

# Advancing Sustainable Development through Goal 17



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**Author:** Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

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VANI HOUSE, 7, PSP Pocket,  
Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi 110 077  
Phone: 91- 11 – 49148610, 40391661, 40391663  
E-mail: [info@vaniindia.org](mailto:info@vaniindia.org)  
Website: [www.vaniindia.org](http://www.vaniindia.org)



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# Preface

Theoretically “Partnership” means when two or more people or institutions join hands to increase the probability of each achieving their mission and amplify their outreach. It has a crucial role in anchoring the development of any country. If our mission is to take India on the path of growth and prosperity, it is shared then— government, voluntary development organizations and corporate sector, have to work in partnership. As seen, these development actors share common goal like SDGs for which collective efforts are required.

Globally, we have SDGs as the agreed framework and India has demonstrated its commitment towards it. But it is also known that we have a complex puzzle to solve as each actor has a piece of it. Now with just only one decade left, world can't achieve its goals unless partnership leads the way. The need of the time is to sit across the drawing board and plan development path of the country with equal commitment. Neither government nor VDOs should be seen as the means of implementation, but as a co-traveler in this noble journey.

Though one can call SDGs ambitious, but they are not impossible. They implore for concerted transformative actions in addressing the challenges from all three actors collectively. This not only holds the potency for mutual benefit but also highly increases the probability of achieving these aspiring goals. We have seen recent examples like Swachta Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan etc wherein the actors converged their energies and positive results have been shown due to partnership of all the three pillars of growth.

In this context, this study attempts to assess the need for partnership as a viable model for attaining the Agenda 2030. I would like to extend my thanks to VANI Team and Ms. Shruti Sharma, Programme Officer, VANI for drafting and writing the study and Mr. Arjun Phillips, Programme Manager, VANI for overall guidance. I would also like to thank Bread For The World (BfTW) for supporting this study. This study is not only aimed for the Voluntary Sector but also for the Government and Private Sector as well.

Best Regards

Harsh Jaitli  
Chief Executive Officer

# Executive Summary

As global challenges increase on an unprecedented scale, efforts to tackle them consensually agree on formulating a meaningful partnership between Government, Private Sector and Civil Society. Sustainable Development Goals with their mandate of 'leave no one behind' offer this very opportunity-with the goal 17 laying the way forward and contextual primer for realizing this vision. Importantly the SDGs holistically rely on sequential progression from the local to the global which demands equitable partnerships at all levels of development.

At the heart of this- lies multi-stakeholder partnerships and the effort to make them an imperative normative. The study particularly focuses on multi-stakeholder partnerships that can be a vehicle by which different actors like government, civil society organisations, corporates, think tanks etc can collectively contribute to the SDG agenda. To a certain level, triangular cooperation has been achieved but require tangible sketching and make them work at the grassroots level.

Decisive steps taken by the Indian Government to map and align SDGs are commendable yet demand for an integrated approach that allow Civil Society the space to input their knowledge and experience into the process. Additionally, whilst Private Sector will be the key to unlocking development financing and act as a definitive limb along with Government and Civil Society it lacks the channels for interaction with these sectors.

This study explores the various aspects of goal 17 which provides an opportunity for different actors to come together for development. It critically assesses financing through the vantage point of Corporate Social Responsibility and fleshes out the alignment processes. A major aspect of the study gravitates around the role of Civil Society and empowering its citizen connect to be at the frontier of anchoring SDGs and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

With just 10 years remaining to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and different actors working in isolation, there is a need for nurturing "partnership" and placing it as the nucleus for advancing the mandate. Importantly, the study is the synthesis of VANI's consultations and workshops and is an attempt to bridge the gaps between the three crucial sectors and collectivize civil society on increasing their space and participation with relevant policy-making forums and power structures through SDG 17.

# Format of the Study

## Objectives:

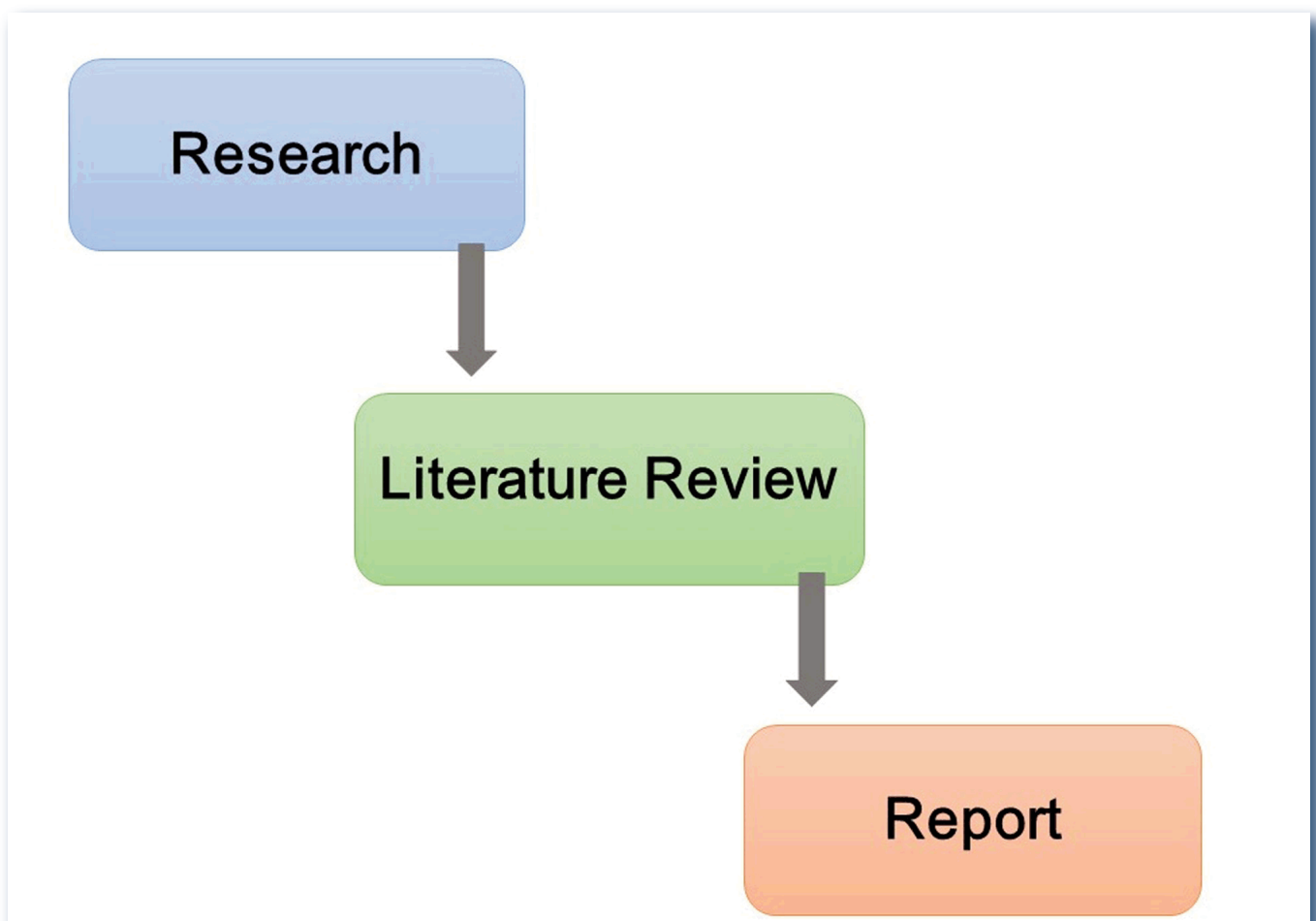
- To explore the partnership models and platforms for collective approach towards Agenda 2030
- To assess the financing opportunities that can be leveraged for implementation of SDGs

## Scope of the Study:

The Study on Goal 17 is undertaken to highlight the need for multi-stakeholder partnership for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. It will particularly focus on aspects like Finance, Capacity Building, Partnerships and Policy Coherence.

