
A Handbook on
**Planning for the Sustainable
Development Goals**

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NEW DELHI PUBLISHERS

New Delhi, Kolkata

This First Edition Published in 2026

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Title: A Handbook on Planning for the Sustainable Development Goals

Authors: Dr. Bedprakas Syamroy and Dr. Maniparna Syamroy

Description: First edition | New Delhi Publishers 2026 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: ISBN 9789349897250 (Print) | 9789349897953 (eBook)

Cover Design: New Delhi Publishers

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NEW DELHI PUBLISHERS

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Website: www.ndpublisher.in

Preface

Historically, the UN Millennium Summit, 2000 was the most eventful beginning to address human development issues by global initiative through the Millennium Declaration as the international agenda for the 21st century which shaped the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a deadline for accomplishing the tasks by 2015. The international community felt thereafter that since the MDGs targeted developing countries, particularly the poorest, the need for Sustainable Development Goals for the entire world, developed and developing countries, was to be explored worldwide for the post-2015 scenario. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), in June 2012, was instrumental to launch the process of sustainability and develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After a series of follow-up efforts towards achieving the MDGs and intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda, a Global Summit namely, Sustainable Development Summit took place in September 2015 to adopt “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” with 17 SDGs and 169 targets by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. The then UN Secretary-General envisioned it as a universal, transformative, and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world” and observed: “This is the People’s Agenda, a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind.”

The great beginning of this Sustainable Development Goals in January, 2016 was a momentous event in the history of development initiatives and was about to take off steadily in many parts of the world till the sudden out-break of the pandemic-the Coronavirus, 2019 which halted the speed of progress and gravely affected almost all the SDGs of all countries and had thereby pushed back destination journey at 2030. The world is yet to recover from the severe shocks of this pandemic corona virus.

The UN Sustainable Development Report, 2024 has been published not long ago. It also observed on the current status of outcome journey as rather unsatisfactory and far less than expected. On average, only 16 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030, with the remaining 84 percent showing limited progress or a reversal of progress.

It is felt that out of several factors that led to having less than optimal outcome one important cause has been the missing idea of robust SDG annual planning and focused implementation on them. In fact, unless proper and structured annual plan is in place, envisaged outcome can hardly be achieved. A Handbook on Planning for the Sustainable Development Goals is thus felt to be an inescapable necessity for ready reference and guidance. This exercise is a joint effort of Dr. Maniparna Syamroy and myself to look at implementation of SDGs from development practitioners' angle. '*A Handbook on Planning for the Sustainable Development Goals*' is designed to assist for quick mop-up planning efforts in the light of the envisaged action plan to ramp up SDGs implementation.

In undertaking this Study, I have made extensive use of materials ,available on public domain, from the websites of the UN system, Sustainable Development Summit, Sustainable Development Knowledge platform, the UN SDG Report, 2023/:Special Edition, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, the UN SDG Report, 2024, Summit of the Future, 2024 and websites of multiple partners working on Sustainable development goals including the UNDP, the UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, the World Bank and also of numerous others for making liberal use of relevant materials to prepare the book. I have also used substantive materials of the erstwhile Planning Commission, the NITI Aayog and related publications from the websites of different Ministries, Government of India, and of numerous others for making liberal use of relevant materials to prepare the book.

I express my thanks and gratitude to Shri. Chanchal Mukharjee, New Delhi Publishers for the support for its publication along with the assistance from the co-author to complete the study.

12.01.2025

Saltlake

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In Sacred Memory of
Gouri Syamroy
who Left us on 5.1.2025

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List of Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
BPL	Below the Poverty Line
BRICKS	Brazil, the Russian Federations, India, China and South Africa
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide
COP21	Conference of Parties in Paris
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease-19
EFA	Education for All
FABLE	Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land- Use and Energy
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GA	General Assembly
GAP	Global Action Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographical Information System
GNP	Gross National Product
GSDR-2023	Global Sustainable Development Report, 2024
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change
ISID	Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development
LICs	Lower Income Countries
LMICs	Lower and Middle Income Countries

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NDCs	Nationally-Determined Contributions
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NITI Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India
NPP	National Population Policy
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OWG	Open Working Group
R&D	Research and Development
SD	Sustainable development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDM	Sustainable Development Summit
SDR	Sustainable Development Report
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly UNSC-United Nations Statistical Commission
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN-MI	United Nations based Multilateralism
UN SDG REPORT	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Report
UNWWDR	United Nations World Water Development Report
U5MR	Under Five Mortality Rate
VNR	Voluntary National Review Report
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation