



# SDGs DIGEST

A Quarterly Newsletter brought to you by the Islamic Development Bank Group Community of Practice on the SDGs which provides summaries of current knowledge and debate on SDGs

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With all our 57 member countries signing on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development, IDB is fully committed to the SDGs, aligning our strategic priorities with those of the countries we are serving ”

**Dr. Bandar Hajjar**  
President, IDB Group

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## EDITORIAL



The world has signed on a new agenda for comprehensive and sustainable human development. The 2030 Agenda aspires to achieve 17 high level Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 specific targets, encompassing the social, economic and environment dimensions of development. Such an aspiration for human dignity and leaving no one behind is fully in line with the principles and objectives of development from an Islamic perspective (Maqasid Al-Shariaa). We at the IDB Group are fully committed to the SDGs. We recognize that development objectives vary from one country to another, and therefore our work on the SDGs is initiated and motivated by understanding the real needs of our member countries (MCs) and adapting our interventions accordingly.

The efforts of mainstreaming the SDGs have started in earnest throughout the IDB Group, with full endorsement and support of the Management of the IDB Group. However, lots of work is still ahead of us. As a matter of fact, it seems that we have to catch up with the world as many stakeholders (governments, businesses, MDBs, civil societies, etc.) have already made strides in articulating

their objectives and presenting their contributions within the SDGs framework.

Our commitment to the SDGs is being manifested through various activities along four lines: Awareness, Alignment, Advocacy and Adaptation. Although we are making some progress between awareness and alignment, it is imperative that we develop and advocate our distinguished narratives and adapt our projects and programs relevant to SDGs.

While ensuring the adjustments and the mainstreaming of the SDGs within the work of IDBG is the responsibility of executives and professionals in their respective fields, a Community of Practice (CoP) has been created to serve as an incubator to instigate debates and dialogues with the objective of raising awareness and positively influencing and enlightening decisions related to the SDGs at all management levels. You will find various perspectives in this first issue of the SDGs Digest. This newsletter is the product of the core team of the CoP, who seeks your support and participation to make the SDGs Digest the voice of development practitioners on SDGs within the IDB Group and beyond in the near future, insh'Allah!

**Rami Ahmad**  
Special Envoy on SDGs





## A JOURNEY FROM MDGs TO SDGs



**By Aamir Ghani Mir**  
Senior Operations  
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### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

#### MDGs to SDGs

In 2000, the international development community adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be implemented within 15 years (2000-2015).

MDG 8 was probably a significant step in moving the idea of global solidarity and international responsibilities for scaling up efforts and strengthening partnership for poverty reduction, and clearly defining benchmark targets of progress.

While a number of international crises (including global food, financial and economic crises) and conflicts were witnessed during this time (2000-2015), substantial progress was also made in improving people lives. Though overall results are mixed for the MDGs, some clear successes are visible, notably the reduction of extreme poverty and the improvement of enrolments in primary schools. Global poverty reduction was halved mainly due to economic progress in China and India. More children than ever are attending primary school, child deaths have dropped dramatically, and access to safe drinking water greatly expanded. Targeted investments in fighting malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis have saved millions of people.

#### Unfinished Business

Regardless the progress achieved under the MDG framework, clearly progress was extremely geographically uneven, with global progress camouflaging regional slippage, and regional progress concealing deterioration in individual countries. This means that substantial challenges remained including high incidence of poverty and inequality. Poverty continues to remain high in developing countries across Asia and Africa and progress on health related goals are off-track, especially in Africa. Over 1 billion people continue to face hunger and extreme poverty, access to basic services remains limited, and child and maternal mortality remain high. These challenges are augmented by the growing population, youth bulge, urban sprawl, economic and social vulnerabilities, growing conflict and impact of climate change.

The situation is particularly alarming in low income countries currently witnessing slow economic growth due to high reliance on natural resources and agriculture commodities. These countries are faced with structural challenges; including limited investment in human development and institutional capacity, lack of an enabling environment and transparent governance to ensure active participation of private sector in socio-economic development.