## Methodology:

**Desk Research:**— The study is completed through secondary research accomplished by extensive reading and compilation from different sources (articles, reports, documents, books, websites etc).



# Abbreviations

AAAA	-	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	-	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
BAPA	-	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
DPA	-	Development Partnership Administration
ECOSOC	-	The Economic and Social Council
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment
FIDC	-	Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
HLPF	-	High Level Political Forum
IBSA	-	India, Brazil and South Africa
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
ITEC	-	Indian Technical Economic Cooperation
KPMG	-	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler
Las	-	Local Authorities
MDBs	-	Multilateral Development Banks
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	-	Ministry of External Affairs
MSPs	-	Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
NDB	-	New Development Bank
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organisations
ODA	-	Official Development Assistance
OECD	-	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFD	-	Policy Forum for Development
PPIAF	-	Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility
PPP	-	Public-Private Partnership
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC	-	South-South Cooperation
TOSSD	-	Total Official Support for Sustainable Development
UN	-	United Nations
UN DESA	-	United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNCTAD	-	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNOSSC	-	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
VANI	-	Voluntary Action Network India
VNR	-	Voluntary National Review



# Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals were launched at United Nations Conference with a commitment to “leave no one behind”. There are 17 goals and 169 targets which were adopted by 193 countries including India in 2015. The timeline of achieving the goals is 2030. SDGs are built on the successes of MDGs and are comprehensive, complex and interconnected to each other. The objective behind the formulation of SDGs was to have a set of universal goals that is applicable and implemented by all countries to meet the urgent challenges and sustain the development. According to United Nation (UN), SDGs go beyond and address the root cause of issue and to include all the groups (vulnerable and marginalized) in development process. Due to its synergistic nature, the implementation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development has revived interests in national development strategies. SDGs continue the progress of MDGs of ending poverty and world hunger along with additional issues of climate change, clean energy, reducing inequalities etc. SDGs consider and highly recognize the role of partnership in pursuing the sustainable development as it cannot be achieved in isolation by single entity. Thus, highlight the crucial role of Government, Civil Society Organisations and Private sector as well in making a better planet for the present and future generation as well.

The 2030 agenda can only be realized through strong commitments to partnership and cooperation. The five P’s of Sustainable Development Goals also emphasize on partnerships— “to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people”.

Despite all the progress being made on these global goals, there are some problems that persist when it comes to SDGs. In 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), where progress on SDGs are discussed. NGO group hosted a side event to discuss the persisting challenges on SDGs which was attended by member states and NGOs. The issues that were highlighted were: SDGs are voluntary and there is no incentive for countries to achieve SDGs other than their will; Corruption in poor countries is weakening the SDGs; and lastly there is not enough data on SDGs to show clear results of its impact and effectiveness.

With countries across the world are working on SDGs and it is the only way forward. SDGs involved more actors like civil society organisations, state actors, private sector etc. However, still there is a lot more to be done and achieve. A convergence in the efforts from different actors is required at varied platform.

Thus, partnership has been an essential tool since the beginning as it covers all the goals for its accomplishment. Thus, the only possible way to find the solution and innovative ways to tackle the global issues for present and future challenges, is through close and effective partnership from all the stakeholders. The 2030 Agenda provides the opportunity for all the development actors to collaborate to play a crucial role towards development. It provides an opportunity to build a model where all the actors and stakeholders mobilize and pool their resources, efforts and expertise for a better sustained future.





## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

*“We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We should have the humility to acknowledge the essential role of other actors, while maintaining full awareness of our unique convening power”*

— UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

As world's landscape is changing in terms of social, economic, ecological and technological which are the result of past and present trends. The increase in inequality and gaps between people, regions and countries and lack in global governance and legitimacy have been a challenge which still persists. The Agenda 2030 calls on all actors to provide an answer to the causes of development issues and needs, not only globally but locally as well. In this process, SDG 17 plays an essential role.

Strengthening the Global partnership is one of the 17 global goals that make up the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. There is a need for an integrated approach for the progress of all the goals. The world is more connected now through access to technology and global alliances which promotes sharing of ideas, knowledge and foster innovation. This closeness and connection can be further knit together into partnership for achieving development at global, national and regional level.

Through goal 17, a door of opportunity has been opened which aims to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation are imperative to promote inclusive and sustainable development especially in view of achieving Agenda 2030. These partnerships have rich diversity which provides excellent opportunity to build mutually beneficial partnership to enhance economic growth and reduce other developmental challenges. Promoting international trade, enhancing infrastructure and helping developing countries increase their exports, is all part of achieving a universal and equitable trading system that is fair and open, and benefits all. Additionally, these cooperation facilitates the sharing of knowledge, ideas, best practices, technological advancement, foster innovations, capacity building etc among Government, Civil Society Organisations, Networks, Think Tanks and other actors as well. These frameworks are widely recognized across globe and guided by mutual respect for national sovereignty and ownership, establishing partnerships, non-conditionality in cooperation and non-interference in domestic affairs.

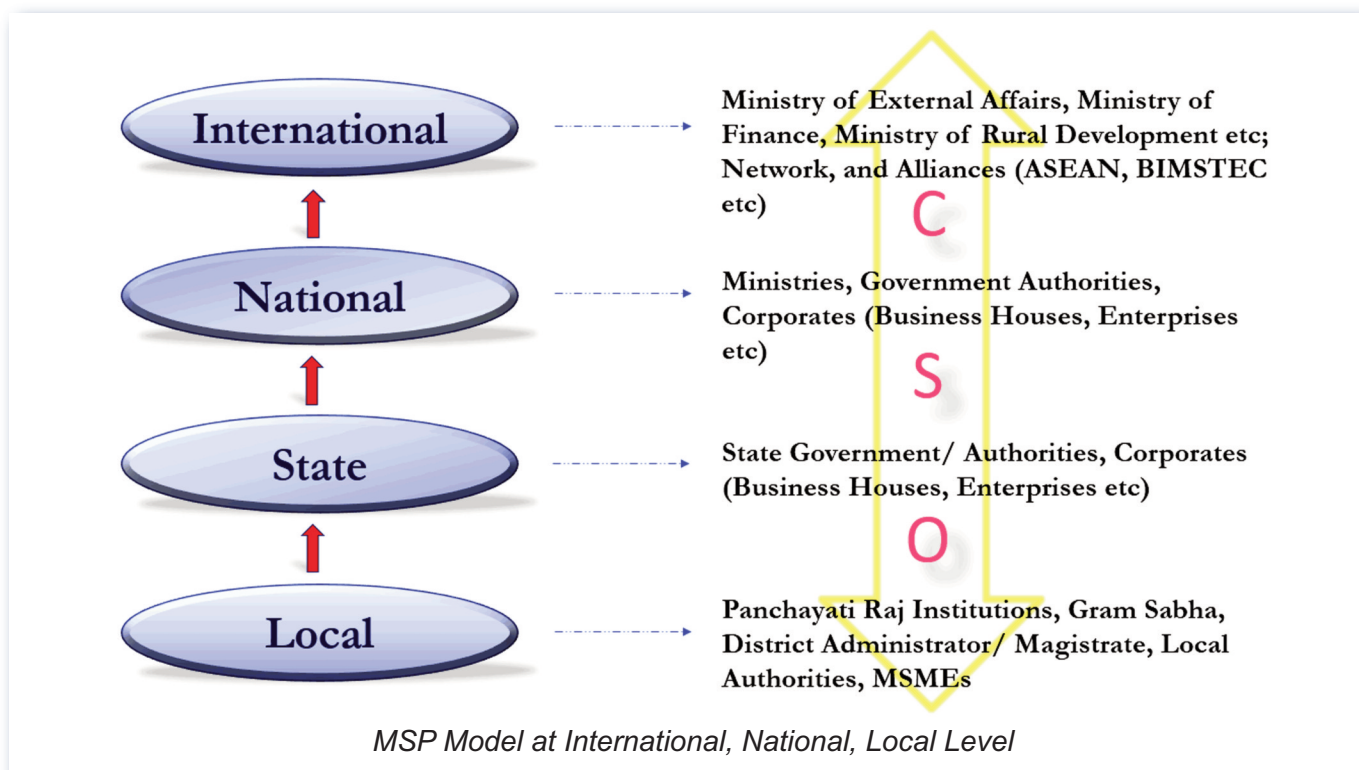
The Sustainable Development Goals acknowledges a fundamental shift in approach towards development, calling all development actors and requires cooperation and collaboration among civil society, private sector, government and others for the achievement of Global Agenda. All the actors hold key role in the solution of global issues and by working collectively towards sustainable development, all stand to benefit from it. Partnerships have to be established within framework of sustainable development and Agenda 2030. They can be many different formats, different size groups, with small or large resources and can have local, regional or global actors. Such partnership can bring highly effective and productive results while avoiding the inefficiency and bureaucracy.

