic activity, and reduce air, water, and land pollution.

India is highly vulnerable to climate change and frequent extreme weather events disproportionately affect marginalized communities. Incorporating climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk resilience across all levels of governance and all sectors is imperative. Other environmental concerns need focused attention as well. These include:



minimising impacts of climate change through adaptation measures;



strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, ecosystems and infrastructure to climate and disaster shocks;



mobilizing, leveraging and accessing international and domestic finance for the environment and green energy transition, ecosystems and climate action; and



improving productivity, sustainability, and resilience of agri-food systems.

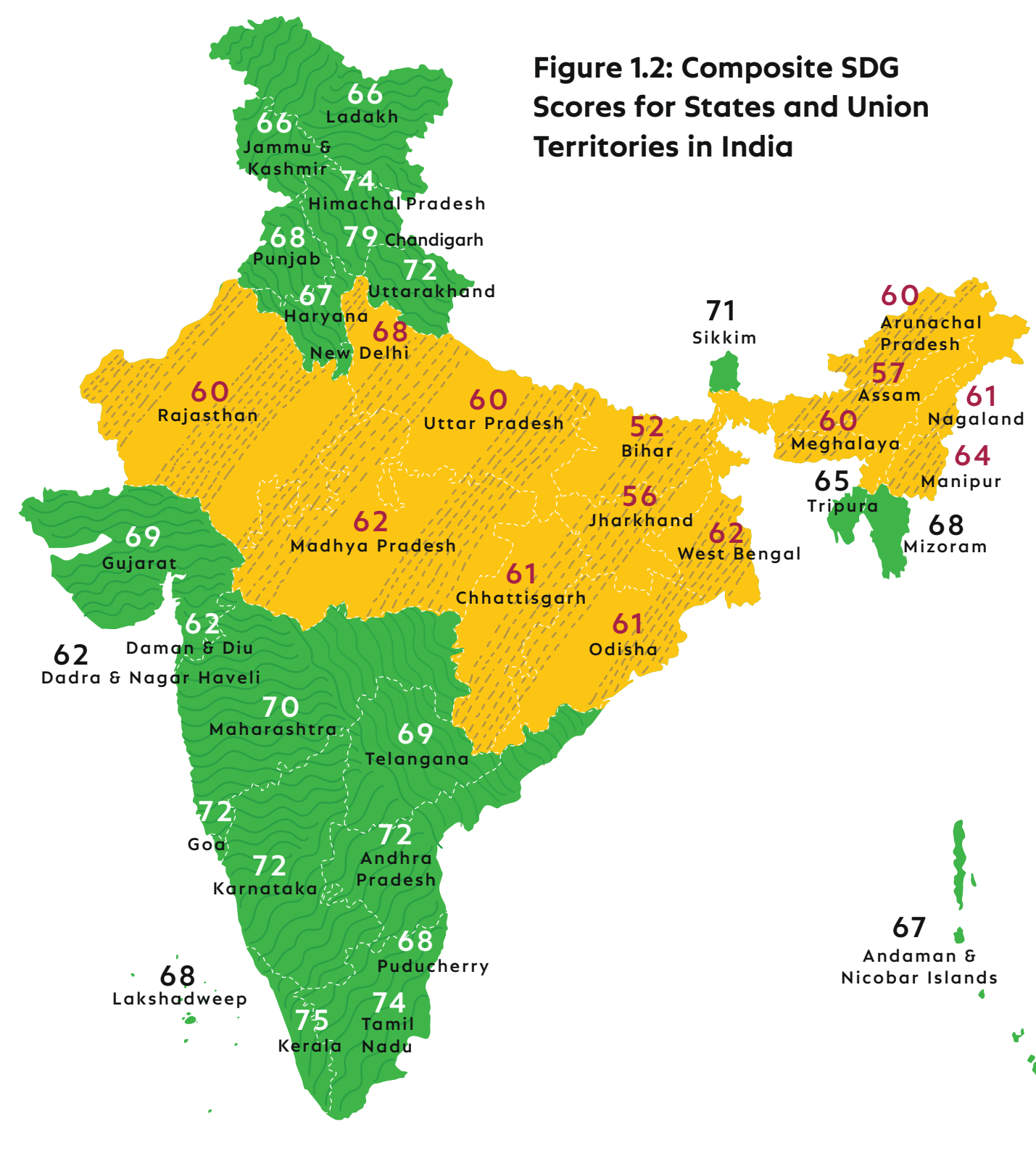




There is wide variation between SDG progress of different states and UTs. Figure 1.2 shows the variations in SDG achievements across states and UTs. While most states are front runners, there are a few that are in the performers scale, thus requiring more focused attention.

**Figure 1.2: Composite SDG Scores for States and Union Territories in India**

State/Union Territory	Composite SDG Score
Ladakh	66
Jammu & Kashmir	66
Himachal Pradesh	74
Punjab	68
Chandigarh	79
Uttarakhand	72
Haryana	67
New Delhi	68
Rajasthan	60
Uttar Pradesh	60
Bihar	52
Jharkhand	56
West Bengal	62
Odisha	61
Chhattisgarh	61
Madhya Pradesh	62
Gujarat	69
Daman & Diu	62
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	62
Maharashtra	70
Telangana	69
Goa	72
Karnataka	72
Andhra Pradesh	72
Puducherry	68
Tamil Nadu	74
Kerala	75
Lakshadweep	68
Sikkim	71
Arunachal Pradesh	60
Assam	57
Nagaland	61
Meghalaya	60
Manipur	64
Mizoram	68
Tripura	65
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	67



**source:** NITI Aayog, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020%E2%80%9321, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India 2021. Available at <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking.%20accessed%20on%2019%20January%202023>.



## SDG progress varies across India's vast geography of states and UTs

A consequence of shifts in the pattern of growth in India over the last three decades, especially following the liberalization of the economy, has been increasing inequalities. These inequalities, in turn, have reinforced obstacles that have sometimes prevented some of India's most vulnerable and marginalized groups from reaping the full benefits of the same growth.

Addressing these obstacles and leaving no one behind in India demands unleashing equality as a transformative force across many dimensions, including gender, class, caste, and geographic location. The central government has taken comprehensive measures towards inclusive growth through large-scale programmes that reach the last mile. However, this process can be accelerated further by promoting a cohesive set of policies to identify those who are disenfranchised and finding effective ways of providing essential services and targeted assistance to those at risk of being left behind. Analyses of available data reveals that the most vulnerable groups can be found at the intersection of gender discrimination, poverty, low education, youth, caste, and tribal status. Data shows that multiple deprivations are disproportionately higher for (Scheduled Castes)<sup>13</sup> and (Scheduled Tribes). For example, five out of six of India's multidimensionally poor women and men are from lower tribes or castes. However, for many other vulnerable groups such as migrants, refugees, other displaced persons, adolescents, persons with disabilities (PwDs), sexual minorities, manual scavengers, de-notified tribes (DNTs), semi-nomadic tribes (SNTs) and elderly, little data is available. A key step in unleashing the transformative power of

equality for such groups is to first close data gaps. This, in turn, will help improve the evidence-base to better identify and empower those who remain the most vulnerable.

Women and girls in vulnerable groups in particular face overlapping deprivations. The gender dimension of vulnerability becomes most pronounced when identities overlap. For example, the most vulnerable and likely victims of gender-based violence are poor women from Scheduled Tribe communities. However, with women and girls constituting nearly half the population of the country, they should be also considered as an important vector for transformative change contributing to India's future development. Better data on vulnerable women and girls' overlapping identities as well as stronger services supporting them can serve to empower them as important forces for transformative change.

One of the greatest challenges over the next five to seven years is to integrate a critical mass of working age women and men into the economy while creating more decent jobs in higher value creating sectors. With India entering a demographic transition offering a once-in-a-century, time-bound opportunity to realize a demographic dividend, the greatest untapped transformational potential in the country is the large share of working-age women who are currently not in the labour force. India stands out for having lower female LFPR than most other countries at similar levels of income per capita. Female LFPR typically falls as income per capita grows but then begins to rise again as a by-product of the structural



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transformation of the economy. For this to happen in India, women's educational attainment and the availability of high-quality service jobs are key. While education levels have improved markedly in recent years, the skills imparted at school and through higher education do not always match with those needed in the marketplace. Good quality job opportunities for women remain scarce. For example, while gender parity has been achieved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in higher education, the share of women employed after graduation remains far lower than men. In addition, women may even be discouraged from entering the workforce due to existing norms and practices. Overcoming these obstacles will be critical for realizing a successful demographic transition and fuelling further structural transformation of India's economy going forward.

The principles of human rights, including gender equality and the empowerment of women, are strongly protected by the Constitution of India,

and a range of policy, legal and institutional frameworks. India has taken progressive measures to meet its international human rights obligations and these frameworks are critical for protecting and promoting the rights of all its citizens. It is timely that the UNSDCF 2023-2027 was finalised following India's Fourth Universal Periodic Review of human rights at the UN Human Rights Council in November 2022, offering an opportunity for constructive discussion to strengthen human rights commitments as a lever to accelerate SDG achievements. For India's strong institutional frameworks to protect and empower the marginalized, data availability and monitoring of vulnerable populations need to be prioritized and essential services that support them can be ring-fenced. Some efforts have been made to gather better data on these populations, especially in line with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but more can be done to build an evidence base to inform policy.

<sup>13</sup> UNDP & OPHI, Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022

## Designing the Cooperation Framework

At the initial stage in the design process (Box 1.1) of the UNSDCF, 2023–2027 or the Cooperation Framework (CF), an innovative collaborative visioning exercise was undertaken in 2021. This identified eight mega trends that will serve as critical levers on which India’s sustainable development pathways will depend over the next five to seven years.

### Box 1.1: Key design processes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The formulation of the new Cooperation Framework (CF) is an extensive multi-layered participatory process that ensures a “whole of society”, “whole of government” and “whole of UN” approach, consisting of:

**An independent third-party evaluation** of the Government of India (GOI)–United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–2022 was undertaken by a team of external experts.<sup>14</sup> The evaluation findings focused on four objectives:

- ensuring accountability of UN actions to stakeholders;
- identifying lessons learned to improve collective responses that accelerate progress towards the SDGs;
- addressing challenges and opportunities, and making recommendations to support the next CF cycle and
- suggesting ways to strengthen the partnership between GOI and the UN to improve the new CF.

**A Common Country Analysis (CCA)**—an independent, impartial and collective assessment (description of what is happening) and analysis (explaining why it is happening) of the country’s situation. The CCA sets the tone for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and occurs at the first stage of the preparatory process.

**The design of the Cooperation Framework:** The United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office leads the process in close coordination with NITI Aayog and the United Nations Country Team. While CF formulation is informed by and adapts from the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework evaluation findings, CCA, and the UN agency programme evaluations, some of the key steps followed for the development of the CF include:

- defining cooperation framework outcomes;
- drafting strategies and result-based framework;
- conducting strategic prioritisation workshop(s) with the government, civil society organizations, private sector, academia and donors; and
- organising trainings for staff on gender, human rights, results-based management and M&E.

## 8 Megatrends affecting India's development 2023-27

The following critical areas were identified as the entry points for policy impact, on which the UN can focus its development support to India:

1. **Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic:** The nature of recovery as the pandemic proceeds will determine whether progress on SDGs gets back on track in India and whether actions on goals that have seen slow or reverse progress accelerate.
2. **A time-bound window of demographic opportunity:** How India addresses its shift from a younger to an ageing population and whether it can turn this demographic transition into an economic dividend will be critical, particularly as it affects women and girls as well as youth and future generations.
3. **The quality and coverage of India’s social contract and relevant socio-economic data:** Leaving no one behind in India depends on how strong the in-place social contract promotes and protects all Indians and whether it fosters trust, inclusion and participation. It also requires that the right data be available to understand who is left behind, and why.
4. **Impacts of digitalization and the fourth industrial revolution:** How India leverages its demographic advantages and technological endowments, including investments in digital public goods, to harness the fourth industrial revolution opportunities is the key. It will determine whether it can drive the country’s industrial transformation and put the economy on an inclusive and sustainable growth path. High growth sectors such as innovation and technology will also need to generate more jobs at a growing pace.
5. **Closer and more integrated rural-urban linkages:** Greater connectivity, mobility and closer proximity between rural and urban areas in India can either fuel marginalization or improve resilience to a cascade of crises and help keep rampant over-development in check. The country’s urban development model(s) will be crucial in this regard.
6. **The efficiency of resource use by Indian households and firms:** India, like other countries, faces the brunt of a triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste generation. The degree of efficiency with which India uses water and energy, as well as other materials, in industry and agriculture will determine how it contributes to tackling this enormous challenge.
7. **Decentralized governance at union, state, district and village levels:** In a country as large and diverse as India, accelerating action for the 2030 Agenda depends critically on whether decentralized state institutions can promote sub-national cooperation, accountability and ownership of SDGs.
8. **India’s global leadership on development:** In a multipolar world, as one of the fastest growing major economies and the world’s most populous nation, India’s role as a global leader—especially among fellow developing countries—is more than consequential. How it empowers women and men facing deprivation, malnourished children, women in low quality jobs and families living in major cities affected by pollution will be watched closely and emulated if promising.

<sup>14</sup> Concrete proposals for the governance structure of the UNSDCF 2023–27 from the evaluation have been taken up in detail in Chapter 3.



A photograph of a man with a grey beard, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a large yellow turban, crouching in a field of green plants. He is smiling at the camera. The background is a dense field of similar green plants. The image is framed by a colorful, multi-colored striped border at the top and bottom.

## CHAPTER 2

# UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda



The present United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the first partnership framework agreed between the Government of India (GOI) and the United Nations since implementation of the United Nations development system reforms on 1 January 2019,<sup>15</sup> which aligns the UN with its commitment to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda by reinvigorating the Resident Coordinator system and ushering in a new era of development coordination.

In India, the reform and its new way of working across UN agencies and across ministries in an integrated approach faced its first test in March 2020 with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, which led to several waves of infections and over half a million deaths. The UN Country Team's (UNCT) Joint COVID-19 task force and the UN socio-economic response plan to COVID-19 tested new approaches to management, approaches to shared back-office support and new management arrangements embodied in the leadership of the Resident Coordinator directly reporting to, and representing, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The "all hands on deck" approach adopted by the UNCT in India, supported by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) during the COVID-19 pandemic served as a proof of concept for the implementation of the UN reforms in India and taught the entire UNCT that the new way of working was indispensable for managing the cascade of new crises and risks that today seem to be emerging from one day to another—from the COVID-19 pandemic to the conflict in Ukraine, from the severe effects of climate change to disruptive technologies, from landslides in the Himalayas to flooding in Kerala.

<sup>15</sup> Date of implementation of the UNGA resolution on 'Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system' (A/72/279).

The next five years of cooperation between the GOI and the UN provides the opportunity to translate lessons from working together during the crisis response into the ongoing, longer-term development work. This new way of working will require better knowledge-based cooperation, increased intellectual leadership by the UN system and a more coordinated, joint approach reaching from national to the state level, drilling down to the districts, blocks and villages. This new way of working will better support government policies to bridge strategically the gaps in SDG achievement that the country faces. It must utilize the UN's limited resources in a catalytic, comprehensive manner without spreading the UN system's impacts too thin.





## 2.1: From Common Country Analysis to Cooperation Framework

The GOI-UNSDCF for the period 2023-2027 represents the UN's collective offer to the GoI to support India's development pathways in line with the national vision for development articulated during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - the celebration of India's 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence. This is further elaborated in the GOI's stated desire to successfully reap all opportunities and become a developed country during Amrit Kaal—the period of 25 years from India@75 to India@100.

The UNSDCF, or the Cooperation Framework (CF), is, therefore, mutually owned and anchored in national development priorities, the 2030 Agenda and the principles of the UN Charter. It outlines the UN development system's contribution sought by national stakeholders to achieve the SDGs in an integrated manner with a commitment to leave no one behind (LNOB) and uphold human rights, as well as to ensure gender equality and youth empowerment. The CF serves as a core accountability tool between the UNCT and the host government, as well as among UNCT members for collectively owned development results. It shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country as well as UN entity-specific country programmes, which are derived from this CF.

Drawing on the UN Secretary-General's "Call to Action for Human Rights", rights are at the core of sustainable development. For India's


sustainable development, key areas of human rights commitments that are particularly relevant to implementing this UNSDCF, 2023-27 include: the right to development, gender equality and the equal rights of women and girls, rights of future generations - including climate justice - and new frontiers of human rights—especially digital trust & security. Together with public participation and civic space, these human rights at the heart of collective action are integrated across the UNSDCF, 2023-27.

The formulation of the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 has been led by NITI Aayog, the Ministry for External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in collaboration with the UNCT led by the Resident Coordinator through an exhaustive consultative process. The CF design process began with deliberations around the eight megatrends that will impact India's development pathways over the period 2023-27, as articulated by the UNCT in an innovative scenario analysis developed as part of the 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) (see Chapter 1). Government of India's assessment of the country's progress on the SDGs and the findings of the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) (2018–2022) further guided the discussions between the UN—including both resident and non-resident UN entities<sup>16</sup> - the GOI and all relevant stakeholders.


As part of the process, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and a former Human Rights Council (HRC) Special Rapporteur conducted a series of human rights trainings. The HRC Special Rapporteur also prepared a background paper for the UNCT, drawing linkages between human rights standards and norms and the relevant areas of SDG achievement covered under the proposed CF. The design process also benefited from the preparation of the UNCT Report to the Fourth Universal Periodic Review, which was drafted in

early 2022 by an interagency drafting team of UNCT human rights experts. The findings of the UNSDF 2018-2022 evaluation undertaken by independent evaluators fed into the design of the CF and its governance framework. A series of multi-stakeholder consultations and validation workshops brought together all stakeholders who gave their inputs to the UNSDCF design process. Feedback was also sought from the stakeholders on the proposed Results Matrix that emerged from the process.


The four broad groups of stakeholders that took part in these consultations and workshops were




Civil society organizations, including representatives of all vulnerable groups identified as the most likely to be left behind by the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the 2021 CCA;<sup>17</sup>



Industry foundations, workers' organizations (trade unions), employer and business membership organizations, individual employers, and representatives of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives;



Think tanks, foundations, international nongovernmental organizations and experts; and;



Government officials from NITI Aayog, MEA and DEA, as well as all line ministries concerned with each of the six proposed outcomes of the Results Matrix and representatives from the chief secretaries' offices of all states and Union Territories (UTs).

<sup>16</sup> Non-resident entities which contributed to and/or commented on the CCA and CF design processes included: Better Than Cash Alliance, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Trade Centre, International Telecommunication Union, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the International Energy Agency and the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

<sup>17</sup> The VNR 2020 process and the CCA 2021 identified and consulted with key population groups in India with an important stake in the 2030 Agenda's transformative promise of "Leave No One Behind." These groups include: i) Adivasis; (ii) Adolescents, Youth and Youth Workers; (iii) Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking; (iv) Children; (v) Dalits; (vi) De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes; (vii) Elderly; (viii) Farmers; (ix) Migrants and Urban Poor; (x) People in North-Eastern Region; (xi) People Living with HIV; (xii) Persons with Disabilities; (xiii) Sexual Minorities (lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus); (xiv) Women; (xv) Refugees and Asylum Seekers; and (xvi) Religious Minorities.

Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027)

24

The prioritization of areas for the UN system's support was done based on the following:



the national context,



commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind,



convergence with national priorities,



the transformation that can be achieved through the catalytic technical support offered by the UN and



the comparative advantages of the UN development system and



the broader 2030 Agenda and SDG guiding framework.

Some of the biggest threats to India's progress on the 2030 Agenda, as identified by the CCA and emerging through stakeholders' consultations, are the following:



Future health crises such as large-scale disease outbreaks or pandemics adversely affect socio-economic conditions on a large scale, halting progress on SDGs;



People lack the capability to enjoy their lives fully; for example, by being unhealthy, by lacking healthy adequate nourishment or by lacking education or sufficient knowledge and skills to lead and enjoy prosperous lives;



The demographic transition does not fully yield a demographic dividend, resulting in challenges to quality employment and sustainable growth of the economy;



Required efforts to achieve environmental sustainability constrain economic sustainability, or vice versa, with adverse effects for millions of women and men,



Future climate-induced disasters, events or vulnerabilities impact lives, livelihoods and the economy; and



Spatial and social inequalities widen or persist resulting in exclusion across and within states/UTs

The opportunities, as identified by the CCA and emerging through stakeholders' consultations, include:



Government of India's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its promise of "leave no one behind" and legislative and executive decisions that enable affirmative action;



The government's vision to make India an economic superpower and its commitments towards making the planet more sustainable;



Governance structures and institutional frameworks that enable policy design and programme implementation at various levels of governance, along with robust delivery mechanisms,



Strong digital governance capacity and deep penetration of digital infrastructure; and



Availability of national research and technical capacities.

To address the challenges and leverage the opportunities, the stakeholders agreed that the UN system's catalytic support can further strengthen the government's policies and institutions with transformational effect on India's progress on the SDGs.

The most important areas of UN intervention that will have maximum impact and maximum ripple effect for SDG achievement are UN system support to India's demographic transition and systemic transformations (health, food, education, structural/employment, climate, digital).

UN system support will have resonance ensuring women, youth and marginalized and vulnerable communities participate in, drive

and benefit from the social, economic and environmental changes these transitions and transformations entail.

To enable this, the CF design process defined a high-level theory of change prioritizing the SDGs to benefit from UN support and laid out strategic directions that UN actions can follow in joined-up approaches to collectively support better policy interventions on the six key outcomes of the UNSDCF, 2023-27. Individual-level theories of change were then developed to integrate impact on other SDGs and how catalytic spill overs across SDGs and key partnerships across India's vast geographical and institutional space can leverage the UN's small size relative to the population.



## 2.2: Theory of Change for the Cooperation Framework, Strategic Pillars and Outcomes

The high-level theory of change that emerged from the design process of the GOI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 given below, is that:

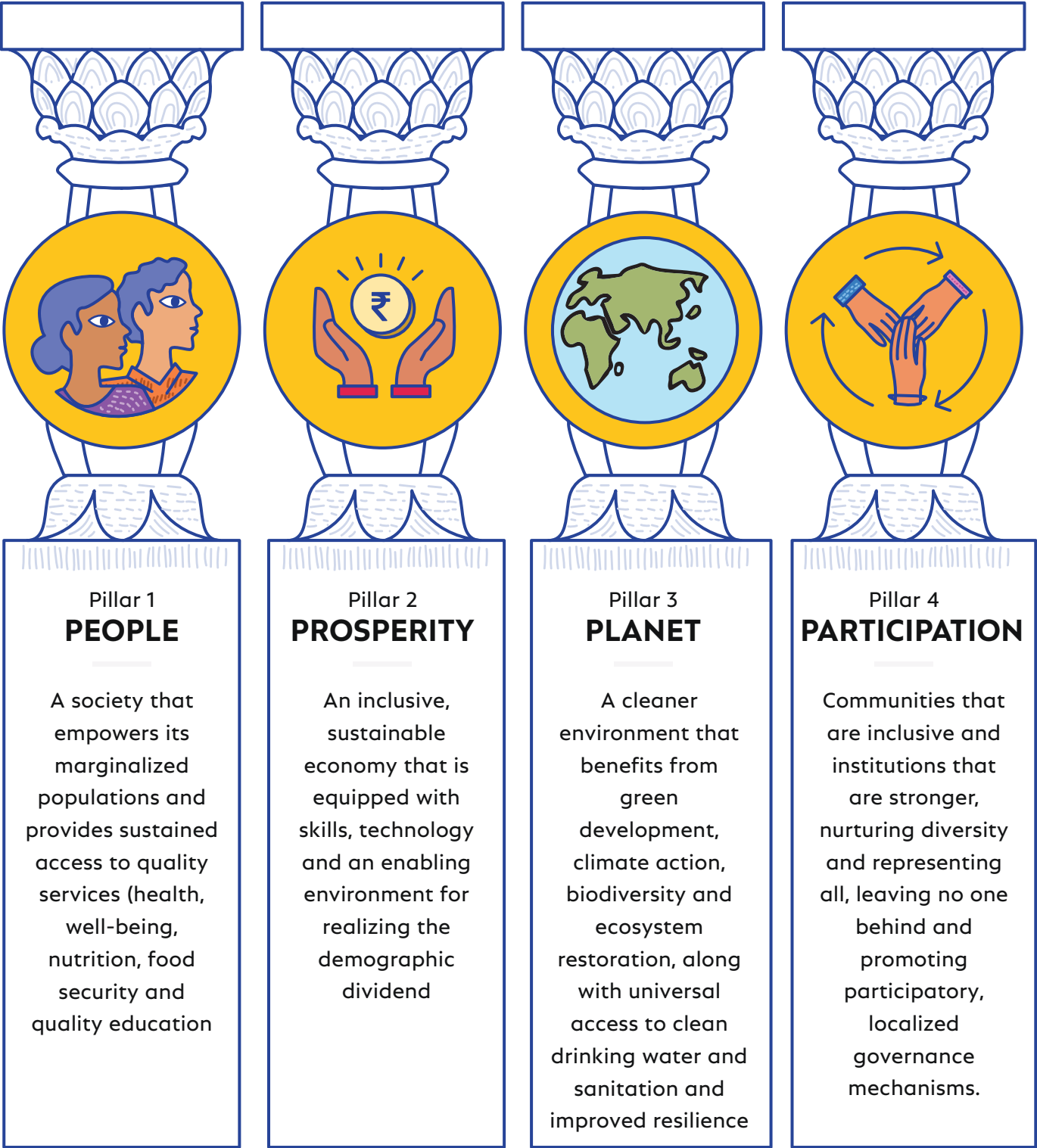
If health systems are strengthened to be resilient to future shocks; existing health challenges are addressed; communities are sensitized to adopt positive health behaviours; incidence of malnutrition is reduced by increasing consumption of adequate, affordable and diverse nutritious food; quality services are accessible at all times and if children and youth are able to access quality learning and develop their skills, then all people will be able to lead resilient, healthy, well-nourished, fulfilling lives and realize the full scope of their functional capabilities.

If economic growth is job-rich, green and equitable, with greater female labour force participation, decent working conditions, more higher value-added jobs and increased productivity levels of small and medium-sized enterprises, then the demographic dividend can be realized and India can be on track to becoming an upper-middle income country with a large, prosperous, youthful and diverse middle-class.

If informed actions are taken to protect the environment, address climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity, then India will be able to meet its global commitments to the planet and help ameliorate the triple planetary crisis through its sustainable and continued growth path.

If institutions are strengthened and communities are empowered to address inequalities and discriminatory norms and practices, especially those that discriminate against women and girls, and if good practices are shared across communities and across borders, then all people will reap the benefits of India's sustainable development.

Derived from this theory of change and the extensive consultative process beginning with the CCA, the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 is built around shared agreement on four interlinked strategic pillars, which draw on the 2030 Agenda framing:



These four priority pillars are interdependent. The “People” priority pillar builds the capabilities of individuals and communities to become prosperous and also to take informed action to protect the environment. It also enables people to participate, have a voice and exercise their choices. The “Prosperity” priority pillar builds on a healthy, educated and skilled populace. It has a bearing on and is affected by environmental sustainability and gender inequality. The “Planet” priority pillar requires an economy with the right balance of skill sets and technologies, and needs communities that take ownership of and accountability for the impact their lifestyles have on the environment. The “Participation” priority pillar is closely linked to all the other pillars of the UNSDCF because it concerns all communities, all SDGs and the 2030 Agenda’s transformative promise of leaving no one behind.

### The comparative advantages of the UN system are:



Focus on the 2030 Agenda's transformative promise to "Leave No One Behind" and put the "furthest behind first",



Global presence and the capacity to bring in global expertise, knowledge, experience and technical capacity to inform policies and programmes and support the government,



Ability to introduce innovations and creative solutions that catalyse game-changing policies and programmes,



Strong and trusted partnerships with the government as well as with a range of stakeholders such as civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, the academia, workers' organizations and employers' organizations and



Its ability to support the government in strengthening South-South Cooperation as a development agenda.

Importantly, the UN system's ability to convene diverse stakeholders and advocate for the rights of the marginalized is widely recognized. The UN system will build on this comparative advantage and provide catalytic technical support to trigger a transformative change in India's journey towards sustainable development.

The central assumption is that the government will prioritize sustainable development and that a strong partnership will be maintained between the UN system and the government. The other major assumption is that adequate funding is available for implementing the CF. It is also assumed that increased capacities for planning, implementation, service delivery, monitoring and driving the inclusion agenda will translate into greater outreach, thereby reducing inequalities.

### The key strategies adopted by the UNSDCF for the UN system's contribution include:



harnessing synergies with flagship government programmes through partnerships,



building capacities of institutions to ensure sustainability,



collaborating with national partners to strengthen the evidence base and data for decision-making, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups,



advocating with the government and partners on issues related to international human rights commitments, especially on respecting, promoting and realising the rights of right holders and supporting the fulfilment of obligations by duty bearers, as part of the UN system's normative role,



advocating to address structural issues that perpetuate inequalities in societies,



knowledge sharing based on focused research,



raising awareness of the marginalized sections and empowering them and



sharing good practices within the country and good practices from India with other countries.

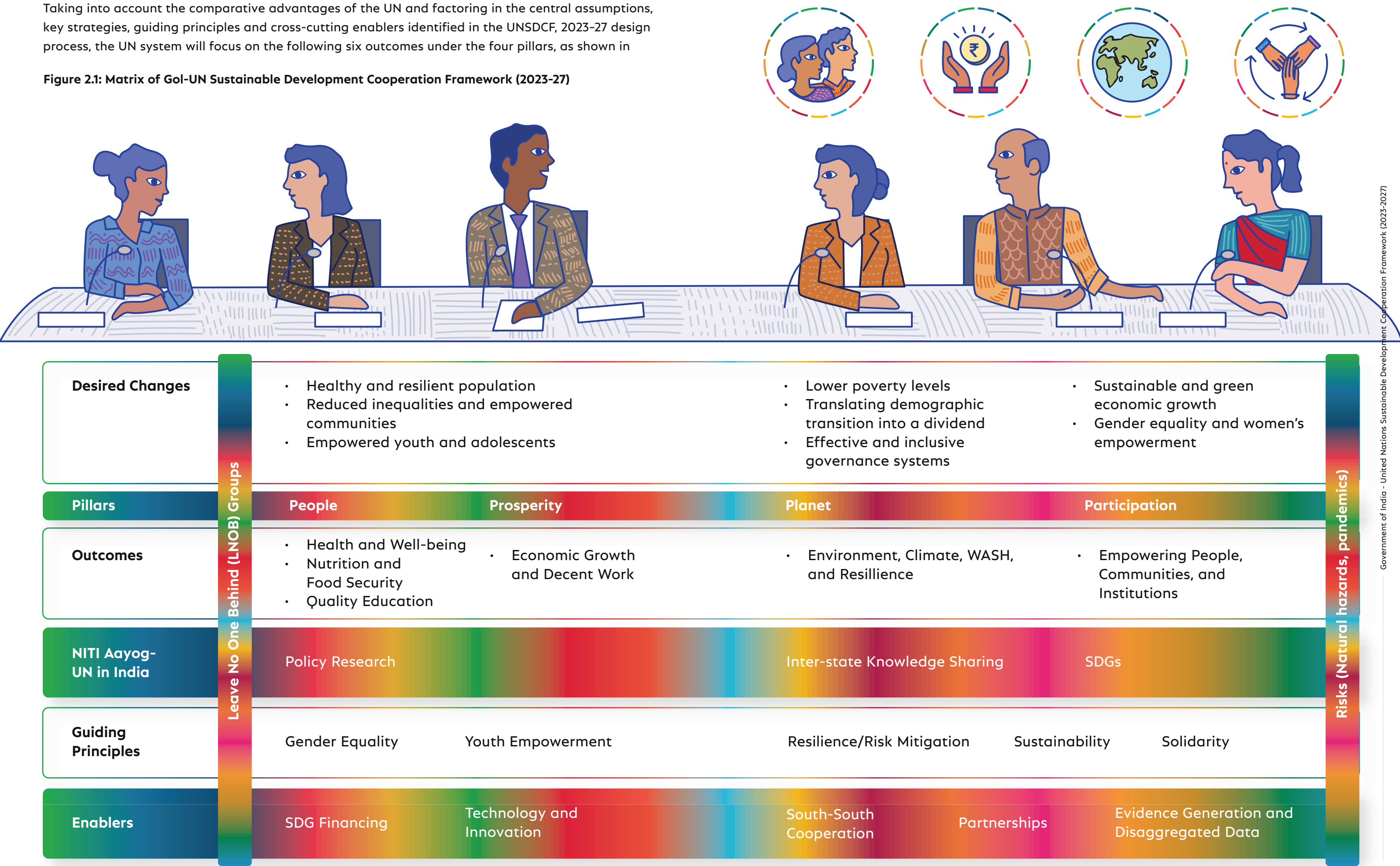
The guiding principles of the UNSDCF are gender equality, youth empowerment, resilience and risk mitigation, sustainability and solidarity.