#### Multidimensional Nature of SDGs

The fact that the population of many developing countries have

not benefitted enough from progress on the MDGs, there was a need of a shift in policy and to expand development agenda. On 25 September 2015, the international development community and the governments of 193 countries adopted a comprehensive agenda of “Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development” through an inclusive and comprehensive consultative process. As a framework to guide implementation of international development agenda of SDGs, 17 Goals and 169 Targets were agreed.

**SDGs address unfinished business of MDGs and focus on emerging challenges and future aspirations to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.** SDGs reflect an ambitious development objective and transformative vision for improving human well-being while leaving no one behind.

SDGs are universally applicable to both developed and developed countries. It encompasses: (i) economic development, (ii) social inclusion and, (iii) preserving the environment. It calls for an adoptive development, pursued in a sustainable manner to improve the quality of human life within the carrying capacity of supporting eco-systems.

In essence, SDGs aim at improving quality of people’s lives, eradicating poverty and hunger, promoting health and education, reducing inequality and gender disparities while building sustainable infrastructure, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests and protecting bio-diversity. The SDGs support peace and justice and promote economic growth that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

#### Implementation of SDGs

A comprehensive framework is provided for the implementation of SDGs with emphasis on multi-stakeholders partnerships. Financing modalities were outlined under Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) with the aim to increase financing through traditional and new mechanisms and covering both domestic and international finance. The framework aims at enhancing effectiveness of development financing through better governance, increasing transparency and improving financial management.

In conclusion, implementing SDGs offer both challenges and opportunities for countries. This transformative agenda cannot be achieved successfully through a business-as-usual approach. It requires more collaborative efforts amongst all stakeholders including providers of international development finance, partner countries, private sector and civil society.

# SDGS AND POVERTY REDUCTION:

## The Connection is Not Project Financing per se, but Political Will – That’s the Way I See It



**By Abdallah M Kiliaki**  
ex-IDB Staff (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Literally, one cannot sustain what one has not achieved. Isn't it? Suffice it to say, the word "sustainable" as used in the context of the SDGs, has a dateline of 2030 in which the world is expected to live socially just, economically inclusive and environmentally responsible.

Where is the starting point? How do we ensure that in the next 13 years or so, life in this world would be indeed sustainable and not threatened, as it is today, by poverty, greed and irrational human conduct? ***With a universal buy-in on the SDGs, what measures have we put in place in order to achieve them alongside their attendant sub-goals and activities?*** What is the connection between SDGs and poverty reduction? Is project, trade and other financing activities enough to pursue the SDGs? Well, not quite! The most critical enabling factor, in my view, is political will, a conscious and unwavering vow by the political leadership to challenge the status quo. That's the way I see it. When I look at the trillions of US Dollars that have been estimated to fund and attain the 17 SDGs, my mood gets dampened. The quantum of financing is just too overwhelming. That amount of money is simply not there! Is political will the answer?

Yes, we see this happening in a few Sub-Saharan African countries such as Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania. In the case of Tanzania, we are witnessing dramatic changes on the socio-economic front that were deemed unthinkable only three years ago – all through the efforts of one determined individual, the Head of State. A minus zero tolerance on corruption and incompetence has unlocked massive