## Multi–Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs)

In order to be successful, the 2030 Agenda requires partnership between governments, civil society and private sector. Such partnerships need to be inclusive but also should be share vision and goals and most importantly should be people centric. Such multi-stakeholder partnerships are required at global, regional, national and local level for effective implementation and to achieve greater impact. **“Multi-stakeholder partnership involves organizations from different societal sectors working together, sharing risks and combining their unique resources and competencies in ways that can generate and maximize value towards shared partnership and individual partner objectives, often through more innovative, more sustainable, more efficient and more systematic approaches”**. The Goal 17 under SDGs in particular caters to revitalizing the partnership, through which it addresses the need to create and facilitate effective ways to accelerate the development.

In “An Introduction to multi-stakeholder partnerships” by Promoting Effective Partnering and the Partnering Initiative— talks about multi-stakeholder partnerships and the challenges faced while partnering with them as it requires bringing together organisations and actors with different approach, perception, values. Thus, it also talks about the requirements of effective partnership:

1. **Breaking** through **assumptions and pre-conceptions** about each other
2. **Recognising and Accepting diversity** as an asset rather than a problem
3. **Valuing the different contributions** of each partner
4. **Developing new skills** in partnership-building, collaboration brokering and collective leadership
5. **Understanding the systems and contexts** in which partnership operates
6. **Applying the highest standard**, rigour and **accountability** to all partnering endeavours
7. **Investing in the partnering process** in order to optimize **engagement** and create the conditions for **efficiency, innovation and sustainability**.



## Targets and Indicators of SDG 17

There are 5 targets and 19 indicators under the Goal 17 namely, finance; technology; capacity building; multi-stakeholder partnership, accountability and policy coherence. Under finance the goal looks at strengthening domestic resource mobilization; implement ODA commitments; mobilizing additional resources and assisting long term debt sustainability for developing countries; and investment promotion regime for least developed countries. The goal further aims to enhance international support for capacity building in developing countries to support national plans. It also looks at policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability. This study will be looking at following aspects: finance, capacity building and systemic issues.

**South-South Cooperation:**— South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a framework of collaboration amongst southern countries in terms of economic, social, political, cultural, environmental areas. It is much more based on sharing of knowledge, skills, expertise, resources etc to support each other to meet the developmental needs and achieve the global goals through collective efforts. According UNOSSC, this cooperation is the “manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of south that contributes to attainment of national agendas along with internationally agreed global goals”.

BAPA+40 also talks about the important role of SSC in implementation of Agenda 2030. It has been noted that there are significant changes taking place in international relations thus, creating an environment to promote south-south cooperation and pursuing sustained development. It recognizes that south-south cooperation can help countries to achieve development goals through collective approach at national, regional and local level. It recognizes the important role of women and promotes gender equality; role of enhanced trade and economic development contributes to the Agenda 2030. Further, it adds on the important role of partnership facilitated at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional level through innovative approaches for collective actions. The partnership has been expanded to include government, civil society, private sector, foundation, think tanks, academia and technological communities. It promotes inclusive partnership that helps in improving the impact and actions at field level. It also encourages countries to assess the quality and impact of SSC programs and include all actors in data collection and evaluation for improved strategies and cooperation programs.

United Nations (Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development) also supports the south-south initiatives of developing countries at global, national and regional levels in efforts to implement the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. In 2017, Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda adopted at the International Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. In support to their Agenda 2030 this conference provided an opportunity to discuss the innovative SSTC solutions and explore partnership opportunities of Global South.

On 04th June 2018 through IBSA declaration on South-South Cooperation, India has agreed and enhanced its cooperation with Global South. IBSA over the years have emerged to support developmental concerns of global south countries in the spirit of access, equity and inclusion. IBSA is a mechanism for development cooperation to alleviate poverty and hunger through SSC agenda. The Brasilia Declaration states that SSC is not an aid and the developing countries engaged in SSC are not recipients but partners which is based on the principle of respect, ownership, equality etc.

❖ **Finance:**— Finance has emerged as a key aspect for successful implementation and achieving SDGs. It is the top aspect on every country's agenda due to the dependency for implementation of global agenda. To finance the SDGs, it is important for societal actors to respond to dual challenge of mobilising resources for sustainability while keeping in mind that no one is left behind. There is great need of new partnership amongst countries and

all the actors: Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organisation, Knowledge Society for SDGs. Countries and all actors realized the need for some measure in order to overhaul the global financial practices and generate investments for tackling issues of social, economic and environmental challenges. At UN's third International Conference on Financing for Development, a groundbreaking agreement (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) was launched and reached by 193 countries.

## Aid for Trade

The emergence of this policy was to assist the developing countries to access markets at global level through improved trade policy, capacity and economic structure. However despite growth in the interventions critics stated that there is lack in data on its impact, poor population and women who contribute significantly to labor force remains outside economic institutions and thus, do not benefit from this trade policy.

- **AAAA:** The Addis Ababa Action Agenda establishes a solid foundation and provides a new global framework to support the implementation and financing of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The framework aligns all the financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. To achieve SDGs, it takes into account comprehensive set of policy actions, with over 100 concrete measures that draw upon all sources of finance, technology, innovation, trade, debt and data. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "The results of Addis Ababa give us the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development that will leave no one behind."

In one of the UN DESA articles, it states that to support Addis Ababa Action Agenda India has made voluntary contribution to UN Tax Trust Fund, which aims to support the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. The call for contribution was also emphasized in the Addis Ababa Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015. According to UN DESA, India has become the first country to respond to the call with initial contribution of US\$100,000. This voluntary contribution was dedicated towards ensuring greater support for developing country participation in the sub-committee meetings of the UN Tax Committee, which are currently underfunded.

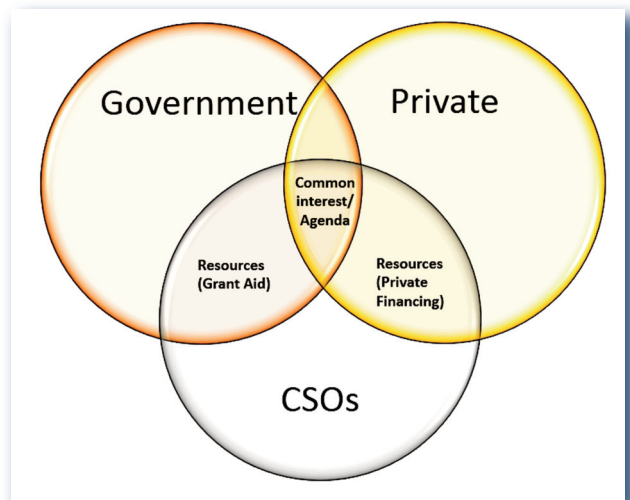
- **MDBs:** Multilateral Development Banks such as AIIB, ADB, NDB etc play a crucial role in development financing of country. They can be a channel for developing countries for their economic transformation. In ECOSOC policy brief "Fostering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The Role of Multilateral Development Banks in South-South Cooperation", it states that MDBs play a distinct role in South-South Cooperation and in implementation of SDGs (support to policies and programmes). Further, in UN conference it was stated that there was a need for establishing newer development banks in global south that would be more effective in achieving development targets and prioritize financing.