The cross-cutting enablers for the UNSDCF are SDG financing, technology and innovation, development partnerships and evidence generation.



Taking into account the comparative advantages of the UN and factoring in the central assumptions, key strategies, guiding principles and cross-cutting enablers identified in the UNSDCF, 2023-27 design process, the UN system will focus on the following six outcomes under the four pillars, as shown in

Figure 2.1: Matrix of Gol-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-27)





## Strategic Orientation of the UN for **Pillar 1—People**

India has made tremendous progress in improving the quality of life of its people and building human capital, particularly since the beginning of the millennium. Between 2005/06 and 2019/21, 415 million Indians have been pulled out of multidimensional poverty, measured through the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).<sup>18</sup> Strengthening the health delivery system and focusing on universal health coverage is delivering positive results on the health and well-being targets of the SDGs. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes developing knowledge and skills for the twenty-first century. India's service delivery system to the most marginalized communities has been strengthened by harnessing the country's world-class digital governance systems combined with financial inclusion. Building an even stronger human capital base that enables India to leverage its demographic potential is the foundation on which India's transformation journey for achieving the SDGs rests. It also is one of the foremost priorities identified by all the stakeholders for the GOI-UNSDCF 2023–2027. This involves building resilient, healthy, well-nourished communities with access to quality education and skills development, including life skills.

According to the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21,<sup>19</sup> India has made impressive progress on SDG 3 (good health and well-being) with reductions in maternal, new-born, infant and child mortalities and addressing non-communicable diseases. However, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted health services and hence, the need to build back better and faster. Affordability and the cost of healthcare, accessibility to healthcare services, density and capacity constraints of the health workforce, penetration and quality of health and referral infrastructure and gaps in health awareness are among the most significant challenges that need to be addressed to achieve the GOI's vision of health for all. Approximately one-third of India's population is between the ages of 10 and 24 years—the largest youth cohort in the world. This calls for attention to their health and well-being, including their unique sexual and reproductive health needs and mental health. Initiatives to strengthen adolescent health and well-being need to be scaled up to cover all the districts. The use of technology and a focus on innovations will strengthen access to services.



<sup>18</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022).

<sup>19</sup> NITI Aayog, India SDG Index and Dashboard 2020–21, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021).



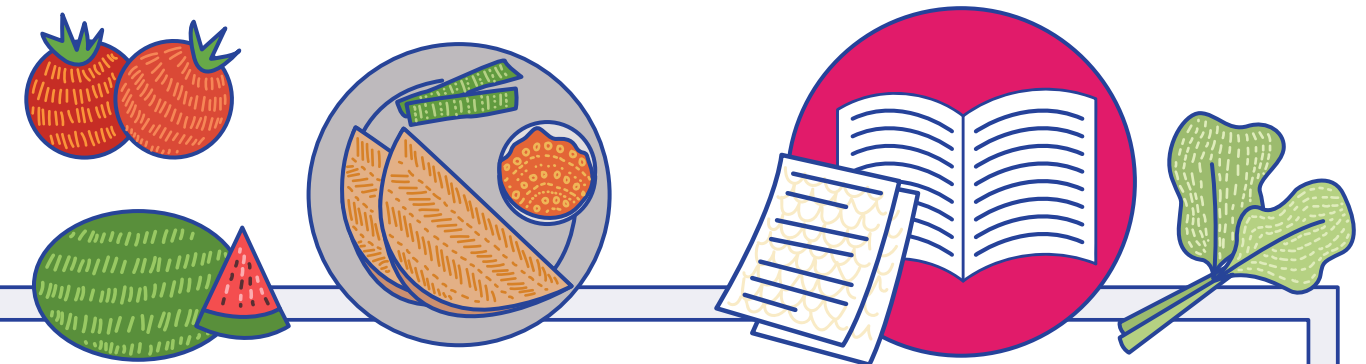


According to the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-2021, India is yet to reach its aspirations on SDG 2 (zero hunger). Despite tremendous progress over the past few decades in food grain production and significant reductions in malnutrition rates, India continues to bear a considerable burden of food and nutrition insecurity. Although the Government has been upgrading its transportation systems and supply chains, it still faces challenges of efficiencies and grain loss due to inadequate storage. Many people, including migrant workers, tribal populations and other marginalized groups, continue to face challenges accessing nutrition services and nutritious food. Inadequate knowledge and practices around nutrition, hygiene and intra-household food access and consumption result in more than a third of the children being malnourished. While the National Family Health Survey (NHFS-5), 2019-2021 indicates a reduction in the prevalence of chronic malnutrition, some states have shown an increase in malnutrition between 2015-16 and 2019-21. Incidence of anaemia has increased, affecting more than half of young children, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age.

**The UN in India will contribute to the Government of India's efforts towards achieving SDG 2 (zero hunger)<sup>20</sup> with a focus on vulnerable groups and gender equality. It will work to strengthen government programmes aligned to the National Food Security Act, 2013 and other schemes and umbrella programmes, including Poshan 2.0, by providing technical support along with additional knowledge about and access to nutritious foods for vulnerable groups. It will contribute to strengthened food security by providing catalytic technical support and strengthening capacities.**

<sup>20</sup> NITI Aayog, India SDG Index and Dashboard 2020-21, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021).

India's overall progress on SDG 4 (quality education) demands improvement, according to the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-21.<sup>21</sup> There have been impressive increases in school and tertiary enrolment. However, gaps remain in achieving minimum proficiency in languages and mathematics. Prior to the pandemic, India was facing challenges in education that worsened during COVID-19 due to school closures. As states moved to digital/remote learning, the digital divide in education exacerbated access to quality learning. As per the National Achievement Survey 2021, 24 percent of children reported a lack of any digital device at home.<sup>22</sup> Economic Survey 2021-2022, citing the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), notes that the percentage of children (6-14 years) "not currently enrolled in schools" increased from 2.5 percent in 2018 to 4.6 percent in 2021.<sup>23</sup> The decline in enrolment was relatively significant among the younger age group (7-10 years), girls and the vulnerable being the most affected. This is in addition to the challenges of older students acquiring 21<sup>st</sup> century life skills and transitioning to higher education and work. Retention of children in the school system, transitioning them to higher education and making them employable and limited capacity of online education and e-learning are the other challenges that hamper India's progress on SDG 3.



**The UN in India will contribute to ensuring equitable access to quality education at all levels, imparting twenty-first-century skills and life skills, in alignment with national policies and programmes, particularly the NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha, School Health & Wellness Programme under Ayushman Bharat Programme, NIPUN Bharat and Vidyanjali (school volunteer programme). The UN system's work will be guided by the overarching principles of gender equality, "leave no one behind", youth empowerment and participation and volunteerism. The UN support will also seek to bolster evidence generation and ensuring availability of disaggregated data.**

<sup>21</sup> NITI Aayog, India SDG Index and Dashboard 2020-21, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021).

<sup>22</sup> National Council of Educational Research and Training, National Achievement Survey 2021: National Report NAS 2021, Classes III, V, VIII & X, Ministry of Education, Government of India (2022).

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey 2021-2022, Government of India (2022).

# Outcome 1: Health and well-being



By 2027, communities, especially the most disadvantaged, demand for and benefit from inclusive, universal, affordable, accessible, accountable and quality healthcare services while adopting positive health practices.

## Theory of change

Outcome 1 is embedded in the UNSDCF theory of change which aims at contributing to progress on SDG 3 ("To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"). With a focus on gender equality and vulnerable groups, the programmes undertaken to meet SDG 3 targets will also inform SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). UNCT work on social protection under this outcome will also contribute to SDG 1 (no poverty). Additionally, given the interrelated nature of the health sector and the multi-sectorality of the health sector, Outcome 1 is linked to most other SDGs, notably to SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation).

The theory of change for Outcome 1 is based on the premise that :



If the government increases capacity to make public health systems inclusive, resilient and of high quality by improving health services and infrastructure and converging government schemes



if affordable financing for healthcare is made available and



if communities have health awareness

Then communities, especially the most disadvantaged, demand for and benefit from inclusive, universal, affordable, accessible, accountable and quality healthcare services at all times while adopting positive health practices.

The UN system in India will contribute to making public health systems inclusive by supporting key national flagship programmes such as Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Ayushman Bharat National Digital Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

## Background:

- The GOI is committed to the SDGs
- GOI's Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is aimed at ensuring a robust public health infrastructure
- The Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Scheme provides for universal health coverage
- National Digital Health Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 contribute to health outcomes
- Global progress on SDG 3 depends on India's achievements

## Challenges:

- Making health services resilient towards pandemics and disasters
- Bridging urban-rural digital divides
- Ensuring an adequate health workforce
- Improving multisectoral coherence
- Harmonizing health indicators and data across states and districts
- Ensuring sufficient skilled health workforce in rural areas
- Need for better systems and capacities for digitalization of service delivery
- Ensuring infrastructure, communication and referral networks match population needs

## Cooperation Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Harnessing national flagship programmes and schemes
- Preparing a public health system that is robust and resilient along with scalable digital health systems to deal with future pandemics/humanitarian situations
- Engaging with line departments and ministries for work on reproductive health and family planning; non-communicable diseases (NCDs), antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic disease outbreaks
- Enhancing India's leadership in the pharmaceutical industry including vaccines manufacturing.
- Support to strengthen service delivery, health workforce, Health Management Information System, digital health systems, access to essential medicines, financing and governance with a focus on vulnerable groups and last-mile delivery
- Facilitate investments in research, technology and innovations through South-South Cooperation
- Emphasize comprehensive healthcare with a life-cycle approach

**Impact: A healthy and resilient population**



## Outcome 1: Quality health care and positive health practices for all

Communities, especially the most disadvantaged, demand for and benefit from an inclusive, universal, affordable, accessible, accountable and quality health care services, while adopting positive health practices.

### Output 1.1: Inclusive and high-quality health systems

Increased government capacity to make public health systems inclusive and of high quality

#### Intervention areas:

Strengthening systems for resilience and providing quality primary healthcare

Strengthening reproductive and sexual health and family planning interventions

Advocating for convergence of government schemes

### Output 1.2: “One Health” approach

Improved surveillance, monitoring and treatment systems for diseases by adoption of “One Health” approach

#### Intervention area:

Contributing to elimination of communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS, vector-borne and vaccine-preventable diseases

### Output 1.3: Tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Established and implemented a robust multisectoral approach for NCDs

#### Intervention area:

Supporting range of areas for a “whole-of-society” approach to NCDs

### Output 1.4: Sustainable health financing and business models

Better financing sustainable business models around healthcare

#### Intervention area:

Enhancing the role of private entities in the health sector

## Geographical focus:

All the states and districts (including aspirational districts)

## Target population:

Women, children, adolescents, marginalized groups/communities, persons with disabilities (PwDs), key population groups at risk of HIV

## Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Health and Wellness Centres, National Digital Health Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, Midwifery Services Initiative, Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), LaQshya, Mission Parivar Vikas, Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FPLMIS), National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent and newborn healthcare (RMNCHA+N) and India's Family Planning 2030<sup>24</sup> commitments

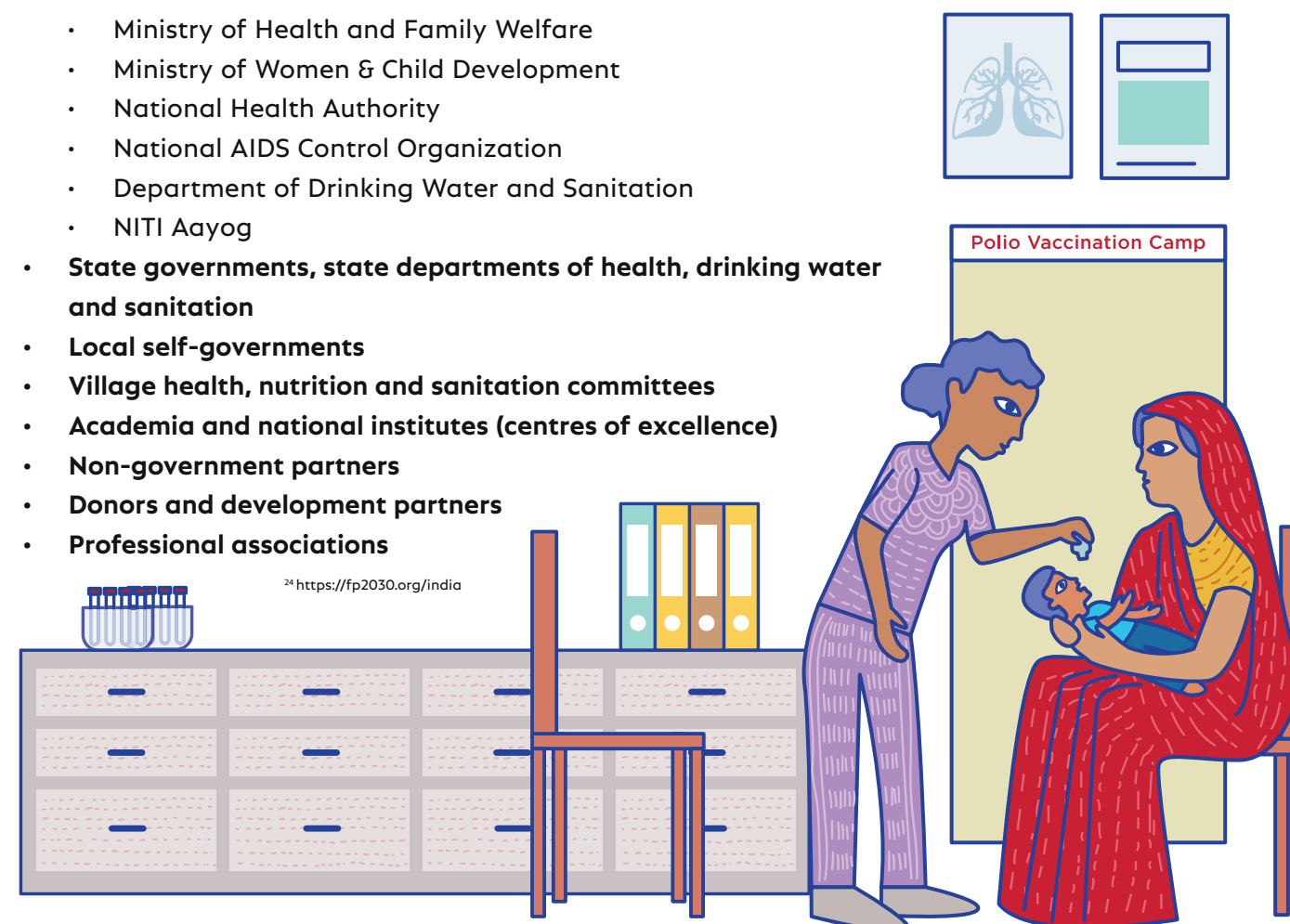
## UN's comparative advantage:

- Expertise in health-related topics to influence policies and programmes
- Strong partnership with government, academia, private partners and CSOs

## External partners:

- **Government of India**
  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
  - Ministry of Women & Child Development
  - National Health Authority
  - National AIDS Control Organization
  - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
  - NITI Aayog
- **State governments, state departments of health, drinking water and sanitation**
- **Local self-governments**
- **Village health, nutrition and sanitation committees**
- **Academia and national institutes (centres of excellence)**
- **Non-government partners**
- **Donors and development partners**
- **Professional associations**

<sup>24</sup> <https://fp2030.org/india>





UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 1

UN outputs: The UN system’s contribution to Outcome 1 will focus on:

- Increasing the government capacity to make public health systems inclusive and of high quality,
- Strengthening the surveillance, monitoring and treatment systems for diseases through the adoption of One Health approach,
- Establishing and implementing a robust multisectoral approach for NCDs and
- Strengthening financing and sustainable business models around health.

The UN will support strengthening the health system’s capacity to provide quality health services for all, focusing on reducing the financial burden on poor and marginalized groups. It will focus on universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially in states that lag behind, help improve maternal and new-born health outcomes. Special emphasis will be laid on ending epidemics of communicable diseases, responding to the emerging challenges of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), stepping up the response to the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and eliminating neglected tropical diseases, along with ensuring continuity of essential services during humanitarian/disaster situations.

The strategies adopted for achieving the expected results include harnessing national flagship programmes and schemes to achieve the national goals as well as the SDGs; engaging with line departments and ministries to enhance reproductive health and family planning services; addressing risk factors for NCDs; combatting AMR; and strengthening systems for monitoring and early warning for zoonotic disease outbreaks. The UN system will adopt a health system strengthening approach (infrastructure,

health workforce and unified information management with an early warning system) in preparation of future disruptive scenarios, including pandemics and disasters, and support the strengthening of the building blocks of the health system (service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines, financing and governance) for equitable and affordable health services. It will facilitate investments in research, technology and innovations, including through South-South Cooperation, to improve access and reach to make universal health coverage (UHC) a reality. It will also contribute to enhancing India’s leadership in the pharmaceutical industry including vaccine manufacturing.

The UN system’s interventions will emphasize the life-cycle approach, continuum of care, quality of comprehensive services and building referral networks from primary health centres (PHCs) to tertiary care facilities. It will support evidence generation and the establishment of robust data systems to inform policies and programmes and facilitate implementation of globally acknowledged high-impact practices.

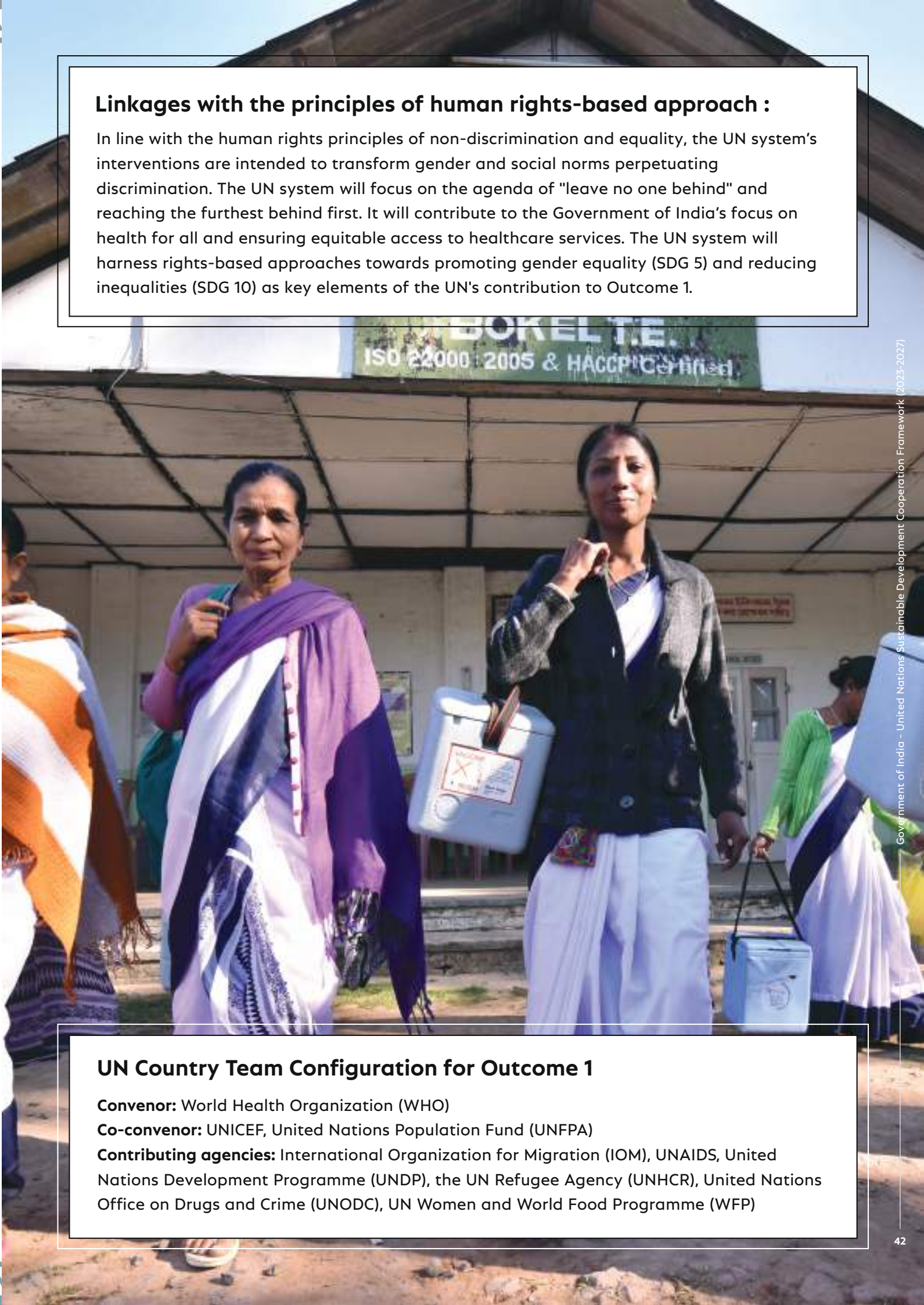
**LNOB focus:** The UN’s contribution to Outcome 1 will focus on women, children, adolescents (especially from the marginalized groups such as the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) and communities), urban and rural poor, persons with disabilities (PwDs), persons living with HIV (PLHIVs), sexual minorities and displaced population groups, among others. Additional areas of UN intervention will include achieving gender equality; transforming social norms; and enhancing the knowledge and skills of caregivers and communities to adopt evidence-based good practices and generate demand for preventive and responsive health services.

Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach :

In line with the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality, the UN system’s interventions are intended to transform gender and social norms perpetuating discrimination. The UN system will focus on the agenda of "leave no one behind" and reaching the furthest behind first. It will contribute to the Government of India’s focus on health for all and ensuring equitable access to healthcare services. The UN system will harness rights-based approaches towards promoting gender equality (SDG 5) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) as key elements of the UN’s contribution to Outcome 1.

UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 1

- Convenor:** World Health Organization (WHO)  
**Co-convenor:** UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
**Contributing agencies:** International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNAIDS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women and World Food Programme (WFP)





## Outcome 2: Nutrition and food security



By 2027, all people, including children, women and marginalized populations, will have increased access to and consumption of adequate, affordable and diverse nutritious food and quality services year-round.

### Theory of change

Outcome 2 is embedded in the UNSDCF theory of change, which aims at contributing to progress on SDG 2 (“end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”). With a focus on gender equality and vulnerable groups, the programmes undertaken to meet the SDG 2 targets will also inform SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). Outcomes related to food security and nutrition are also closely linked to all the SDGs, especially SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on land).

The UNSDCF theory of change for Outcome 2 is based on the following premises:



If the government receives support to roll out high-quality nutrition services, and communities have increased capacity to access nutritious foods and healthy diets and adopt appropriate infant and young child feeding and caring practices, hand hygiene and food safety, then all people, including children, women and marginalized populations, would have access to quality nutrition services and can improve their dietary practices.



If the government and stakeholders have increased capacity to strengthen food systems supply chains and agriculture value chains with a focus on evidence and policy planning, then communities would have availability of diverse and nutritious food through resilient food systems.

### Background:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to ensure food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable through its associated schemes and programmes, making access to food a legal right.
- While the NFSA covers a targeted public distribution system (813 million beneficiaries), the Pradhan Mantri-Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme (for school children) and Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), adolescent girls and young children) have universal coverage.

### Challenges:

- Reducing the levels of malnutrition
- Ensuring all eligible citizens can access nutrition services
- Ensuring efficiency in social protection systems
- Implementation of NFSA 2013, especially in remote areas to be made more robust.

### Corporate Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Provide technical and advocacy support and facilitate innovation for strengthening government systems, programmes and services to improve nutrition and food security.
- Sharing best practices through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

**Impact:** Reduced malnutrition and improved household food security through more efficient and effective food and nutrition systems

## Outcome 2: Nutrition and food security

All people, including children, women and marginalized populations, have increased access to and consumption of adequate, affordable and diverse nutritious food and quality services year-round.

### Output 2.1: Nutrition

Stakeholders and systems at national and state levels have increased knowledge and capacities to improve the nutrition content and increase consumption of nutritious and diverse foods as well as access to quality services.

#### Intervention area:

Technical support, guidance, research for

- POSHAN 2.0/ICDS
- PM POSHAN
- Food fortification
- Social and behaviour change communication
- Health and hygiene

### Output 2.2: Food

Government and other stakeholders have enhanced capacity to ensure availability of diverse and nutritious food through resilient food systems

#### Intervention area:

Research and evidence for

- Public Distribution System
- Supply chain strengthening
- Value chain enhancements
- Resilient food systems



## Geographical focus:

Multiple states

### Target population:

Adolescent girls, school children, urban poor, people living with disabilities, SC and ST communities, migrants, refugees, PwDs, pastoralists and small and marginal farmers including women

## Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

Mission POSHAN 2.0, National Health Mission (NHM), Anaemia Mukt Bharat, Eat Right Campaign, PM POSHAN, Public Distribution System, Integrated Child development Scheme, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, INDIA Good Agriculture Practices (INDGAP) Certification Scheme, AGMARKNET Scheme and Kisan Drone Scheme

## UN's comparative advantage:

- Strong internal coordination among UN agencies and ability to convene diverse stakeholders
- Knowledge, experience and technical expertise to inform policies and programmes and provide support to the government
- Ability to introduce innovation and creative solutions

## External partners:

### Government of India

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Ministry of Women & Child Development
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/FSSAI
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- NITI Aayog

### State governments

- Related state departments of the above ministries.

### Government institutions

- ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition
- National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research

### Non-government Partners

- Civil society organizations
- Research organizations
- Academia





## UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 2

**UN outputs:** The UN system's contribution to Outcome 2 will focus on:

- Ensuring increased knowledge and capacities of stakeholders and systems at national and state levels to improve the nutrition content and increase consumption of nutritious and diverse foods as well as access to quality services in institutional settings and at home and
- Enhancing capacity of government and other stakeholders to ensure the availability of diverse and nutritious food through resilient food systems.

The UN system will focus on specific interventions pertaining to nutrition and food security. Its programmes related to nutrition will address infant and child feeding, adolescent nutrition and maternal nutrition. It will support micronutrient interventions, including food fortification and supplementation. Prevention and management of malnutrition, including anaemia, overweight and obesity, will be a priority area for the UN system's support. It will work with communities to promote healthy diets and focus on social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), emphasizing health, hygiene and food safety. In the area of food security, it will contribute to strengthening the Public Distribution System (PDS), optimizing supply chains (including storage) and strengthening value chains (including cold storage). The UN system will also focus on technical support, research support, capacity strengthening and innovation for both areas of intervention. It will support the government in strengthening regulatory systems for food safety, including the creation of institutional frameworks for certification.

The strategies adopted for the UN system's contribution to Outcome 2 include providing technical and advocacy support and facilitating innovation for strengthening government systems, programmes and services to improve nutrition and food security, as well as sharing good practices through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The UN in India will complement the government's programmes and leverage its partnership with governments from the national to the grassroots level.

**LNOB focus:** The UN system will focus on the most vulnerable sections of society with particular emphasis on gender equality. The UN system's is focused on strengthening existing government programmes and systems, working alongside government counterparts from the national level down to the block level with an emphasis on providing innovative solutions and supporting policy formulation. It will also prioritize pregnant and nursing mothers, infants and young children, adolescent girls, school children, urban poor, PwDs, SC and ST communities, migrants, refugees, pastoralists and small and marginal farmers, including women.

**Partnerships:** The UN in India will work mainly through strategic partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders. Partnerships with the relevant line ministries and state-level departments will be strengthened by providing technical support and knowledge sharing gained through operational and implementation research and pilot programmes, for e.g., implementation of a pilot programme in partnership with Panchayati Raj Institutions.<sup>25</sup> Think tanks, civil society organizations and women self-help groups will be collaborative partners for undertaking research and on-ground capacity building and action.

<sup>25</sup> Institutions for local self-governance in rural areas.

## Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach

The UN system's contribution to Outcome 2 is aligned to the National Food Security Act, 2013 which adopts a rights-based approach. It aims to follow the life-cycle approach while providing food and nutritional security by ensuring access to an adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices for people to live a life with dignity, including a special focus on nutritional support for women and children. It will also seek to support initiatives under the Poshan 2.0 programme for improving nutritional outcomes of particularly vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants and children. The UN system will also work to improve the resilience of agri-food systems to prevent food insecurity among populations affected by disasters and other vulnerable sections.

## UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 2

**Convenor:** WFP

**Co-convenor:** UNICEF

**Contributing agencies:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNHCR, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and WHO



# Outcome 3: Quality education

By 2027, all children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, have equitable access to quality learning and skills development within safe and inclusive education environments.

## Theory of change

Outcome 3 is embedded in the UNSDCF theory of change, which aims to contribute to progress on SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. With gender equality and “leave no one behind” as the underlying principles for the UN system’s contribution to Outcome 3, SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) are also impacted. Quality education is the bedrock of employability, work and overall economic growth of the country; hence, the outcome also relates to SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

The UNSDCF theory of change for Outcome 3 is based on the following premises:



If government education functionaries have increased capacity to plan and implement gender/equity-based policies, then children and young people will have equitable access to gender-responsive quality education and skill services.



If teachers and teacher educators have improved capacity to deliver safe and gender-sensitive inclusive pedagogies on foundational learning and life skills; if teachers are supported in addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of children; and if learning resources are in schools and at home; then children and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged, will have access to safe, gender-sensitive and inclusive learning and skilling opportunities.



If the government and stakeholders have increased capacity for building and awarding certifications, qualifications, and competencies for learners, then children from the most marginalized communities will have access to quality tertiary education.