investible resources that otherwise would have been looted or wasted. Corruption is being fought aggressively and decisively, regardless of one's social or financial status. In only two years (October 2015-todate), there have been huge increases in social sector spending alongside agriculture and infrastructure. Development expenditure has risen from 25% of to 40% of the national budget, the first time in 30 years. Agro-based industrialization drive is starting to absorb the teeming youth and improve farmers' incomes; in addition to forging domestic economic linkages. Primary One enrollment has shot up by 95%, and free education has been introduced up to secondary level. Allocation for essential drugs has increased 8-fold. Direct procurement of essential drugs from manufacturers has outwitted the profiteering middlemen, curtailed over-the-counter (retail) prices by half, making drugs and other primary healthcare services available and affordable. Majority of expectant mothers no longer deliver on the floors. Teachers and health workers are paid on time; and a cobweb of 80 or so counterproductive levies and tariffs on primary agricultural products, hitherto charged arbitrarily by area councils, have been removed; making agriculture attractive even at subsistence level for the first time. Dormant infrastructure projects, especially water supply, have been revived and implemented speedily. Non-performing contractors are penalized and red-listed. Power outages, frequent in the past, are rare. Total national production capacity remains limited though! Mega power projects are in the offing. The rich, notorious for tax evasion, are complying. Again for the first time, the Government is offering real support and incentives to the local private sector. With more women holding senior Government positions at all levels (including a woman Vice President), we see gender, children and other social issues being put on the fore and acted upon. Faith in Government by the previously skeptical public is surging, and at long last, there's law and order and jail is no longer a reserve only for the poor. The voiceless are being heard and served pronto, and are repeatedly being told by the highest holder of office to raise their voices even louder (because it

is their right to do so!). The performance of Government officials, including Cabinet Ministers, is monitored continuously and non-achievers and the corrupt dismissed and shamed. As a result, public service delivery is on the rise. There is every reason to be optimistic.

The combination of public confidence and a supportive Government is galvanizing the country in tackling binding constraints including the treacherous 16 (+1) "hilltops", the SDGs. Poverty reduction is being pursued through increased social sector spending and labor-intensive, agro-based manufacturing that will create jobs for millions. The question to us all is, if political will is the answer, how do we make our MC Governments accountable to the public (as in the case of the current administration in Tanzania)? How do we embed this enabling factor into the IDB's development paradigm without infringing on MCs' sovereignty? For, without this engagement, the Bank's development financing activities may not yield the desired impact on the SDGs. Corruption and mismanagement (as we have seen in this country) are the greatest threats to socio-economic endeavors and the SDGs. There's no option but rooting them out. We will be surprised to find out how endowed our MCs actually are with vast latent resources that could easily be harnessed to fund SDGs and other public investments. Above all, MCs would have true ownership of their development process.





## SDGs AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### Unconventional findings to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs on Health and Education



**By Ibrahima Thierno LO**

Principal Monitoring and Evaluation at ICD

In September 2015, the World's Nations signed the ambitious 2030 development agenda, including two development goals related to Health and Education: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (SDG3), and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4).

One big difference between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015-2030) is that the latter are focused on the root causes, specifically on the how: how to make difference in people's lives. In this area, it is expected from MDBs like IDBG to invent new ways to address development challenges.

Development challenges are huge, but as explained by Banerjee and Duflo<sup>1</sup>, there are three "I"s that explain the failure of many development interventions: Ideology, Ignorance and Inertia. Based on several field experiments, they argue that policy makers usually rely simply on their intuitions about what is going to work. Instead of developing policies and programs based on strong evidence reflecting the real lives of the individuals they are supposed to help lift out of poverty, they have been often using untested assumptions, big speculations, harmful misconceptions, or competing anecdotes.

In this article, we will first present three examples of striking findings that challenge the development interventions' standard approach, and then we will discuss the implications for Multilateral Development Banks such as the IDBG.

#### STRIKING FINDINGS

The following findings are promoted by the Abdu Lateef Jameel Poverty Action Lab

(J-PAL), at the Department of Economics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge. They are based on the evaluation golden standard, which mimics the Randomized Control Trials (RCTs). RCTs have modernized Medicine in the 20th century by allowing medical researchers to distinguish drugs that work and drugs that do not work.

In development research, RCTs compare "identical" groups at baseline, and their evolution after receiving different levels of interventions (or treatments), one being the control group (which doesn't receive the intervention or treatment).