In VANI's study on "Financing Sustainable Development: Civil Society Perspective on AIIB" which states that to bridge the global sustainable infrastructure gap— multilateral, bilateral, national development banks and other development financial institutions have to double their investments in sustainable infrastructure. It further states the interest in public private partnership to meet the objectives of financing sustainable development. And how CSOs play an important role in holding these MDBs accountable to their policies and framework. Through investing strategically in institution enhancement and infrastructure development,



MDBs can facilitate the better growth and implementation of projects for development.

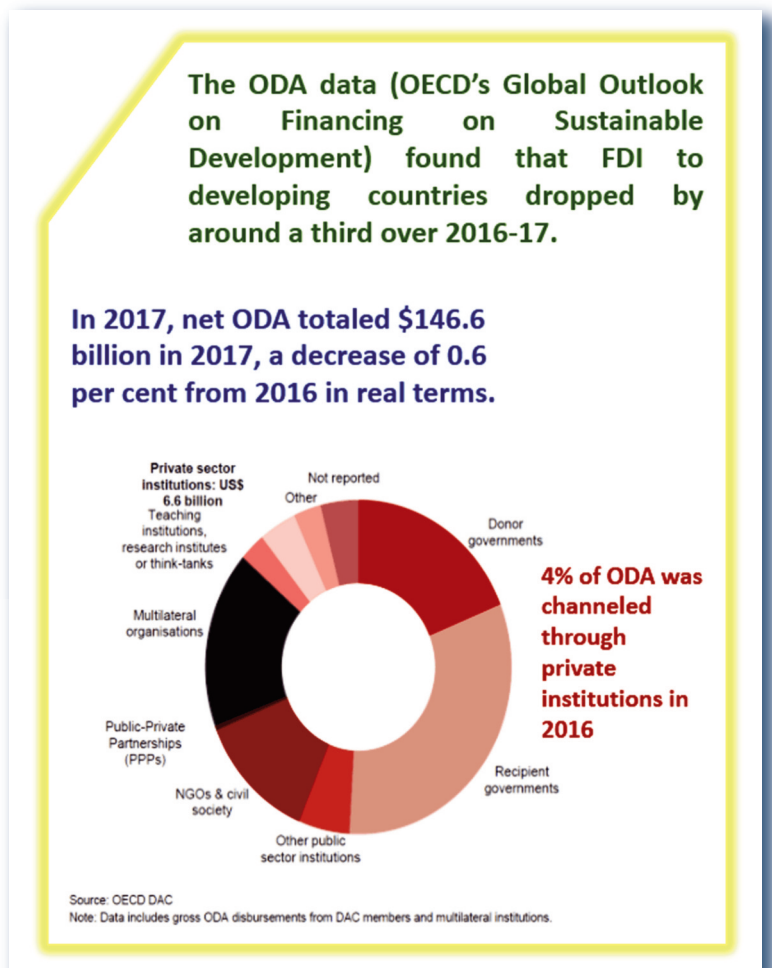
- Local Resource Mobilization:** It is crucial for the government and other development actors like CSOs to identify different sources of financing and mechanisms to mobilize finance from new sources. Though the interest in financing SDGs is on the rise, still mobilizing the financial resources has been a major challenge. Despite the interest and progress of the goals, investment for implementation of goals remain underfunded as multi-lateral systems are under stress and strain due to increase in systemic risks.



Thus, it is essential to mobilize the resources at locally for effective partnership and impact. Also, local investor/donor can be much more involved in the process of development. Private sector is another source of financing at local level. Private sector has been interested in investing in SDGs, but it is essential for the partnership to deliver long-term outcomes for a sustained development. Furthermore, there have been increasing efforts to catalyze additional resource mobilization from other sources, both public and private.

- ODA:** Official Development Assistance (ODA) is an important component as it provides financial assistance to developing countries to support the country's sustainable development. According to UNCTAD (2014), still SDGs require at least \$2.5 trillion per year in developing countries. This situation reinforces the call for new measures of development finance and initiatives to capture resource flows beyond ODA, such as through official

ODA refers to financial support— either grants or concessional loans— from OECD-DAC member countries to developing countries to advance development in the areas of health, education, infrastructure, sanitation, tax system, capacity building etc.



support for sustainable development. Recently, OECD has proposed a new development finance standard – total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD) – which could serve as a universally accepted measure of public financial support for sustainable development. This standard complements ODA by covering the totality of international public finance extended to developing countries and multilateral institutions regardless of the type of instrument used and the associated terms. It also potentially includes private resources mobilized through public schemes, as well as the activities of diverse financial intermediaries.

## India's framework for SSC: Development Compact

The UNDP Human Development Report (2003) defines development compact as an arrangement based on a system of shared responsibility, where all countries could help poor countries achieve their development goals. This is to provide assistance by developed countries to developing countries for their country's development. However, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi mentions in 'The Development Compact: A Theoretical Construct for South-South Cooperation' that developing countries should not entirely depend on assistance and should try to generate resources domestically as well. Further he shared CSOs can play an important role in advancing the process of development compact due to their ability to provide effective services, monitor the programs and can also help to overcome political issues.

On the other hand, India has always been upfront about its development assistance since independence. The development compact is based on principles of mutual gain, non-interference and this partnership offers opportunity for growth and economic expansion through capacity building and institution strengthening. The uniqueness of this concept is that it will be country specific arrangement, that is each country can have their own theory to apply solutions for the problems faced. As each country is different in terms of diversity, geographical structure, governance etc. Thus, this concept provides developing countries freedom to make decision regarding the issues at national and local level. This will also provide a greater efficiency and impact towards the growth of a country.

India's Status: According to FIDC's policy brief India predominantly has been an aid receiving country ever since its independence. It was one of the largest borrower countries of World Bank and IMF. However, from last few decades, India has emerged as one of the fastest growing economy and has transformed from an aid recipient to a donor of foreign aid. According to Centre for Global Development, 'India has emerged as an aid donor', "It has transitioned to a donor country, emerging on the world stage as a significant provider of development assistance."

Further it has been shown through a recent survey by World Economic Forum that over 85% of Indian population are optimistic to help other countries through aid assistance. India has become second largest country for international aid, according to Centre for Global Development. The reports of Ministry of External Affairs show the amount of foreign aid which India has spent, i.e. 64.7 billion (INR) in 2017-18 as compared to previous fiscal year (59.3 billion). In 2016, India dedicated 5 billion towards 'Project Development Fund' to strengthen economy which included countries like Vietnam, Myanmar etc. This reflects that India has also extended its support (aid and grants) to South-East Asia and other nations to strengthen its global ties.

- ❖ **Partnerships:**— Since last decades, partnerships, platforms, alliances, networks etc have become an integral part to today's world. Concepts such as inclusive partnerships have grown strong to address common challenges and collectively work on solutions to promote development goals. It calls for Public-Private Partnership as they

play a pivotal role in ensuring developmental growth through strategic investments. Governments across the world are also emphasizing on the infrastructure development projects as it is critical for reaching SDGs. Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure promotes the green infrastructure and also supports the country to meet their environmental and development goals. It requires extraordinary level of capital to meet the growth which evokes the interest in private sector involvement and public-private partnership. India has had one of the largest Public-Private Partnership (PPP) programmes globally. According to PPIAF, for South-Asia there were 1,090 projects with a total volume of \$383 billion of which 85% is in India. Thus, PPPs have become an alternative financing mechanism especially in developing countries which have been interested in attracting private capital for infrastructure investment.

- ❖ **Capacity Building:—** Along with financial assistance, there are other kind of support such as capacity building. Developing countries require assistance in the process of achieving SDGs. The need of capacity building can be catered through enhancing international support. Such alliance will provide support to the national plans of developing countries and also support the implementation of all sustainable development goals. The triangulation cooperation, north-south cooperation and south-south cooperation provides a platform for developing countries to enhance the international alliance.