## Background:

- The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy (NECCEP), 2013 and the NEP 2020, along with programmes like Samagra Shiksha and NIPUN, ensure a policy-rich environment for education and skilling in the country. However, implementation challenges remain.
- Public spending on education is yet to reach recommended levels of 6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) of NEP; in the fiscal year 2020-21, public expenditure on education was only 4.5 percent of GDP.

## Challenges:

- Bridging gaps in learning outcomes and raising proficiency levels
- Ensuring learning recovery from pandemic school-closures
- Closing the digital learning divide
- Ensuring student retention and transition from primary to secondary education
- Closing the employability-skills gap
- Increasing the number of trained teachers

## Cooperation Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Build capacities of teachers and students on online teaching-learning, developing quality content, experiential learning, research and placement
- Aid capacities to build better digital infrastructure (both hardware and software) and support AI-enabled and remote-proctored methods of assessment and evaluation
- Promote internationalization, flexibility in regulatory norms and reduce inequalities and inequities in higher education and student mobility

**Impact:** All children and young people gain knowledge and skills for leading a productive life as adults



### Outcome 3: Quality education

All children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, have equitable access to quality learning and skills development within safe and inclusive education environments.

#### Output 3.1: Evidence-based planning and implementation

Increased capacity of the government for evidence-based planning and implementation of programmes for equitable quality learning and skill development (including twenty-first-century skills and life skills)

##### Intervention area:

Evidence-based planning to deliver gender-responsive, inclusive and equitable quality education that includes capacity building to deliver digital, financial, environmental and foundational literacy.

#### Output 3.2: Equitable access to quality learning and skill development

Increased capacity of the government to provide equitable access to quality learning and skill development (including twenty-first-century skills and life skills) for children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable

##### Intervention areas:

Quality teaching and learning in the areas of early childhood education and foundational literacy and numeracy for children aged 3-10 years, especially for those from the most marginalized and vulnerable communities

Quality teaching and learning including imparting twenty-first-century skills and life skills to adolescents (11-18-year-olds), especially those belonging to the most vulnerable communities

Engaging families, volunteers and local communities, including local statutory bodies, to ensure delivery of quality education

#### Output 3.3: Quality tertiary education

Improved access to and demand for quality tertiary education

##### Intervention areas:

Providing technical support for improved equitable access to quality tertiary education

Advocating for increased sub- regional student mobility in higher education

### Geographical focus:

Multiple states

#### Target population:

Adolescent girls and young women, sexual minorities, SC and ST communities, people with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers and other marginalized and vulnerable groups

### Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

National Education Policy 2020, Samagra Shiksha, School Health and Welfare Programme, NIPUN Bharat, Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

### UN's comparative advantage:

- Strong coordination among UN agencies and ability to convene diverse stakeholders
- Knowledge, experience and technical expertise to inform policies and programmes and provide support to the government

### External partners:

#### Government of India

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- NITI Aayog

#### State governments

- Department of Education
- Department of Women and Child Development
- Other relevant departments
- Local statutory bodies

**Other Partners:** National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), development partners, CSOs, the private sector and the World Bank.



UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 3

UN outputs: The UN system’s contribution to Outcome 3 will focus on:

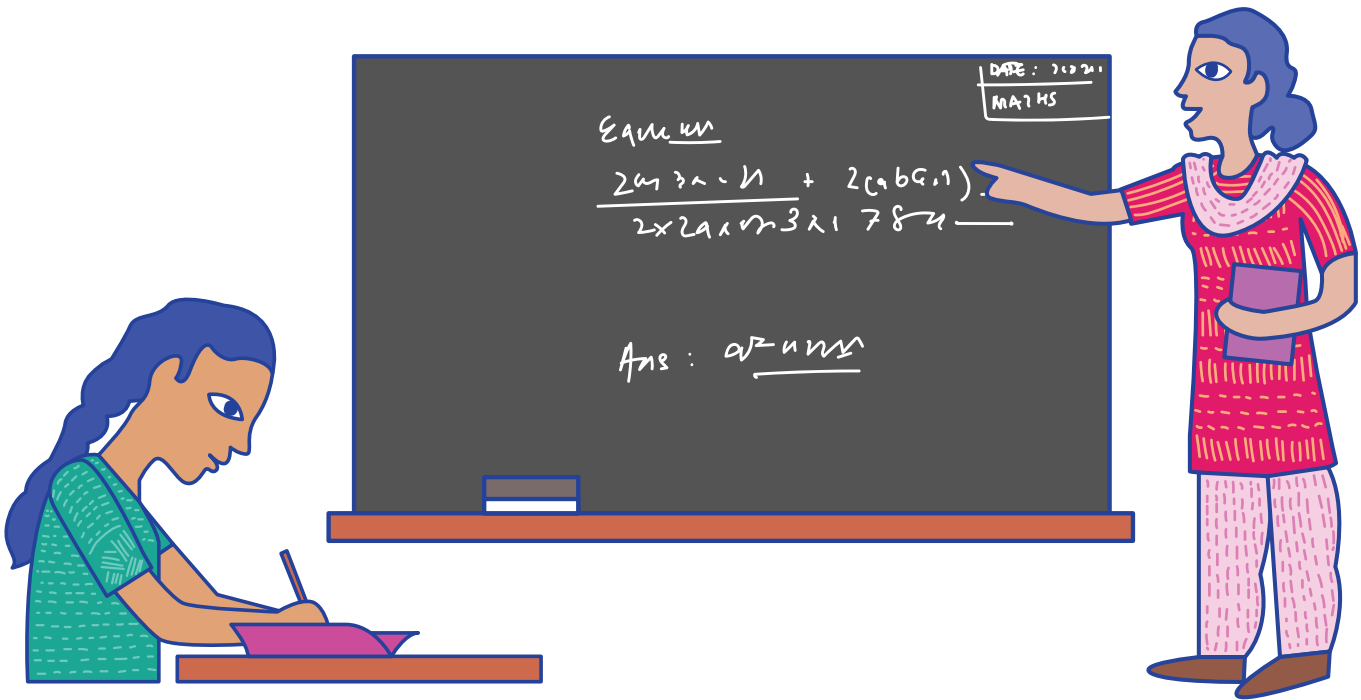
- Increasing the capacity of the government for evidence-based planning and implementation of programmes for equitable access to quality learning and twenty-first-century and life skills,
- Increasing the capacity of the government for equitable access to quality learning and twenty-first-century and life skills for children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, and
- Improving access to and demand for quality tertiary education.

The UN system will contribute to evidence-based planning and implementation to deliver gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, inclusive and equitable quality education that will include strengthening the capacity to deliver digital, financial, environmental and foundational literacy. It will focus on quality teaching and learning in the areas of in early childhood education and foundational literacy and numeracy for all young children (aged 3-10 years), especially for those belonging to the most vulnerable communities. It will also support interventions in quality teaching

and learning, including imparting twenty-first-century skills and life skills for adolescents (11-18-year-olds), especially those belonging to the most vulnerable groups. Its contribution towards quality tertiary education will focus on providing technical support for improved equitable access.

**LNOB focus:** The UN system’s interventions will focus on children and young people, particularly those from vulnerable groups—girls, adolescent girls and young women, sexual minorities, SC and ST communities, PwDs, refugees and asylum seekers and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.

**Partnerships:** The UN system will partner with the government and other external partners to enhance institutional capacity for quality teaching and learning. It will leverage these partnerships and build on its convening role to enhance coordination and collaboration to improve access to quality education, including digital transformation in teaching and learning. Engaging with families, volunteers and local communities, including local statutory bodies, to ensure the quality of education will be a key strategy of the UN system.



Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach

Outcome 3 responds to the Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009 through which the Constitution of India guarantees the right of every child to full-time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school that meets certain essential norms and standards. While the RTE Act, 2009 reinforces this right, the NEP 2020 aims to strengthen it further. The UN system will partner with the duty-bearers (government and government institutions) and the right-holders (children and communities, particularly those from the disadvantaged groups) to ensure that there is equitable access to quality education and skill development, allowing children to lead a productive life. Children should have this right within humanitarian contexts where access to quality education is supported through humanitarian response plans.

Recognizing that education is a vehicle for achieving other rights, the coordination and collaboration of work across various outcome areas, including health, nutrition and child protection, is essential for the holistic development of children and the realization of their rights.

UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 3

- Convenor:** UNICEF
- Co-convenor:** UNESCO
- Contributing agencies:** UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC and UN Women with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) as a partner



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## Strategic orientation of the UN for Pillar 2 - Prosperity

India is one of the world's fastest growing major economies over the past decade. It is also in the middle of a great demographic transition, with a falling fertility rate,<sup>26</sup> rising median age (from 24 years in 2011 and to 36 years (projected) by 2036) and a falling dependency ratio.<sup>27</sup> This change in the population age structure provides a time-based window of opportunity<sup>28</sup> for faster economic growth.

However, according to the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21, SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) is one of the five goals that will require extra focus to achieve.<sup>29</sup> was showing signs of economic impact of the pandemic led to a slowdown of the Indian economy. As growth is directly linked to employment in terms of workers' earnings; the effects on employment structure are more mediated, nuanced and long-term.<sup>30</sup> Given the strategic and holistic response of the government, India is witnessing a sustained economic recovery.

The majority of the working-age population remains informally employed in lower-wage, lower-productivity agricultural, service, construction and manufacturing jobs, or is out of the workforce. India remains home to a high

incidence of people in informal jobs. Informality is characterized by limited social protection, and job security and poorer working conditions. A mismatch between education and skills required by the labour market and those produced by the country's education and training system has led to a higher rate of sub-optimal employment among the educated. As a result of the slow growth of productive employment growth in manufacturing not keeping pace and insufficient employment intensity in the service sector, the informal sector has been the principal vehicle of employment. Meanwhile, globally emerging challenges for the future of work, new forms of employment, shift in technologies including robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) and changes in the organization of production are also affecting the Indian labour market.

Long-standing challenges to the labour market—including inequalities, high unemployment among certain groups, working poverty, limited of social protection, occupational health and safety hazards and respect for labour rights—have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The hardest hit were workers and employers in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

(MSMEs), those working in low-skilled/informal jobs, migrants, PwDs and PLHIVs. Women suffered disproportionate job and income losses, more so owing to their over-representation in hard-hit sectors and increased unpaid care burden. The labour market has not been able to completely absorb educated and skilled women due to the lack of jobs in rural areas, and safety and mobility constraints and societal norms and biases.

India's road to prosperity must address several gaps including insufficient female labour force participation rate (LFPR), lack of marketable skills and untapped demographic dividend. Lack of decent work opportunities—particularly among women and youth, especially in the rural areas—and the digital divide are some of the challenges that need to be addressed, along with issues of transition to formality, social protection and migrant workers. Developing employability skills and providing access to equitable skilling and entrepreneurship opportunities as well as employment services need focused attention. Emphasis on enterprise development, productivity, competitiveness, green growth and access to information and technology, governance and financing is essential for sustainable economic growth.

**The UN system will contribute to India's vision for sustainable and equitable growth and help build a workforce empowered with twenty-first-century skills aligned with industry demand, leveraging on the remarkable innovation ecosystem of the country. It will also support national programmes and policies such as Make in India, Startup India, Skill India, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural and Urban Livelihood Missions and Digital India, in addition to supporting programmes for financial inclusion, green economy, universal social protection and minimum wages. It will do so by focusing on two key issues: (a) the creation of a competitive, fair and inclusive economy and (b) generation of meaningful, sustainable, decent and productive employment. To achieve these, the UN system will collaborate with national partners on the issues of decent work, job creation, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue.**

<sup>26</sup> Currently, the fertility rate in India is 2.0, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019–21. See [http://rchiips.org/nfhs/NFHS-5\\_FCTS/India.pdf](http://rchiips.org/nfhs/NFHS-5_FCTS/India.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> The dependency rate is expected to fall from 65 percent to 54 percent in the coming decade. (UNDESA, World Population Prospects 2022)

<sup>28</sup> India is already in the golden phase of demographic transition, and the dividend is projected to peak in the early 2040s, decline and finally cease by the mid-2070s (P.M. Kulkarni, Demographic and Regional Decomposition of Prospective Population Growth for India, 2021 to 2101, Demography India, Vol. 50, 2021).

<sup>29</sup> NITI Aayog, India SDG Index and Dashboard 2020–21, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021).

<sup>30</sup> ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and Country Office for India, 'Employment, Labour Force and the Working Population in India 2000–2019', (ILO, 2021).

## Outcome 4: Economic growth & decent work



By 2027, people will benefit from and contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth through higher productivity, competitiveness and diversification in economic activities that create decent work, livelihoods and income, particularly for youth and women.

### Theory of change

Outcome 4 is embedded in the “Prosperity” pillar of the UNSDCF theory of change, which aims at contributing to ensure that the working population in India continues to benefit from and contribute to inclusive growth. The interventions of the UN system to achieve Outcome 4 will also impact several other SDGs, primarily SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 10 (reduced inequality), also have a close bearing on SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate change) and SDG 15 (life on land).

The theory of change for Outcome 4 is built on the premise that:



If the challenges to growth and prosperity—including from an untapped demographic dividend, a low female LFPR, persistent informality of the employment sector and uncertain pace of structural transformation—can be addressed through strengthened institutions and governance frameworks; and



If both capital and employment-intensive growth are prioritized, partnerships leveraged and investment increased in diversified, employment-intensive and green growth sectors (including that for the circular economy in industrial, services and agricultural sectors); and



If the policy environment supports businesses—in particular, MSMEs, cooperatives and self-help groups—through innovation, business development services, technology ecosystem, access to financing and market linkages with small producers and industries and markets (including digital markets) to improve productivity and working conditions; and



If market-driven skills development, access to financial and non-financial services and promotion of entrepreneurship opportunities are prioritized to enhance employability, strengthen capacity of the skilling ecosystem for transitioning from education to work and livelihood, support local economic development strategies and value chain development in sectors with high potential of job creation; and



If policies and programmes enable transitioning to formality, including through provisioning for universal social protection and minimum wages, promoting safe and decent working conditions, protecting labour rights and dignity at work, promoting responsible business practices for safety, equity and equality at work, regardless of gender, disability, social and economic background;

then the working population in India, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized, will benefit from and contribute to inclusive growth through higher productivity, competitiveness and diversification in economic activities that create decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

### Background:

- India plays an increasingly important role in global growth and is the most populous country in the world
- India is the world's sixth-largest manufacturer in value-added terms and second-fastest growing service sector
- Has strong commitment towards attaining the SDGs
- One in four Indians remains multidimensionally poor
- India faces one of the lowest female labour force participation rates in the world.
- India remains home to the world's largest population of informal workers.

### Challenges:

- Raising the female labour force participation rate
- Tapping the demographic dividend
- Ensuring enterprise development and linkage between demand and supply, access to equitable skilling, entrepreneurship opportunities and employment services
- Raising productivity, competitiveness and green growth
- Promoting decent work opportunities for women and youth, especially in the rural areas
- Implementation of labour regulations, high level of informality in the job sector, lack of adequate social protection for the migrant workers
- Consolidating Multiple data platforms; coordination and convergence for evidence-based planning and policy



Cooperation Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Advocating for employment-intensive growth strategies, including local economic development through formulation of a well-coordinated and gender-responsive “employment policy”
- Facilitating enhancement of employability, skilling and lifelong learning, bridging the digital divide and facilitating creation of employment services and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Contributing to improved labour market assessment and evidence-based planning
- Advocating for operationalizing universal social protection, decent working conditions and equality at work with a focus on informal workers
- Contributing to technology-foresighted policy, innovation, digitalization and greening the economy
- Supporting resilient value chains
- Building capacity for enterprise development and productivity increases

**Impact:** Sustainable economic growth fuelled by a productively employed workforce enjoying decent working conditions



Outcome 4: Economic growth and decent work

People will benefit from and contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth through higher productivity, competitiveness and diversification in economic activities that create decent work, livelihoods and income, particularly for youth and women.

Output 4.1: Equitable opportunities for skilling and decent work

All employable persons have equitable opportunities to enhance twenty-first-century skills and life skills, vocational training and access to decent work

Intervention areas:

Contributing to enhancing employability, improving labour market assessment and evidence-based planning and facilitating education-to-employment transition

Advocating for universal social protection, decent working conditions and equality at work with a focus on workers in the informal economy

Output 4.2: Improved productivity and decent working conditions

All enterprises, particularly MSMEs, cooperatives and self-help groups, have access to appropriate business development services and innovation to improve productivity and working conditions

Intervention areas:

Providing technical assistance; building capacity to enable an ecosystem with policy, business and facilitating technology support and services for entrepreneurs and MSMEs

Advocating for inclusive, diversified, sustainable and responsible businesses, value chains and livelihoods

Output 4.3: Innovation and digitalisation for socio-economic development

Policies, institutions and enabling environment are in place to catalyse innovation, digitalization and job-rich, low-carbon economic growth to foster broad-based socio-economic development

Intervention areas:

Contributing to improved, evidence-based and technology-foresighted policy formulation, strategy and innovation ecosystems to capture opportunities from digitalization and greening the economy

## Geographical focus:

All States and Union Territories

### Target population:

Individuals belonging to vulnerable occupational groups (farmers, artisans, nano/micro entrepreneurs, informal workers) including youth, women, tribal communities, minorities and migrant workers, PwDs, sexual minorities, sanitation workers, refugees and asylum seekers and rural home-based youth, along with workers who remain outside adequate legal and social protection (such as domestic workers, home-based workers, childcare workers and Anganwadi workers).



## Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

Make In India, Skill India, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Career Service (NCS) portal, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Digital India, E-shram, Startup India, Shram Suvidha, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Mission Antyodaya 2020, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Swachh Bharat Mission, social security schemes, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Smart Cities Mission

## UN's comparative advantage:

- Support for SDGs; South-South and other regional cooperation; innovations and best practices
- Track record of ground-level achievements and resulting insights in MSMEs, productivity, skills and entrepreneurship programmes across sectors and regions of India
- Oversight of and access to international good policy practices and techniques
- Convening platforms on labour/employment, industry, technology and innovation

## External partners:

### Government of India

- Ministry of Labour and Employment and its institutions (Directorate General Labour Welfare, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and V.V. Giri Labour Institute)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Textiles
- Ministry of Heavy Industries
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Ministry of Steel
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Cooperation
- NITI Aayog

### State departments and district administration

### Non-government Partners

- Workers' organizations; employers and business membership organizations, industry associations and chambers, professional associations
- Women SHGs, cooperatives, collective enterprises
- Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat, Geneva; Commonwealth Secretariat, London
- Not-for-profit organizations such as Youth4 Jobs and Udhyam Learning Foundation
- Multilateral agencies such as World Bank, bilateral agencies and foundations, the private sector and professional associations

## UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 4

**UN outputs:** The UN system's contribution to Outcome 4 will focus on ensuring that:

- All employable persons have equitable opportunities to enhance skills and access to decent work and livelihoods through lifelong learning, entrepreneurship

opportunities, social protection and equality at work,

- All enterprises, particularly MSMEs, cooperatives and self-help groups, have access to appropriate business development services and innovations to enhance their productivity and working conditions, along with inclusive growth for sustainable and resilient value chains, and are able to attract private investment to accelerate income generation, create quality jobs and livelihoods and
- Policies, institutions and an enabling environment are in place to catalyse innovation, digitalization and job-rich, low-carbon economic growth to foster broad-based socio-economic development.

The UN system will advocate for decent work, job creation, volunteering opportunities, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue. Macroeconomic coordination and enabling a policy environment for businesses to grow, sustainable enterprise development, promoting employability, decent working conditions including wages and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), will be advocated as essential enablers. Protection against discrimination, violence and harassment, promoting better sharing of care responsibilities, promoting labour standards and socio-economic opportunities from digitalization and a just transition to an environmentally sustainable economy will also be championed. Outcome 4 will contribute to India's vision for a workforce empowered with twenty-first-century skills and aligned with industry demand, leveraging upon the promising start-up ecosystem of the country. It will support national policies and programmes such as Make in India, Skill India, Start Up India, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Digital India and Swachh Bharat Mission, in addition to financial inclusion, building a green economy and universalizing social protection.



The UN system will specifically contribute towards evidence-based planning by:

- Strengthening the labour market information system, including through the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and building and improving demographic intelligence through data modelling;
- Facilitating policy coherence; strengthening institutions for inclusive innovation and digitalization, promoting green jobs across sectors leading to just transition, advocating for the protection of rights and interest of workers in new forms of employment including gig-platform economy workers;
- and promoting conducive and safe working environments. Joint UN action would focus on enhancing employability by strengthening the capacity of skill ecosystem actors;<sup>31</sup> facilitating education-to-employment transitions;<sup>32</sup> promoting apprenticeships; supporting local economic development strategies; volunteering for skilling including Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) and upgrading of livelihoods through entrepreneurship opportunities and flagship public schemes.

As stated earlier, India's female LFPR is among the lowest in the world. Longer-term trends indicate that the female LFPR declined from 34.1 percent in 1990/91 to 18.2 percent in 2017/18 and started improving thereafter.<sup>33</sup> Data from the recent Periodic Labour Force (2020/21) Survey reflects an upward trend, with the female LFPR increasing to 25.1 percent. The UN

system will contribute to an enabling environment that enhances female LFPR by supporting gender-mainstreamed policy measures and investments in the sector such as the care economy; advocating for better sharing of caring responsibilities between men and women; protection of rights of domestic workers, migrants and care sector workers; enhancing access of women to financial services and markets and building their social capital and role in decision-making. Good practices from MSMEs that employ women in unconventional job roles will be shared widely.

Concerted efforts will be made to support the implementation of laws and policies for promoting access to decent work and livelihoods, including through the promotion of fundamental labour rights and elimination of child labour and forced labour; strengthening practices to address discrimination; and preventing and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work. This will also include freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining and the right to safe and healthy working environments, along with supporting the implementation of responsible business practices and strategies towards formalization, strengthening labour dispute resolution and facilitating access to justice that will lead to protection of human and labour rights.

The collective action of UN agencies would be towards strengthening the governance framework that will include support for ratification and application of international labour standards contributing to improving working conditions, collective bargaining, tripartite social dialogue and promotion of

support for ratification and application of international labour standards, including issues raised by the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization (ILO), contributing to decent work and livelihoods.

Enhancing productivity, creation of quality jobs and promotion of sustainable enterprises and resilient value chains will be supported through strengthening capacities of MSMEs, particularly micro-enterprises, small producers, cooperatives and women-led enterprises in select sectors with high potential for job creation. An action plan/strategy will be developed with focus on strengthening capacities and market linkages to nature-based local livelihoods and eco-business models. UN supported interventions would contribute to

- facilitating access to information
- financing and technology;
- improving processes and operations
- adopting new products, services and business models;
- linking markets and supply to lead buyers and regional and global supply chains, including through business mentoring and networking
- support the adoption of e-commerce and digital marketing.

The UN action will support social and solidarity initiatives such as cooperatives (collectives) and self-help groups, and rural youth for the promotion of sustainable enterprises and growth of cooperatives and producers' groups to increase their incomes and facilitate the development of a strategy or action plan.

UN action safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and appropriately interfacing it with technical, market and entrepreneurship-led innovation can also become a potent and sustainable tool for poverty alleviation and employment generation amongst vulnerable communities of ICH bearers.

The UN system will contribute to the national priority for universal social protection coverage and access to social security by all. The efforts of the government for the creation of an E-shram database and linking the registered workers to the social security benefits will be strengthened. In addition, technical assistance will be provided for modernizing systems and bridging the digital divide for delivering social security benefits to all.

**LNOB focus:** The UN system's interventions will focus on individuals belonging to vulnerable occupational groups (farmers, artisans, nano/micro-entrepreneurs, informal workers), including youth, women, tribal communities, workers living with HIV/AIDS, PwDs, sexual minorities, migrants and other minorities, refugees and asylum seekers and rural youth. It will also focus on workers who remain outside of legal and social protection (for e.g., domestic workers, sanitation workers, home-based workers, childcare workers and Anganwadi workers). It is to be noted that some of these occupations are dominated by women.

**Partnerships:** The UN agencies will engage with and strengthen collaboration and partnerships with relevant government ministries and departments at the national and state levels. In addition, partnerships with CSOs, organizations that promote volunteering, academia, think tanks, women collectives and youth groups will be strengthened. Employers and business membership-based organizations, the private sector, businesses, industry associations, entrepreneurs, workers' organizations, collectives and CSOs will be essential partners for promoting inclusive growth and decent work within the overarching normative framework based on principles of social dialogue between the government, employers and workers' organizations.

<sup>31</sup> National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Directorate General of Training (DGT), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), etc.; industry and institutions; IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)

<sup>32</sup> Education-to-employment transitions can be achieved through skilling, reskilling and upskilling by assessing skills requirements and providing twenty-first-century skills training. This should be supported with lifelong learning, employment services, entrepreneurship opportunities, career guidance and counselling services and apprenticeship, internship and job opportunities.

<sup>33</sup> Sher Verick, "Women's labour force participation in India: Why is it so low?", ILO (2014), available at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new\\_delhi/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_342357.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/genericdocument/wcms_342357.pdf) | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2017-18, Government of India.



## Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach

As part of their normative role within the Cooperation Framework, participating agencies for Outcome 4 will continue to support the government to meet its obligations and commitments to key human rights instruments at global and regional levels, including the Universal Periodic Review and a wide range of international Conventions, including ILO Conventions, Convention on All Forms of Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and a wide range of environment-related conventions, amongst others. Measures will be taken to strengthen protection of labour rights, including through ratification of international labour standards and taking actions to address recommendations of the ILO supervisory bodies with time-bound target settings (short-term, mid-term and long-term).

The UN system will make concerted efforts to support the implementation of laws and policies for promoting access to decent work and livelihoods, including through the promotion of fundamental labour rights and elimination of child labour and forced labour; strengthening practices to address discrimination; preventing and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work. The UN system will also support the implementation of responsible business practices and strategies towards formalization; strengthening of labour dispute resolution and access to justice, all of which will lead to protection of human and labour rights. The collective action of UN agencies would be towards strengthening the governance framework that will include support for ratification and application of international labour standards, contributing to improving working conditions, freedom of association, collective bargaining, tripartite social dialogue and promotion of decent work and livelihoods.

## UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 4

**Convenor:** ILO

**Co-convenor:** UNIDO

**Contributing agencies:** Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union, International Organization for Migration, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP.







## Strategic Orientation of the UN for Pillar 3—Planet

While India has made considerable progress on SDGs pertaining to protection of the planet and sustainable development, many challenges remain. The GOI has climate policies that support its expanding energy needs and are simultaneously in line with its commitment to the world community on climate action. India has pledged to increase its non-fossil energy, meeting 50 percent of its installed power generation from renewable energy sources, reduce India's total projected carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the Indian economy by more than 45 percent by 2030 and achieve the target of net zero carbon emission by 2070. Renewable power generation capacity reached 160 GW in May 2022, the fourth largest globally. The country has started to address the omnipresent occurrence of hazardous levels of air pollution through the National Clean Air Programme and has banned single-use plastics since July 2022. The Prime Minister of India has also announced the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) campaign at COP26<sup>34</sup> and launched it on World Environment Day 2022 to focus on individual behaviour as a critical aspect of global climate action.

However, charting an environmentally sustainable development trajectory for the country will be a challenge. Degradation of ecosystems, growing scarcity of nature, the impact of pollution on health and stress on agricultural production systems from climate change are among the major challenges to progress on the SDGs. The poor and the vulnerable are the most affected, resulting in increasing inequalities. While India has enhanced investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR), issues of social protection, gender mainstreaming, addressing sexual and reproductive health needs and inclusion of PwDs can still be expanded. The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with climate change, coincide with a profound manifestation of the man-made triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of nature and biodiversity and accumulation of pollution. There is an urgency to revamp the global development strategy to ensure green and prosperous economies.

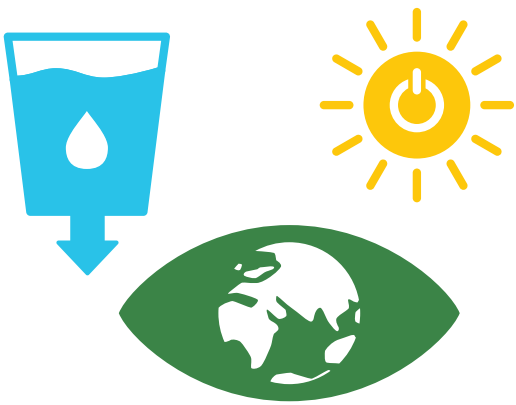
<sup>34</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of Parties.



**The UN will focus on strategies and solutions to promote sustainable consumption and production and management of natural resources. It will contribute to mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches and DRR strategies in policies, plans and programmes across all sectors. Managing pollution and waste, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, safe water, sanitation and hygiene services will be among the focus areas for UN system interventions. Policy advocacy for enhanced circularity and resource efficiency across sectors will be undertaken through demonstration models.**



# Outcome 5: Environment, climate, WASH,<sup>35</sup> and resilience



By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, the private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans.

## Theory of change

Outcome 5 is embedded in the “Planet” pillar of the UNSDCF, which aims at contributing to strengthening the knowledge and capacity of stakeholders to take informed actions to address climate change, pollution, exploitation of natural resources, biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans. Outcome 5 is closely linked to all the SDGs, notably SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life under water) and SDG 15 (life on land).

The theory of change for Outcome 5 is built on the premise that:



If the policy and regulatory environment, including socio-economic development strategies and sectoral programming, are strengthened by mainstreaming climate change adaptation, DRR and climate mitigation approaches;



If the challenges of pollution and waste generation are addressed by scaling up tested approaches, taking action and building capacities for managing poor sanitation practices, pollution and waste;



If policies and programmes enable prioritizing circularity and resource efficiency as pathways to sustainable growth in response to the negative impacts such as environmental degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, inefficiencies in material management and resource productivity;



If measures towards conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration are supported to mitigate the impact of climate change, support the economy of the country and provide livelihoods and health security to the communities;



If the challenges to climate change, food security and livelihoods of the people dependent on the agriculture sector are mitigated by improving productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems; and



If all people, particularly vulnerable children and women, have access to safe, sustainable and resilient water supply and sanitation services

Then there will be progress towards a cleaner environment that benefits from green development, climate action, biodiversity and ecosystems, water, sanitation and resilience.

## Background:

- India has made considerable efforts meeting its international environmental obligations, including key multilateral environmental agreements such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Montreal Protocol, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- There are several national commitments in place in forms of policies and programmes such as the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC), State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC), nationally determined contributions (NDCs; emerging from the COP 21/Paris Agreement), Panchamrit (India’s five-fold strategy to tackle climate change) and Swachh Bharat Mission.

## Challenges:

- Achieving sustained economic growth without adverse impacts on environment, biodiversity and ecosystems
- Minimizing impacts of climate change, strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, ecosystems and infrastructure
- Decarbonizing the expanding economy
- Decoupling economic growth from current levels of resource utilization and air, water and land pollution.
- Mobilizing, leveraging and accessing finance (international and domestic)
- Improving productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems

<sup>35</sup> WASH = Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.