#### 1. Do big questions and big numbers matter more than small and more localized questions? Example of Resource mobilization

The University of Pennsylvania did the experiment by varying a message to two identical groups of students about a call for donation. The group of students who has received the message picturing the story of a 7-year-old girl from Mali, Roqayya, facing severe hunger and starvation donate 2.5 times more than the group of students who receive the broad message that gives the big picture of millions of people in different countries in need of immediate assistance.

**Big questions and big numbers are not the best wake-up calls compared to concrete and identifiable problems addressed by small questions with strong and robust scientific evidences.**

#### 2. Should we subsidize health services to increase coverage or make people pay to value and use them more? Example of Bed-nets

Malaria is the leading cause of under-five mortality in the world. Every year, 881,000 people die from Malaria, 91% are concentrated in Africa and 85% are under five. The prevention against Malaria is mainly based on the use of insecticide treated bed-nets to prevent mosquitoes (the main transmission agent) to bite people and transmit the disease.

The finding of Pascaline Dupas from the University of California is a great contribution to the debate between Jeffery Sachs<sup>2</sup> who advocates for free bed-net distribution and William Esterly<sup>3</sup> & Dambisa Moyo<sup>4</sup> who argue that people will not value (and hence will not

use) the bed-nets if they get them for free. Both of Sachs and Esterly use compelling anecdotes and think there is no need to do experiments because it is so obvious.

Dupas found from her RCT experiment in Kenya that almost everybody took bednet when it is free. However, the demand for nets fell to very close to zero at the price of \$0.75 USD PPP<sup>5</sup>. On the other hand, people who got the bednet free are more likely to pay for a second one in the future (the learning effect). Finally, in terms of use, there is no significant difference between the ones who got it for free and the ones who purchased it.

One main lesson from the experiment is that with people facing a poverty trap, free distribution of bed-nets have big benefits. However, without poverty trap, free distribution will not produce efficiency gains.

#### 3. Is it possible to deliver quality education to the poor? The Top of the Class

An ASER<sup>6</sup> survey in India found that about 35% of children age 7-14 could not read a grade 1 paragraph, and 60% could not read a grade 2 story in 2005 and there is no progress since 2005. Similar results were found in Kenya, Pakistan, and Uganda.

In Kenya, Michael Kremer et al have used RCT and found that more textbooks and more pedagogic materials had no effect on education outcomes. Neither did reducing the class size by building more schools or hiring more teachers.

To address the question, J-PAL partnered with an Indian NGO (Pratham) in 1999 to conduct a series of RCT based evaluations of the program called Balsaki (child's friend).



Photo credit ICD, May - 2017  
School for poor people at the community level  
CSR of PRAN-RFL, Client of ICD in Bangladesh

A young woman, from the children’s community, with 10-12 grade education worked with the students who lagged behind in class, for about 2 hours per day, and focused on basic skills. She was only given 2 weeks basic training and on-the-job support. The program was able to serve 38 million children in India.

The effect of the program on the kids was substantial. At the end of the program, all participating kids who could not read before the program could at least recognize letters. Compared to the control group, those who could read only letters were 26 percent more likely to be able to read a short story.

The conclusion of Banerjee and Duflo is heart breaking. In many developing countries, the education system is designed to teach to the elite (the top of the class): “The children of the rich go to schools that not only teach more and teach better, but where they are treated with compassion and helped to reach their true potential. The poor end up in schools that make it very clear quite early that they are not wanted unless they show some exceptional gifts, and they are in effect expected to suffer in silence until they drop out. This creates a huge waste of talent. Among all those people who drop out somewhere between primary school and college and those who never start school, many, perhaps most, are the victims of some misjudgment somewhere: Parents who give up too soon, teachers who never tried to teach them, the students’ own diffidence”.

