Integrating the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda in Asia: One Year On

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We are at an early point in implementing the new agenda. The focus of this presentation will be how we can best influence the new agenda.

The starting point for the new agenda is the lessons learned from the MDGs and how they have been addressed in the 2030 agenda:
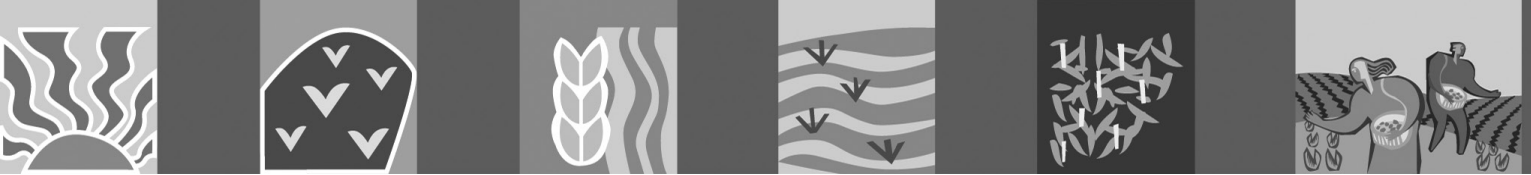
- MDGs were good at planning but less good at linking planning to budgeting and making sure the results of the investments matched plan priorities
- MDGs covered a limited agenda of separate targets while SDGs present an integrated agenda showing linkages between the different goals and targets
- MDGs focused on aggregate achievements like cutting poverty by half while SDGs have to be achieved for all starting with those left most behind
- Governance was missing from the MDGs; SDGs see governance not only as a key enabler of all the development goals, but also focus on the governance of the new agenda itself and ensuring that it will be implemented through a multi-stakeholder partnership

The first task in building the 2030 agenda in each country is aligning existing development plans with the new strategy. Bringing national development plans in line with the new strategy involves four different processes.

The first of them is the easiest – aligning national development plans to capture the full integrated set of development goals.

Equally important is the question of ambition. National development plans now need to achieve the goals from the perspective of leaving no one behind, so the new SDG agenda requires a new level of ambition. There has been less focus on this so far.

Third, the focus on integration also requires us to think about synergies and also trade-offs between sectors and goals, with a focus on the key enablers - the key investments which will realize progress not just in a specific goal but across many different goals and targets.

Finally, comes the question of implementation ensuring the planning is linked to budgeting and financing for development; carrying out a stocktaking of the needs – financial human and institutional – that will need to be met if the agenda is to be delivered.

Now let us look at some of the country examples on what countries are doing to plan the 2030 agenda.

Malaysia has made good progress in mapping the SDG on the 2030 agenda against the 11th Malaysia plan. SDG goals are mapped against different strategic thrusts of the 11th Malaysia and some goals play a role in more than one of the Strategic Thrusts.

Malaysia is also going through the targets and the global indicators and mapping these against targets, strategies and indicators in the 11th Malaysia plan.

Malaysia is also creating a roadmap covering the 15 years of the 2030 agenda which covers three five-year plans and deciding what will be the focus of each of the three phases within the 15-

year period. They are also identifying the different areas of focus ranging from establishing data frameworks, capacity building needs, strategic communications and funding.

In Indonesia we can see a similar example where the 17 goals are being put under different pillars.

Some countries are also making progress on realizing the multi-stakeholder partnership dimension of the new agenda.

Indonesia for example has already articulated the different roles the government, academia, civil society and the private sector will each play in delivering on the agenda.

In the future we will also need to pay more attention to the question of prioritizing and identifying the key accelerators for development - the key issues which can make the most progress across different goals and targets. This will be a key entry point for civil society efficacy going forward.

To do this we need to understand the interrelationship between the different goals and targets.

Better data will be crucial for the new agenda.

Malaysia is an example of a country which is doing a stocktaking of its data sources to see whether it's well-positioned to report against the more than 230 global indicators that were provisionally agreed-upon earlier this year. This analysis shows that Malaysia is only well-positioned to report on 38% of those indicators, while data systems will need to be further developed to be able to report on the rest.

This exercise needs to be undertaken in relation to each goal individually as well. This slide illustrates the difference between different goals. In the area of education Malaysia is well-positioned with available data systems delivering against 73% of the targets, whereas in relations to water only 18% of the targets can be reported against using available data.

What does this mean for land in the SDGs? Land is mentioned three times in the SDGs most importantly in target 1.4 along with basic services, access to finance, technology and economic resources, and one of the two global indicators focuses on land tenure.

The importance of land to eliminating hunger is reflected in target 2.3, although the indicators under that target do not track land.

Women's access and rights to land is also an important issue as demonstrated by target 5.a and this is also reflected in one of the two global indicators.

Finally, I would like to invite you to reflect on the key entry points for CSOs advocating on land rights in the new agenda.

Three suggestions on areas to focus on include:

(i) Evidence to show that land is a key enabler and accelerator for sustainable development as a whole, including quantifying the investment needed to reform and protect land rights for all in the countries, but also quantifying the potential benefits and development impacts across the agenda;

(ii) Advocating to government on the data frameworks that will be needed to identify those at risk of being left behind in relation to land and to ensure that those are incorporated in the new agenda so that the disparities between different groups attract and progress in reaching the furthest behind is measured; and,

(iii) Engage with governments on the multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing and monitoring the new SDGs, specifically to make concrete proposals on the role civil society should play. ∎