Cooperation Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Engaging with the government at multiple levels to design and strengthen institutional, legal and policy frameworks that promote environmental sustainability, circular economy, multi-risk resilience-building and clean environment (focusing on WASH services)
- Developing strong implementation capabilities at the national and sub-national levels of the government
- Supporting the government to access, adapt and implement innovative technological and digital solutions, financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships
- Promoting science and evidence to better understand environmental challenges and their solutions
- Facilitating access to global best practices and convening partnerships

**Impact:**  
Communities are resilient and benefit from environment sustainability; low-carbon, resource-efficient economic growth; and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services

Outcome 5: Environment, climate, WASH and resilience

The Government of India, state governments, communities, the private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans.

**Output 5.1:**  
Climate change, adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Mainstreamed climate change, adaptation and DRR across sectors (urban, peri-urban and rural)

**Intervention area:**  
  
Developing and mainstreaming enabling frameworks and tools for climate adaptation, climate resilience and disaster risk management practices

**Output 5.2:**  
Climate mitigation

Mainstreamed climate mitigation approaches in socio-economic development strategies and sectors

**Intervention area:**  
  
Promoting low-carbon development with focus on energy efficiency and clean and just energy transition

**Output 5.3:**  
Pollution and waste management

Scaled-up approaches, actions and capacities to abate and manage pollution and waste (air, plastic, marine litter, bio-medical, electronic)

**Intervention area:**  
  
Supporting the government in its efforts to manage air pollution, waste and hazardous chemicals and related health impacts

**Output 5.4:**  
Circularity and resource efficiency

Enhanced circularity and resource efficiency across sectors

**Intervention area:**  
  
Supporting transition to a circular economy and enhance resource efficiency in selected sectors and in urban areas

## Outcome 5: Environment, climate, WASH and resilience

The Government of India, state governments, communities, the private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans.

### Output 5.5:

#### Biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

Supported conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

#### Intervention area:

Management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

### Output 5.6:

#### Resilient agri-food systems

Supported measures for improved productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri- food systems

#### Intervention area:

Enhancing productivity of land and water resources for climate-smart agriculture and allied sectors

### Output 5.7: WASH

Strengthened climate-resilient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services with focus on the most vulnerable including children

#### Intervention areas:

Contributing to improved systems and value chains to provide resilient, good quality, gender inclusive and COVID-19 sensitive WASH services

Providing technical support to Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 2.0, Swachh Bharat 2 and Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin and reducing potential for disease transmission through WASH interventions

## Geographical focus:

Pan India, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat

## Target population:

Farmers, pastoralists, fisher folk, tribal communities, forest dwellers, women, youth and children, rural and urban communities

## Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

Achieving SDGs by 2030 aligned with national priorities including the Panchamrit (Five Nectar Elements) Declaration, Agenda, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Action Plan on Climate Change, NAPCC, Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission as well as other key commitments

## UN's comparative advantage:

- Forging connections and partnerships towards achievement of the SDGs - with the Government of India, and non-governmental stakeholders such as - the academia, private partners and CSOs
- Internal coordination amongst 16 UN agencies, acting as the - integrator across policy policies and programmes.
- Knowledge, experience, and technical expertise to inform policies and programmes to support the Government of India.
- Facilitate implementation of innovation through enablers like digitalisation, strategic innovation and development financing etc.
- Geographic outreach across India

## External partners:

### Government of India

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & and Climate Change
- Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- National Disaster Management Authority
- Ministry of Power
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying
- NITI Aayog

### State Governments



## UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 5

**UN outputs:** The UN system's contribution to Outcome 5 will focus on ensuring that:

- Climate change adaptation and DRR across sectors (urban, peri-urban and rural) are mainstreamed,
- Climate mitigation approaches are mainstreamed in socio-economic development strategies and sectors,
- Approaches and actions are scaled up and capacities are built to abate and manage pollution and waste (for e.g., plastic, marine litter, biomedical, electronic, etc.),
- Circularity and resource efficiency are achieved across sectors,
- Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration are supported,
- Measures for improved productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems are supported and
- Climate resilient, sustainable and safe water and sanitation services with a focus on the most vulnerable children and women are strengthened.

The UN system's contribution to Outcome 5 will focus on sustaining and enabling resource-efficient and clean economic growth of the country with minimized impact on the environment and ecosystems; minimizing impacts of climate change, shocks and stresses; and building resilience of livelihoods, ecosystems and infrastructure. It will pay special attention to strategies and solutions to promote sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound management of natural resources, including recharge and conservation of water and sanitation service operations and management. The UN system will contribute to building institutional capacities for mainstreaming sector-specific climate change adaptation strategies, DRR strategies and climate

mitigation approaches at various levels of governance (national, state and district levels). It will support the formulation of climate- and gender-responsive strategies and their implementation to achieve national priorities and global commitments.

The UN system will advocate for and support circularity and resource efficiency by contributing to strategy formulation and preparing action plans in partnership with the government and private sector. It will support the development and upscaling of technologies and ecosystem-based solutions to support the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. Improved productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems and strengthening collaborative efforts on "One Health" approach to address interface between livestock and wildlife populations will be one of the areas for the UN system's intervention under the UNSDCF.

The UN system will work with the government to improve the collection of data on the sustainability of agri-food systems and the use of water resources, which, in turn, will help formulate interventions for improving the sustainability of agri-food systems. In addition, the management of designated protected areas (biosphere reserves) will be strengthened through a network of stakeholders that will promote scientific research, monitoring, education and training.

The UN system will support in development of strategies and action plans and their implementation for managing air, land and water pollution and waste management. (plastic waste, marine litter, biomedical and electronic waste and hazardous chemicals).

The UN system will provide technical support to the government for the preparation of plans and implementation of interventions providing safe, sustainable and climate-resilient drinking water and sanitation services to the communities, particularly women and children.

The UN system will engage with the government at all levels to design, strengthen and put in place institutional, legal and policy frameworks that promote environmental sustainability, circular economy and multi-risk resilience-building. It will contribute to the strengthening of implementation capabilities at the national and sub-national levels. It will partner with the government to access, adapt and implement innovative technological and digital solutions, financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships. Promoting science and evidence to better understand environmental challenges and their solutions will be a critical strategy. Access to global good practices will be facilitated and partnerships will be forged with different stakeholders. Partnerships for SDG assessment and monitoring will be encouraged.





The UN system's contribution will focus on hotspots where intersectionality of poverty, climate change vulnerability and gender inequality are highest and in areas that need attention, such as urban, peri-urban and Tier II and Tier III towns and cities.

The UN system will harness synergies with national flagship programmes such as the Panchamrit Agenda, NDCs, NAPCC, Mission LiFE and Swachh Bharat Mission to strengthen the planning and implementation of programmes related to providing access to water and sanitation services to all the communities.

**LNOB focus:** The UN system's contribution to Outcome 5 will focus on consumers, manufacturing firms and service providers, farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, tribal communities, forest dwellers, women, youth and children. Working with vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience, adopt climate change adaptation practices and behaviour change will be a focus area.

**Partnerships:** The UN entities contributing to Outcome 5 will forge or reinvigorate partnerships with a diverse set of stakeholders, including government and non-government partners. Governments at all levels of governance (national, state, district and local levels) will be critical for the success of the UN system's contribution to Outcome 5. The UN system will collaborate with think tanks, research institutions and CSOs for knowledge generation, advocacy and raising awareness on sustainability, resilience, mitigation, green growth, biodiversity protection, ecosystems and sustainable use of resources. Partnership with the private sector, including financial institutions, will be critical for advancing the agenda of sustainable production and promoting a circular economy.



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### Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach

The UN system's interventions will follow the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality. They will address the vulnerabilities of the most marginalized sections of the society and empower them. Working with the duty bearers as well as the rights holders will be a key strategy of the UN system's contribution to Outcome 5. The UN system will work towards supporting the GOI in ensuring that every citizen of the country has access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which, in April 2022, was declared a human right by the UN Human Rights Council.

### UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 5

**Convenor:** UNDP

**Co-convenor:** UNEP

**Contributing agencies:** Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCCT), FAO, IFAD, ILO, ESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, United Nations Office for Project Services, UN Women, WFP and WHO





## Strategic Orientation of the UN for Pillar 4 - Participation

The “Participation” pillar of the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 focuses on integrating three distinct strands and giving voice to all. These three strands are:

- strengthening institutions to “leave no one behind” and “reach the furthest behind first” thereby supporting GOI’s priority of inclusion,
- empowering communities, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, so that they have increased equitable access to opportunities for participation and
- sharing and tailoring India’s successful SDG implementation experiences both locally (across all states and UTs) and globally (through South-South Cooperation).

India has witnessed a significant improvement in the inclusion agenda, largely made possible by India’s impressive digital capacities. Nevertheless, women, girls, children and the vulnerable sections of the population, such as SCs, STs, PwDs, the elderly, refugees and migrants, continue to face challenges. Given India’s diversity and size, it is critical to strengthen institutions at the national, sub-national and local levels to reach the most marginalized.

**The GOI has embraced the 2030 Agenda and, in the spirit of localizing the SDGs, is focusing on strengthening institutional mechanisms for planning, monitoring, implementing and capacity building, emphasizing the principles of “leave no one behind”. India has a critical global role to play in achieving the SDGs and, therefore, it is essential to close the gaps across social groups for accelerating progress on the SDGs. Five out of six multidimensionally poor people in India belong to the SC, ST and OBC population groups, highlighting the need for a focus on LNOB in programme implementation.**

According to the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020-21, SDG 5 (gender equality) is the Goal with the most scope for improvement after SDG 2 (zero hunger).<sup>36</sup> One of the most pressing challenges faced by India is the low female LFPR, which is (approximately 25 percent). In 2018/2019, almost 78 percent of employed women were either self-employed or worked as casual labour, mostly in the informal economy and limited access to any social protection.<sup>37</sup> Structural and cultural barriers as well as entrenched underlying issues such as violence and lack of adequate safety and security further hinder women’s full participation in society. Making progress on such issues is not easy and will require a combination of operational research and pragmatic programming alongside policy and institutional change.

The burden of unpaid domestic work reduces the scope of women actively participating in the workforce. Women often opt for self-employment or low-skilled part-time work to balance their responsibilities. Women in sex work and transgender persons face legal and health vulnerabilities in addition to stigma and discrimination.

Structural disadvantages faced by many of India’s communities were worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, with varying impacts across the social and economic strata. Migrant populations, including internal migrants, were particularly affected. The protection risks for women, children and vulnerable groups were impacted, with effects on child labour, child marriages, domestic violence and trafficking of women and children during the pandemic. India has successfully halved incidences of child marriages in the last decade to 23.3 percent, but there is a possibility that more child

marriages may have been prompted by the loss of livelihoods, income shocks, parental deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic and withdrawal of girls from schools. Following the pandemic, child labour estimates are high and increasing, especially among migrant children. India is making progress in setting up alternative care arrangements, but it still has a significant number of children living in institutions.

India expanded social protection programmes substantially during the pandemic. The period highlighted the need for further consolidation, coordination and funding for these programmes while increasing social protection portability for migrant families. The impact of forced displacement situations, including refugees, on host communities leads to challenges faced by the forcibly displaced and host communities in accessing basic services, self-reliance and social safety nets. This can lead to further marginalization of the people forcibly displaced, especially women and children. People from marginalized communities, including those from gender- and sexually diverse groups, are particularly vulnerable.

In this context, initiatives aligned with SDGs, including SDG 17 (partnerships), and monitoring progress are more relevant than ever. The pandemic has demonstrated the critical role played by state governments and local-level planning and implementation for immediate crisis response, besides being primary agents of basic service provision in health, education, housing, food systems, water and sanitation, among others. In addition, local SDG data collection and monitoring are essential to scale up SDG localization in recovery efforts. The GOI has taken impressive strides in setting up institutional mechanisms for planning and

<sup>36</sup> NITI Aayog, India SDG Index and Dashboard 2020-21, Partnerships in the Decade of Action, Government of India (2021).

<sup>37</sup> Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Periodic Labour Force Survey 2018-19, Statement 12, Government of India.

monitoring SDGs at the national and sub-national levels, led by NITI Aayog.

Disaggregated data is crucial for identifying and bridging the gaps that are slowing down progress on SDGs. It is also critical for addressing gaps in financing the SDGs. Several states have already started preparing SDG-aligned budgets. However, there is a need to leverage other finance sources through the development of financing frameworks, deployment of catalytic capital and blended finance solutions, as well as overarching frameworks like an SDG finance taxonomy that can help India mobilize new and additional sources of SDG financing.

India is a leading global contributor to South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). The UN system and India are keen to expand and advance the SSTC model during the UNSDCF period (2023–2027) through the Participation pillar as more countries show interest in learning from India's development poverty reduction model. Good practices from India that can serve as models for other UN Member States include welfare delivery through electronic direct benefit transfers directly to beneficiary bank accounts; world-class data and digital public infrastructure capabilities; path-breaking progress on renewable energy;

and setting up of global institutional initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The US\$150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund—the first-ever single-country South-South Cooperation initiative at the UN, currently in its fifth year—is a notable example of South-South Cooperation undertaken jointly with the UN development system. As India chairs the G20 2023, it is expected to play a greater leadership role in solving global challenges in a world of multiple, compounding crises. The UN system will play an active role in partnering with India to deliver on that ambition.

The Participation pillar is committed to leaving no one behind, ensuring participation and protection of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities by empowering institutions and promoting social justice, both within India and by facilitating the sharing of Indian good practices beyond its borders.

**The UN system will contribute to inclusive policies and accountable governance systems to empower people, especially the most vulnerable groups, to realize their rights and lead their lives with respect and dignity. Advocating for the rights of the vulnerable sections of the population and empowering them to exercise their rights will be focus areas for the UN system's intervention. It will provide technical support for mainstreaming gender and inclusion across all the policies and programmes.**

**The UN in India will contribute to this process of strengthening the institutional architecture for localizing the SDGs to strengthen the LNOB agenda. The work with the gram panchayats—the third tier of governance—especially by engaging with more than one million elected women representatives, is a promising one where the UN system can complement the government's efforts to drive institutional change from the bottom up. Using digital innovations in ramping up service delivery to the vulnerable population (such as through digital helplines, chatbots, telemedicine and self-care for the large youth population) is a challenge that India and the UN system will partner and deliver on. Data and evidence building will be an essential part of the push to leave no one behind and ensuring such groups can better access services and their rights.**

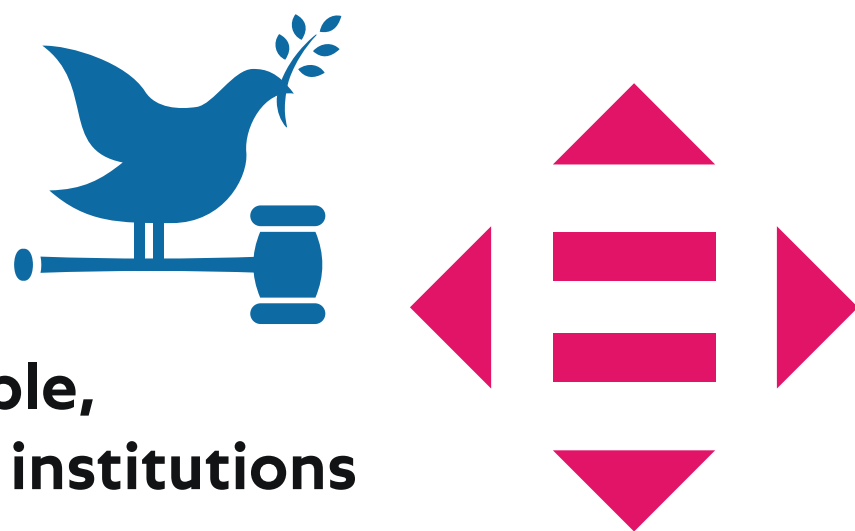
**The UN system will contribute to strengthening India's advanced statistical capacity through ongoing support to the census, national sectoral surveys (health, education, labour force, migrants) and national transfer accounts, and introduce innovative data collection initiatives primarily aimed at improving the lives of the vulnerable population.**

**The UN system will also collaborate on developing and disseminating the tools implemented by the government for SDG monitoring. It will support sharing of good practices on the process of SDG localization in India. Additionally, all its programmes implemented under the CF will contribute to India's journey on achieving the SDGs, mainly focusing on the vulnerable sections of the population.**

**The UN system will contribute to sharing India's good practices on SDG implementation globally, including the use of digital and innovative technology, through SSTC. There is significant demand for learning from successful Indian initiatives on data, digitalization and innovation and delivery of welfare programmes at scale. The UN will play a facilitating role in partnering with India on SSTC in these areas.**



## Outcome 6: Empowering people, communities and institutions



By 2027, a strengthened and more coordinated, inclusive and accountable governance system is in place at the national and local levels enabling all people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, to be protected, empowered, engaged and enjoy human rights and social justice, and lead their lives with respect and dignity.

### Theory of change

Outcome 6 is embedded in the "Participation" pillar of the UNSDCF, which aims at contributing to strengthening institutions and empowering people and communities to enjoy human rights and social justice, and lead their lives with respect and dignity, thereby reducing inequalities, particularly gender inequality. Being cross-sectoral, Outcome 6 has a bearing on and is influenced by all the SDGs. However, the UN system's contribution to Outcome 6 will have a direct linkage with SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for goals).

The theory of change for Outcome 6 is built on the following premises:



If local institutions have the capacity to meet the needs of the most marginalized in realising the Goals of the 2030 Agenda,



If an enabling policy environment exists for protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and for eliminating the structural barriers to inequalities and



If rights holders are empowered,

Then the most marginalized and vulnerable people will be partners in sustainable growth and realize their social and economic human rights and justice.

### Background:

- India is committed to an intersectional approach to development enabled by participation and protection of women, youth, children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs, SCs, STs and other minorities.
- The upcoming census will capture data on gender, age, disability and other relevant parameters that will strengthen data systems.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected livelihoods and access to social protection services, increasing the social, economic and political vulnerability of already marginalized persons.

### Challenges:

- Convergence is essential considering the complexity and size of India. It requires investments, robust coordination and feedback mechanisms
- Improving collection and use of disaggregated data at all levels of governance
- Social protection services need to better reach the last mile
- Changing social norms on gender, age, ability, sexuality, etc., require time and community-level engagement
- Social norms also require early intervention and involvement of parents, gatekeepers and community members
- Changing social norms often carry the risk of backlash
- Financing for children, youth and women's interests needs to be prioritized and tracked
- Implementing India's robust legal and policy frameworks requires political leadership, adjustment to local context and mainstreaming of learning and efficiency components to reach the last mile
- Additional and deeper coordination is needed between the UN system and the government at the central, state and local levels, as well as with other development actors

### Cooperation Framework strategies to address the challenges:

- Promoting convergence, with improved coordination and feedback mechanisms
- Supporting community-based interventions that prioritize LNOB groups
- Supporting sustainable and scalable evidence-based models
- Working with men and boys, as well as women and girls, to reduce backlash and promote gender transformation, equity and inclusion
- Advocating for sustainable financing for equity and inclusion
- Promoting public-private partnerships to achieve impact
- Ensuring that youth- and women-led development are central to the CF
- Contributing to generating data and evidence to make visible the invisible and inform policy at all levels

- Promoting meaningful participation and empowerment opportunities to increase voice, choice, agency and security of children, youth, women and vulnerable groups and communities
- Promoting both prevention and response to address gender-based violence (GBV)
- Creating platforms to share lessons learnt and strengthening information management systems
- Institutionalizing capacity-building frameworks and knowledge for sustained interventions and impact

**Impact:** Empowered communities, particularly women, children and vulnerable and marginalized groups, benefit from strengthened institutions that promote inclusive, gender-responsive and accountable governance and sustainable development

## Outcome 6: Empowering people, communities and institutions

A strengthened and more coordinated, inclusive and accountable governance system is in place at all levels. There is increased and better-quality spending on equity-focused programmes, thereby enabling people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, to be empowered, engaged, able to enjoy human rights and social justice and lead their lives with respect and dignity

### Output 6.1: SDG localization

SDG localization processes and systems are strengthened and administration of public services, including public finance and local governance, are more accountable to respond to vulnerable groups

#### Intervention areas:

Build institutional capacity and provide technical support to strengthen social policies and public finance and accelerate SDG achievement

Strengthening governance systems in rural and urban contexts to enhance participation, inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups along with providing equitable access to services

Supporting adolescent- and youth-centric services and initiatives, promote participation and strengthen specialized social welfare and child protection services

Building capacities of government institutions, women's groups and LNOB communities to engage them better in policy reforms

### Output 6.2: Prevention and response to gender-based violence

Comprehensive policies and programmes on prevention and response to GBV, especially for the marginalized groups, are in place and effectively implemented to realize their social, political and economic rights

#### Intervention areas:

Mainstreaming gender in policy and action to ensure women's empowerment and safety across domestic, public, work and online spaces

Supporting equitable access to opportunities for protection, justice and psychosocial and social services for children

### Output 6.3: Equitable access to opportunities for participation

Children, adolescent youth and other vulnerable groups, have increased equitable access to opportunities for participation, inclusion and to justice and protection services

#### Intervention areas:

Supporting adolescent- and youth-centric services and initiatives, promote participation, strengthen specialized social welfare and child protection services, with a focus on family-based care

Promoting initiatives and interventions that support protection, inclusion and participation opportunities for vulnerable groups

Support in creating and strengthening platforms or avenues for adolescent and young people's participation in policy and programme formulation, implementation and monitoring



## Outcome 6: Empowering people, communities and institutions

A strengthened and more coordinated, inclusive and accountable governance system is in place at all levels. There is increased and better-quality spending on equity-focused programmes, thereby enabling people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, to be empowered, engaged, able to enjoy human rights and social justice and lead their lives with respect and dignity

### Output 6.4: Social protection

Improved policy framework, institutional mechanisms, resources and capacities are in place for age-sensitive, gender-transformative and inclusive social protection services

#### Intervention area:

Strengthening and institutionalizing capacities (of the government and its partners) to design and implement evidence-based integrated social protection policies, frameworks and schemes that addressed vulnerabilities through the critical stages of the life cycle

### Output 6.5: Data and knowledge building

Strengthened data, improved knowledge generation and sharing at national and sub-national levels especially on and to vulnerable groups

#### Intervention area:

Undertaking applied research, data generation and knowledge management on key priority issues to promote inclusion, protection and empowerment of vulnerable social groups

### Output 6.6: South-South Cooperation

India's experience and best practices are shared and international technical cooperation facilitated to foster regional and global development

#### Intervention area:

Facilitating knowledge sharing and international technical and South-South Cooperation

### Geographical focus:

Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Jammu and Kashmir

#### Target population:

Vulnerable women, children and youth, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs, other minorities, SCs and STs, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), refugees and asylum seekers, the elderly and other marginalized groups

### Synergies with government schemes and programmes:

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, Census, Civil Registry and Vital Statistics, National Family Health Survey (NFHS), National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Gram Panchayat Planning, cash transfer schemes for women and children, Mission Shakti, Mahila Shakti Kendra, Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme (NSS), Ayushman Bharat, relevant programmes and initiatives of the Ministry of External Affairs

### UN's comparative advantage:

- Internal coordination among UN agencies and ability to convene diverse stakeholders
- Knowledge, experience and technical expertise to inform policies and programmes and support government
- Ability to introduce innovation and creative solutions
- The UN systems access to global expertise and ability to facilitate global exchanges with India on various themes led by various UN agencies
- The global capillary of the UN organisation and network and its access to platforms and opportunities for South-South cooperation

### External partners:

#### Government of India

- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Department of Youth Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

#### State governments

**Other partners** such as CSOs, think tanks, the private sector, media and academia

### UN development support and partnerships to achieve Outcome 6

**UN outputs:** UN system contribution to Outcome 6 will focus on ensuring that:

- SDG localization processes and systems are strengthened, and that the administration of public services, including public finance and local governance, are more accountable to respond to vulnerable groups, including women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs and key affected populations, SCs and STs, refugees and other marginalized groups.
- A focused action plan to accelerate SDG achievements is developed and executed at the national and subnational levels which takes into account the learnings from various SDG monitoring efforts, progress analysis, and development priorities and gaps.
- India's progress and good practices on SDG localisation are shared and showcased for the benefit of other developing countries, including at global fora, such as those convened by the Regional Commissions, ECOSOC and the General Assembly.
- Comprehensive policies and programmes on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), especially for women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs and key affected populations, SCs, STs and other marginalized groups, are in place and effectively implemented for full enjoyment of their social, political and economic rights.

- Children, adolescents, youth and other vulnerable groups, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, have increased equitable access to opportunities for participation, inclusion, decision-making and to justice and protection services till the grassroots level.
- Improved policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, resources and capacities for age-sensitive and gender transformative and inclusive social protection services are in place.
- Data and knowledge generation and sharing at international, national and sub-national levels, especially on vulnerable groups including women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs and PLHIVs and key affected populations, SCs, STs and other marginalized groups are strengthened.
- India's experience in facilitating international technical cooperation is showcased to other countries and global good practices on key priorities are integrated at national and subnational levels. India provides technical expertise and contributes to regional development.

Harnessing decentralization at central, state, district and village levels is an effective strategy to give voice to the people. Towards (a) above, the UN system will contribute to strengthening institutions and systems for SDG localization through technical support to NITI Aayog, central ministries, state governments and local governments. It will support evidence/knowledge generation to strengthen social sector budgets and programmes, including SDG acceleration and sustainable financing, for better outcomes for children, women and other vulnerable groups, including in humanitarian contexts.

Towards (b) above, the UN system will contribute to identifying examples of India's development progress and best practices in

SDG implementation and localisation with an eye to distilling policy and implementation insights that can be shared with other developing countries and relevant stakeholders. Towards (c) above, the UN system will contribute to strengthening multisectoral coordination mechanisms to address GBV, including during disasters and health emergencies. It will provide technical support for interventions so that children, adolescents, youth and people from marginalized backgrounds have equitable access to opportunities for participation, inclusion and to justice and protection services. Efforts would be made to amplify children and young people's voices in bottom-up planning of the local governance institutions like the gram panchayats to ensure democratic participation in the policies and development plans impacting their lives.

Towards (d) above, the UN system will collaborate with states to design and implement policies to deliver development programmes to marginalized populations (women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs and key affected populations, SCs, STs, refugees and other marginalized groups). It will support development and strengthening of state policies and strategic action plans that address GBV, harmful practices and discriminatory gender, sexuality and social norms.

Towards (e) above, the UN system will assist in developing and/or implementing social protection programmes and policies that are gender transformative, shock responsive and disability inclusive, and this will be a key area of intervention.

Towards (f) above, the UN system will partner with the government statistical system to strengthen the availability of disaggregated data. It will support interventions for Indian citizens living abroad along with showcasing India's experience through South-South Cooperation. Under SSTC, the UN will facilitate

knowledge sharing on statistical systems, census, etc., to the other developing countries.

Towards (g) above, the UN system will convene with countries, diaspora organizations and other relevant actors to engage with transnational communities as agents and accelerators of sustainable development. It will foster a strong relationship with diasporas to not only include financial remittances but also social remittances like exchange of ideas, skills and knowledge for contributing towards building holistic relations. The UN system will support India's endeavours in technical capacity building of other countries.

#### Strategies of the UN system's contribution to Outcome 6 will aim to:

- promote convergence to enhance human rights, protection and development for all with improved coordination and feedback mechanisms; forge multi-stakeholder partnerships; and form platforms to share lessons learnt,
- support data generation and evidence creation to make visible the invisible and inform policy at all levels of governance and institutionalize technical capacity strengthening,
- strengthen government policies and programmes to focus on prevention and response to GBV, working with men and boys as well as other stakeholders to change social norms,
- advocate to increase voice, choice, agency and security of children, youth, women and vulnerable groups and communities that include sexual minorities, migrants, refugees, SC/STs and OBCs, PwDs, PLHIVs and the elderly, among others,
- work closely with the government to ensure that children and adolescents, especially girls, are mobilized to make their voices heard at the Panchayat level,
- support community-based interventions and sustainable and scalable evidence-based

models and

- advocate and secure sustainable financing for equity and inclusion and promote public-private partnerships to achieve impact for marginalized groups at scale.

**LNOB focus:** Empowering the marginalized gives them the voice and the agency for their effective participation and engagement. The UN system will collaborate with states to design and implement policies to deliver development programmes to marginalized populations, including women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs and key affected populations, SCs/STs and other minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, people who use drugs and prisoners. It will support the development and strengthening of state policies and strategic action plans that address GBV, harmful practices and discriminatory sexual and social norms.

**Partnerships:** Outcome 6 will build strategic partnerships with the central and state governments, think tanks, academic institutions and CSOs and form coalitions between the private and public sectors to actualize the global and national gender agenda. These partnerships will promote knowledge generation, resource mobilization and institutional capacity strengthening on gender-transformative issues as well as concerns of children and adolescents within local governance, focusing on the localization of SDGs and India's normative commitments. As a middle-income country, India is in the process of realigning its international position to that of a thought leader and donor in the South. Accordingly, Outcome 6 will also focus on global triangular partnerships. It will also focus on non-traditional partnerships and work with influencers from the media, academia, business, sports and politics for greater outreach in mass events and campaigns.



## Linkages with the principles of human rights-based approach

With an aim to empower communities, Outcome 6 specifically focuses on those living on the margins. It draws upon India's ratification of the Convention on Eliminating all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), and upholds the thematic areas of "Gender Equality and Equal Rights for Women" and "Public Participation and Civic Space, as included in the UN Secretary-General's "Call to Action for Human Rights". It also supports the follow up of the recommendations of the CRC Committee and the key recommendations for the 2019 UN General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of the Child, focusing on the importance of parental care and institutionalization of last resort, along with recommendations of other treaty bodies. Activities on preventing and responding to GBV include strengthening social and child protection systems to take up an intersectional approach in foregrounding inequalities of caste, class, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic identities and abilities. Localization of SDGs will increase the diversity of voices in planning and decision-making at the local, state and national levels to ensure participation of diverse communities among all genders and across the life cycle. This participation will be bolstered by making research and data available and accessible from and to vulnerable groups, enabling them to demand accountability and ensure realization of their rights.

Focusing on ending all forms of discrimination by empowering people and communities to exercise their rights and strengthening institutional responses to vulnerable groups is the fundamental thrust of the UN system's contribution to Outcome 6. Its support will promote the right to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the right to equality and the right to participate. As mentioned above, the UN will support the development of mechanisms in line with India's international commitments including CEDAW and other human rights treaties, and the implementation of the UNSDCF will be particularly informed and guided by the new recommendations emerging from the Fourth Universal Periodic Review, which took place in November 2022.