Moreover, other experiments show that by simply telling people the benefit of education, you get 20.7 extra years of education for every US\$100 you spend in your program. For the same amount, you will get 13.9 extra years for deworming kids at school, only 0.09 year for conditional cash transfer, 0.27 year with scholarship program and 1.7 year for adding extra teacher.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR IDBG**

The IDBG President’s new roadmap sets the vision for the future: “We live in a rapidly changing world. Unless we are adequately responsive to the changes and adaptive to development with efficiency and effectiveness, we will not be able to preserve [the Islamic Development Bank Group’s] achievements”<sup>7</sup>.

Today, to use the words of the President, we have tremendous opportunities to transform the Bank from an “intervention-bank” focused on approvals and disbursements to a “developer-bank” focused on empowering member countries.

As a world-class learning organization, we should be taking stock of the successful and innovative practices and adapt them to the local development needs and realities in collaboration with our partners, including government actors, private sector clients and civil societies.

Development experiments based on Randomized Control Trials (RCT) are not a

panacea, as they cannot answer to all types of development questions, but they are very useful to find new cost-effective ways of addressing specific development challenges on the ground.

To complement the excellent macro-economic researches and the evaluations we are already doing, we should be undertaking development experiments and providing member countries with the state-of-the-art knowledge on development solutions options that help improve people’s lives and achieve the SDGs in the most efficient manner. As a concrete example, Education and Health are two key sectors with remarkable multiplier effects among many others, where IDBG can develop new solutions in partnership with leading international research centers, universities and local NGOs.

**Notes**

1. Authors of “Poor Economics, a radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty”, Financial Times/ Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year,
2. Author of the best seller “The End of Poverty”, Senior UN advisor and one of the leader in the SDG Agenda.
3. Author of the “White Man’s Burden”
4. Author of “Dead Aid”
5. Purchasing Power Parity
6. ASER stands for Annual Status of Education Report, which provides estimates of children’s schooling status and basic learning levels.
7. Speech of the President during the October 2016 Special Staff Gathering

# SDGs AND PRIVATE SECTOR

## The Sustainable Development Goals – An ITFC Trade Finance Insight



**By Kashif Iqbal**  
Strategy Manager, ITFC

**Advancing Trade and Improving Lives**

**Advancing Trade and Improving Lives are the founding values of ITFC.** These twin values are at the core of ITFC’s 10-year Strategy, which is designed to deliver financial growth through the provision of trade finance solutions, and create development impact across our 57 MCs.

It is this balancing mandate which inspired ITFC to launch its inaugural Annual Development Effectiveness Report in 2017, which was organized around six themes, each linked against ITFC’s Strategic Pillars, the IDBG Strategic Objectives, and contributing towards the SDGs. This concept has come to represent ITFC’s Development Impact Framework.

The six themes of ITFC’s Development Impact



ITFC Development Themes have been chosen to capture how effectively the Corporation is contributing towards the attainment of global goals, from the bottom up.



Framework contribute towards seven of the SDGs.

## How Does ITFC Contribute Towards the SDGs?

With support from our partners, ITFC accounted for approximately 15% of the US\$30 billion trade finance extended by Multilateral Development Banks in 2016 alone. This contribution of 15% can be segmented across ITFC's six development themes and towards the attainment of the SDGs.

### 1. Inclusive Growth:

- i) ITFC continues to drive its inclusive growth activities by contributing 28% of the portfolio towards Least Development Member Countries (LDMCs) in 2016, thereby supporting economic growth and development in countries being left behind by the global economy.
- ii) With the global trade-finance gap estimated at around US\$1.6 trillion and total market for trade finance is US\$8 trillion, ITFC plays in a large market and can support inclusive growth through its strengths in key regions in which the Trade Finance gap persists.
- iii) For instance, ITFC was able to contribute 46% of the portfolio towards LDMCs in order to close a market gap after hydrocarbon prices significantly reduced in 2014.

