

2030 Agenda

Also known as 'the Post-2015 Development Agenda', the Global Goals, or simply as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 Agenda provides a global blueprint for what international development should focus on for the next fifteen years. The SDGs replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which started in the year 2000 and ended in 2015.

The SDGs are the outcome of a transparent and inclusive process that involved different actors from all over the globe - not only were all UN Member States involved in the drafting of the document, millions of people across the world were able to provide input through community, national, regional and online consultations. This participatory process resulted in the adoption of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 Targets which cover a broad range of development issues, including improving health and education, gender equality, combating climate change, and ending poverty. Unlike the MDGs which aimed to "halve" many issues (e.g. halve the number of people who live in abject poverty), the SDGs are "zero goals" - they aim to completely eradicate issues like poverty and gender inequality. Furthermore, The 2030 Agenda also aims to "increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts." This data is key to understanding the roots causes and best strategies to address many of the social problems included in the SDGs. Importantly, the SDGs are universal and apply to everyone - not a single country has achieved all of the goals outlined!

From a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) perspective there are several important goals and targets that can guide our work, including:

Goal 3: Ensure Healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Target 3.7: By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

Indicators: (3.7.1) Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, and (3.7.2) Adolescent birth rate (10-14, 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Indicators: (5.6.1) Proportion of women (15-49 years) who make their own sexual and reproductive decisions; and (5.6.2) proportion of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee all women and adolescents access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education.

Other potentially relevant goals include: Goal 1 (ending poverty), Goal 4 (universal primary education, early childhood development etc.), Goal 8 (youth employment), Goal 10 (addressing inequalities and discrimination), Goal 11 (inclusive urbanization), Goal 16 (just, peaceful and inclusive societies, safety from violence), and Goal 17 (stronger data systems). However, while the SDGs are considered more aspirational and comprehensive than the MDGs, from a SRHR perspective key issues are still missing from this document. For example, the terms sexual rights (SR), and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) did not make it into the SDGs.

Civil society has an important role to play in the 2030 Agenda. Firstly, through their active involvement in the achievement of the SDGs, and secondly, by monitoring and providing assistance to member states in their implementation of the global goals. One way to do this is through civil society's active participation at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), a UN

processes which took place for the first time in July 2016, and which was put in place to monitor and review the global implementation of the SDGs. Like with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), the HLPF has a yearly theme which the event will focus on. Each theme also includes several relevant SDGs which will be reviewed in more depth.

In addition, The HLPF also has a review mechanism called the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) which encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress achieved in implementing the SDGs at the national level, by signing up for this review process. The VNR process aims to stimulate global accountability and also to facilitate a sharing of experiences and lessons learned in implementing the SDGs. During the HLPF, the states who have volunteered are asked to present a report on their progress in implementing the SDGs. The preparation of the VNR is supposed to be a participatory and inclusive process, and civil society is encouraged to take an active role by contributing to the official state review or by providing (informal) shadow reports, which can provide an alternative picture on how the SDGs are being implemented on the ground.