## UN Country Team Configuration for Outcome 6

**convenor:** UN Women

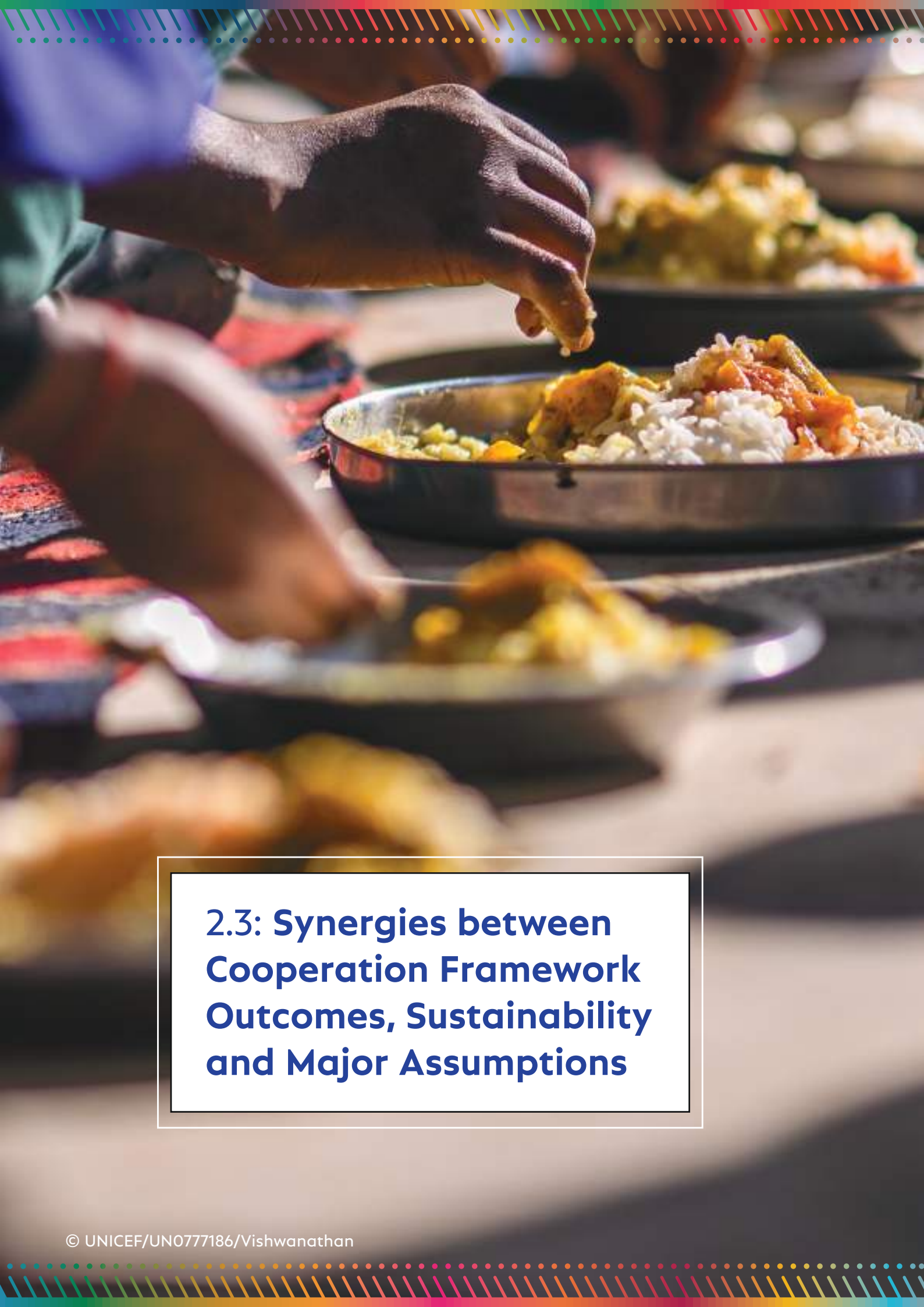
**Co-convenor:** UNFPA, UNICEF

**Convenor for outputs 6.1 and 6.6:** UN Resident Coordinator  
**Contributing agencies:** ESCAP, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, WFP and WHO

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml>







## 2.3: Synergies between Cooperation Framework Outcomes, Sustainability and Major Assumptions

# Synergies between Cooperation Framework Outcomes

Reflecting the SDGs approach to intersectionality of analysis and response, there are strong interlinkages between the CF outcomes.

Outcome 1 has synergies with Outcome 2 as health and well-being are closely linked to food security and nutrition. It also synchronizes with Outcome 5 as clean water, air, sanitation and the environment, in general, have a profound impact on health and well-being. Outcome 1 also links well with Outcome 6 which aims at empowering communities and strengthening institutions.

Outcome 2 has strong linkages with Outcome 1 (health and well-being), Outcome 3 (education linked to school meals), Outcome 4 (linked to working with women's self-help groups to produce fortified nutritious supplementary foods for the Integrated Child Development Scheme) and with Outcome 5 on climate change and resilience. In addition, Outcome 2 will support Outcome 6 on participation with a focus on work that improves access to government services and programmes, especially for the most marginalized populations.

The UN's work on education (Outcome 3) has synergies with other thematic areas—the School Health and Wellness Programme has linkages with health and well-being outcome (Outcome 1) and midday meal schemes with the nutrition and food outcome (Outcome 2). With education focusing on transitioning to work, the outcome on economic growth and decent work becomes important (Outcome 4). By engaging with the outcome on the environment, climate, WASH and resilience (Outcome 5), the UN shall work towards its education outcome on ensuring safe and inclusive environments. With gender and LNOB principles underpinning the overall work, the education outcome directly relates to the

outcome on empowering people, communities and institutions (Outcome 6).

The UN's contribution to Outcome 4 links with food security (Outcome 2) through developing models related to emerging issues in agriculture, such as the integration of women farmers and the development and digitalization of farm-to-fork supply chains. It resonates closely with the UN system's contribution to quality education and skilling (Outcome 3). The focus on green growth has linkages with Outcome 5. Synergies with Outcome 6 (empowering communities and institutions) include initiatives related to social protection, bringing about transformational change in the lives of women and other vulnerable groups and strengthening the capacities of institutions for effective service delivery.

Interventions under Outcome 5 (towards a sustainable planet) profoundly impact people's health and well-being (Outcome 1). This includes interventions pertaining to climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, waste and pollution management and water and sanitation. Building resilience of food-agri systems directly contributed to food and nutrition security (Outcome 2). Enhancing the circularity of the economy is linked with Outcome 4, and the focus of the interventions on the vulnerable groups and building capacities of institutions for localized solutions has synergies with Outcome 6. All the outcomes of the UNSDCF focus on bringing about transformational change in the lives of women, girls and the vulnerable groups. They also aim to strengthen institutional capacities at the local level in their respective sectors and have, therefore, strong linkages with Outcome 6.





## Sustainability

The UN system will facilitate and promote national ownership through the involvement of national partners at all stages of UNSDCF implementation, leveraging its partnership with the government at various levels to strengthen policy formulation and integrating successful approaches in government policies and programmes to ensure sustainability and scaling impact. Sustainability of the UN contributions to the UNSDCF will be ensured by harnessing and strengthening flagship national programmes by providing strategic, technical and innovation-driven catalytic inputs with a thrust on the LNOB principle. The UN system will contribute to strengthening the capacities of national, state, district and local level institutions for equitable, quality and inclusive programme design and service delivery, including through institutionalization of the SDGs. It is also expected to contribute to increased capacities for risk-informed and climate-resilient policy formulation, planning, budgeting, innovation and monitoring and evaluation. Investment in empowering communities and building capacities of CSOs and community cadre will be undertaken as a key strategy to ensure sustainability. The approach of leveraging government partnerships, aligning the UN system's contribution to the national flagship programmes, dovetailing the UN system's intervention with government schemes and programmes, building institutional capacities, strengthening systems and empowering communities is expected to result in sustainability of the UN system's contribution to the UNSDCF.



## Major assumptions

The GOI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is based on the assumption that the strategic priorities identified in the CF remain high on the government's political agenda. It is also essential that the UN's presence is valued at the national as well as sub-national levels and that the UN is able to leverage its national partnerships effectively. Establishing new partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships to support the UNSDCF interventions will be critical. Partners' willingness to form alliances, collaborate with each other and align themselves to the priorities of the UNSDCF will play a critical role in achieving the expected results.

An enabling policy environment that promotes inclusion, non-discrimination and sustainability and supports government's continued commitment to the international community, such as on climate change, is a prerequisite for achieving the expected results. National regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks that support inclusive and green growth, advance universal access to service delivery and eliminate discrimination are vital for meeting the expected outcomes.

Continued and adequate financing is vital for the success of the UNSDCF. Flexibility in interventions to proactively adapt to the emerging conditions and changing political focus will be crucial factors affecting progress on all the outcomes.







## 2.4: UN Support to SDG Financing in India

Goal 17 on global partnerships for sustainable development is the only SDG for which India does not track quantitative progress through the SDG India Index. However, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 outlines how India is building new coalitions for development cooperation; mobilizing more domestic resources; improving efficiency of public spendings; and promoting entrepreneurship and private sector contributions to the 2030 Agenda. Nonetheless, despite these efforts, current resources available for financing development in India do not match the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda. Total external flows from donor countries to India in the form of official development assistance and other official flows or private investments were only about \$24 billion in 2019.<sup>38</sup> International commitments on official development assistance and climate finance continue to remain unfulfilled.

Yet, conservative estimates cited in the CCA 2021 suggest that the annual SDG financing gap in India is at least `36 trillion per year (approximately \$445 billion at current exchange rates).<sup>39</sup> While these estimates give an idea of how costly SDG implementation will be, they also suggest how financing responsibilities can be shared between public authorities and private actors, especially given that a number of SDGs, particularly along the economic dimension could generate substantial financial returns. In an economy as large and diverse as India, domestic private investment and the corporate sector have an important role to play in SDG financing. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector—including with the millions of Indian MSMEs—will be key to adopting responsible and sustainable business practices and mobilizing private sources of finance to accelerate SDG progress.

To leverage financial resources, the UNSDCF, therefore, takes a diverse and variegated approach to SDG financing in line with the diversity of the country's overall financing landscape, as highlighted in the CCA. Even though the India UNCT is among one of the largest country teams in the world, the UN impact on SDG financing in the country necessarily must focus on strategic, catalytic policy advocacy, analytical and advisory services and policy support across a wide range of financing partners.

Across this UNSDCF, each outcome group will adopt their approaches to financing according to the state of the financing landscape relative to their priority area. Generally, these approaches will differ by the degree to which they focus on leveraging public or private financing solutions. In the health and social sectors, the UNCT will advocate for increasing public financing where possible. With respect to economic sectors, efforts will be focused towards encouraging private and blended financing initiatives and supporting specific public efforts at improving the enabling environment for sustainable economic activity, including through targeted support to MSMEs and small entrepreneurs. A focus on financial inclusion should also be maintained to include the most vulnerable wherever possible, especially through supporting efforts that build on India's impressive digital public infrastructure as a platform for innovative financing solutions. In the area of climate finance and financing of other environmentally related SDGs, the UN will support both public and private efforts, including by advocating for existing international commitments to be upheld by developed economies. Across the SDGs, especially with respect to the UN's support to India's institutional capacities, the focus will be on identifying and measuring financing gaps, including in state-level budgets, and will support the provision of an expanded

toolset of financing metrics for policy makers including SDG/Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) taxonomies, impact, blended finance, and other innovative forms of sustainable financing.

The UN system will also seek to guide these pathways of engagement through a focused partnerships strategy that seeks to harmonize and streamline partnerships to strengthen avenues for collaboration and mobilization of resources from non-traditional partners such as the private sector as well as from institutional donors, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions.

A comprehensive UN-level partnerships strategy will seek to address gaps in SDG financing through transformational alliances. This will include strategies for engagement with diverse stakeholders, as well as contributing towards policy and innovative solutions based around impact-based collaborative platforms, blended financing instruments, responsible business practices, and driving sustainability in the partnerships agenda. A "Partnerships Group" with representation from across agencies will be created to feed into the strategy as well as to leverage the unique strength of the UN system towards convening collaborative platforms of engagement.

<sup>38</sup> Total receipts by country and region (ODA+OOF+private), OECD, available at <https://stats.oecd.org>

<sup>39</sup> Anshul Bhamra, Harshini Shanker and Zeenat Niazi, 'Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in India: A Study of Financial Requirements and Gaps', UNDP and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India (2015), available at <https://www.forests.tn.gov.in/tnforest/app/webroot/img/document/gov-india-publication/4.pdf>.



A young girl with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing glasses and a school uniform, stands in front of a bamboo structure. Laundry is hanging on the structure to her left. The background is filled with lush green foliage, including large banana leaves. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

## CHAPTER 3

# Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan



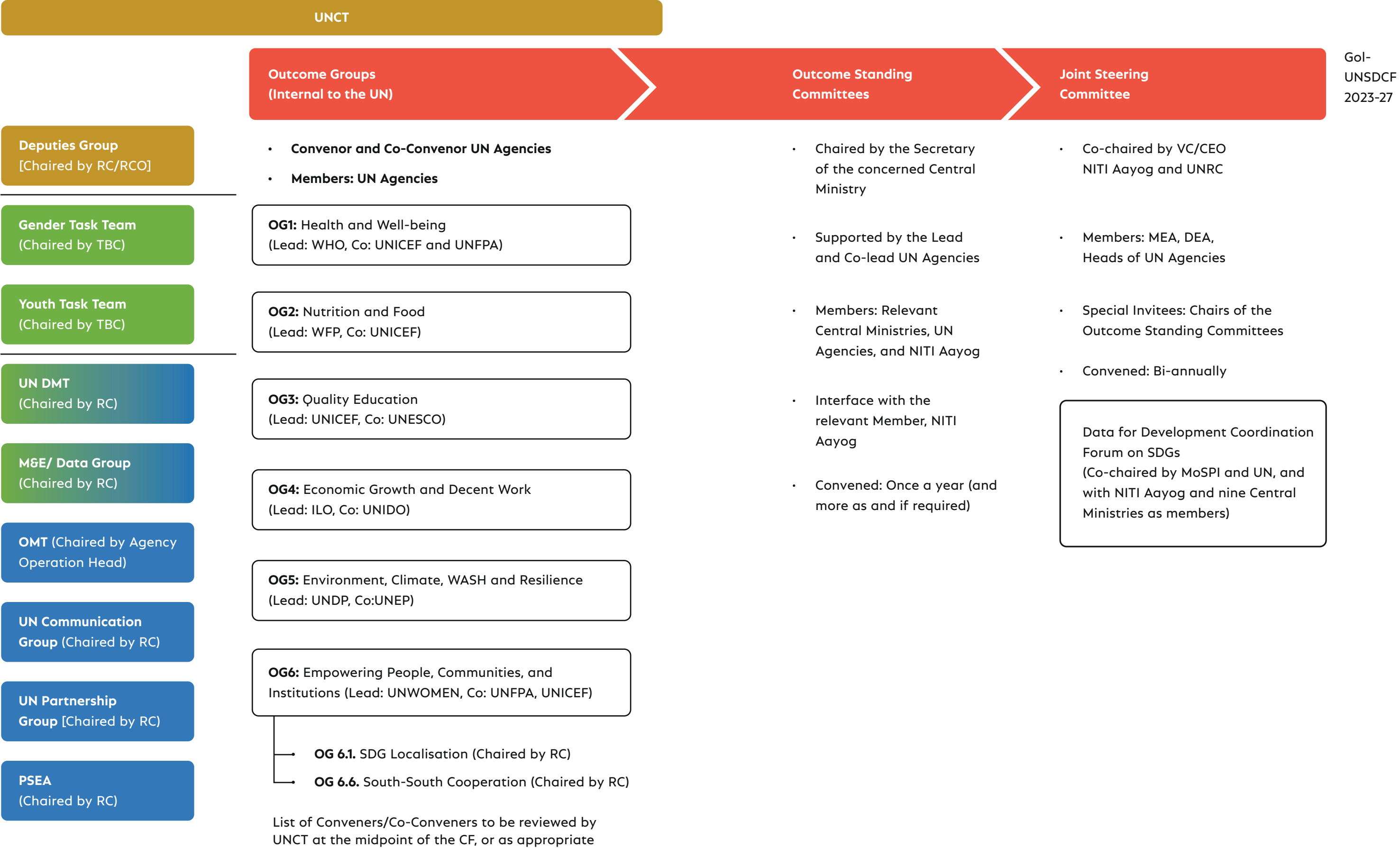
### 3.1: Outline of the Governance Arrangement

The overarching governance arrangement that would govern the systematic and effective implementation of the Government of India- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GOI-UNSDCF), 2023-27 will be guided by three levels of arrangement, namely, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), Outcome Standing Committees (OSCs) and the Outcome Groups (OGs). This arrangement builds upon key recommendations drawn from the independent evaluation of the GOI-UNSDCF, 2018-2022, which distilled useful lessons learned about the governance arrangements from the previous programming cycle (Box 3.1).

The UN Country Team (UNCT), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), will be responsible for the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF) and ensuring that the UN system's contribution is coherent, reduces duplication, is efficient, reaches the most vulnerable sections of the population and responds quickly to emerging development challenges and national priorities. The operationalization of the GOI-UNSDCF will be supported by the Deputies Group, Operations Management Team (OMT), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)/ Data Group, UN Communications Group, UN Partnership Group, Gender and Youth Task Force, UN Disaster Management Team (DMT), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network and the Disability Inclusion Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism, under the overall strategic guidance of UNCT (Figure 3.1).



Figure 3.1: Governance Structure of GOI--UNSDCF, 2023--27





Joint Steering Committee

The GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-27 (henceforth referred to as CF) will be steered under the overall guidance and oversight of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by VC/CEO, NITI Aayog and the UN Resident Coordinator. The JSC will include representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, heads of the participating UN agencies and authorized representatives. The Chairs of the

OSCs will be special invitees to the JSC. On an ad-hoc basis, the JSC may invite representatives of implementing ministries and departments, state governments, as well as implementing partners, including from civil society, trade unions, think tanks, academic institutions, and the private sector. The JSC will meet biannually but may additionally be convened by the co-chairs, if and when necessary.

The key responsibilities of the JSC are to:



The work of the JSC will be supported by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, acting as its secretariat. The JSC co-chairs shall have oversight over all cooperation between Government of India and the UN system defined by the Cooperation Framework and shall have a comprehensive view of all Country Programme Documents/memorandums of understanding (MoUs), Letters of Agreement etc., that may be signed between UNCT members and government, including MoUs signed between UN agencies and NITI Aayog. In

line with the joint ownership of the CF, the JSC will explore and promote opportunities for government co-financing and stronger partnerships with the private sector, including individual donors and corporate partners, to address funding gaps for the planned outcomes and related programmes and projects. Government ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs, economic enterprises and UN system agencies will implement the programme activities.

Outcome Standing Committees

The Outcome Standing Committees (OSCs) shall be Chaired by the Secretary of thecorresponding outcome Ministry/Department (Table 3.1) with representation from other relevant Ministries/Departments, UN Agencies and NITI Aayog. The Joint Secretary of the Chairing Ministry/Department shall be the convenor of the group. The respective convening UN Agency would provide the necessary support required to facilitate the deliberations. The OSCs will work in close cooperation with the concerned Member of NITI Aayog and/or designated focal points. The Chair of the OSC, if deemed necessary, may co-opt additional members or invite experts for the OSC meetings. The Chair of each OSC will be special invitees to the JSC, when required. The OSCs will convene at least once in a year

and will ensure greater alignment and coordination between the CF outcomes and strategies, and those of the national development priorities and SDGs, as well as facilitate convergence at the national and state levels. They will provide strategic guidance and oversight to the Joint Work Plans agreed by their respective Outcome Groups and will take up any issues of a strategic or operational nature that their respective Outcome Groups may raise for consideration, which could benefit from deliberation among the concerned UN agencies and the concerned GOI stakeholders.

The convening ministries/departments for the six India UNSDCF outcomes, identified by NITI Aayog, are given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027—Convening Ministries/Departments responsible for convening standing committee for respective outcomes

Outcome	Convening Ministry/Department
Outcome 1 : Health and well-being	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Outcome 2 : Nutrition and food security	Department of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare
Outcome 3: Quality education	Department of School Education and Literacy
Outcome 4 : Economic growth decent work	Ministry of Labour and Employment
Outcome 5 : Environment, climate, WASH and resilience	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Outcome 6 : Empowering people, communities and institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Output 6.1 : SDG localisation</li><li>Output 6.2 to 6.5 : ‘Leave no one behind’LNOB, inclusion</li><li>Output 6.6 : South - South Cooperation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NITI Aayog (6.1)</li><li>Ministry of Women &amp; Child Development (6.2-6.5)</li><li>Ministry of External Affairs (6.6)</li></ul>



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## Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs

A tripartite agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), NITI Aayog and the UN to establish a Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs. The forum will contribute towards the national efforts to track SDG achievement, including through use of technology. It will be co-chaired by DG, NSO, MoSPI and UNRC, and will have NITI Aayog and nine Central Ministries as members. It will support the government's efforts to strengthen statistical capacity at the

national and sub-national levels. It will also facilitate standardization, modernization and harmonization of data infrastructures and identify ways to leverage the resources of the private sector. Additionally, it will promote engagement between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of SDG indicators and support the development of data for various marginalized groups, in line with the 2030 Agenda's promise of Leaving No One Behind.

### Box 3.1: Key recommendations from the evaluation of the GOI-UNSDF, 2018-2022 informing the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027

The overall strategic approach and governance structure of the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-27 is informed by learnings from the previous cooperation framework, the GOI-UNSDF, 2018-2022, which was evaluated by an in-depth and robust evaluation. Some of the key recommendations drawing from the evaluation report are given below.

#### Recommendation 1: The GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 should focus on accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and beyond, in line with UN reforms and post-COVID building back better.



Support the GOI in its envisioning and strategic planning exercise for Vision 2047



Leverage credibility and draw on learnings from UN reforms and joint COVID-19 response



Support states and state institutions in bridging systemic and capacity gaps to meet the SDGs



Enhance coordination at the state level and present a complementary approach towards states

#### Recommendation 2: The UN should reposition itself as a knowledge- and evidence-generating institution by capitalizing on its global presence and convening power.



Use complementarity and quality of its agency competencies to identify strategic gaps and models for achieving SDGs at scale



Leverage UN resources for strategic engagement with central and state governments on jointly determined key priority issues



Position itself and partner more effectively with NITI Aayog as a think tank and knowledge institution



**Recommendation 3: The GOI-UNSDF should focus more on strategic outcomes and less on technical and operational issues.**



Address strategic level issues, ensure more inclusive policy and programmatic spaces and better monitoring and feedback loops for results



Facilitate greater participation of line ministries, state governments, national think tanks and academic experts to provide inputs on a regular basis in discussions on key priority issues through JSC.



Adopt a more structured approach by institutionalizing the Result Groups of the next GOI-UNSDF into outcome-wise standing committees chaired by the secretary of the ministry concerned. These standing committees should serve as an interministerial and inter-agency platform for knowledge sharing, monitoring and decision making. The Chair of the Standing Committee could be a special invitee to the JSC when the concerned thematic area is being discussed. The Chairs of these standing committees may also periodically consult the Vice Chairman or the concerned member of NITI Aayog.



Institute efficient communication between the line ministries and the concerned verticals of NITI Aayog to ensure a 'whole of government' and 'whole of UN' approach. The line ministries may consider inviting the concerned NITI Advisers to the annual exercises for finalizing the UN agency-line ministry work plans as well as to strategic review meetings.



Given the inadequate inclusion of large sections of marginalized populations, the UN needs to work to incorporate disability and inclusion more systematically into operations and find solutions to ensure full enrolment of eligible marginalized populations and access to food through food-based government safety nets programmes.



Shift focus from quantitative aspects of gender, equity and social inclusion mainstreaming to transformative actions

**Recommendation 4: The UN should further strengthen its normative and convening role.**



Perform its core mandate by proactively ensuring that no one is left behind from the SDG agenda.



Adopt judicious championing and a constructive, solution-based approach to uphold its core values



Support the GOI in tracking and meeting global commitments on various agreements



Facilitate two-way knowledge sharing of good practices



Leverage its communication competencies for stronger branding and visibility of the UN's work in India

**Recommendation 5: The UN should enhance inter-agency coherence and complementarity for coordinated work at all levels.**



Play a strong, strategic role in facilitating and amplifying the UN's impact in India by enhancing both internal and external coherence led by RCO and UN agencies as needed



Strengthen inter-agency linkages and alignments to minimize overlaps and duplication, and increase joint work among UN agencies in prioritized themes identified under the next UNSDF, thereby ensuring efficient use of available resources



Support smaller agencies and address under-served issues

## 3.2 : Cooperation Framework Management Structure

### Outcome Groups

The Outcome Groups (OGs), comprising UN entities, are an internal coordination mechanism for the CF at the operational level. They provide oversight and support for coordinated and collaborative planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of results. They provide inputs to the JSC, OSCs and UNCT, as appropriate, on opportunities and challenges linked to the CF implementation, as well as on the specific programme management issues. The OGs also support initiatives that focus on reaching the furthest behind first, knowledge management and gender mainstreaming, and work with the UN Communications Group for joint communication, campaigns, advocacy, outreach and events planning.

The OGs are chaired by the Convening and co-convening UN agency(ies). The chair of the outcome group is appointed by the UNCT (preferably at the head of the agency level) and is empowered to lead and convene the outcome groups and take decisions for the effective coordination and implementation of strategies and interventions to achieve results and improve efficiency. Each OG will comprise technical focal points from the participating UN agencies. The OGs will support coordinated policy analysis, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the CF. The OGs are expected to meet quarterly to analyse the situation in the sector, formulate joint work plans, track progress against planned results in the CF and make course corrections.

### The OGs will have the following responsibilities:



Develop and agree annual joint work plans (as appropriate), including agreeing sub-outputs within each outcome areas, with relevant UN organizations. Track progress against the planned results in the UNSDCF and annual joint work plans and report progress through UNINFO and deliberate on course corrections when necessary, tabling relevant issues for the consideration of OSCs if required



Coordinate, monitor and report the implementation of interventions in a coherent manner, to achieve common results



Identify strategic opportunities for UN contributions to national interventions at the policy and programme level and strengthen UN's role as a knowledge provider through sharing of global and national good practices and fostering technical cooperation



Explore opportunities for developing joint programmes and resource mobilisation, including at the sub-national level as required



Provide technical support to the OSCs, as necessary and support their deliberations



Conduct joint policy analysis on key thematic issues and emerging trends, including by undertaking research and evidence-based policy analysis in relevant areas for collective and joint policy support, dialogue and advocacy purposes



Develop policy briefs, knowledge products and organise deep dive sessions on important issues, including through engagements with think tanks, knowledge institutions and experts



Prioritise strengthening the UN's normative role to advocate for human rights, gender equality, and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in national SDG implementation, in line with SG's Call to Action on Human Rights, including by drawing on the findings of the Universal Periodic Review and relevant treaty bodies in order to advance strategies for integrating LNOB principles and a human rights-based approach across UN supported programmes and policies taking advantage of the strong link between human rights and SDG achievement



Identify and support joint communications and advocacy



Promote inter-state and international sharing of knowledge and good practices by identifying, codifying and promoting relevant partnerships, policy solutions and approaches, including for relevant south-south and triangular cooperation initiatives



Support deliberations of the Joint Steering Committee



Deputies Group

A Deputies Group (DG) will be constituted which will primarily serve as the internal quality assurance mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the UNSDCF. The DG will enhance UN coherence and coordination at the programme level and provide technical and advisory guidance to the UN programming process, result groups and the UNCT. It will work through an approach of consensus-building and constitute ad hoc task teams on any given theme to undertake specific and time-bound assignments to facilitate efficient arrival at joint positions and recommendations, where necessary. The head of programmes of the UN entities shall be the members of the DG, in addition to representation from the M&E Group, UN Communications Group, OMT, and Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO). The RCO will serve as the secretariat for the DG.

Gender Task Team

A Gender Task Team (GTT) will be constituted to ensure that progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) results across the CF is reported. The GTT will be chaired by the UN Women Country Representative on behalf of the RC . The UNCT can designate a head of agency as the co-chair taking into consideration the priorities of the CF. The gender focal points/programme specialists from each UN entity that has signed the CF should be part of the GTT. The GTT will act as an inter-agency coordination group and play the critical role of ensuring integration of gender equality principles across the work of UNCT India, including through the CF and UN system-wide action plan (SWAP). It will facilitate gender-responsive performance management and strategic planning, advocacy for use of sex-disaggregated data, reporting and resource tracking. It will also advance work and common strategies towards achieving gender parity in staffing across the UNCT in line with relevant Human Resources policies and rules. The three broad areas of work for the GTT are programme support, policy dialogues and technical support across all aspects of the CF and Scorecard Action Plan, including joint programmes.

Youth Task Force

The Youth Task Team will be an inter-agency mechanism to ensure mainstreaming of the youth agenda across the UNSDCF 2023-2027, in line with the UN Youth Strategy 2030. The aim is to harmonize efforts across UN agencies for holistic development of youth-centric programmes and policies. The task team will be chaired by UNFPA country representative on behalf of the RC in India. The UNCT can designate an agency head as the co-chair taking into consideration the priorities of the CF.

UN Disaster Management Team

The UN Disaster Management Team will be chaired by the RC and will coordinate and facilitate UN system-wide collective actions towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030. It will also provide coordinated support to national and state governments in disaster response and recovery after any major disaster by bringing together the relevant UN agencies, government, and other important stakeholders.

Monitoring and Evaluation/ Data Group

The M&E/Data Group will support the JSC, the UNCT and the OGs in the monitoring efforts of the CF. The M&E/Data Group will nominate a chairperson and will rotate the Chair periodically (annually or once in two years). The M&E/Data Group will support the OGs in monitoring the progress of the outcome and output indicators, as well as in the quarterly/biannual/ annual reporting and quality control. Technical issues related to the monitoring of annual Joint Work Plans in UNINFO will be addressed through this group, which should include all M&E focal points responsible for Joint Work Plan formulation and monitoring in each OG. The M&E/Data group will advise the UNCT and OGs on data quality assurance, evidence generation and progress reporting. It will also serve as the UNCT’s internal forum for discussing statistical, data and analytical issues of interest to the UN, and will support the deliberations of the

Operations Management Team (OMT)

Under the guidance of the UNCT, the OMT will aim to integrate programmes and operations so as to ensure that an appropriate and efficient operational infrastructure exists to implement the CF. It will provide support and advice to the UNCT to harmonize business operations and contribute to the delivery of CF results. The OMT shall nominate a chairperson and a co-chairperson every year. The Chair and Co-Chair will rotate on a periodic basis and will be recommended by the OMT and approved by the UNCT. The OMT will have thematic sub-groups. It will comprise of the operations/administrative managers of the participating UN Agencies. The OMT is intended to provide the UNCT with recommendations on common services and business-related issues while identifying opportunities for collaboration and innovation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN’s programmatic work in India. Key responsibilities of the OMT are to:



Develop the Business Operations Strategy for the period 2023-27, in alignment with the CF to achieve operational efficiencies,



Develop and submit budgeted rolling work plans to the UNCT,



Report periodically to the UNRC/UNCT



Identify, assess, plan, and implement activities as per the approved work plan and



Establish task forces/subcommittees, where necessary, to carry out detailed studies on how to implement OMT activities and specific common services

### UN Communications Group

The UN Communications Group will aim to ensure effective, coordinated, and coherent communication and visibility of the CF process and results with key national stakeholders throughout the CF cycle and implement the joint communication strategy to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will include communications focal points of all UN system organizations, as well as the UN Information Centre (UNIC). It will be chaired by the Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) or, in the absence of a UNIC director, Head of Office, RCO.

### Partnership Group

A Partnership Group will be constituted to develop and foster partnerships with a range of stakeholders, particularly the private sector and businesses, to support implementation of the CF. It will explore opportunities for building new partnerships, mobilize resources and support UNCT to establish strategic engagements with prospective new partners.

### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse network

The PSEA network is an inter-agency group. Focal points from agencies will coordinate the implementation of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.<sup>44</sup> The chair is designated by the RCO, and focal points appointed across agencies. The broad areas of work include supporting affected populations, prevention, response, management, and coordination.

### Disability Inclusion Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism

An inter-agency group will be constituted to coordinate and implement the UN strategy for disability inclusion, both at programme and internal operational levels. The group will be convened by the RCO and focal points from different agencies will coordinate and provide support in implementation of system-wide actions to promote disability inclusion.

<sup>44</sup> ST/SGB/2003/13, Available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/550/40/PDF/N0355040.pdf?OpenElement>







### 3.3: State Coordination

Given the federal structure of India, state governments are key to India's progress on the SDGs. With a considerable UN presence in the states, a coordinated approach assumes significance, including for information sharing, responding to cross-cutting and multidimensional issues, responding to emergencies and disasters, for the safety and security of the UN staff, and for effective support to the implementation of the CF.

Given the complexity of the federal structure, the number of agencies in the country and the varying size of UN programmes, it is proposed to continue the 'coordination light' mechanism currently applied at the state level, subsequent to periodic review. This would imply that:

- UNICEF will be the focal agency<sup>40</sup> in the states<sup>41</sup> for 'coordination light'. The responsibilities will include facilitating information and knowledge sharing between UN agencies, as well as advocacy and communication regarding key development issues and sharing good practices/examples of the UN's work and development initiatives in the state for outreach, including through South-South or triangular cooperation.
- UNDP will be the focal agency for UNDP-supported SDG 'Coordination Centres', working with UNICEF, relevant UN agencies and the Resident Coordinator's Office to ensure the UNCT comparative advantages are included in the coordination offer, as relevant.
- WHO will be the technical lead for public health interventions and health emergencies.
- The Resident Coordinator's Office and agency convener/s will provide the following support to the state coordinators:
  - Ensure that they are well briefed, coached and updated on the coordination approaches, new roles and responsibilities, mailing lists and communications protocols/first port of call
  - Provide feedback to state coordinators as issues or opportunities arise

All UN actors and focal agencies will work with the RCO to ensure well-coordinated, collective delivery of results at the state level as relevant, under the broader UNSDCF.

<sup>40</sup> UNICEF State Coordinators will share information/notes from the meetings with RCO that will, in turn, share the information with the relevant agencies as appropriate.

<sup>41</sup> States where the UNICEF offices are located and where UNICEF has an Area Security Coordinator (ASC) role, as detailed in Annex 1.





## 3.4: Risks

**The key risks to achieving the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 results include:**

- Change in government at the national or state level resulting in shifts in priorities, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks.
- Weakening macro-economic prospects due to the slow recovery from COVID-19 pandemic; the global fuel, food, fertilizer and financial crisis; international conflict and trade tensions, and disasters including climate induced extreme weather events.
- Global uncertainty and reversals in socio-economic gains due to climate change, natural disasters, and health-related pandemics.
- Limited funding and shortfalls in financial resources arising out of insufficient donor contributions, constraints in resource mobilization and reallocation of funds by the government and/or donor to new and emerging priorities.
- Widening inequality, particularly gender inequality.
- Lack of access to quality and disaggregated data which can inform gaps in service delivery especially, to the vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Lack of appropriate and adequate capacities at various levels of governance and among other partners.
- Insufficient multisectoral coordination among public, private and civil society organizations (CSOs).

**The risks will be mitigated by:**

- Keeping abreast of shifts in the national policy ecosystem and responding to the emerging priorities.
- Ensuring regular engagement with the government and partners.
- Strengthening and adopting risk identification and mitigation procedures that enable agile response by way of reprioritization in consultation with national partners and effective implementation.
- Continued advocacy and reaching out to non-traditional donors and a diverse set of partners.
- Close and frequent communication between a range of partners.
- Regular handholding and capacity building of stakeholders, particularly implementing partners.
- Promoting the practice of anticipatory planning internally for better risk management.



# 3.5: Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

## Estimated resource requirements

Table 3.2 provides an overview of the required and available resources to support implementation of planned outcomes and any funding gaps, which are important to highlight to the government, UN system agencies, donors and other partners. It is the basis for joint mobilization of resources and contributes to better delivery of development cooperation by the government and UN system agencies.

**Table 3.2: Financial Resources Required for Implementing the UNSDCF Outcomes**  
(in millions of United States dollars)

Outcomes	Total budget	Budget available	Resources to be mobilised
Outcome 1 : Health & well-being	447	29	418.0
Outcome 2 : Nutrition and food security	280	0.0	280.0
Outcome 3: Quality education	65.2	24.3	40.8
Outcome 4 : Economic growth & decent work	62.3	8.3	54.0
Outcome 5 : Environment, climate, WASH and resilience	352.7	147.7	205.0
Outcome 6 : Empowering people, communities and institutions	135.8	65.4	70.5
Total	1343	274.7	1068.3

source: UNCT India estimates

Full implementation of the UNSDCF will require an estimated total of US\$1.34 billion. The total estimated funding gap is \$1.07 billion. This will need to be mobilized over the period of the UNSDCF. The funding gap for the UNSDCF is approximately 79.5 percent of the total budget. Achievement of UNSDCF results will require a concerted resource mobilization strategy driven jointly by the JSC and the UNCT.

Sources of funding from UN agencies include regular/core resources and other/non-core resources that UN agencies are able to mobilize on the strength of the strategies and expected results. Budgets are indicative and may be subject to changes by the governing bodies of UN Agencies and by internal management decisions. Regular and other resources are exclusive of funding received in response to emergency appeals.

## Funding the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UN system agencies will employ their available resources through innovative programmes, strategies and partnerships to catalyse domestic and international public and private investments for UNSDCF results, as well as for broader social sector investments in SDG-related country priorities. The government and UN system agencies will develop a resource mobilization strategy to address the funding gaps. This will explore and promote an increased share of government resources in the overall financial envelope and stronger partnerships with the private sector, including individual donors and corporate partners, for the planned outcomes and related programmes and projects. New sources of finance will be identified which the

government and the UN can access and leverage, including options for blended finance and influencing the policy environment to facilitate greater resource flows to national/SDG priority areas. In keeping with the global role of the UN to support national governments in the speedy and efficient use of vertical and thematic funds (for example, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance,<sup>42</sup> Global Environment Facility<sup>43</sup>, Green Climate Fund<sup>44</sup>, Land Degradation Neutrality Fund<sup>45</sup>, Joint SDG Fund<sup>46</sup> and other funds), the UN in India will support the GOI to undertake landscape analysis of available global funds in line with national strategic priorities, and facilitate India’s access to these funding sources, if requested to do so. The GOI will lead efforts to strategically plan how additional resources from global and vertical funds can complement its own investments in line with its development priorities. The JSC of the UNSDCF (NITI Aayog, MEA and Department of Economic Affairs) can act as the advisory body for government focal points for these various funds to determine the best use of these resources. The GOI will continue to exercise ownership in the selection of potential implementation partners for these and other funds.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.gavi.org/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/organization>.

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/impact-investment-fund-land-degradation-neutrality>.

<sup>46</sup> <https://jointsdgfund.org/>

## Types of Support

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the CF, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, M&E, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), as agreed within the framework of the individual agency work plans and project documents.

### Additional support may include access to:

- UN agency-managed global information systems,
- network of the UN agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and development services providers, and
- access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds, and programmes.

The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support and technical assistance, as well as M&E activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in programme implementation, the UN agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the CF. These budgets are reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the government and UN agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to UN agencies for specific activities may be reallocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The government will support the UN agency efforts to raise funds to meet this CF's requirements. It will cooperate with the UN agencies as well as encourage potential donor governments to make funds available to the UN agencies to implement unfunded components of the programme. The government will also endorse the UN agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the domestic and international private sector while permitting contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations in India to support this programme; such contributions will be exempt from taxes for the donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

## 3.6: Joint Work Plans

The CF is operationalized with joint work plans and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents that describe the specific results to be achieved. It will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources. The joint work plans will be managed by outcome groups and provide coordinated and collaborative planning, implementation and M&E support.

## 3.7: Programme and Risk Management, and Cash Transfers

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of NITI Aayog. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are identified in the country programmes or programme/project documents of individual UN system agencies. Government ministries, NGOs, international NGOs, and UN system agencies will implement the programme activities. The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s)<sup>47</sup> and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents, as necessary, which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN agencies and each implementing partner, as necessary, on the use of resources. To the extent possible, the UN agencies and partners will primarily use the signed UNSDCF and joint/agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNSDCF documents and joint/agency-specific work plans and project documents<sup>48</sup>.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria, and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the International Civil Service Commission circulars).

<sup>47</sup> Joint work plans are part of the UN Development Group Standard Operating Procedures for countries adopting the 'Delivering as One' approach.

<sup>48</sup> In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Cooperating Agency directly responsible for the government's participation in each UNDP-assisted work plan. The reference to 'implementing partner(s)' shall mean 'executing agency(ies)' as used in the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a work plan, a 'principal implementing partner' will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the implementing partners identified in the work plan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the work plan.



## Cash Transfers

All cash transfers to an implementing partner are based on the work plans agreed between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies.

**Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:**

- Cash transferred directly to the implementing partner or to national institutions for forwarding to the implementing partner:
  1. prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer) or
  2. after activities have been completed (reimbursement).
- Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner.
- Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the national institution, the national institution shall transfer such cash promptly to the implementing partner. Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the implementing partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the review findings of the public financial management capacity in the case of a government implementing partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of a non-UN implementing partner. A qualified consultant,

such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the implementing partner participates. The implementing partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, spot checks for expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the implementing partner of the approved amount and shall disburse funds to the implementing partner within the agreed duration.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner, or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN



system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within number of days as agreed by the UN system agencies.

The UN system agencies will not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the implementing partner and a third-party vendor. Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agencies provide cash to the same implementing partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan, will be used by implementing partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The implementing partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The implementing partner shall identify the designated official(s)

authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the implementing partner.

Cash transferred to implementing partners should be spent on designated activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans only. Cash received by the government and national NGO implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and inter-governmental organization implementing





partners, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds.

**To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each implementing partner receiving cash from UN agencies will provide the UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:**

- All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by UN system agency, together with relevant documentation.
- All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the implementing partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

**The findings of each audit will be reported to the implementing partner and the UN system agency. Each implementing partner will furthermore:**

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN system agency that provided cash so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN system agency.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.
- Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The supreme audit institution (SAI) may undertake the audits of government implementing partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific implementing partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services.

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

- Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies.
- Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring.
- Special or scheduled audits wherein each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry), will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

The clauses that follow are applicable to UN agencies that follow Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT). Currently, procedures for the HACT only apply to UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

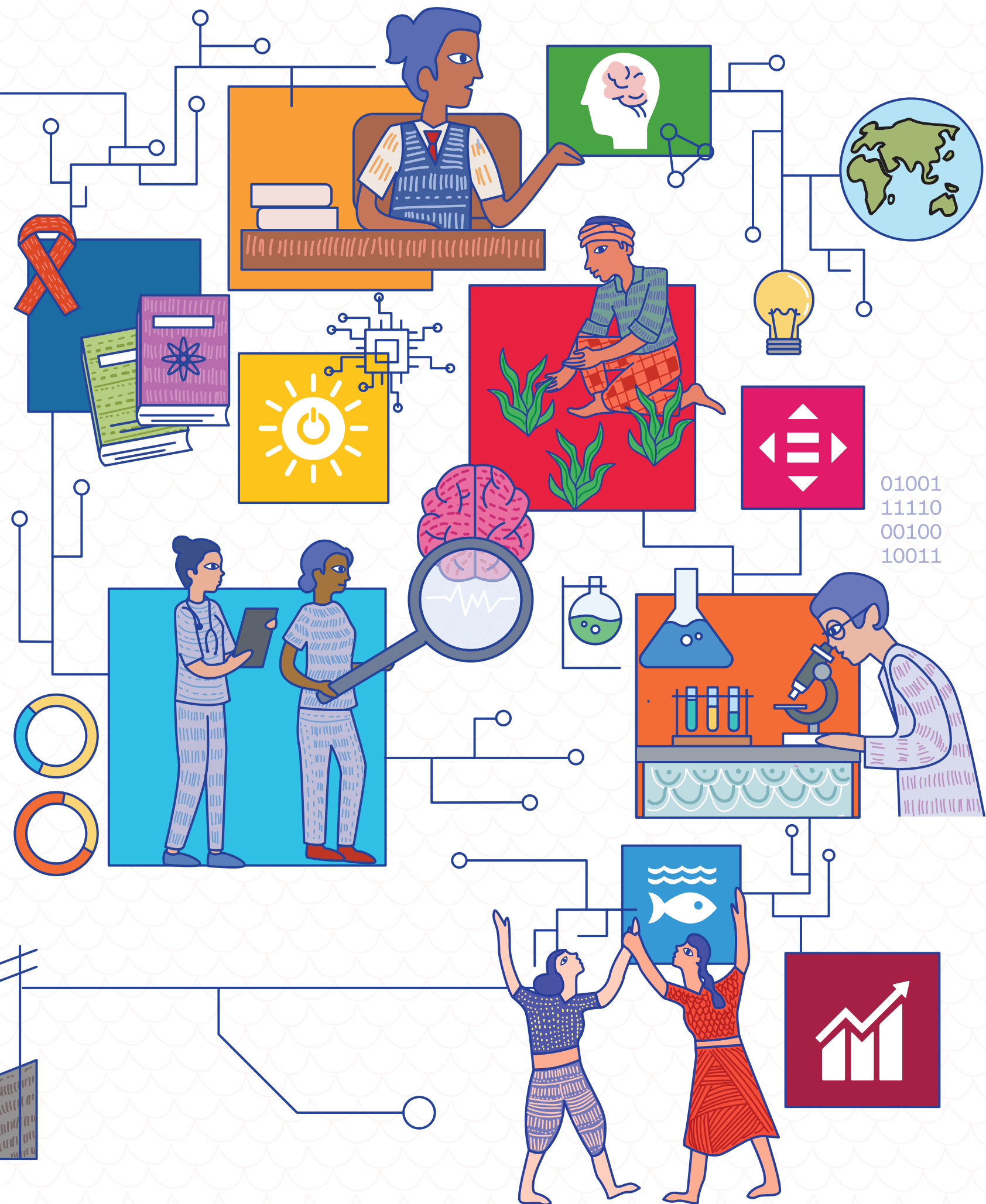


## CHAPTER 4

# COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS UPDATING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLANS









# 4.1: Updating the UN Common Country Analysis

The 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) exercise was a collective UN Country Team (UNCT) exercise with visioning, inputs and drafting shared among UNCT entities (both resident and non-resident). It included a full analysis of India's progress on the SDGs, taking into consideration the government's own assessments of progress, the UN's analysis and inputs and comments from a wide range of multiple external stakeholders as described in Chapters 1 and 2. The process resulted in identifying eight major megatrends affecting India's development, as well as analysis of the financing landscape, persistent and emerging risks, and indicators to monitor the various scenarios explored in the CCA exercise.

The UNCT will revisit the CCA on an annual basis to update the assumptions, megatrends, risks, financing landscape and other relevant considerations, including deepening the analysis as new data and indicators become available. A key aspect of this exercise should be ongoing analysis of the situation of LNOB groups, and the intersectionality of vulnerabilities as identified through the Cooperation Framework (CF) design process (see Box 4.1).



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## Box 4.1: Data Gathering and Analytics on LNOB Groups

For the UNSDCF, the most vulnerable communities identified in consultation with the government and other development partners include, but are not limited to, rural and urban households in extreme poverty; households residing in notified slums and informal settlements; women, children, adolescents and youth; the elderly; persons with disability; key population groups at risk of HIV; Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other minorities and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), sexual minorities; migrants and displaced populations; refugees and asylum seekers; people in prisons; sex workers; drug users; vulnerable occupational groups such as manual scavengers, sanitation workers, pastoralists, small and marginal farmers, forest dwellers, fisher folk, artisans, nano/micro entrepreneurs and workers in the informal sector; and workers who remain outside adequate legal and social protection (e.g., domestic workers, home-based workers, childcare workers and Anganwadi workers).

Many of these different communities and identities overlap and hence, in all data and analytic exercises undertaken to expand the evidence base on these groups, efforts will be made to understand how the intersectionality of these identities can deepen the deprivations faced by the vulnerable communities.



## 4.2: Monitoring Plan

One of the key functions of the Outcome Groups (OGs) and the UNCT will be monitoring the implementation of the UNSDCF through the agreed results framework. An inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Group, comprising M&E focal points of the UN system agencies in India, will be formed to support the OGs and the UNCT. Firmly aligned to national development priorities, national data systems will be extensively used for monitoring the UNSDCF. For monitoring the progress towards UNSDCF outcomes, the UN system will rely primarily on the national statistical system. For monitoring progress on the agreed outputs, the majority of data will come from official sources, while UN system reports will complement monitoring. Additionally, the online tool UNINFO will be used for monitoring progress.

The UN system will also contribute to strengthening the statistical system by building capacities of government and other partners towards improving availability of disaggregated data and the use of technology to support decision making. The Data for

Development Group, and the Data for Development Coordination Forum constituted under a tripartite agreement between the MOSPI, NITI Aayog and the UN, will consider critical data gaps in monitoring the SDGs and collaborate on overcoming them. An important area of work for the UN system continues to be support for the strengthening of national and state level statistical capacity to strengthen data-driven decision making. In line with decentralization and localization efforts, a key aim shall be to facilitate availability of real-time data from lower levels of governance to decision makers. The UN system will partner with the NSO, statistical wings of line ministries and key national partners and provide technical support for strengthening statistical systems that are used for monitoring progress on the SDGs.

The monitoring of all activities supported by cash transfers will have additional components which are elaborated in the section on cash transfers in Chapter 3.

## 4.3: Annual Reviews and Annual Reporting

Progress review of the UNSDCF will be conducted annually through the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, and the UN Resident Coordinator. The annual review will focus on assessing overall progress towards planned results. The annual reviews will also provide a platform for discussing the larger development

landscape, identifying new and emerging opportunities for the UN system's contribution to the government priorities, as well as identifying risks and ways to mitigate them.

The JSC will be attended by the UNCT and representatives of the line ministries. The OGs and the inter-agency M&E Group will support



the UNCT in preparing for the annual reviews. The M&E Group will take the lead to consolidate monitoring information from the OGs and the UNCT for the annual review by the JSC. It will also support preparation of the annual report which will be presented to the JSC.

The annual report will form the basis of the UNCT Country Results Report. It will largely draw on the data available through the government systems and, for a limited number of outputs, on the UN system's reports.

## 4.4: Evaluation Plan

An independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be conducted in its penultimate year. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will inform the formulation of the subsequent GOI-UNSDCF. The evaluation will assess the relevance of the UNSDCF outcomes, and the effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency of the UN's contribution to the UNSDCF. In particular, the evaluation will assess the extent to which UN's support contributed to

strengthening the agenda of gender equality and inclusion. It will ascertain the extent to which the results contributed to the national priorities. The evaluation will be commissioned by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The Terms of Reference for the evaluation will be developed following a consultative and transparent process involving the government counterparts and the UNCT.

## 4.5: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The results and resources matrix of the UNSDCF, 2023-27 cycle informs this costing monitoring and evaluation plan that highlights specific activities to demonstrate progress in the achievement of UNSDCF results over the life of the CF. These measures also facilitate the development of joint work plans to operationalize CF results.



Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Support to national survey and research									
Census	\$25,000	1,2,4,5,6	UNICEF						
	\$215,000	1,3,4,5,6	UNFPA		●	●	●	●	●
	TBD		UN women						
National Family Health Survey	\$25,000	1,2,4,5,6	UNICEF, UNFPA						
National Achievement Survey	\$400,000	3	UNICEF			●			●
Unified District Information System for Education Plus	\$50,000	3	UNICEF		●	●	●	●	●
Support to NITI Aayog & select state governments to monitor SDG, preparation of indices and dashboards	\$150,000	1	UNDP		●	●	●	●	●
Support NITI Aayog and select sState governments on assessments linked to care economy in line with SDG 5 indicators	\$30,000	4,6	ILO		●	●			

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Others (please specify)									
Support to NITI Aayog & and select state governments to monitor SDGs, Preparation of indices, and dashboards	\$400,000	2,5	FAO		●	●	●	●	●
Support to state governments to strengthen monitoring and review of RMNCH+A interventions	\$450,000	1	UNFPA	4.1	●	●	●	●	●
Support to NITI Aayog & and select state governments to monitor SDGs, Preparation of indices, and dashboards	\$100,000	1,2,4,5,6	UNICEF		●	●	●	●	●
Support central line departments and state governments with developing monitoring frameworks, MIS, indices and dashboards	\$100,000	1,2,4,5,6	UNICEF		●	●	●	●	●

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Analyse PLFS unit-level data to bridge data gap on SDG target 8.7	\$20,000	4,6	ILO		●				

Review and Reporting

Evidence gaps on classroom transaction process, effectiveness of online and hybrid learning and children with disabilities	\$150,000	3	UNICEF			●		●	
Measurement of Life Skill Education	\$80,000	3	UNICEF		●	●			
Policy briefs and advocacy notes on various themes	\$60,000	3	UNICEF			●		●	
Support in rolling out of MIS for SHWP program at national and state levels	\$50,000		UNFPA						●
State of the Education Report for India	\$50,000	3	UNESCO		●	●	●		
Review of SBCC campaign	\$40,000	3	UNICEF				●		

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Thematic studies/reviews and publications as relevant (knowledge products)	\$319,000	5	FAO		●	●	●	●	●
Mid-year Review of the Country Strategic Plan	\$150,000	2	WFP	1			●		
Thematic studies/reviews and publications as relevant (knowledge products)	\$160,000	1	UNFPA		●	●	●	●	●
Thematic research and studies to assess the situation of children and inform programme design and adaptation	\$2,000,000	1,2,3,5,6	UNICEF		●	●	●	●	●
Reporting into UN Info	-	All outcome groups, RCO		●	●	●	●	●	●
Results Groups review of progress towards outputs and outcomes.	-	All outcome groups, RCO		●	●	●	●	●	●



Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Cooperation Framework Annual Performance Review.		All outcome groups, RCO		●	●	●	●	●	●
Preparation of UN annual country results report		All outcome groups, RCO		●	●	●	●	●	●
Support for annual national voluntary reviews of progress towards SDGs		All outcome groups, RCO							
Evaluation									
Country Strategic Plan evaluation	\$250,000	2	WFP	1					●
Evaluation of FLN and UNICEF support	\$80,000	3	UNICEF						
Implementation research study and impact assessment of SHWP	\$50,000		UNFPA						
Independent evaluation of the CF	\$10,000	3	UNFPA					●	
Independent evaluation of individual UN entity country programme instruments.								●	

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Independent evaluation of projects reported under the agency CF (consolidated)	\$347,300	2,5	FAO		●			●	●
Independent country programme evaluation	\$50,000	1,4,5,6	UNDP					●	●
Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) led by the UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office									
Evaluation of UNFPA's tenth country programme	\$100,000	1,3,4,5,6	UNFPA					●	
Evaluation of GPECM, Phase 2	\$40,000	6	UNFPA		●				
Independent evaluations of UN joint programmes.	\$40,000	6	UNFPA						
Thematic / Outcome evaluations	\$120,000	1,4,6	UNDP					●	●
Thematic / Outcome evaluations	\$200,000	1,3,6	UNFPA		●	●	●	●	●
Thematic evaluation	\$25,000		UN Women						

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Thematic evaluations- National Evaluation Capacity Development	\$60,000	2	WFP	1		●			
Thematic evaluation Evaluation of rice fortification	\$60,000	2	WFP	1		●			
Thematic evaluation- Evaluation related to school meal programmes	\$30,000	2	WFP	1		●			
Thematic / Outcome Evaluations- Costed Evaluation Plan of 7 evaluations	\$1,050,000	1,2,3,5,6	UNICEF			●	●	●	●
Support NITI Aayog and select state governments to strengthen evaluation capacity (NECD)	\$200,000	1,2,4,5,6	UNICEF		●	●	●	●	●

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Thematic evaluation of project on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (including child labour and forced labour)	\$40,000	4, 6	ILO			●		●	
Learning (Document and collectively analyze lessons emerging throughout programme cycle)									
Good practice documents related to access, learning, governance, education technology and SBCC campaign	\$90,000	3	UNICEF			●		●	
Policy brief/technical paper on care economy work in India at the national and state levels, to raise awareness on care work	\$20,000	4, 6	ILO		●	●			



Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Research, assessments, good practices and lesson learnt documents, mid-term and end-term reviews	TBD		UN Women			●		●	
Policy briefs and advocacy notes on various themes	\$60,000	3	UNICEF			●		●	
Policy briefs on themes related to SDG 4 implementation	\$30,000	3	UNESCO		●	●			
India Wage Report	\$20,000	4, 6	ILO		●				
Employment Report	\$30,000	4, 6	ILO		●				
Organizing national workshops for cross-learning from SHWP implementation across the country	\$50,000		UNFPA						
Documentation of good practices of SHWP	\$30,000		UNFPA						

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Good practices and lesson learnt documents, mid-term reviews, end-term reviews of CPDs not coterminous with the CF	\$110,000	1,3,6	UNFPA				●	●	●
Good practices and lesson learnt documents, mid-term reviews, end-term reviews of CPDs not coterminous with the CF	\$50,000	1,2,3,5,6	UNICEF				●	●	●
Reports and research to determine the steps taken on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration along with reports on diaspora engagement.	\$300,000	4,6	IOM						

Description of Activities	Indicative Cost	Outcome Reference	Contributing UN Agencies	Timeline					
				Duration	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Assessment report of reintegration frameworks for state and/or central governments focusing on migrant workers	\$50,000	4, 6	ILO			●	●		
Total M&E Cost	\$8.1 million								

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Cooperation Framework Results Framework

- Strategic Priority 1—People:**

A society that empowers its marginalized populations and provides sustained access to quality services (health, well-being, nutrition, food security and quality education)
- National development priorities:**
  - Attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all through a preventive and promotive healthcare orientation across all developmental policies, as well as universal access to good quality healthcare services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. This is to be achieved through increasing access, improving quality and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery.<sup>49</sup>
  - Provide for food and nutritional security with a human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to an adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity, including a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children.<sup>50</sup>
  - To have an education system rooted in an Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower.<sup>51</sup>

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SDG targets:**

**Outcome 1:** SDG 1 (no poverty), target 1.3; SDG 3 (good health and well-being), targets 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d; SDG 5 (gender equality), targets 5.1, 5.6; SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), target 10.2

**Outcome 2:** SDG 2 (zero hunger), targets 2.1, 2.2; SDG 5 (gender equality), target 5.1; SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), target 10.2

**Outcome 3:** SDG 4 (quality education), targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5; SDG 5 (gender equality), target 5.1; SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), targets 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8; SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), target 10.2
- Related human rights commitments:** Universal Periodic Review (3rd third cycle, 2017-2022)<sup>52</sup> and UN treaty body recommendations <sup>53</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 'National Health Policy 2017', p.1, Government of India (2017), available at [https://www.nhp.gov.in/nhpfiles/national\\_health\\_policy\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nhp.gov.in/nhpfiles/national_health_policy_2017.pdf).  
<sup>50</sup> National Food Security Act, 2013, available at <https://nfsa.gov.in/portal/NFSA-Act>.  
<sup>51</sup> Ministry of Human Resource Development, National Education Policy 2020, p.6, Government of India (2020), available at [https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/nep//NEP\\_2020.pdf](https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/nep//NEP_2020.pdf).  
<sup>52</sup> UPR - III Cycle Matrix of Recommendations (2017), available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/in-index>  
<sup>53</sup> OUTCOME 1 - UPR - III Cycle (2017) - 161.87, 161.177, 161.179, 161.180, CRC (2014) - Conc. Obs. 66, 68, CERD (2007) - Conc. Obs. 24, CESCR (2008) - 73, Conc. Obs. 77, CRPD (2019) - Conc. Obs. 53, CEDAW (2014) - Conc. Obs. 31. OUTCOME 2 - UPR - III Cycle (2017) - 161.153, 161.154, CESCR (2008) - Conc. Obs 28, CRC (2014) - Conc. Obs. 64. OUTCOME 3 - UPR - III Cycle (2017) - 161.185, CEDAW (2014) - Conc. Obs. 27



Table A1:

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
Outcome 1: By 2027, communities, especially the most disadvantaged, demand for and benefit from an inclusive, universal, affordable, accessible, accountable, and quality health care services, while adopting positive health practices.	Out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure	48.8%	<15.0%	National Health Accounts, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gol and the UN continuing to work closely towards the achievement of the national priorities and the SDGs</li><li>The UN's presence is valued and well recognized at both national and state levels</li><li>National regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks supporting the advancement of universal access to health</li></ul>
	Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel	Urban- 94.0% Rural- 87.8% Total- 89.4%  SC- 88.5% ST- 84.5% OBC- 89.9%  Lowest quintile- 79.3%	Total - 95%	National Family Health Survey (NFHS), National Health Policy (NHP) 2017, and Government reports	
	Percentage of women aged 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey	Urban- 3.8% Rural- 7.9% Total- 6.8%  SC- 7.3% ST- 8.7% OBC- 5.8% Lowest quintile- 10.0%	Total - 5.7%	NFHS-5	
	Percentage of children under the age of three years breastfed within one hour of birth	41.80%	70.0%	NFHS-5	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Percentage of women in the reproductive age group (aged 15-49 years) using modern methods of contraceptives	Urban- 58.5% Rural- 55.5% Total- 56.4%  SC- 57% ST- 55.1% OBC- 56.6% Lowest quintile- 50.7%	66.0%	NFHS-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adequate domestic financing for the social sector post COVID-19 pandemic</li></ul>
	Percentage of children (aged 12-23 months) fully immunized	Girls- 61.9% Boys- 62.1%  Total- 76.4%	90.0% (2025)	NFHS and government reports	
	Percentage of known hypertensive individuals who maintain controlled disease status (controlled blood pressure)	Urban- 11.1% Rural- 13.2%	80.0% (2025)	National NCD Monitoring Survey	
<b>Output 1.1 :</b> Increased government has increased capacity to make public health systems inclusive and of high quality	1.1.1: Number of national and state midwifery training institutes conducting training in line with International Confederation of Midwives Standards	0	10 (Rajasthan, Punjab, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh )	Reports of MoHFW, state governments	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	1.1.2: Percentage of women (aged 15-49 years) attended antenatal care at least four times	Rural- 54.5% Urban- 68.6%  Total- 58.1%	70.0%	NFHS- 5 (2019-21)  Health Management Information System (HMIS)	
	1.1.3: Number of districts implementing school health and wellness program under Ayushman Bharat	36	153	School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP) and other school board MIS.	
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Surveillance, monitoring and treatment systems for communicable diseases is strengthened through adoption of 'One Health' approach	1.2.1: (a) 95% of HIV-positive persons know their status, (b) 95% of those who know their status are on treatment and (c) 95% of those who are on treatment have suppressed viral load	(a) 78.0% (b) 83.0% (c) 85.0% (2020-21)	(a) >=95% (b) 95% (c) 95% (2025-26)	Targets in the National AIDS and STI Control Programme Phase- V (2021-2026). MoV in Status of the National AIDS-STI response 2027 GAM 2027	
	1.2.2: Number of tuberculosis (TB) patients notified	2,135,830 (2020-21)	2,000,000 (2025)	Annual TB Report India National Strategic Plan (2020-2025)	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	1.2.3: Percentage of children (aged 12-23 months) who have received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine	Urban- 87.1% Rural- 88.1%  Total- 87.9%	95%	NFHS- 5, (2019-21)  National MR Strategic Plan	
	1.2.4: Number of districts that institutionalized the real-time digital tracking of routine immunization beneficiary coverage	0	734	MoHFW and CoWIN dashboards	
<b>Output 1.3 :</b> robust multisectoral approach for NCDs is established and implemented	1.3.1: Percentage of known diabetic individuals who maintain controlled disease status (controlled blood glucose level)	Urban- 18.9% Rural- 13.5%	80.0% (2025)	National NCD Monitoring Survey (2017-18) & NFHS-5 (2019-21)  Target Source: National Health Policy, 2017	
<b>Output 1.4:</b> Financing and sustainable business models around health are strengthened	1.4.1: Number of interventions supported through public-private partnerships	0	5	WHO report	



Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Outcome 2:</b> By 2027, all people, including children, women and marginalized populations, have increased access to and consumption of adequate, affordable and diverse nutritious food and quality services year-round	Number of children/ adolescents aged 10-19 years provided four-weekly IFA tablets	Girls- 18.2 million Boys- 14.7 million Total- 32.9 million	Girls- 79 million Boys- 39 million Total- 118 million	Health Management Information System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition and food security remains high on the political agenda of the government</li> <li>GOI-UN partnership remaining strong</li> <li>Adequate financing is available to the government, partners and for the UN nutrition and food security response</li> </ul>
	Number of children aged 0-59 months (0-5 and 6-59 months) affected by severe acute malnutrition who are admitted into treatment	477,000	1,200,000	Poshan tracker and NRC reports as available; state-level data and reports as compiled by UNICEF	
	Number of social safety net beneficiaries with access to fortified staples	226 million	800 million (2024)	Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) dashboard on fortified rice and State DFPD reports	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Price volatility of food commodities (based on global indicator SDG 2.c.1: Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA) )	Rice- 0.19 Wheat- 0.29 Maize- 0.16 Sorghum- 0.51 Pearl Millet - 0.45  Food- 0.05 (2016)	Between - 0.5 and + 0.5 standard deviation s for each commodity (normal value of IFPA reflecting low price volatility) through 2027	Consumer Price Index Data, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	
	Number of states implementing optimized supply chains for public distribution system (PDS)	0 (2022)	28 (2027)	DFPD and State DFPD data	
	Number of states/Union Territories (UTs) piloting innovative warehousing solutions	1 (2022)	28 (2027)	DFPD and Food Corporation of India	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Percentage of biometrically authenticated PDS transactions	TBD	TBD	TBD	
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Stakeholders and systems at national and state levels have increased knowledge and capacities to improve the nutrition content and increase consumption of nutritious and diverse foods as well as access to quality services in institutional settings and at home.	2.1.1: Percentage of population with a hand-washing facility with soap and water available at home	67.8% (NFHS, NSSO, JMP)	78%	NFHS/JMP/NS SO or any other national level survey	
	2.1.2: Number of policymakers, officials and other stakeholders participating in capacity building activities for strengthening programmes on nutrition, diet diversity and food safety	60	TBD	Various annual reports	
	2.1.3: Number of knowledge products and technical solutions developed and disseminated for strengthening ongoing programmes on nutrition, diet diversity and food safety	0	TBD	Various annual reports	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	2.1.4: Number of states producing an annual report documenting progress on key state-level performance indicators in nutrition programming	TBD	TBD	State annual reports	
	2.1.5: Number of districts implementing programmes for community-based management of early growth faltering (outpatient management of acute malnutrition in infants) of children <6 months	0	TBD	Various state reports	
	2.1.6: Number of districts implementing programmes for community-based management of children aged 6–59 months with acute malnutrition	TBD	TBD	Various state reports	



Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	2.1.7: Percentage of districts in supported states reporting zero monthly stock-out of IFA blue tablets in all 12 months during the year	TBD	TBD	Anaemia Mukd Bharat Dashboard	
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Government and other stakeholders have enhanced capacity to ensure availability of diverse and nutritious food through resilient food systems.	2.2.1: Number of knowledge products and technical solutions developed and disseminated (supply chain, warehousing, nutrition sensitive agriculture, and monitoring)	0	TBD	Various annual reports	
	2.2.2: Number of policymakers, officials, and other stakeholders participating in capacity building activities (supply chain, warehousing, nutrition sensitive agriculture, and monitoring)	0	TBD	Various annual reports	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Outcome 3:</b> By 2027, all children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, have equitable access to quality learning and skills development within safe and inclusive education environments	Percentage of new admissions of students in class 1 who have pre-school experience	Girls- 51.1% Boys- 50.9%  Total- 51.0%	Girls- 62.1% Boys- 61.9%  Total - 62.0%	Unified District Information System for Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education remains a high priority for the government</li> <li>The UN continues to leverage its partnership with the government at various levels</li> </ul>
	Percentage of students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 achieving at least minimum proficiency level	Grade 3 Girls- 40.0% Boys- 37.0%  ST- 35.0% SC- 39.0% OBC- 38.0%  Rural- 39.0% Urban- 38.0%  Total- 39.0%	Grade 3 Girls - 50.0% Boys - 47.0%  ST - 47.0% SC - 51.0% OBC - 48.0%  Rural - 49.0% Urban - 48.0%  Total - 49.0%	Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education reports	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Language	Grade 5 Girls - 44.0% Boys - 39.0%  ST- 37.0% SC- 39.0% OBC - 39.0%  Urban - 43.0% Rural - 41.0%  Total - 42.0%	Grade 5 Girls - 54.0% Boys - 49%  ST- 49.0% SC- 51.0% OBC - 49.0%  Urban - 52.0% Rural - 52.0%  Total - 52.0%		
		Grade 8 Girls - 39.0% Boys - 37.0%  ST - 32.0% SC - 34.0% OBC - 40.0%  Urban - 41.0% Rural - 37.0%  Total - 38.0%	Grade 8 Girls - 51.0% Boys - 49.0%  ST- 46.0% SC- 48.0% OBC - 52.0%  Urban - 52.0% Rural - 50.0%  Total - 50.0%		

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Mathematics	Grade 5 Girls - 44.0% Boys - 39.0%  ST - 37.0% SC - 39.0% OBC - 39.0%  Urban - 43.0% Rural - 41.0%  Total - 42.0%	Grade 5 Girls - 54.0% Boys - 49.0%  ST - 49.0% SC - 51.0% OBC - 49.0%  Urban - 52.0% Rural - 52.0%  Total - 52.0%		
		Grade 8 Girls - 40.0% Boys - 39.0%  ST - 37.0% SC - 35.0% OBC - 43.0%  Urban - 32.0% Rural - 42.0%  Total - 40.0%	Grade 8 Girls - 52.0% Boys - 51.0%  ST - 51.0% SC - 49.0% OBC - 55.0%  Urban - 43.0% Rural - 55.0%  Total - 52.0%		



Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Age-specific attendance rate (in percentage)	Girls- 93.9% Boys- 94.4%	Girls - 96.4% Boys - 96.9%		
	Elementary (aged 6-13 years)	ST - 91.1% SC - 93.1% OBC - 94.6% Mus - 94.9%	ST - 96.1% SC - 98.1% OBC - 95.1% Mus - 97.4%		
		Urban - 95.7% Rural - 93.6%	Urban - 98.2% Rural - 96.1%		
		Q1 - 88.1% Q5 - 98.2%	Q1 - 91.1% Q5 - 98.6%		
		Total - 94.2%	Total - 96.7%		
	Secondary (aged 14-17 years)	Girls- 72.0% Boys - 75.6%	Girls- 77.0% Boys- 80.6%		
		ST - 62.3% SC - 69.8% OBC - 75.1% Mus - 63.9%	ST - 66.3% SC - 73.8% OBC - 80.1% Mus - 67.9%		
		Urban - 80.5% Rural - 71.0%	Urban - 84.5% Rural - 77.0%		
		Q1 - 56.0% Q5 - 91.4%	Q1 - 60.0% Q5 - 95.4%		
		Total - 73.8%	Total - 78.8%		

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	Gross enrolment ratio in higher education	Girls - 27.3% Boys - 26.9%	Girls - 50.0% Boys - 45.0%		
		SC - 23.4% ST - 18.0%	SC- 25.4% ST- 20.0%		
		Total - 27.0%	Total - 37.0%		
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Capacity of government is enhanced for evidence-based planning and implementation of programmes for equitable quality learning and skill development (including 21st century and life skills)	3.1.1: Number of states using MIS data to develop annual plans and conduct biannual reviews to implement 21st century and life skills education programmes	0	13	District reports, Samagra programme, MoE	
	3.1.2: Number of states with evidence-based education plans that include interventions to improve access and learning for vulnerable children	0	17	Analytical reports/resource materials prepared by UNICEF to support Samagra plans; Project Approval Board (PAB) minutes of Samagra	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Capacity of government is enhanced for equitable access to quality learning and skill development (including 21st century and life skills) for children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable	3.2.1: Number of states delivering quality early childhood education in pre-schools (including Aanganwadi centres)	0	14	Monitoring/assessment reports from UNICEF state offices, including reference documents of the government, ECCE curriculum, learning materials, AWW/teacher handbook/guide, quality assessment tools, training modules and online courses for AWW and teachers, ICDS functionaries, government order on quality standard for ECCE, communication materials for monthly counselling sessions for parents	

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	3.2.2: Number of states delivering quality foundational learning in early grades in schools	0	14	Monitoring/assessment reports from UNICEF state offices, including reference documents of the government such as link to monitoring dashboard of FLN, links to teacher handbooks/guide; partner reports; data of teachers and academic resources completing training from online portals; documentation of community level activities	
	3.2.3: Number of districts that offer age-appropriate, gender-transformative 21 <sup>st</sup> century and life skills in schools in line with international guidelines <sup>54</sup>	192	288	HMIS	

<sup>54</sup> Certification that a district is implementing life skills education will be done by the Department of Education based on implementation in more than 50 percent of schools in the district



Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
	3.2.4: Number of refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in primary and secondary education	6000	9000	Various annual reports, factsheets	
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Access to and demand for quality tertiary education is improved	3.3.1: Number of refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in tertiary education	100	400	Various annual reports, factsheets	
	3.3.2: Percentage of boys and girls in tertiary education who are mobile and receiving quality tertiary education through and in international institutions	Girls – 42.5% Boys – 57%  Total – 57%	Girls – 52.5% Boys – 67%  Total – 67%	All India Survey of Higher Education Report	

### Strategic Priority 2—Prosperity:

An economy that is equipped with the skills, technology and an enabling environment for realizing the demographic dividend

### National development priorities:

1. To create an ecosystem of empowerment by skilling on a large scale at speed with high standards and to promote a culture of innovation-based entrepreneurship which can generate wealth and employment to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all citizens in the country.<sup>55</sup>
2. To enable sustained participation of women in the labour market and strategies for the promotion of women's participation in remunerative, productive and decent work.<sup>56</sup>
3. To improve the livelihoods of workers engaged in the informal economy and to facilitate their transition to the formal economy while at the same time enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of enterprises.<sup>57</sup>
4. To generate adequate decent and productive job opportunities, fair wages and adequate social protection systems for all, including social protection floors.<sup>58</sup>

### SDGs and SDG targets:

SDG 1 (no poverty), target 1.3; SDG 4 (quality education), targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5; SDG 5 (gender equality), targets 5.1, 5a; SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), targets 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8; SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), target 9.3; SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), targets 10.2, 10.4, 10.7

**Related human rights commitments:** Universal Periodic Review (third cycle, 2017–20223rd cycle) and UN treaty body recommendations

<sup>55</sup> Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 'National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015', p.11, Government of India.

<sup>56</sup> Ministry of Labour and Employment, 'BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration, 2021', p.3, Government of India, available at <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-28.pdf>.

<sup>57</sup> Ministry of Labour and Employment, 'BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration, 2016', p.3, Government of India, available at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_529515.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_529515.pdf).

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

UPR recommendations – III Cycle (2017) – 161.27, 161.38, 161.90, 161.160, 161.168, 161.174, 161.245, 161.237, CEDAW (2014) – Conc. Obs. 29, CRC (2014) – Conc. Obs. 30, 82, CRPD (2019) – Conc. Obs. 57, CERD (2007) – Conc. Obs. 23, CESCR (2008) – 29, 57, 64, SR Toxics (2010) – IV. Conclusions and Recommendations – 103, SR on Toxics (2010) – IV. Conclusions and Recommendations – 103

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Outcome 4:</b> By 2027, people will benefit from and contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth through higher productivity, competitiveness and diversification in economic activities that create decent work, livelihoods and income, particularly for youth and women	Unemployment rate by age and sex (total- aged 15+, male, female, total aged 15 - 29 years)	4.8%, 5.1%, 4.2%, 15.0%  (2020)	3.8% 4.6% 3.7% 9.3%	Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), National Sample Survey (NSS), National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing commitment of the government and other stakeholders to UN India's contribution to the outcome, with policy financial support,</li> <li>An enabling environment for marginalized and vulnerable working populations for equitable access to employment, education and opportunities</li> <li>Willingness of partners to form alliances and collaborate with each other, aligning themselves with the priorities of different partners</li> </ul>
	Percentage of workers in informal sector among total workers engaged in non-agriculture sector (total, male, female)	69.5%, 72.9%, 56.5%,  (2020)	59.5% 62.4% 56.5%	PLFS, ILOSTAT	
	Manufacturing Value-Added (MVA) as share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	15.6% (2020)	20%	National Accounts Division, NSO, MoSPI	

	Ratio of female Labour Force Participation Ratio (LFPR) to male LFPR	0.4	1	PLFS, NSS, NSO, MoSPI	
	Proportion of regular wage/salaried employees in the non-agricultural sector with social security benefits	46.8%  (2020)	56.80%	PLFS, NSS, NSO, MoSPI	
<b>Output 4.1:</b> All employable persons have equitable opportunities to enhance skills and access to decent work and livelihoods through lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, social protection and equality at work.	4.1.1: Number of national- and state-level strategies developed and implemented on the demographic dividend	0	5	National-/ State-level strategy documents developed on the demographic dividend	
	4.1.2: Number of individuals equipped with employable skills and supported with finance, market access and linkages to schemes for enhanced access to livelihood and volunteerism opportunities	0.23 million  2.4 million  1.3 million  Baseline for migrant worker TBD	0.55 million (50% women)  40 million  15 million  100,000 migrant workers	External evaluation report and programme MIS; YuWaah MIS dashboard	



	4.1.3: Number of persons benefiting from social protection schemes, other inclusive development schemes and enabling legislations	0.48 million	1 million (50% women)	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	
	4.1.4: Number of initiatives taken by the state governments to establish a sustainable information assistance framework for ISMW to ensure safety and equality at the workplace	0	500,000 migrant workers	Various Programme Progress Reports	

<b>Output 4.2:</b> All enterprises, particularly MSMEs, cooperatives and self-help groups, have access to appropriate business development services and innovations to enhance productivity and working conditions, along with inclusive growth for sustainable and resilient value chains, and are able to attract private investment to accelerate income generation and create quality jobs and livelihoods.	4.2.1: Number of (or percentage of) successful participants of at least one capacity-building programme <sup>59</sup> that enhanced their productivity and working conditions through e-commerce and digital markets, using improvements in at least one of the following aspects (disaggregated by gender)	TBD	TBD	TBD	
	4.2.2: Number of new government, industry or collaborative interventions that contribute specifically to the formalization and professionalization of the ecosystem for delivery of high-quality business development services	n/a	5	Policy and scheme documents particularly of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and other line ministries	

<sup>59</sup> Capacity-building programmes include increase in digital, financial or managerial knowledge (capacity); use of online platforms and e-commerce for new employment and entrepreneurship; opportunities; expanding business through the use of digital markets or e-commerce; improvements in the quality of existing business or expanding the existing business for MSMEs; access to market networking opportunities in the field of e-commerce

	4.2.3: Number of new, specific and comprehensive value chain development programmes or initiatives implemented	n/a	15	Various Programme progress reports	
	4.2.4: Number of individuals trained in businesses and its supply chains to comply with ethical and responsible business practices	0	5,000	External evaluation reports and programme MIS	
<b>Output 4.3:</b> Policies, institutions and enabling environment updated to catalyse innovation and digitalization, and job-rich, low carbon economic growth to foster broad-based socio-economic development.	4.3.1: Updated national policy on skills development and entrepreneurship in place	0	Yes	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GoI, policy documents	
	4.3.2: Number of states operationalising the updated National Policy for skills development and entrepreneurship	0	5	Various state governments reports	

	4.3.3: Updated national manufacturing innovation strategy/action plan in place and under implementation	0	1	Department of Science and Technology; Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	
<b>Strategic Priority 3—Planet:</b> An cleaner environment that benefits from green development, climate action, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, along with universal access to clean drinking water and sanitation and improved resilience					
<b>National development priorities:</b> 'Panchamrit' Declaration, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Action Plan on Climate Change, India's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy, Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission as well as commitments under multilateral environmental agreements including United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction					
<b>SDGs and SDG targets:</b> SDG 1 (no poverty), target 1.5; SDG 2 (zero hunger), target 2.4; SDG 3 (good health and well-being), target 3.9; SDG 5 (gender equality), target 5.1; SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6, 6b; SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3; SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), targets 8.4; 8.9; SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), target 9.4; SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), targets 11.5, 11.6, 11.a, 11.b; SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.7 12.8; SDG 13 (climate action), targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3; SDG 14 (life below water), target 14.2; SDG 15 (life on land), targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9					
<b>Related human rights commitments:</b> Universal Periodic Review (third cycle, 2017-2022) and UN treaty body recommendations <sup>60</sup>					

<sup>60</sup> UPR – III Cycle (2017) – 161.92, 161.93, 161.94, 161.155, 161.170, 161.185, SR on Water and Sanitation (2018) – V. Recommendations – 71, 99 CEDAW (2014) – Conc. Obs. 33, CRC (2014) – Conc. Obs. 64, CESCR (2008) – Conc. Obs. 31, 74, CERD (2007) – Conc. Obs. 24, SR on Toxics (2010) – IV. Conclusions and Recommendations – 89, 92, 100, 102, 103



Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Outcome 5:</b> By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, the private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans	Reduction in emission intensity of the GDP	2005 levels	Reduced by 45%, by 2030 below 2005 levels  (by 2030)	Various government reports; biennial update; transparency reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government's continuing commitment to climate change agenda and the transition that is necessary</li><li>Continuing financing and the willingness of all the partners, including the private sector and communities, for adopting sustainable practices</li></ul>
	Restoration of degraded land (hectares)	Approx. 9.8 million ha restored  (2015) <sup>61</sup>	26 million hectares  (by 2030)	Various government reports	
	Reduction in air pollution	2017 levels	Reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by 20-30% by 2024, relative to 2017 level	Various government reports	
	Reduction in plastic pollution	TBD	100% compliance with regulation on single-use plastic products	Various government reports	

<sup>61</sup> estimated baseline as per Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Bonn challenge report, prepared by IUCN

	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	46.0%	100% (according to government commitment via Swachh Bharat Mission [SBM] by 2024)	Joint Monitoring Report for WASH	
	Proportion of population using a safely managed drinking water service at community level (rural)	50.1% (May 2022)	100% (according to government commitment via JJM by 2024)	NFHS; household surveys; sector MIS	
	Area under sustainable agriculture	TBD	TBD	Various government reports	

<b>Output 5.1:</b> Mainstreamed climate change, adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across sectors (urban, peri-urban and rural)	5.1.1: Number of ministries supported to develop/implement climate- and gender-responsive strategies and interventions through technical guidance and capability (system) for achieving national priorities and global commitments under MEAs (global, national, sub-national level) in the areas of climate change, adaptation, and DRR	9 <sup>62</sup>	13 <sup>63</sup>	Various government reports	
	5.1.2: Number of state governments /UT administrations supported to develop/implement climate- and gender-responsive as well as disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and interventions,	17 <sup>64</sup>	TBD	Various government reports	

<sup>62</sup> ministries: Environment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Urban Development, Panchayati Raj, Jal Shakti, Health, Education and Home Affairs.

<sup>63</sup> Additional Ministries: Tourism, Youth Affairs and Sport, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Tribal Affairs.

<sup>64</sup> Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal (WB), Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (AP), Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu (TN), Bihar and Kerala.

	and capacity (system) development for achieving national priorities and global commitments made by the government (global, national, sub-national level)				
	5.1.3: Number of multi-stakeholder/inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms/platforms (including the government) to advance coordinated action on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response in all contexts (conflict, climate change included)	1 <sup>65</sup>	6 <sup>66</sup>	Various Government reports	

<sup>65</sup> Environment and Health Steering Committee

<sup>66</sup> Additional sectors: WASH, Nutrition, Health, Education, Child Protection, Social Protection, 1+1-Air Quality Action Forum.



<b>Output 5.2:</b> Mainstreamed climate mitigation approaches in socio-economic development strategies and sectors	5.2.1: Number of ministries supported to develop/implement climate- and gender-responsive strategies and interventions through technical guidance and capability (system) for achieving national priorities and global commitments under MEAs (global, national, sub-national level) in climate mitigation approaches in socio-economic development strategies and sectors	11 <sup>67</sup>	11	Various government reports	
	5.2.2: Number of state governments/ UT administrations supported to develop/implement climate- and gender-responsive strategies	3 <sup>68</sup>	TBD	Various government reports	

<sup>67</sup> Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

<sup>68</sup> Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand.

	and interventions and capacity (system) development for achieving national priorities and global commitments made by the government (global, national, sub-national level) in climate mitigation approaches in socio-economic development strategies and sectors				
	5.2.3: Number of low carbon and resource efficient innovations identified, promoted and supported for implementation	50	120	Investors and market reports	

<b>Output 5.3:</b> Scaled-up approaches, actions and capacities to abate and manage pollution and waste (air, plastic, marine litter, bio-medical, electronic)	5.3.1: Number of interventions (strategies, policies, action plans, government reports, etc.) that supported pollution control and waste management at the national/sub-national level	1 <sup>77</sup>	5 <sup>78</sup>	Various government reports	
	5.3.2: Amount of chemicals reduced, disposed or avoided (metric tons)	HCFC phase-out – 965 MT (60.0% reduction from baseline)  DDT reduction – 1000 MT	hcfc: 1085.5 MT (67.5% reduction from baseline)D-DT: 1568 MT (97.5% reduction from baseline)	Various government reports	
	5.3.3: Number of youth-led action-based interventions	TTC – 10	20	Various government reports	
<b>Output 5.4:</b> Enhanced circularity and resource efficiency across sectors	5.4.1: Amount of waste channelled into circular economy	158,517 tons	250,000 tons	Various government reports	

	5.4.2: Number of interventions (strategies, policies, action plans, government reports, etc.) that supported pollution control and waste management at the national/sub-national level for enhanced circularity and resource efficiency	baseline)  DDT reduction :- 1000 mt tonnes MT	- 1568 MT (97.5% reduction from baseline) (UNDP)		
<b>Output 5.4:</b> Enhanced Circularity circularity & andR resource Efficiency efficiency across sectorS	5.4.1: Amount of waste channelled into circular economy	158,517 tons	250,000 tons	Government reports	
	5.4.2.: Number of interventions (strategies, policies, action plans/ , government reports, etc.) that supported dealing with pollution control and waste management at the Nnational/sub-national level	1 <sup>69</sup>	6 <sup>70</sup>	Various government reports	

<sup>69</sup> Roadmap for circularity in the textile cluster

<sup>70</sup> additional: Circularity roadmap for Angul district; Sustainable Public Procurement criteria developed for two products; eco-labelling criteria developed for one product; circularity/sustainability approach paper for Ministry of Rural Development.



<b>Output 5.5:</b> Supported conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration	5.5.1: Number of technologies and ecosystem-based solutions developed and upscaled for sustainable management of ecosystems and restoration of degraded ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal, marine, pasturelands and agricultural lands)	10	Total: - 42	Annual agency reports	
	5.5.2: Hectares of terrestrial, coastal, marine, pasturelands and agricultural lands protected and/or restored through improved management practices	1 million hectares	25.0% increase in land restored from baseline	Various government reports	
	5.5.3: Number of policies and interventions (strategies,	0	1	Various government reports	

	road map, etc.) developed to support the achievement of national restoration target (26 million hectare by 2030)				
<b>Output 5.6:</b> Supported measures for improved productivity, sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems	5.6.1: Number of technical solutions and policy interventions for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems developed and disseminated	0	45	Annual agency reports; half-yearly and annual project reports	
	5.6.2: Number of additional policymakers, officials and practitioners, including capacity-building of farmers' for strengthening sustainable and resilient agri-food systems	Policy makers and officials - 0  Practitioners - 0  (Female practitioners - 0 Youth - 0 Tribal male and female practitioners - 0)	Additional policymakers and officials - 210  Total practitioners - 390,724  (Female practitioners - TBD, but at least 30% of total practitioners; Youth practitioners-TBD Tribal male and female practitioners 70	Annual agency reports; half-yearly and annual project reports	

<b>Output 5.7:</b> Strengthened climate-resilient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services with focus on the most vulnerable including children	5.7.1: Number of State Annual Implementation Plans for Sanitation (Swachh Bharat Mission/ Open Defecation Free Plus etc.), with selected components focusing on equity, climate resilience and environmental sustainability reaching 80% achievement rate	0	60	State-level UNICEF dashboards	
	5.7.2: Number of State Annual Implementation Plans for Jal Jeevan Mission (water supply) with selected components focusing on equity, climate resilience, operations and maintenance, and sustainability reaching 80% achievement rate	0	75	State -level UNICEF dashboards	

	5.7.3: Number of State Annual Implementation Plans on WASH in Schools with selected components focusing on equity, climate resilience, WASH, system strengthening, advocacy and partnerships reaching 80% achievement rate	0	60	State-level UNICEF dashboards	
	5.7.4: Number of supported states building plans implementing WASH capacity with components on social and behaviour change, communication skills enhancement, including climate and environment priorities of government and partners, reaching 80% achievement rates	0	60	State-level UNICEF dashboards	



**Strategic Priority 4—Participation:**

Inclusive communities and institutions that nurtures diversity and represents all, leaving no one behind

**National development priorities:**

Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Juvenile Justice Act, Childline, Rastriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, Localisation of the SDGs with LNOB focus, Gender responsive governance, Partnerships on Data for Development, National AIDS Control programme (phase 5), South-South and triangular cooperation and youth engagement in development

**SDGs and SDG targets:**

SDG 1 (no poverty), target 1.3; SDG 5 (gender equality), targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.5; SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), target 10.2; SDG 11 (sustainable cities), targets 11.3, 11.a; SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), targets 16.2, 16.6, 16.a; SDG 17 (partnerships), target 17.6

**Related Human Rights Commitments:** Universal Periodic Review (third cycle, 2017-2022) and UN treaty body recommendations<sup>71</sup>

Results	National SDG Indicators/ Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target (Duration of CF)	Source/MoV	Assumption Statement
<b>Outcome 6:</b> By 2027, a strengthened and more coordinated, inclusive and accountable governance system is in place at the national and local levels enabling all people, especially most marginalized and vulnerable, to be protected, empowered, engaged and enjoy human rights and social justice, and lead their lives with respect and dignity.	Number of states that mainstream and institutionalize SDGs into - (a) State/UT budgets (b) Gender budget (c) Child budget	(a) 15 states (b) 8 states (c) 8 states	(a) 28 states (b) 12 states (c) 12 states	Central and state budget reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government's continuing commitment to accountable governance systems, SDG localization and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.</li><li>Continuing financing and the willingness of all the partners, including the private sector and communities.</li></ul>
	National reforms action plan on SDGs developed and implemented	0	1	NITI Aayog	
	Percentage of ever-married women aged 18-49 years who have ever experienced spousal physical or sexual violence, including SC/ST/OBC/ adolescents	Women - 29.2% Adolescents - 20.9%  SC - 34.7% ST - 31.8% OBC - 30.2%	Ever married women - 25% Adolescents - 16.9%  SC - 28.7% ST - 28.2% OBC - 25.2%	NFHS and government reports	

<sup>71</sup> UPR - III Cycle (2017) - 161.27, 161.32, 161.38, 161.102, 161.103, 161.153, 161.154, 161.168,161.170, 161.179, 161.180, 161.185, 161.195, 161.205, 161.237, CESCR (2008) Conc. Obs.57, 69, 73, 74, CERD (2007) - Conc. Obs. 19,20,24 CESCR (2008) - Conc. Obs. 28, 52, 58, 64, 77, CEDAW (2014) - Conc. Obs. 23, 27, 29, 31, 33, 47, 64, CRC (2014) - Conc. Obs. 30, 52, 64,66, 68, 78, CRPD (2019) - Conc. Obs. 53, 57, 59, SR on violence against women (2014) - V. Conclusions and Recommendations - 78, 80 SR on Adequate Housing (2017) - VI. Recommendations - 85

	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years married or in a union before age 18 years, including SC/ST/OBC	Women - 23.3%  SC - 24.9% ST - 25.8% OBC - 20.9%	Women - 19.8%  SC - 23.0% ST - 21.8% OBC - 18.9%	NFHS and government reports	
	Sex ratio at birth	904	909	Sample registration system	
<b>Output 6.1:</b> By 2027, SDG localization processes and systems are strengthened and administration of public services, including public finance and local governance, are more accountable to respond to vulnerable groups including women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities	6.1.1: Number of states and cities where quality instruments on SDG localization and sustainable finance are in place and functioning	States: 0 cities: 0	States: 15 cities: 15 <sup>72</sup>	Various state government reports	

<sup>72</sup> Karnataka, MP, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, AP, Jharkhand, WB, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, TN and Kerala for UNICEF and Haryana, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.

(PwDs), persons living with HIV (PLHIVs), Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), refugees and other marginalized groups	6.1.2: Number of states and cities where UN-supported evidence/knowledge products developed in partnership with states and cities to strengthen social sector budgets and urban open space programmes including SDG acceleration and sustainable financing, for greater and better outcomes for children,youth, women and other vulnerable groups, including in humanitarian contexts	States: 1 cities: 0	States: 12 cities: 15 <sup>73</sup>	Planning and finance departments reports	
	6.1.3: Number of states supported to design and implement policies to deliver development programmes to marginalized populations (PLHIVs, sexual minorities, prisoners, women and girls)	5	15	Various state government reports	

<sup>73</sup> Karnataka, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, WB, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, TN, Kerala, Odisha and Haryana.