### 2. Private-Sector Development:

- i) In alignment with leading development-finance institutions, ITFC supports SMEs through financial intermediaries such as local banks, via a two-step Murabaha process.
- ii) The share of SME finance in the portfolio rose sharply in 2016 to 14% of the portfolio when including external contributions from partners.
- iii) In terms of absolute financing, this amounted to US\$553 million, up from US\$206 million in 2015, more than doubling SME financing through two-step Murabaha financing.
- iv) ITFC's resources have been more often directly towards supporting trade in marginal sectors in economically difficult times (post financial crisis) thereby creating a considerable impact on employment growth.

### 3. Technology, Skills & Innovation:

- i) As Trade is one of the most important channels of technology transfer, ITFC aims to capitalize on this opportunity through supporting trade in goods and services which embody technological advances or large knowledge spill-overs.
- ii) Going forward, this trend will support ITFC's partnership strategy and its aspirations to be a leader in Islamic Trade Finance and strengthen its position in the market even further.
- iii) ITFC's impact achieved in this area covers three main areas:
  - Improving intra-regional trade among 21 Arab Countries
  - Strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations capacity to foster trade integration
  - To enhance regional competitiveness through trade reforms
- iv) ITFC, as one of the seven funders of the multi-donor multi-year AfTIAS programs, contributed US\$1 million for the financing of 11 multi-year project under implementation by International Agencies and ITFC partners.



### 4. Sustainability

- i) As a result of the transition of global development policy from solely economic growth and poverty reduction towards the perspective of sustainability, ITFC has significant opportunities to participate in the climate change trends of today and the future.
- ii) ITFC has chosen access to energy and climate financing as focus areas of effective operation which led to a steady upward trend in the estimated number of people provided with energy access as a result of ITFC financed trades. As a result, ITFC provided access to reliable energy to an estimated 8 million people in 2016.
- iii) ITFC was able to provide over US\$190 million in food imports across MCs in 2016.

### 5. Delivery Effectiveness:

- i) ITFC's share of intra-OIC trade stands at approximately 75% in its portfolio in 2016, proving that ITFC is making a strong contribution towards the strategic objective of fostering Connectivity of OIC Member Countries.
- ii) Decentralization is another key element in the delivery of ITFC 10-year plan. ITFC intends to raise its visibility and improve the focus on deal generation and sourcing to support the objective of diversifying the trade-finance portfolio across geographic regions and sectors.
- iii) Local presence also allows ITFC to identify and respond to local needs, to drive the introduction of new Islamic trade products and trade development programs.

### 6. Portfolio Management:

- i) Diversifying the portfolio away from the sectors of oil and gas are a high priority of ITFC. In 2016 approximately 44% of the portfolio represented non-petroleum trade finance.
- ii) Additionally, ITFC is tracking progress towards greater development effectiveness based on an ITFC weighting involving the use of the Human Development Index (HDI).

ITFC's six development themes bring a clear development intent to ITFC's strategic agenda, fulfilling a balancing mandate between the provision of trade finance solutions and the creation of development impact across MCs. ITFC will continue to stand in solidarity with our Member Countries, using trade as the engine of growth to address market gaps and promote the development agenda through the SDGs. The importance of the SDGs will continue to be reflected through the ITFC Development Impact Framework and the pursuit for inclusive growth, private sector development, capacity building and sustainability will continue to be demonstrated in the trade finance solutions provided by ITFC across our 57 MCs.

# ALIGNING SDGs TO IDBG 10YS



**By Zafarjon Khotamov**  
Senior Strategy Management Specialist

## 1. Why IDBG should link SDGs to Its Strategy

**As SDGs became important for IDBG stakeholders, including MCs they need to be mainstreamed and addressed within the overall strategic planning of the IDBG.** Addressing SDGs through IDBG 10Year Strategy will help IDBG to integrate sustainability in the rolling 3-year work plans and Member Country Partnership Strategies (MCPSS). This will result in strengthening the incentives to use resources more efficiently.

