

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

### A) The 2030 Agenda/SDGs

The 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2015) adopted a resolution titled '*Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*' consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets.

The Agenda allows each Government to set its own national targets based on national circumstances and decide how global targets would be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. To assist this process, the United Nations Development Group created a Reference Guide for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

### B) Implementation Framework for the 2030 Agenda in India

NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility for coordination and overseeing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in India. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been entrusted with the task of preparing monitoring indicators for SDG targets. NITI Aayog has involved the States and UTs in the preparedness exercise by associating them with the formulation of the Vision and Strategy documents and advising them to undertake mapping of Goals and Targets with various departments, while building their institutional capacities for implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

### C) Audit Approach

The audit was taken up with the overall objective of ascertaining 'Preparedness of the Government for the Implementation of SDGs' covering aspects such as extent to which the 2030 Agenda has been adapted in the national context; identification and mobilisation of resources and capacities, and creation of mechanism for monitoring and reporting progress. To assess preparedness at the State level, seven States<sup>1</sup> were selected. In addition, 'Goal 3- Good Health and Well-Being' was selected for detailed examination of preparedness.

<sup>1</sup> Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

## Key Findings

Key findings in each of the focus area of examination, and with respect to Goal 3, are provided in the subsequent sections.

Initiatives	Areas of concern
<b>A) Adapting the 2030 Agenda</b>	
<b>Institutional Arrangements for the 2030 Agenda (Para 2.2)</b>	
NITI Aayog, identified as nodal agency for coordination and overseeing implementation of SDGs, has undertaken various mainstreaming activities. A multi-disciplinary Task Force has been set up to analyse and review implementation of SDGs. States have also identified nodal agencies for SDGs.	A roadmap is yet to be aligned with defined milestones for SDG targets to be achieved in the year 2020, 2025 and 2030.
<b>Reviewing Plans and Adapting SDGs (Para 2.3)</b>	
NITI Aayog, tasked with preparation of Vision, Strategy and Action Agenda documents and identification/allocation of national targets, had released “Three Year Action Agenda” and “Strategy for New India @75” documents broadly mirroring SDGs and carried out mapping of Goals/Targets. Similar exercises were also undertaken by States.	Vision document is still under preparation. States are yet to prepare policy documents. Mapping of Goals/Targets undertaken by NITI Aayog and selected States is still ongoing.
<b>Building Awareness and Stakeholder Involvement (Para 2.4)</b>	
NITI Aayog had organised stakeholders’ workshops, consultations and meetings. At the State level, initiatives were undertaken for raising awareness, involving stakeholders, and capacity building of officials.	Efforts to raise public awareness about SDGs and initiatives undertaken in the selected States were not comprehensive, focussed or sustained.
<b>Policy Coherence (Para 2.5)</b>	
Existing governance structures provide for inter-ministerial and inter-agency mechanisms for policy coherence. The multi-disciplinary Task Force for SDGs had representation of the Central Ministries and States. Further, States had commenced setting up institutional mechanisms for addressing inter-connectedness.	States may need to strengthen institutional arrangements by identifying support departments and defining roles and responsibilities.

Initiatives	Areas of concern
<b>B) Resource Mobilisation for the 2030 Agenda</b>	
<b>Financing and Budgeting for SDGs (Para 3.2)</b>	
Government of India has taken several steps to optimise domestic resource mobilisation <sup>2</sup> and measures for improving expenditure efficiency and effectiveness. The Three Year Action Agenda projects availability of financial resources and sector-wise requirement of funds over a limited period of three-year.	The Strategy document did not project the financing and budgeting requirements. While it is recognised that projecting financial resources for achieving the Targets by 2030 is a challenging task, Ministry of Finance and State Governments are yet to integrate SDG related financial resources in national budgeting for implementing SDGs.
<b>C) Monitoring and Reporting</b>	
<b>Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring and Reporting (Para 4.2)</b>	
NITI Aayog is responsible for overseeing implementation of SDGs while MoSPI was tasked with preparation of the National Indicator Framework (NIF). States had also taken initiatives for establishing required monitoring frameworks.	Delay in approval of NIF held up finalisation of monitoring and reporting framework on implementation of SDGs. Initiatives undertaken in selected States were still in progress.
<b>Indicators, Data Availability, Monitoring and Reporting (Para 4.3)</b>	
NIF consisting of 306 indicators and their base line data have been prepared by MoSPI in consultation with the Central Ministries and State Governments. NITI Aayog has also released a “SDG India Index: Baseline Report” containing 62 priority indicators to measure progress of States/UTs with respect to implementation of SDGs.	There was no proposal to identify milestones for the national indicators. Out of 306 indicators included in NIF, data for 137 indicators were not yet available.
<b>D) Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being</b>	
<b>Institutional Arrangement for Integrating Goal 3 (Para 5.2)</b>	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and other Central Ministries were mapped for achieving Goal 3. Nodal departments or working groups had been designated in States.	Mapping in respect of Goal 3 was not comprehensive in selected States.
<b>Reviewing Plans and Adapting Goal 3 (Para 5.3)</b>	
The Three Year Action Agenda cover several key areas relating to health sector and broadly reflect the targets relating to Goal 3. A National Health Policy (NHP) promulgated in 2017 also recognize the pivotal importance of SDGs. In States, actions to formulate plans and policies in line with Goal 3 initiated.	Though States had indicated actions to formulate plans and policies in line with Goal 3, delays and absence of a holistic approach were noted.

<sup>2</sup> Eliminating the generation of black money and combating illicit fund flows, expanding the tax base, supporting investments through a predictable and stable tax policy

Initiatives	Areas of concern
<b>Promoting Awareness and Stakeholder Involvement (Para 5.4)</b>	
MoH&FW had organised national consultation on transitioning from MDGs to SDGs and State Level Conferences on Goal 3. Electronic and Social Media also used for increasing awareness.	Three Ministries <sup>3</sup> linked with Goal 3, were not involved in national consultation. Specific and sustained measures for promoting awareness and stakeholder involvement with Goal 3 were not seen in the States.
<b>Policy Coherence (Para 5.5)</b>	
MoH&FW had undertaken several initiatives supporting policy coherence for achieving horizontal and vertical coherence.	Ministries associated with Goal 3 were not represented in Task Force and working groups/sub-groups. Policy coherence initiatives undertaken were either absent or inadequate in States.
<b>Resource Mobilisation for Goal 3 (Para 5.6)</b>	
NHP envisage to increase the Public Health Expenditure to 2.5 <i>per cent</i> of GDP by 2025. Similarly, Three Year Action Agenda projects central allocation for health sector to ₹ one lakh crore by 2019-20.	There is still a long way to go before the target of public health expenditure is achieved and the central allocation for health for 2019-20 was far short of target. In States, health spending as a percentage of total States expenditure, ranged from 3.29 to 5.32 <i>per cent</i> which shows that this need considerable augmentation.
<b>Monitoring for Goal 3 (Para 5.7)</b>	
MoH&FW had set up a working group for formulating monitoring framework for Goal 3.	Data for certain health indicators were not regularly or uniformly available.

<sup>3</sup> AYUSH, Tribal Affairs, and Home Affairs.