<b>Output 6.2:</b> Comprehensive policies and programmes on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), especially for women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, (PwDs), PLHIVs, SCs and STs, refugees and other marginalized groups, are in place and effectively implemented for full enjoyment of their social, political and economic rights	6.2.2: Number of states where multisectoral coordination mechanisms (Outcome Standing Committee, health sector response to GBV and judiciary) are strengthened with support of the UN to address GBV, including during disasters and health emergencies	0	8	Qualitative review of SoPs, protocols, training modules by UNFPA, UN Women, IOM	
	6.2.2: Number of states where multisectoral coordination mechanisms (Outcome Standing Committee, health sector response to GBV and judiciary) are strengthened with support of the UN to address GBV, including during disasters and health emergencies	0	8	Qualitative review of SoPs, protocols, training modules by UNFPA, UN Women, IOM	

<b>Output 6.3:</b> Children, adolescent, youth and other vulnerable groups, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, have increased equitable access to opportunities for participation, inclusion and to justice and protection services	6.3.1: Number of adolescents and youth who participate in civic engagement and other participatory interventions to promote positive gender norms, prevent child marriage and other harmful practices	5.2 million	TBD	Progress reports of UN implementing partners, Disaster Management Information System	
	6.3.2: Number children, adolescents, parents, and caregivers provided with community- and facility-based mental health and psychosocial support services	1.8 million	TBD	Progress reports of UN implementing partners	
	6.3.3: Number of children reunified with their families or placed in family-based alternative care	0.2 million	TBD	Progress reports of UN implementing partners	

<b>Output 6.4:</b> Improved policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, resources and capacities for age- sensitive, gender-transfo rnative and inclusive social protection services are in place	6.4.1: Number of states that develop and/or implement social protection programmes and policies with the support of the UN that are gender transformative , shock responsive and disability inclusive	4	TBD	TBD	
<b>Output 6.5:</b> Data and knowledge generation and sharing at national and sub-national levels, especially on vulnerable groups including women and children, migrants, sexual minorities, PwDs, PLHIVs, SCs and STs and other marginalized groups	6.5.1: Number of government data systems (NSSO, NFHS, Census, etc.) that address the data gaps through UN technical support	0	15	Review of government resources	

<b>Output 6.6:</b> India's experience and best practices are shared and international technical cooperation facilitated to foster regional and global development	6.6.1: Number of partnerships, initiatives and mechanisms established at national/ sub-national/ regional/triang ular levels in India with other countries	0	6	UN South-South Cooperation and inter-state technical cooperation reports	
	6.6.2: Number of initiatives and good practices codified and showcased internationally during the CF cycle, facilitated by the UN	0	TBD	Reports by the UN and partners	
	6.6.3: Number of initiatives aimed at improved protection support to vulnerable Indian migrants	0	2	Various progress reports	

abbreviations: AWW, Aanganwadi worker; CF, Cooperation Framework; DDT, Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane; ECCE, Early Childhood, Care and Education; FLN, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy; HCFC, Hydrochlorofluorocarbon; ICDS, Integrated Child Development Services; IFA, Iron Folic Acid; IOM, International Organization of Migration; MIS, Management Information System; MSME, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; NCD, non-communicable diseases; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; ;



## Annex 2: Legal Annex

1. Whereas the Government of India (the 'Government') has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system ('UN System Organizations'), which are applicable to their programme activities in India (the 'UN Agreements') under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the 'Cooperation Framework');

2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the 'General Convention') and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the 'Specialized Agencies Convention') as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:

- With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and the United Nations Special Fund, which is one of the predecessor legal entities of UNDP (the 'Basic Agreement') on 20 October 1959. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint Outcome Group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a 'project document' as referred to in the Basic Agreement plus supplemental provisions to the project document. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
- With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 10 May 1949 and revised on 5 April 1978.
- With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the provisions of the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations apply to the personnel, activities, property and assets of the UNHCR Office in India
- With the World Food Programme (WFP), a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the WFP, which was signed by the Government and WFP on 16th of July 1968.

- With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), administration/operations are derived and implemented by UNDP—ensuring coverage and extension to UNFPA, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations [Act No. 46 of 1947] and other derivatives thereof which may be country specific.
- With UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Revised Standard Technical Assistance Agreement, concluded between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and the Government on 31 August 1956 and as amended on 3 October 1963.
- With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an agreement through Exchange of Letters between FAO and the Government of India for the establishment of the FAO Representation in India signed by FAO on 30 November 1976 and 30 March 1977 and by the Government of India on 26 February 1977 and 18 March 1977.
- With Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of India relating to the establishment of the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia of the United Nations ESCAP was signed on 13 March 2012 and the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of India regarding the Headquarters of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Transfer of Technology was signed on 7 April 1994.
- With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Host Country Agreement between the Government and IFAD signed on 3 April 2014.
- With the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Decent Work Country Programme for India (2023-2027) signed by the Government (the Ministry of Labour and Employment), the employers' organizations and the workers' organizations.
- With UN Women, the Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Special Fund on [1959] (the 'Basic Agreement') mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UN WOMEN.
- With the World Health Organization (WHO), a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance signed by the Government and WHO in 1952.
- With United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Host Country Agreement between the Government of India and UNEP signed on 10 November 2021.
- With United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Host Country Agreement between the Government of India and UNESCO signed on 21 September 2009.
- With the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Host Country Agreement between the Government and ITU signed on 3 March 2022.

- With the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and UN-HABITAT signed on 7 March 1991.
  - With the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), administration/operations are derived and implemented through two agencies, namely, (a) UNDP – ensuring the coverage and extension to UNAIDS the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations [Act No. 46 of 1947] and other derivatives thereof which may be country specific and; (b) WHO – the business processes including but not limited to accounts, finance, human resource management, business operating suites and systems.
  - With the United Nations Office for Drug Control (UNODC), administration/operations are derived and implemented through UNDP, ensuring the coverage and extension to UNODC, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations [Act No. 46 of 1947] and other derivatives thereof which may be country specific.
  - With United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the provisions of the United Nations Act of 1947 with the Government to give effect to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations apply.
  - With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Host Country Agreement is under discussion with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
  - With the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), the Government of India accepted the proposal of the UN Secretary General dated 10 April 2019, addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, on the establishment of a separate legal framework between the RCO and the Government of India, with the Special Fund Agreement that was concluded between UNDP and India on 20 October, 1959, to apply mutatis mutandis to the UN Resident Coordinator and members of his office.
3. With respect to all UN System Organizations: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules and procedures of each UN System Organization.
4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:
- apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and
  - accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization the privileges, immunities and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.
5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.
7. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials or persons performing services.
8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:
- a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization or
  - the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework,

whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.



# Annex 3: United Nations Country Team Configuration

Present in the country since pre-Independence, the UN enjoys public support and is a trusted partner of the GOI, as well as private organizations, institutions and businesses that have a bearing on the future of the most vulnerable people in India.

The GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 comes at a critical juncture for the country’s progress as it emerges from pandemic, while facing the triple planetary crisis, and a limited window of opportunity demographic transition. The UN in India will need to be fit for purpose to responding to the diverse.

During the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF), 2018-2022, the UN team in India came together and pooled its expertise at three critical junctures: once in support of the government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and twice for conducting post-disaster needs assessment for the states of Kerala and Odisha. It is to be noted that these were the first ever post-disaster needs assessments conducted by the UN team in India. All the three interventions demonstrated the nimbleness of UN entities coming together for a focussed, short-term emergency response and also gave an opportunity for the UN team to reassess its capacities.

As detailed in Chapter 3, as part of the implementation of the UNSDCF, 2023- 2027, an inter-agency outcome group (OGs) will be constituted for each of the six outcomes to support the government in achieving national priorities. Two additional Outcome Groups (OGs) will be constituted to realign the country team on critical priorities, namely, (a) planning for achieving the SDGs, especially at the local level, and (b) facilitating India’s role in South- South Cooperation. All the OGs will draw upon the internal resources of each UN entity. Furthermore, inter-agency working groups and task teams will be constituted to address disaster mitigation and youth. The latter will be constituted as a vehicle for a more meaningful and strategic partnership on issues related to youth, which is relevant given India’s demographic transition.

Notably, two new non-resident UN entities have joined the UN Country Team (UNCT) in 2022 as they explore greater collaboration with the GOI and establish country presence. These are: (a) International Telecommunication Union, which is establishing an Area Office and Innovation Centre in New Delhi and (b) Better Than Cash Alliance, which is collaborating with the government on financial inclusion and digital public infrastructure.

It has also been decided to build closer relationship with and draw on the expertise of the non-resident agencies that may not be signatory to the UNSDCF as necessary and as emerging challenges require over the implementation period, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for trade, digital economy and investment; Department of Economic and Social Affairs for economic and social affairs; United Nations Capital Development Fund through support to initiatives like Better Than Cash Alliance; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for human rights and International Trade Centre for support to MSME participation in international trade.

As the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 will be the first to include specific outputs related to South-South and triangular cooperation efforts, the UNCT will work to leverage the existing activities of its offices in India that engage in activities that are ‘non-resident’ in nature due to the fact that a large number of agencies have regional, sub-regional or multi-country offices based in India and are working in India’s neighbouring countries. These include Asia & Pacific Centre of Transfer of Technology, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organization.

# UN Agencies/Entities Contributing to India GOI-UNSDCF, (2023--2027) Strategic Pillars and Outcomes

			People		Prosperity	Planet	Partnership
S.No	UN Agency/ Entity	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5	Outcome 6
1	APCTT				●	●	
2	BTCA						●
3	ESCAP				●	●	●
4	FAO		●			●	
5	IFAD		●		●	●	
6	ILO				●		
7	IOM	●			●	●	●
8	ITU				●		
9	UNAIDS	●					●
10	UNDP	●			●	●	●
11	UNEP				●	●	
12	UNESCO			●	●	●	
13	UNFPA	●		●	●		●
14	UN- HABITAT					●	●
15	UNHCR	●	●	●	●		●
16	UNICEF	●	●	●	●	●	●
17	UNIDO		●		●	●	
18	UNODC	●				●	●
19	UNOPS					●	
20	UN- Women	●		●	●	●	●
21	WFP	●	●		●	●	●
22	WHO	●	●			●	●

# Annex 4: Terms of Reference of committees and groups constituted for Cooperation Framework governance

## Joint Steering Committee

**Co-chair:** VC/CEO, NITI Aayog and the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)

**Composition:** Senior government officials from the NITI Aayog, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance and other key ministries, and UN representatives. On an ad-hoc basis, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) may include representatives of implementing ministries and departments, state governments, as well as implementing partners from civil society and the private sector.

**Frequency of meeting:** Biannual

**Purpose:** The JSC will monitor progress, challenges and opportunities, and steer the direction of Cooperation Framework (CF) implementation. It will:

- Provide strategic oversight and direction to the CF process and ensure its alignment to evolving country contexts, national, and international development processes, mechanisms and goals, and links with other national processes.
- Facilitate cross-learning among ministries and with states.
- Support coordination among various arms of the government.

## Key tasks:

- Provide advice and guidance on strategic decisions regarding the implementation of the CF;
- Ensure ongoing alignment and coordination between CF outcomes and strategies and those of the national development strategy and related programmes and implementation mechanisms considering the evolving country context and the progress on SDGs;
- Assess overall progress against planned CF outcomes and their contribution to country priorities, including the focus on gender equity and social inclusion along with related SDGs;
- Conduct the annual review, oversee and endorse the annual progress report and endorse major changes to CF results and strategies;
- Review and endorse the planned annual results by the Outcome Standing Committee (OSC) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) aligned to the national context;
- Review UNCT joint resources mobilization strategies; recommend and support opportunities for funding of the CF and leveraging financing for the 2030 Agenda in the country;
- Direct the adjustments in the CF through a formal revision and/or through annual results planned for the following year, informed by the evolving country contexts and recommendations of the UNCT;
- Review the progress, challenges and opportunities and recommend measures for strengthening continued UN relevance and effectiveness in support of national priorities;



- Facilitate resolution of any external challenges that the UNCT may face in executing the CF;
- Review and endorse the annual UN Country Results Report for publication and dissemination;
- Advise and assist the OSC and Outcome Groups, as required, in their responsibilities and
- Guide the development of the terms of reference of the CF evaluation and approve its commissioning.

## Outcome Standing Committee

**Chair:** Secretary of the convening Ministry

**Composition:** Senior government officials from the participating ministries, concerned UNCT members and UN officials. On an ad-hoc basis, the OSCs may invite representatives of implementing partner ministries, state governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

**Frequency of meeting:** Annual

**Purpose:** The OSCs will monitor progress, challenges, and opportunities, and steer the direction of implementation for the outcome area. It will:

- provide strategic and policy guidance and oversight to the outcome area and ensure its alignment to evolving country contexts, national and international development processes, mechanisms and goals, and links with other national processes.
- facilitate cross-learning among ministries and with states.
- support coordination among various arms of the government.
- provide oversight to the Joint Work Plans agreed by their respective Outcome Groups and ake up any issues of a strategic or operational nature that their respective Outcome Groups may raise for consideration, which could benefit from deliberation among the concerned UN agencies and the concerned GOI stakeholders.
- endorse changes to the UNSDCF outcome results and strategies based on emerging needs; these changes will be sent for further approval by the JSC.

The concerned NITI Aayog member will provide guidance to the OSC.

The Chair of the OSC or an authorized representative will participate in the Joint Steering Committee for strategic discussions and to present the progress report on the outcome.

### Key tasks:

- Provide advice and guidance on strategic decisions regarding the implementation of the outcome area;
- Ensure ongoing alignment and coordination between the outcome and strategies and those of the national development strategy and related programmes and implementation mechanisms considering the evolving country context and the progress on SDGs;
- Assess overall progress against planned outcomes and their contribution to country priorities, including the focus on gender equity and social inclusion along with related SDGs;
- Conduct the annual review for the outcome area and present the same to the JSC;
- Recommend major changes to the results and/or strategies of the CF outcome area for the approval by the JSC;

- Review UNCT joint resources mobilization strategies; recommend and support opportunities for funding of the outcome area and leveraging financing for the 2030 Agenda in the country;
- Review the progress, challenges and opportunities and recommend measures for strengthening continued UN relevance and effectiveness in support of national priorities;
- Facilitate resolution of any external challenges that the UNCT may face in executing the planned strategies and
- Advise and assist the Outcome Groups, as required, in their responsibilities.

## Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs

**Co-chair:** Director-General, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and UN Resident Coordinator

**Composition:** Adviser (SDG)—NITI Aayog, senior statistical officers/SDG nodal officers from other line ministries, other officers from MOSPI and representatives from UN agencies. The Coordination Forum may invite other experts from state governments and line ministries, including institutions like International Institute for Population Sciences, among others. Further, private entities working on data intelligence platforms, big data, etc., may also be invited.

**Frequency of meeting:** Annual

**Purpose:** The UN, NITI Aayog and MOSPI have signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a Data for Development Coordination Forum on SDGs for developing a data plan; assisting in the development of a sound measurement; improving the indicator framework after a thorough review with all stakeholders and assisting the High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to ensure more effective monitoring of the SDGs. The forum will also have the mandate of developing new data sources, methods, and tools to strengthen the data system on the SDGs.

### Key tasks:

- Support monitoring and reporting of SDGs at national and sub-national levels within the framework of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics<sup>74</sup>;
- Support capacity-building, partnership and coordination for tracking of SDGs, especially promoting the availability of disaggregated data;
- Develop an SDG Data Intelligence Platform, including a dashboard for SDG indicators for unifying SDG data at national and sub-national levels;
- Facilitate standardization, modernization and harmonization of data infrastructures and identify ways to leverage private sector resources;
- Promote engagement between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of SDG indicators and
- Promote awareness about SDGs among the community and stakeholders by developing awareness strategies and creatives.

<sup>74</sup> E/RES/2013/21, with revised preamble <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx>

## Outcome Groups

**Chair:** Head of the Convening UN agency

**Co-Chair:** Head of the Co-convening UN agency  
**Composition:** Representatives of the participating UN agencies

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** An Outcome Groups (OGs) will be constituted for each of the six CF outcome areas. Outcome groups are internal coordination mechanisms meant for facilitating internal UN collaboration, planning, joint reviewing of results, monitoring and reporting. These groups will:

- provide a platform for collective identification of opportunities and challenges as well as pooling expertise to respond to new and emerging challenges.
- promote complementarity and synergies and reduce overlaps and gaps within and across priority/outcome areas.
- report regularly to the UNCT and biannually to the OSC and JSC.

**Key tasks:**

- Develop and agree annual joint work plans (as appropriate), including agreeing sub-outputs within each outcome areas, with relevant UN organizations and, whenever possible, with the government
- Track progress against the planned results in the UNSDCF and annual joint work plans and report progress through UNINFO and deliberate on course corrections when necessary, tabling relevant issues for the consideration of OSCs if required
- Coordinate, monitor and report the implementation of interventions in a coherent manner, to achieve common results
- Identify strategic opportunities for UN contributions to national interventions at the policy and programme level and strengthen UN's role as a knowledge provider through sharing of global and national good practices and fostering technical cooperation.
- Explore opportunities for developing joint programmes and resource mobilisation
- Provide technical support to the OSCs, as necessary to support their deliberations
- Conduct joint policy analysis on key thematic issues and emerging trends, including by undertaking research and evidence-based policy analysis in relevant areas for collective and joint policy support, dialogue and advocacy purposes
- Develop policy briefs, knowledge products and organise deep dive sessions on important issues through engagements with think tanks, knowledge institutions and experts
- Prioritise strengthening the UN's normative role to advocate for human rights, gender equality, and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in national SDG implementation, in line with SG's Call to Action on Human Rights, including by drawing on the findings of the Universal Periodic Review and relevant treaty bodies in order to advance strategies for integrating LNOB principles and a human rights-based approach across UN supported programmes and policies taking advantage of the strong link between human rights and SDG achievement

- Identify and support joint communications and advocacy
- Promote inter-state and international sharing of knowledge and good practices by identifying, codifying and promoting relevant partnerships, policy solutions and approaches, including relevant south-south and triangular cooperation initiatives

## Operations Management Team

**Chair:** To be nominated by the Operations Management Team (OMT) (rotating on a periodic basis)

**Co-Chair:** To be nominated by the OMT (rotating on a periodic basis)

**Composition:** Senior-most operations managers and administrative officers of UN Agencies in India. Each participating UN Agency is expected to designate a primary and an alternate member to ensure that their organization is represented at all times in OMT meetings. All OMT members, primary or alternate, must hold fixed-term contracts and have worked for their respective agencies at least for a year. The appointment of each OMT member must be approved and endorsed by the respective head of agency. Attendance of other UN staff from participating agencies/entities (based on their area of expertise and membership of assigned Task Forces) to meetings on an ad-hoc basis shall be communicated in advance to the OMT Chairpersons and may require OMT approval.

**Frequency of meeting:** At least bimonthly

**Purpose:** Under the guidance of the UNCT, the OMT brings together UN organizations, specialized agencies, funds, and programmes in India. The OMT aims to provide the UNCT with recommendations on common services and business-related issues while identifying opportunities for collaboration and innovation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN's programmatic work in India.

**Key tasks:**

- Plan for and propose new common services through operational analyses, such as feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses;
- Develop the business operations strategy for the period 2023-2027, in alignment with the CF;
- Monitor and evaluate existing common services and identify areas where these services can be improved and costs reduced;
- In accordance with international good practice, provide the UNCT with guidance on harmonization and simplification of agency rules, regulations and operations activities, while promoting openness and transparency;
- Implement planned common services and other relevant activities with a convening agency spearheading each activity and ensuring that the necessary procurement and other contractual arrangements are in place;
- Develop and submit budgeted rolling work plans for the OMT to the UNCT;
- Establish task forces/subcommittees, where necessary, to carry out detailed studies on how to implement OMT activities and specific common services;



- Carry out, either directly or through task forces/working groups, all approved activities in the work plan within the agreed-upon time frames and budget resources;
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and innovation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of common services;
- Maintain a roster of service providers in different areas of specialties (travel, banking, maintenance);
- Ensure that the operation of common services takes advantage of the economies of scale and that the quality of services is improved or at least remains the same as existent
- Ensure UN policies and procedures are adhered to for each common service initiative;
- Analyse bids, shortlists and interviews and select service providers to be submitted to the UNCT for review and approval;
- Decide on the UN agency best suited to manage the particular common service;
- Submit proposals and budgets to the UNCT for decision-making and approvals;
- Ensure that large contracts negotiated by the OMT are covered by an inter-agency agreement or MoU between participating agencies;
- Ensure implementation is transparent, internal control measures are in place, and activities are undertaken with as much participation amongst interested agencies as possible and
- Conduct periodic evaluations/analysis of the functioning of the common services and report progress/results in a recognized forum.

## Gender Task Team

**Chair:** UN Women country representative on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC)

**Co-Chair:** A head of agency, to be designated by the UNCT

**Composition:** The Gender focal points/programme specialists from each UN entity that is a signatory to the CF. Representation of all Outcome Groups needs to be ensured. It is desirable that the Gender Task Team (GTT) comprises at least 50 percent senior staff (P4/NOC and above). The GTT members should have their contributions to the group reflected in their agency work plans and performance reviews. The GTT should aim for participation from the majority of resident UN agencies.

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** The GTT, appointed from 2022 to 2027, will act as an inter-agency coordination group and play a critical role in ensuring the integration of gender equality principles across the work of UNCT India, including through the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 and UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW). It is the entry point for coordinating technical support and services to the host government, and a mechanism for partnership development and engagement with women-focused civil society organizations on behalf of the UNCT. It will facilitate gender-responsive performance management and strategic planning, sex-disaggregated data, reporting and resource tracking.

### Key tasks:

- Strengthen all six outcomes of the CF regarding GEEW;
- Monitor progress on GEEW results and targets across the CF, provide technical inputs as per their areas of expertise and contribute to joint analyses and reports;
- Identify data gaps and research needs in collaboration with Outcome Groups;
- Ensure integration of gender equality and equity principles across UNCT programming, communications and advocacy (implementing UN-SWAP);
- Support the development of common UNCT advocacy messages and communication products to position the UN as a lead advocate on GEEW;
- Integrating gender-specific monitoring and evaluation indicators in all UNCT activities;
- Tracking resource allocation, budgets and reporting for gender responsiveness;
- Developing a repository of national and regional gender analysis;
- Liaison with governmental and non-governmental bodies for GEEW;
- Facilitate joint activities and policy dialogue with government counterparts, civil society and other development partners for advocating policies and programmes on gender mainstreaming and coordinating international days of relevance like International Women's Day;
- Provide technical support and develop expertise and capacity of UN personnel for gender mainstreaming;
- Coordinate joint analysis of the policy environment, key development issues and emerging trends and opportunities related to GEEW to ensure the relevance of UN programming, and identification of data gaps and research needs in collaboration with identified outcome areas;
- Support accountability of the UN leadership to GEEW through the implementation of the UNCT-endorsed Scorecard Action Plan and ensure yearly scorecard reporting and
- Introduce global good practices and relevant international and national networks on GEEW, and support normative commitments such as reporting on Universal Periodic Review and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and response to Special Rapporteurs' calls.
- Advance work and common strategies towards achieving gender parity in staffing across the UNCT in line with relevant Human Resources policies and rules.

## Monitoring and Evaluation/Data Group

**Chair:** To be designated by the UNCT

**Composition:** Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officers (of senior-most level) of UNSDCF signatory UN agencies

**Frequency of meeting:** TBD

**Purpose:** The M&E Group will:

- facilitate coordination, coherence and effectiveness in monitoring and evaluation of the CF amongst the UN agencies.

- support the Outcome Groups in monitoring the progress of the outcome and output indicators as well as in the quarterly/biannual/annual reporting and quality control.
- advise the UNCT and OGs on data quality assurance and evidence-based progress reporting.

#### Key tasks:

- Engage in joint/inter-agency monitoring exercises as needed to establish and/or verify results as;
- Document learnings and good examples and practices in the implementation of the CF;
- Periodically prepare UNINFO reports for each Outcome Group and highlight areas where corrective action is required;
- Support the preparation of the UN Country Results Reports and ensure that the data reported is correct;
- Support final evaluation of the CF by ensuring necessary evidence on each indicator as well as UNCT reports and sources of information are prepared well in advance and
- Support National Voluntary Review processes as needed, including bringing in evidence from UN sources, for e.g., UN Common Country Analysis, evaluations and studies.
- Support the UNCT in discussions on statistical issues and quality and coordinate with external stakeholders, as required

## Youth Task Team

**Chair:** UNFPA country representative on behalf of the UNRC

**Co-Chair:** A head of UN agency, to be designated by the UNCT

**Composition:** Representatives from agencies working with young people

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** The Youth Task Team will be an inter-agency mechanism to ensure mainstreaming of the youth agenda across the GOI-UNSDCF, 2023-2027 in line with the UN Youth Strategy 2030. The aim is to harmonize efforts across UN agencies for holistic development of youth-centric programmes and policies.

#### Key tasks:

- Promote youth centrality across all six outcomes of the CF;
- Build platforms and avenues for youth leadership and active participation in informing programmes and policies in collaboration with all agencies working with youth;
- Provide technical assistance to relevant ministries and government departments for evidence-based planning, implementation and evaluation;
- Identify good practices, including innovative solutions for effective programming;
- Ensure availability of data in collaboration with Outcome Groups to support mainstreaming youth;
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement for youth-centric programming;
- Strengthen staff capacity and brief the RC regularly on issues of significance to the youth;
- Support in analysing resource allocation and budget utilization for youth-centric programmes and schemes.

- Strengthening youth engagement in UN advocacy messages and communication products;
- Facilitate joint activities and policy dialogue with government counterparts, civil society and other development partners for advocating policies and programmes on youth engagement and
- Coordinate joint analysis of the policy environment, key development issues and emerging trends and opportunities to ensure the relevance of UN programming for young people in all their diversity.

## United Nations Disaster Management Team

**Chair:** UN Resident Coordinator

**Composition:** Representatives of UN agencies. On an ad-hoc basis, the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) may decide to invite representatives of multi/bilateral donor organizations to the UNDMT meeting.

**Frequency of meeting:** Regular meetings (TBD). Special meetings will be convened in the event of disasters.

**Purpose:** The UNDMT will:

- facilitate the UN's collective actions towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030.
- provide support to the national and state governments in its implementation and monitoring through a system-wide action plan.
- bring together the relevant UN agencies in the event of any major disaster and reach out to donor communities to ensure concerted UN support to the national and state governments in disaster response and recovery.

#### Key tasks:

- Contribute to the national efforts towards the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030;
- Serve as a coordination focal point among the UN agencies (including non-resident agencies) as well as other international donor organizations;
- Facilitate a coordinated UN response during various stages of disaster management based on requests from the national and sub-national governments by pooling expertise and financial resources and
- Support national and sub-national efforts in disaster management, recovery, and capacity building.



## United Nations Communications Group

**Chair:** Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) or, in the absence of a UNIC director, Head of Office, RCO.

**Composition:** Communications focal points of all the UN system organizations, as well as UNIC

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Communications Group (UNCG) shall design and implement the joint communication strategy to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, based on the UNSDCF priorities, and key areas identified by the Secretary-General, as relevant; and to position the work of the United Nations in India. It will include communications focal points of all UN system organizations, as well as the UN Information Centre (UNIC). The joint communication strategy will be complimented by the communication and advocacy plans of the agencies and entities operating in India.

**Key tasks:**

- Design, implement and monitor a multimedia communication strategy for the CF cycle, in support the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Develop and implement annual work plans, and ensure appropriate tools and methods are in place and used to measure and evaluate the impact of communications activities.
- Promote public understanding and support for the aims and activities of the United Nations by communicating and positioning the work of the UN, including through digital and social media in English and local/regional languages.
- Report on the progress of the communication strategy and collective results of the UNSDCF and the 2030 Agenda through external and internal reports, publications, digital and listening tools and reporting mechanisms, as also to the UNRC/UNCT
- Strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination for communication and outreach
- Organise joint events; undertake joint campaigns, communication and outreach on priority issues, national and UN Days; monitor and report on the progress and impact of the initiatives to the UNRC/UNCT.
- Provide support to the UNRC and the Heads of agencies/UNCT to communicate on joint priority issues, including when common positions need to be articulated, and homogenous messages developed, and on issues that affect the UN System as a whole. Prepare key messages and position papers for the UNCT/UNRC, for consistency in communication, especially on issues that have overlapping mandates.
- Develop and implement an internal communication strategy; undertake capacity building for the UNCT and UN colleagues (as required) for communication, advocacy and outreach;
- Prepare and implement a crisis communication strategy, when required.

## Partnerships Group

**Chair:** To be designated by the UNRC

**Composition:** Representation from partnerships focal points from across agencies

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** The UN Partnerships Group (UNPG) has been created to strengthen collaboration and streamline the partnership engagement model of the UN system in India with the private sector and other entities (multilateral/bilateral partnerships) and includes the Partnership focal points from across the UN agencies. The role of the UNPG will be strategic, supportive and catalytic—to be a platform for streamlining key challenges being faced across agencies on private sector/other partnerships as well as exploring catalytic partnership models that showcase inter-agency collaboration and expertise to the private sector donors.

**Key tasks:**

- Sharing of inter-agency good practices on partnerships to explore impact-based innovative collaborations and strategic engagements with the private sector/other entities (with a focus on inter-agency engagement);
- Addressing and streamlining collective challenges being faced by agencies in the private sector resource mobilization ecosystem;
- Leveraging the strength of agencies’ programmatic interventions to showcase the integrated value proposition of the UN in India to private sector partners/other entities;
- Analysing and enhancing existing UN resource mobilization partnerships and relationships;
- Contributing to the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on financing of joint programmes and
- Contributing to joint UN communication activities and initiatives aimed at identifying and/or deepening UN partnerships.

## Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism on Disability Inclusion

**Chair:** To be designated by the UNRC

**Composition:** Representation from all UNCT member entities including from both programming and operations teams; participation may also be extended to regional disability focal points for UN agencies, where relevant.

**Frequency of meeting:** Quarterly

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Inter-Agency Disability Working Group is:

- To support UNCT in implementing the UNDIS, and ensuring disability inclusion in both programmatic and operational areas;
- To serve as a key mechanism for joint UN action, advocacy, and coordination on disability inclusion;
- To strengthen UNCT performance and monitoring of results on disability inclusion through the UNCT Accountability Scorecard; and
- To provide a forum for systematic sharing of information, experiences, and tools on implementing disability inclusion.
- To strengthen UNCT engagement and partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities, including those representing specific groups of persons with disabilities such as women led OPDs, refugees with disabilities, OPDs led by and for persons with intellectual disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities, among others.
- Liaison with governmental and non-governmental bodies including human rights mechanisms to inform policymaking for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

#### **Key tasks:**

- Strengthen and monitor the UNCT's accountability to disability inclusion (external and internal) and lead the implementation of the UNCT Action Plan (programme and operational level);
- Support the Outcome Groups on disability inclusion including providing inputs to CCA, annual joint work plans (OMT, SRH, Gender, Youth, Communications, Emergency Response, etc.), generation of disability disaggregated data and indicators for monitoring, and research needs and opportunities for collaboration;
- Facilitate the sharing of information and learnings including best practices, identifying key opportunities, challenges, and bottlenecks, including South-South Cooperation and other knowledge sharing opportunities;
- Capacity development for mainstreaming disability inclusion in programme and operations;
- Support the UNCT's engagement with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and Government at national and state level;
- Targeted research and analyses of issues concerning persons with disabilities (e.g. lack of access to education or employment, accessibility issues in public infrastructure investment, political participation), including conducting a review of the national legislative framework for compliance with the CRPD;
- Ensuring information about persons with disabilities is included in the human rights assessments submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for the country's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) or provided to visiting Special Rapporteurs;
- Support development and implementation of joint programmes on disability rights including joint advocacy and communication campaigns in collaboration with the UN Communications Group.