By doing so IDBG can pursue a win-win situation thereby creating shared values for IDBG 10YS and SDG at a global level. This can support implementation of the 10YS through global partnerships where SDGs are common language, including support for resource mobilization for implementing IDBG 10YS.

## 2. Aligning SDGs with IDBG 10 YS

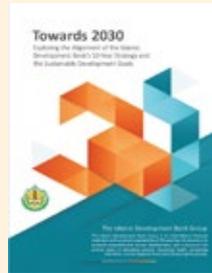
IDBG 10 YS and rolling 3-year work plans are already focusing on results - a shift from plans being developed around inputs

and outputs, which happened over the last few years. The results-orientation of IDBG operations and work plan turn development challenges in MCs to opportunities for IDBG that enhance its relevance. By aligning IDBG 10 YS with SDGs, IDBG will be able to use the SDGs as a framework to steer, communicate and report on IDBG Vision, 10 YS, work plans and activities and benefit from:

- identification of future opportunities related to specific SDGs, especially when SDGs aim to redirect global investment flows towards the development challenges;
- anticipation of stakeholder expectations and future policy direction at global, regional and national levels.
- Align priorities MCs and IDBG national priorities at SDG level, through MCPSS and country programming.

From a strategic perspective, the following steps for aligning SDGs to IDBG 10 YS are proposed:

- (i) Mapping IDBG 10 YS priorities to SDGs. This will enable IDBG to identify and act on the selected SDGs on which IDBG 10YS has most material impact.
- (ii) Setting Targets. After identifying most



relevant SDGs, right targets will be formulated to steer the performance. KPIs and targets will be set at IDBG 10 YS and 3 year work plan levels. As needed the current KPIs and targets of IDBG 10YS will be revised and updated.

- (iii) Monitoring results. In order to manage IDBG progress on SDGs, measuring and monitoring the performance becomes key. Especially given data issues in IDBG, relevant departments will be requested to work on the data systems so that relevant data will be available on time.
- (iv) Communicating and reporting. IDBG will report and communicate its performance on SDGs that bring it closer to collecting the value and benefits of its engagement with SDGs. The reporting and communication will be a tool to enhance IDBG engagement with stakeholders, including for resource mobilization.

## 3. IDBG first publication on SDGs

We at GSPD have explored the existing alignment of the 10YS with the SDGs and the extent to which the 2030 Agenda has been mainstreamed into strategic planning, and we made specific recommendations for enhancing alignment and mainstreaming. We have produced the first IDBG publication on SDGs - "Towards 2030".

# INTERNAL SDGs SURVEY RESULTS



**By Ahmed Faruk Diken**  
Senior Technical Cooperation Specialist

Following the organization of its awareness building sessions in early summer, the CoP on the SDGs launched a brief survey to gauge the overall awareness on the SDGs, and determine the extent to which there is a conversation on the SDGs within the IDB Group.

The survey—taken by over a hundred colleagues from across the IDB Group—revealed interesting results, and great

recommendations that will provide the current organizing team to develop its program for the rest of 2017, and beyond.

Out of all respondents, 75% were from the IDB, while the rest were evenly spread across ICD, ITFC, ICIEC, IRTI and ISFD.

When asked **"To what extent are you familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals"**, 69.7% said they are fully aware of the SDGs, while 28.3% said they heard about them but weren't fully aware. Only 2% said that they were not aware of the SDGs at all, which is encouraging to say the least.

However, while the results show that there is a good level of awareness among the staff generally, there is not much of a conversation among professionals on

the SDGs. This was evident through the responses to the question that asked whether staff could assess their colleagues as being aware on the SDGs. 41.4% of respondents said they did not see that their colleagues are aware, while 55.6% said some are aware while others are not. Only 3% of respondents said everyone they interacted with know about the SDGs and align their activities with them.

These two results alone show that there is a need to scale up the conversation among professionals in the IDBG and make sure we are aligning our work with these internationally agreed goals on Sustainable Development. The good news is that a significant majority of respondents—over 75%—said that the IDBG must align itself with the SDGs and that this is key for the work that we do.