Developing countries are emphasizing towards south-south cooperation for effective development partnerships. South-South cooperation plays different roles from knowledge sharing to training, technology transfer, financial cooperation as well as market access and trade-oriented support and investment. In India's context, south-south cooperation could be one of the doors for enhanced international support due to its shared history and culture. The cooperation should also involve other actors as well like academia, media, think tanks etc, for stronger strategies and alliance among not only south-south cooperation but north-south cooperation. CSOs play an important role in such collaboration as they have been working with the community and have immense experience of ground realities. Thus, CSOs can bring the new perspective through their expertise and lens. Such collaboration between government-government, CSO-government, CSO-CSO will provide not only the support but also a platform to share the best practices and learnings which will enhance the capacity of organization across countries and world.

Government of India has for long supported the capacity building of Third World Countries through its initiative— Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programs under Development Partnership Administration (DPA). It aims to streamline and improve the delivery of various elements of India's Development Assistance.

The ITEC Programme is fully funded by the Government of India and has grown over the years. To keep up with India's development engagement with the world, the funds allocated for ITEC has ranged between 55-60% of MEA's total budget annually. In FY 2016-17, the proposed ITEC outlay is Rs.7907.82 crore, which would be 54% of MEA's total proposed budget of Rs.14662.66 crore.

The result of different activities under this program— there is a visible and growing awareness among other countries about the competence of India's technical support and expertise as well as training

**The ITEC Programme is bilateral in nature and uses resources for cooperation programmes conceived in multilateral organizations, regional and inter-regional context such as Economic Commission for Africa, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIDO, Group of 77, G-15, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), African Union (AU), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), World Trade Organization (WTO) and Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and India-Africa Forum Summit.**



opportunities, consultancy services etc. These programmes have generated substantive cooperation among the developing countries.

- ❖ **Policy Coherence Enhancement and Accountability:**— the Goal 17 talks about providing space to countries to have their policies and to be accountable and responsible— to establish and implement SDGs. The OECD sees Policy Coherence as a process for integrating the multiple dimensions of development at all stages of policy making. On accountability front, government have social accountability mechanisms to measure the progress of the program or activity implemented by them. Social accountability is an approach that ensures accountability which relies on civic engagement i.e. in which citizens and citizens group participates directly or indirectly in exacting accountability. Evidence suggests that social accountability mechanisms contribute to improved governance, increased development effectiveness through better service delivery or project impact and citizens empowerment. CSOs have a major role in this process as they are considered to be the representative of people. They are the voice of the community and issues that are faced by people. CSOs can play a major role in social accountability as based on data it can hold government accountable for their actions. Such type of participation between different actor is required not only for accountability but also for development agenda.



# CSOs Role in Sustainable Development Goals

According to the World Bank definition of CSOs- “the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) therefore refer to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations.”

The understanding of CSOs is very crucial as it provides the basis for what they can contribute in achieving Agenda 2030 and how they can be integrated into SDG implementation and review structure. CSOs are very diverse in terms of Size some are a team of small people and other organization might have thousands of employees, Mission some are based on single issue such as education while others might be focusing on more than one issues like capacity building, advocacy, research etc; Source of Funding— some receiving state/government funding while some have limited resources through non-government donors; Sphere of Operations— some operating in single community and some are working across country or globe. These differences are reflected in the ways that CSOs are variously classified by type, level, nature of work etc. Thus, it is crucial to recognize that CSOs have vastly different capacities and resources and so differ greatly in how much they can contribute to the achievement of SDGs and in their capacity to engage in implementing, reporting and review process.

Further, according to Darian Stibbe and Dave Prescott from the Partnering Initiative, describes some of the contribution/ resources that different sectors can bring to table:

NGOs and Civil Society	Business	Government	International Agencies	Donors and Foundations
Technical Knowledge/ Capacity	A market-based/ commercial/ value creation approach	Regulatory Framework	Technical support, knowledge and experience	Funding and support
Access to and deep knowledge of communities	Power of the brand and access to customer base	Taxation policy	Legitimacy and impartiality	In many cases, foundations can be less risk adverse and support more experimental and innovative approaches, providing proof of concept that can be expanded by more experimental and innovative approaches, providing proof of concept that can be expanded by more traditional donors
Legitimacy/ Social Capital	Technical and process innovation	Integration with public systems/ long term planning	Access to global network	
Passion and People-focus	Power of value chain Infrastructure/ Logistics	Capacity Building Provision of land and Supporting Infrastructure Democratic legitimacy	Political access	

Source: Introduction to MSPs, [www.partneringinitiative.org](http://www.partneringinitiative.org)

## CSO's Contribution to Agenda 2030

There are various ways in which CSOs contribute to implementation of the SDGs. The most important role of CSOs in the SDGs is to realise and view them as an important change maker or actor. These development agents who directly bring the outcomes through their direct interventions or indirectly by removing the obstacles to implementation or facilitating the implementation by others. Realising their contribution not only stresses on their role in service delivery and implementing SDGs but also highlights their expertise in designing and means of implementation. Such knowledge and experience are required for achieving SDGs and the targets under it. Therefore, such kind of contribution reflects the CSOs value as technical expert.

The SDGs pledges to “leave no one behind” in their commitment to development process. CSOs partnership is required for SDGs to be inclusive, responsive and participatory with respect to disadvantaged groups. CSOs’ represents “voiceless” groups and the interests and needs of present as well as of future generations is a vital, integral contribution to implementation of the SDGs. They ensure that these national priorities reflect the local needs and address people’s issues. At the national level, civil society organizations play a crucial role in translating global agendas into national priorities. In this way CSOs act as catalysts for critical global and national agendas and assist in bringing people’s voice to national debates and the development of national strategies.

Another function of CSOs is their regulation via monitoring and review - holding states and other actors to their commitments and highlighting poor practice. The watchdog role is not separate from the implementation of the SDGs, but a core task for organized civil society within it. Review and accountability are part of the SDG agenda and this role is recognized across the UN system. The DPI website, for example, highlights the role of NGOs to “monitor policies”, serve as “early warning mechanisms” and “help monitor” international agreements.

CSOs also function as a transmission mechanism for ideas and information between the “empowered space” of decision-makers and a wider public sphere. Furthermore, CSOs play a critical role in working with governments in implementing their national agendas, service delivery, generating research and evidence, to hold governments accountable to their commitments and advocating for change, including around the SDGs. CSOs bring agendas, principles, interests into decision-making processes, and circulate information outwards, enhancing public awareness and engagement. Both of these aspects contribute to legitimating the SDGs in the eyes of citizens and spreading a wide sense of ownership.

## Importance of CSOs

Recognizing the important role of civil society play in delivering SDGs including mobilizing citizens and assisting with effective SDG implementation. CSOs not just see their value as giving voice to the voiceless and representing concerns but also operates between “empowered” and “public” space to connect citizens to governments, and to networks of global governance. Thus, there needs to be a well-defined space for effective engagements between Government, CSOs and Private Sector. Different CSO networks are coming together around SDG agenda (at national and regional level) with many groups focusing on efforts to engage with government and corporates to implement the SDGs and to monitor progress around its implementation. Further as recognised by the HLP report, the civil society organisations

(CSOs) have a key role to play in the post-2015 agenda (HLP, 2013). CSOs make a valuable contribution to public policy-making processes and in making sure that government at all levels and businesses act responsibly.

The relative importance of CSOs should also be acknowledged by other actors at global and national level that they are contributing through many functions at once and simultaneously representing the interests of a marginalized group through spotlighting the gap between government promises and policies.

## **Enhancing CSO's engagement on the SDGs:**

- Strengthening the alignment of programs with the SDGs at national level
- To track progress on SDG implementation at different levels, CSOs have people-centric data which may complement the official data (NITI Aayog).
- Creating a strong national network or platform that can help achieve implementation, monitoring, bridging data gap and further can help to create awareness and educate citizens.

