

Highlights

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2016

United Nations, 2016, *Global Sustainable Development Report 2016*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, July.

Global Sustainable Development Report, 2016 responds to the mandate from the Rio+20 conference to contribute to strengthening the science policy interface for sustainable development in the context of the High Level Political forum on Sustainable Development. The report tries to explore possible approaches to examine the science policy as well as scientific approaches that can inform policies building upon integration and interlinkages across sustainable development goals, sector and issues.

Leaving No One Behind

The fundamental guiding principle for the implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Goal is to ensure that no one should be left behind. In order to implement this principle at the conceptual level, three questions need to be addressed.

- To identify those who are at the risk of being left behind.
- How can strategies and policies reach them in practice and
- What type of policies and strategies would be appropriate in order to leaving no one behind.

The report talks about certain strategies to ensure that no one should be left behind.

- **Economy-wide Growth Strategy:** It stresses on the fact that strategies which are made to fight the economic problems like poverty must be formed by taking into consideration the underlying structural dynamics not only across broad economic sectors (agriculture, industry, services etc.) but also within them and the difference in integration of the economy with the global economy.

The International Labor Organization reports that only 27 per cent of the global population have access to comprehensive social security systems, whereas 73 per cent are partially covered or not at all. More than 90 per cent of the population living in low income countries remains without any right to coverage in health.

- **Social Protection Systems:** They are one of the most vital component through which a society manage to leave no one behind. Despite coverage, health care is frequently neither available nor affordable, and poverty. As per OECD, even in developed keep pace with the demands resulting from the ageing population.
- **Area Based Strategies:** It says that the development strategies should be integrated and focused on a well-defined geographical area. These strategies are expected to be comprehensive in nature and would be focusing on multiple aspects like shelter water sanitation, basic services, access to education, road, transport and jobs.
- **Sectoral Strategies:** It talks about several other strategies which emerges from the investigation of scientific evidence on strategies. This talks about some the commonly used strategies which have been used in some SDG areas and the extent to which they have been used in leaving no one behind. Following is one such example:

Topic	Commonly Used Strategies	Alignment with Leaving no one behind	Example of Strategies
Nutrition	Promotion of breastfeeding and nutrition for pregnant/breastfeeding women and adolescent girls	Interventions are usually delivered as universal programmes targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, infants and young children.	Nutrition interventions such as the therapeutic feeding for children suffering from acute malnutrition

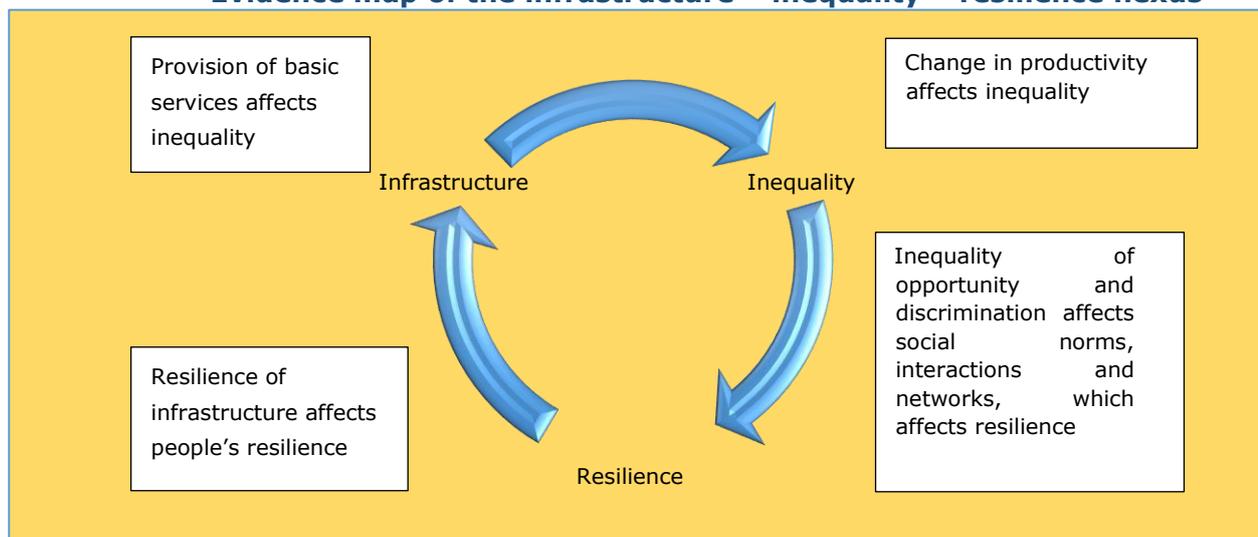
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A Nexus Approach: The Infrastructure – Inequality – Resilience nexus

An attempt has been made to highlight the main channels of interconnection among infrastructure, inequality and resilience and to synthesize the results of scientific analyses of the synergies and tradeoffs among them.

This approach examines the sets of issues as a whole and focus on the connection between them. The aim is to strengthen the science policy interface by showing policymakers how key interlinkages are analysed by the scientific community with key policy questions and highlighting areas for policy relevant research. Inequality is affected by the quality, design, coverage, accessibility and distribution of infrastructure. Key elements in this regard are where infrastructure is located, and whom it is intended to benefit.

Evidence map of the infrastructure – inequality – resilience nexus



Perspective of Scientists on Technology and SDGs

It presents a range of perspectives of scientists on the most promising actions or policy elements for optimal leveraging of technology for the SDGs and “leaving no-one behind”, as well as on which technologies will be most crucial until 2030. It says that technology, society and institutions co-evolve. **Among the total 169 targets of SDGs, 14 targets explicitly relates to technology** and many other targets relates to issues that are often largely discussed in terms of technology. Scientist emphasized for a need of national and international action plans and technology roadmaps.

It says that there is a need to strengthen the national systems of innovation to accelerate technology progress. **National innovation systems comprise many institutions and the cooperative actions of financiers, law makers, business people, institutional checks and balances, and researchers developing new technologies.** These ‘**systems of innovation**’ play a key role in enabling the country to manage the process of technology change, which ultimately will be of use across many areas of the SDGs.

78 per cent of R&D investments were in USA, China, Japan and Europe. In contrast, R&D levels in most developing countries remained much lower than 2 per cent of GDP

Many technologies already exist, but their deployment and diffusion in developing countries is lagging behind due to many technical, economic, institutional, legal and behavioral barriers. At the same time, new and advanced technologies need to be developed, continuously improved,

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shared, and deployed. Research and Development unit. This also requires to develop Global private and public R&D investments reached US\$1.6 trillion per year (or 2 per cent of GDP) in 2014.

Inclusive Institutions: The Example of National Councils for Sustainable Development and Parliaments

It says that understanding institutions is important in order to leave no one behind. The agenda for 2030 underlines that institutions shall strive to achieve effectiveness, inclusiveness and accountability, participative and representative decision making process at all the levels and policy coherence.

- It says that institutions can trigger behaviour and trends that can have positive and negative impact for development outcomes.
- The report marks the ***distinction between inclusiveness of institutions and inclusiveness through institutions***. Inclusiveness of institutions means that institutions are designed in manner that is conducive to inclusive representation and voice of all sections of society (or all countries) whereas inclusiveness through institution means that institutions through their action directly support or enable more inclusive outcomes.

The report says that two institutions, National Council for Sustainable Development and Parliament are different in nature but both strive for representation and inclusion and can be important mechanisms to ensure that no one is left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

National Council for Sustainable Development

National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) can serve as platforms for dialogue open and respectful debate. In addition, direct linkages between NCSDs and key decision-makers increase the effectiveness of NCSDs.

Parliament

Being a legislative bodies, parliaments are between governments and all relevant very important for the implementation of the stakeholders, in a form that usually encourages 2030 Agenda and SDGs. They can ensure this by focusing on their three basic function representation, legislation and oversight.

Identifying Emerging Issues for the High Level Political Forum

The Global Sustainable Development Report of 2015, underlined the importance of utilizing the linkages to identify emerging issues across the whole spectrum of sustainable development, including its social and economic dimensions. While many approaches exist for identification of emerging issues, common features include the involvement of experts and formalized processes drawing on scientific evidence, assessments, and projections.

It provides an overview of the existing approaches to identification of emerging issues for sustainable development, as well as to provide and demonstrate a possible approach to identify emerging issues for future Global Sustainable Development Reports.

Identifying Emerging Issues

There are numerous ways in which the idea of 'emerging issues' pertinent to policy makers and the sustainable development agenda could be conceptualized. The inherently subjective process of identifying emerging issues can be guided by criteria, selected with a view to the particular field of interest, e.g. the global environment.

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Criteria for Identifying Emerging Issues

Criteria	Explanation
Risk assessment Probability of occurrence Impact/extent of potential damage	Likelihood of occurrence Impact on society, economy, environment
General/cross-cutting Persistence Irreversibility Latency/delayed response	Short to long-term effect, long decay in environment Damage/harm cannot be undone Gap between causal event and damage/harm

Framework for Emerging Issues

The report talks about frameworks for identifying the emerging issues. The process of identifying emerging issues can proceed in a number of ways, but a common starting point is "scanning" for issues across a range of sources, informed by the purpose of the exercise. Following the exploratory scanning of issues, the next step usually involves clustering or categorizing the issues in a manner that facilitates analysis and insight. Various frameworks can be used, however what will work depends on the context and overall goal of the research.

STEEP Framework: Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental and Political

"Kates" Framework: Areas and issues typically covered in definitions of "sustainable development" in the literature

DPSIR Framework: Driving Forces-Pressures State-Impacts-Responses

Conclusion

- Science can inform decision-making on three broad questions. First, who are those being or at risk of being left behind? Second, how can strategies and policies reach them in practice? And third, what types of strategies and policies would be appropriate in order to leave no one behind?
- It also says that cross-disciplinary collaboration and engagement between researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other stakeholders could be a way of achieving the mutual learning and transfer of information that would enable scientific knowledge to be transformed into practical strategies to harness the synergies and address the trade-offs between the three areas of the nexus.
- It suggests that science roadmaps should include measures relating to affordability and inclusion, which should be built into R&D processes from the outset. Scientists have also suggested other vital policy elements like effective national science-policy interfaces; foresight and scenarios; facilitation of learning across communities, including underserved communities; and cluster analysis
- Institutions can trigger behaviours and trends that can have positive or negative impacts for development outcomes, and in particular for inclusiveness. Report suggests that, if provided with adequate resources, NCSDs can be effective mechanisms for stakeholder participation and engagement across the whole policy cycle whereas parliaments are important in implementing the 2030 agenda and SDGs.
- The report talks about a wide range of sources for identification of emerging issues like document analysis, crowd sourcing, expert meetings etc. It is suggested that the following criteria could serve as starting points for filtering the emerging issue: (a) the extent to which the issue is related to the SDGs; (b) whether the issue is a potential threat or opportunity of global or at least international relevance; (c) whether management of the risk or harnessing of the opportunity depends on international action and cooperation; and (d) whether the issue is expected to persist and whether or not a clear increasing trend can be established.

Read the full report at the official website,

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalreport/2016>

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