Apart from looking at the situation at the IDBG, the survey also asked whether staff saw the Member Countries as aware and aligned with the SDGs. Here, the responses indicate that there is much work to do when it comes to aligning our MCs with the SDGs. This was supported by the high percentage (over 55%) who said that the MCs are not aligned with the SDGs.

So, how can the CoP support the internal conversation on the SDGs and link the learning that takes place within the IDBG to the MCs? Very insightful ideas were shared by the respondents on what the CoP can do. Here is a quick summary of the ideas that were shared:

1. The CoP should continue to enhance the awareness within the IDBG by organizing advocacy sessions that highlights the successes in alignment internally, as well as bringing in perspectives from other Multilateral Development Institutions on how they implement the SDGs within their institutions;
2. Support the mainstreaming of SDGs within the businesses processes and projects of the IDBG by playing a facilitator and coordinator role;
3. Publicize what IDB is doing on aligning with the SDGs and share the learning with the MCs in order to help them align as well;
4. Coordinate with the IDBG management

to align the organizational goals with the SDGs and establish a scorecard that can be regularly shared with staff and MCs on how much IDBG is progressing in achieving them.

In light of the recommendations of the survey, the CoP will continue to hold sessions that will provide a platform to scale up the conversation on the alignment of the SDGs with our work across the Group.

The CoP is looking forward to your active participation to help mainstream the SDGs in our day to day work at the IDBG, with the overall objective to make a difference in the development efforts of our MCs.

## THE IDBG CoP ON SDGs: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Community of Practice (CoP) on SDGs was established with 4 main objectives namely to: (i) spread awareness with IDB Group, to help align IDB Group's development agenda with the SDGs, (ii) develop core-expertise, generate knowledge and develop innovative solutions for MCs to achieve SDGs, (iii) provide insight to the management on potential opportunities related to the SDGs for the IDB Group as well as MCs, and (iv) foster an environment of debate on issues related to SDGs and the relevance of IDB Group's contribution to the MCs.

The CoP on SDGs was launched on 1st May 2017. During the launch event, the CoP discussed strategic alignment of 10 Year Strategy of IDBG with SDGs and examples were presented on operational alignment with SDGs in areas of Poverty, Hunger and Transport. An update was provided on recent development of SDGs Indicators for measuring progress. An electronic poll was conducted to get responses of participants on SDGs alignment with the IDBG mandate.

On the margin of IDB Annual Meeting, a High Level Seminar was organized where Minister from Indonesia, Jordan and Cote D'ivoire presented countries perspective and highlighted challenges in implementing 2030 Development Agenda. Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, USA, Dr. Mahmoud Mohiedin, and Special Envoy of the World Bank President on SDGs and Vice President, Sector Operations of IDB provided viewpoint of development

financing institutions in supporting countries effort in implementing SDGs.

2nd Meeting of the CoP was held on 5 June 2017 and discussed forthcoming activities and 2017 Work Program.

Another, key CoP activity was the visit of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohamed to IDB on 12 June 2017. She held meetings with the IDB Management and interacted with CoP and Bank staff on challenges and opportunities in implementing SDGs.

Most recently, the CoP conducted an IDBG staff survey to gauge level of awareness about SDGs. The results of the survey are discussed in the article published in the Digest.

Number of posters and printed material have also been distributed to IDBG Staff to enhance their awareness about SDGs. Social Media campaigns and electronic knowledge repository platforms are being used for creating awareness and making available reference documents and material on SDGs for benefit of the staff.



**Upcoming Event to be held on Wednesday, 13 September 2017:**

"Mainstreaming SDGs in to IDB Group Activities",  
1:30 – 03:30 PM (Glass Room- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor IDB Main Building)

### CONTACTS

Staff interested to join CoP on SDGs can contact on Email given below :

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 @SDGs\_IDBG