For Example— Policy Forum for Development (PFD) is a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that is the result of a Structured Dialogue, which brings together Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) from the European Union and partner countries with European Institutions and bodies. Recently PFD have come out with MSPs Survey where it looks at— where and how multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) work, including their uses, challenges and impacts. It talks about understanding these partnerships can help to better use them to increase aid and development effectiveness and fulfill the 2030 Agenda.

According to the MSPs survey by PFD— majority of respondents (67%) come from CSOs which participate in partnerships at several levels, but most MSPs in the survey are local, followed by regional level. The majority of MSPs are longstanding, more than 3 years in existence, and more than 95% of them advance the 2030 Agenda. Thus, such survey shows that CSOs are highly engaged in partnership and are working towards Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.



# Leveraging Aid for SDGs: CSOs Perspective

India is one of the first few nations to roll out a regulation on CSR. As per Companies Act, 2013, all companies with a net worth of INR 500 crore or more, or a turnover of INR 1000 crore or more or a net profit of INR 5 crore in a given fiscal year are required to spend 2% of its average net profit from the last three years towards CSR activities listed in Schedule VII. The regulation act as a mechanism to address various developmental issues. It eventually helps in raising the CSR funds that is effectively utilized through CSR policy framework. Businesses are expected to proactively identify and implement solutions to overcome the developmental challenges.

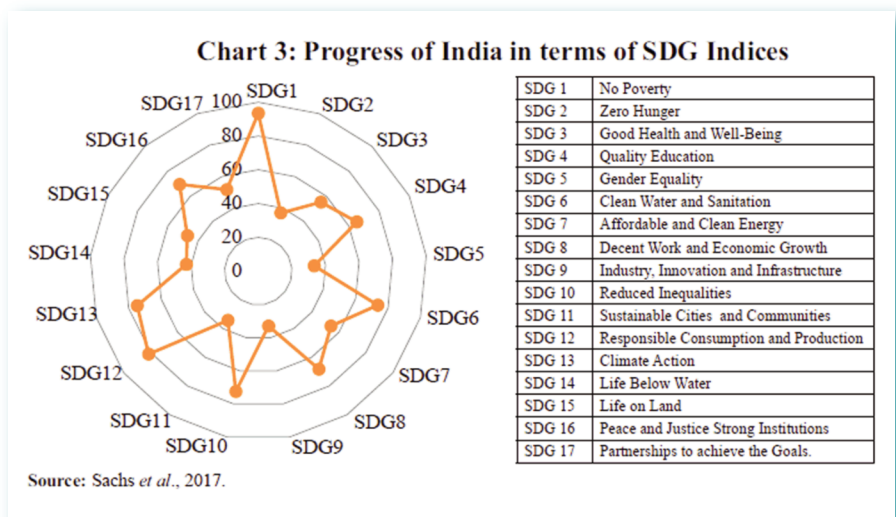
SDGs and the CSR regulations in India, both were implemented/ formulated around the same time and have a tremendous potential to develop a sustainable growth model. CSR’s listed activities overlaps with SDGs thematic development areas. The CSR regulation sets the broad framework and gives direction for better sustainable future while the SDGs set tangible well-defined targets to measure the outcome of activities. India being a diverse country, has the distinct challenge in implementing projects on achieving SDGs at local level. Although the government initiatives create an optimism however, there are multiple challenges on the implementation part. Similarly, at local level, some of the states have actively embraced SDGs in their development agenda.

## Government

Globally according to World Bank’s data of public spending as a share of GDP— there is a degree of heterogeneity between world regions, in context of India, it stands in between 30-40%. In India, NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility to implement the SDGs by government regulatory mechanisms. The institution has carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 Goals and 169 targets to Nodal Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and major government initiatives.

According to India’s VNR Report 2017, several Government’s programmes would directly contribute to advancement of the SDG agenda. A noteworthy example is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) which is the world’s largest financial inclusion programme. By leveraging PMJDY, Aadhaar (biometric identity system) and mobile telephony, the Government has disbursed a cumulative amount of INR 1.6 trillion (USD 25 billion) to 329 million beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfers. This has helped to significantly enhance the efficiency of Government programmes. The following chart depicts the progress of India:

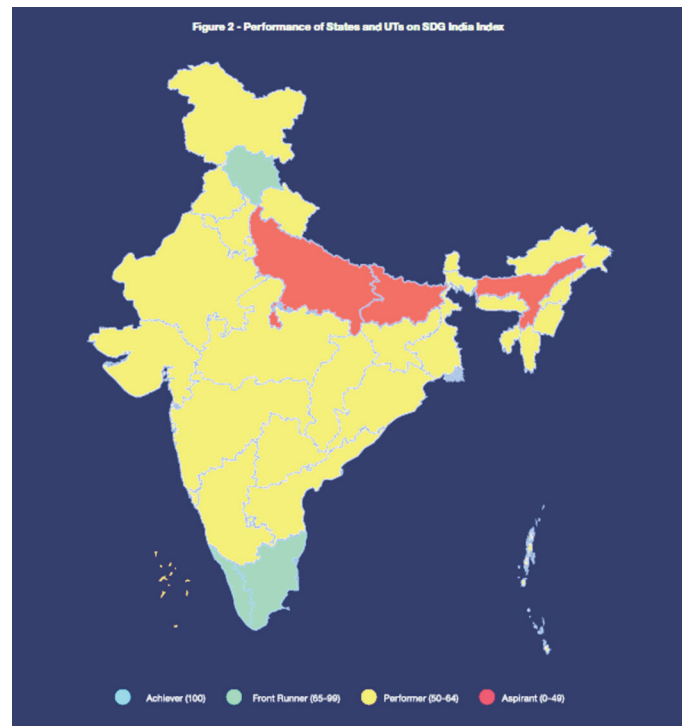
On goal 17 for revitalizing the global partnership, India highlights the need for international cooperation and reiterates that developed countries should provide assistance to developing countries. Initiatives are also being undertaken for enhancing development cooperation with neighboring and other countries of the global South. For instance, according to India’s VNR Report (2017), the South Asia Satellite was launched in May 2017 for sharing data with neighboring



countries. Lastly, efforts are underway at the national level for finalizing the indicators that will enable monitoring of the progress made on the SDGs.

Further, NITI Aayog also provides the ranks of states on SDG front in its VNR report. As observed in map, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the only states that are front runners and majority of the states are in performing stage.

While the central government has sponsored schemes to provide employment, connect villages to cities through roads, build houses for the poor and offer education in the states etc. In this regard, State Ministers also came forward to provide their advice to the central government on such important matters such as digital payments, skill development and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Despite the progress there is a lot to be done and Government cannot achieve SDGs in isolation. Government needs to actively engage CSOs along with Business sector as they both bring different aspect and contribution to the SDGs. The following matrix shows the central government's schemes, budget allocation against each goal:



Source: NITI Aayog: SDG India Index

### Budget Allocation of Central Government against each Goal

Goal Description	Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes	Budget Allocation 2018-19
<p><b>1 NO POVERTY</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Urban Livelihood Mission</li> <li>2) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)</li> <li>3) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)</li> <li>4) National Social Assistance Programme</li> <li>5) National Land Record Management Programme (NLRMP)</li> <li>6) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.</li> <li>7) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana</li> <li>8) Atal Pension Yojana (APY)</li> </ol>	<p>Overall, Budget 2018 has delivered a massive 14.34 lakh crore push on rural development to reduce the gap between rural Bharat and urban India.</p> <p>(The Economic Times)</p> <p>MGNREGA has been allocated Rs 60,000 crore for 2018-19.</p>
<p><b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Food Security Mission</li> <li>2) Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture</li> <li>3) National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture</li> <li>4) National Oilseed and Oil Palm Mission</li> <li>5) National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology</li> <li>6) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</li> <li>7) National Livestock Mission</li> <li>8) Livestock Health and Disease Control</li> <li>9) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development</li> <li>10) Targeted Public Distribution System</li> <li>11) National Nutrition Mission</li> <li>12) National Food Security Act</li> <li>13) Mid-Day Meal Scheme</li> </ol>	<p>The budgetary allocation of the agriculture and farmers welfare ministry for 2018-19 has been kept at Rs. 58,080 crore</p>






Goal Description	Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes	Budget Allocation 2018-19
 <p><b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Health Mission including NRHM</li> <li>2) Human Resource in Health and Medical Education</li> <li>3) National Mission on Ayush including Mission on Medical Plants</li> <li>4) National AIDS &amp; STD Control Programme</li> <li>5) Integrated Child Development Service</li> <li>6) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (2006)</li> </ol>	<p>The budgetary allocation of Rs 54,667 crore for health in 2018-19 was merely 5 per cent higher than budget in 2017-18</p> <p>(The Hindu)</p>
 <p><b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan</li> <li>2) National Programme Nutritional Support to Primary Education (MDM)</li> <li>3) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)</li> <li>4) Support for Educational Development including Teachers Training &amp; Adult Education</li> <li>5) Scheme for providing education to Madrasas, Minorities and Disabled</li> <li>6) Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan</li> <li>7) Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.</li> </ol>	<p>Rs 85,010 crore allocated to education sector in year 2018-19</p> <p>(The Hindu)</p>
 <p><b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Mission for Empowerment of Women including Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahyog Yojana</li> <li>2) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls</li> <li>3) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (Girl Child Prosperity Scheme)</li> <li>4) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)</li> <li>5) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao</li> <li>6) Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) 2014</li> <li>7) SWADHAR 2011 (A scheme for women in difficult circumstances)</li> <li>8) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyay</li> </ol>	<p>Overall, the Gender Budget allocation for FY 2018-19 is Rs 121,961 crore</p> <p>(The Hindustan Times)</p>
 <p><b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Rural Drinking water Programme</li> <li>2) Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan</li> <li>3) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana</li> <li>4) National River Conservation Programme (NRCP)</li> </ol>	<p>The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation was today granted Rs 22,356.60 crore, registering an increase of 11.72 per cent, in the Union Budget 2018-19.</p> <p>(Business Standard)</p>

Goal Description	Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes	Budget Allocation 2018-19
<p><b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana</li> <li>2) Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Urban)- Saubhagya</li> <li>3) Integrated Power Development Scheme</li> <li>4) Grid Interactive Renewable Power</li> <li>5) Off-Grid/Distributed and De-centralised Renewable Power</li> <li>6) Research &amp; Development</li> <li>7) LPG Subsidy</li> <li>8) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana</li> </ol>	<p>The revised estimates for FY18-19 show that the government spent a combined Rs 3340 crore on wind and solar energy sectors and green energy corridors, the allocation for the same falls to Rs 3310 crore in FY19-20.</p> <p>(livemint)</p>
<p><b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Service Scheme (NSS)</li> <li>2) Skill Development Mission</li> <li>3) Social Security for Unorganised Workers</li> <li>4) Deendayal Upadhyaya Antodaya Yojana.</li> <li>5) National Urban Development Mission</li> </ol>	<p>an outlay of Rs.7,148 crore for the textile sector in 2018-19</p> <p>allocated Rs3,794 crore to the MSME sector as credit support, capital and "promotion of innovations"</p> <p>(livemint)</p>
<p><b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Border Area Development Programme</li> <li>2) National Handloom Development Programme</li> <li>3) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</li> <li>4) Make in India</li> <li>5) Start Up India</li> </ol>	<p>The infrastructure sector received a push of Rs 5.97 trillion in the budget 2018-19.</p> <p>(Business Insider)</p>
<p><b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities</li> <li>2) Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes</li> <li>3) Scheme for Development of Other Backward Classes and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes.</li> <li>4) Scheme for development of Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)</li> <li>5) Umbrella scheme for Education of ST students</li> <li>6) PAHAL- Direct Benefit s Transfer for LPG(DBTL) consumers scheme &amp; Give it Up Campaign (for LPG subsidy)</li> </ol>	<p>Overall, Budget 2018 has delivered a massive 14.34 lakh crore push on rural development to reduce the gap between rural Bharat and urban India.</p> <p>(The Economic Times)</p>



Goal Description	Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes	Budget Allocation 2018-19																
 <p><b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</li> <li>2) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)</li> <li>3) Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)</li> <li>4) National Programme for Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>5) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) (ACA)</li> <li>6) Smart Cities Mission</li> <li>7) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)</li> <li>8) Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)</li> </ol>	<p>The budget estimated was Rs 41,765 crore for 2018-19</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Budget Allocation for SDG 11</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mero</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PMAY (Urban)</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Cities</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AMRUT</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government residential and non-residential buildings</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBM (Urban)</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scheme	Percentage	Mero	36%	PMAY (Urban)	16%	Smart Cities	15%	AMRUT	14%	Government residential and non-residential buildings	8%	SBM (Urban)	6%	Others	6%
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 <p><b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Mission for a Green India</li> <li>2) Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-systems</li> <li>3) National River Conservation Programme</li> <li>4) Environment Protection, Management and Sustainable Development</li> <li>5) Science &amp; Technology Programme</li> <li>6) Consumer Protection (including consumer awareness development)</li> <li>7) Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana</li> <li>8) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission</li> </ol>	<p>Agriculture and farmers budget for 2018-19 has been kept at Rs. 58,080 crore</p> <p>The government spent a combined Rs 3340 crore on wind and solar energy sectors and green energy corridors</p>																
 <p><b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Mission for a Green India</li> <li>2) Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-systems</li> <li>3) National River Conservation Programme</li> <li>4) Environment Protection, Management and Sustainable Development</li> <li>5) Grid-Interactive Renewable Power (solar, wind, small hydro and biopower, and green energy corridor)</li> <li>6) Off-Grid/Distributed Renewable Power</li> <li>7) National Action Plan on Climate Change</li> </ol>	<p>The Environment Ministry was allocated Rs 2,586.67 crore in 2018-19.</p> <p>The government spent a combined Rs 3340 crore on wind and solar energy sectors and green energy corridors (The Economic Times)</p>																
 <p><b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-Systems</li> <li>2) Environment Protection, Management and Sustainable Development</li> <li>3) National Coastal Management Programme</li> <li>4) Neel Kranti Mission (Blue Revolution) – Marine fisheries and aquaculture related components</li> <li>5) Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-STORMS)</li> </ol>	<p>The Environment Ministry was allocated Rs 2,586.67 crore in 2018-19.</p>																

Goal Description	Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes	Budget Allocation 2018-19
 <p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Afforestation Programme (National Mission for a Green India)</li> <li>2) National Environmental Policy 2006</li> <li>3) National Agroforestry Policy (2014)</li> <li>4) National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (2001)</li> </ol>	<p>The Environment Ministry was allocated Rs 2,586.67 crore in 2018-19.</p>
 <p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Digital India</li> <li>2) Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme</li> <li>3) Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary including Gram Nyayalayas and e-courts</li> <li>4) Integrated Child Protection Scheme</li> <li>5) Umbrella ICDS</li> <li>6) National Labour Project</li> </ol>	<p>“Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022” with a total investment of Rs.1,00,000 crore in next four years was announced (2018-19)</p> <p>Source: PIB</p>
 <p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National Mission for a Green India</li> <li>2) Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-systems</li> <li>3) National River Conservation Programme</li> <li>4) Environment Protection, Management and Sustainable Development</li> <li>5) Grid-Interactive Renewable Power (solar, wind, small hydro and biopower, and green energy corridor)</li> <li>6) Off-Grid/Distributed Renewable Power</li> <li>7) National Action Plan on Climate Change</li> </ol>	<p>ITEC program budget allocation is Rs.7907.82 crore.</p>

Note: The table has been taken from NITI Aayog (all schemes).

Disclaimer: Budget is allocated to specific interventions/ programmes.

## Corporate Sector

The corporates play the role of catalyst as they have the adaptability and agility in the implementation of micro level scheme. Thus, there is crucial need to involve the corporates in SDGs. As corporates are quick to respond and implement solutions with localized innovations. They can follow a practical approach in realizing the SDGs and instigate transformational change in localized economy.

The trends were observed in private sector: Improved governance— as per the Act, each company needs to have a board level committee to oversee CSR which helped in shaping it as a strategic response. Alignment with national agenda— CSR trend of top 100 companies according to NSE list, there has been a significant increase in initiatives that are aligned with national priorities are stated by government include skill development, health and hygiene, clean and safe water and so on.

Converging the projects for bigger impact— an observation was made that the projects undertaken by the corporates have reduced in number but increased its scale. This showcases the strategic focus to create bigger impact of the projects undertaken. Social Sector Collaboration — there is an increased involvement of NGOs and other social players for implementation of the CSR projects.

However, if we look at the actual picture of CSR spent in India by the top companies, we get a different picture. According to 'Corporate Responsibility in India, 2018' report it has been observed that CSR fund mostly focus in the areas such as health (25%), education (38%), rural development (11%). According to KPMG report, CSR spending by Indian company was heavily skewed towards education and healthcare. The two sectors received 50% of all CSR spends last financial year. In all, over 60% of projects undertaken by large corporates were in those two fields.

CSR can play a major role in bridging the development gap and achieving Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. But even though the amount spent on CSR activities have increased year by year however there was a sharp decline in projects implemented. The CSR money invested are concentrated in few fields and related projects. CSR can play an important role in achieving SDGs. They can be a driver for financing SDGs. In VANI's consultation it was shared by the participants that if CSR is linked or aligned to SDGs it will make leveraging the fund easier for organisations. Also, they can be more involved in SDGs implementation and impact as CSOs have the ability and are capable of engaging different stakeholders. Thus, in this way such partnerships will collaboratively work towards achieving Agenda 2030.

Moreover, it was also observed that CSR funds are far away from being spent equitably across the state or going to the poorer region. There are evidences that shows that CSR money is being concentrated in certain regions only. Thus, this shows a major gap and challenge that CSR is not addressing the issues in the correct way and direction for the development across the country. Instead according to report, it determines spending on the basis of convenience, visibility and other prerogatives of companies themselves. Though, the government have been active in regulation and key domain of business responsibility system. They have been monitoring the companies that have been failing to comply with the CSR spending requirements under Companies Act, 2013. However, CSR spending if implemented in right way can be a good force towards development. It has the potential to combat the issues if raised in the right direction. Businesses have the power and opportunity to impact the development and contribute to SDGs in right way.

According to NITI Aayog's VNR Report India's positioned at 112 of 157 on the SDG index which is a wakeup call for action for all actors. Challenges such as lack of data on various baselines or localized governance and implementation can be overcome by collaboration. Thus, multi-stakeholder partnerships are a way of getting the output value from combining the support available in different ways. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can be used wherever there is an alignment of interest among different actors and where there is a potential for collective action to contribute to the SDGs while generating values for the actors.

As different actor brings different values and contribution to SDGs. CSOs have the potential to leverage a range of resources for a particular issue; create innovative approaches from the diversity of contributions; tackle complexity and implement systems change. CSOs can contribute to any of the SDGs and can work in any number of ways— joint advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity building etc— for development. Thus, there is a strong requirement for triangular cooperation among CSOs, Government and Private sector to come together at same platform to work collectively towards Agenda 2030.



## Conclusion

Ever since the Sustainable Development Goals were launched, they have been of utmost importance to address the root cause of recalcitrant development gaps. Despite the progress made on these goals, a lot of groundwork needs coverage with an equivalent amount of human, technical and financial investment before 2030. This calls for all development actors to form a strong collaborative. Civil Society because of its diversity and extensive reach can convene such multi-stakeholder partnerships and provoke conversations to address urgent demands of SDGs. Similarly, it has the prowess and ability to mobilize its constituencies and beneficiaries to demand accountability from power structures in implementing the goals.

As an aspiration to leverage effective transformation there is a need to make the engagement process of multi-stakeholder partnerships extend from the grassroots to the international level. This will require proactive steps towards revitalizing South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation with an equitable participation of Civil Society Organizations to represent and feed people's concerns and issues. Agreements like BAPA+40, IBSA declaration, Brasilia Declaration etc, are the roadmap for advancing the efforts and partnership for development by engaging more actors and countries. These agreements enhance the partnership and capacity of a country to achieve their national development agenda along with global commitments. The next phase of Triangular Cooperation for SDGs should now focus on building trust, agreement and duly incentivize actors to derive mutual benefits from the partnership ecosystem.

In achieving Agenda 2030, finance and capacity building have a crucial role. Finance is the key driver for implementation of SDGs. There are various institutions and models that are available for development financing. Multilateral Development Banks will be intrinsic in driving economic transformation of developing countries with their focus on infrastructure and financing. Therefore, Civil Society collectivization will be integral towards mobilizing dialogues and facilitate the achievement of SDGs with such institutions.

Further, there is a need for being cognizant of framework such as Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a new global context for financing the implementation of SDGs. Along with this Official Development Assistance (ODA) which is another form of finance that advances the efforts for national development agenda of developing country. India is one of the countries that transformed itself from aid recipient to a donor country. It has extended the financial support of 64.7 billion in the year 2017-18.

However still there is a shortfall in funding of sustainable development goals. Concerted focus should be on mobilizing the resources at domestic level. This includes public-private partnerships which can be used to raise funds locally from government and corporates in the form of grant aids and private financing.

The role of government and corporates however go beyond just financing. It is the need that Government and corporate should engage with civil society to implement the SDGs as it will multiply the impact of programs. Due to civil society's expertise, experience, their understanding and knowledge of grassroots, citizens data etc makes them an important player in the development process. Thus, Government should advance their efforts to partner with CSOs for collective efforts rather working in silos.

Similarly, corporates need to go beyond the financing of activities and should be accountable of the impact that they are having. Government and CSOs should monitor not only the spending and areas but also the impact and the region these activities are being implemented. This will enable the well distribution of fund and not just concentrated in few development fields and regions of the country. In VANI's consultation on SDGs, it was suggested— mapping of the SDGs according to issues, states, projects and the CSR; mapping of partnership at macro and micro level, citizen data for comparative analysis, online dashboard reflecting SDGs situation at grassroot level; partnership models and mechanism at national and regional level; case stories of effective partnership to be communicated; social audit and monitoring of CSR activities/ programs, aligning SDGs in the Constitution and Preamble of India, CSO's representative in CSR committee board of corporates. These suggestions if worked upon can provide a new direction in terms of SDGs.

Despite the efforts, there is still a lot to be achieved on SDGs. The study puts together the lessons learnt over the period and addresses the emerging trends that offer insight into implementing Multi-stakeholder partnerships. A combined and sustained efforts at the national and global levels will indeed contribute towards achieving Agenda 2030 and ensure a world we want.



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## **CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS STRENGTHENING VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

I/We wish to contribute by Cheque/Demand Draft (Favouring Voluntary Action Network India payable at New Delhi)

Support for organizing Capacity Building workshop to strengthen Voluntary Sector	Rs. 5,000.00
Support for Research strengthening the Voluntary Sector	Rs. 2,000.00
Any other amount	

Enclosed is my Cheque/Demand Draft for Rs. ....

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Please send your contribution in the following address:

**Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)**  
VANI HOUSE, 7, PSP Pocket,  
Sector-8, Dwarka,  
New Delhi 110 077 (INDIA)

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- Civil Society Accountability Principles and Practice (India Toolkit) (English)

## About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organizations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 540 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18, our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



### **Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)**

VANI HOUSE, 7, PSP Pocket,

Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 077

Phone: 011-49148610, 40391661, 40391663

Email: [info@vaniindia.org](mailto:info@vaniindia.org) Website: [www.vaniindia.org](http://www.vaniindia.org)