



POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND THE HEALTH SDGs: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS IN SOUTH ASIA

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South Asian Mapping Study for the health-related SDGs

National level institutional arrangements for SDGs

Key stakeholders in SDG implementation

Monitoring of health related SDGs

Role of health policy research institutions in achieving health-related SDGs

Seven countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

SDG INDEX

SAsia Ranking	Global Ranking	Country	Score
1	81	Sri Lanka	65.9
2	83	Bhutan	65.5
3	105	Nepal	61.6
4	116	India	58.1
5	120	Bangladesh	56.2
6	122	Pakistan	55.6
7	150	Afghanistan	46.8



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India

Institutional Arrangements

High Level
Commissions/Committees/Councils

Administrative Unit

Nodal/Sectoral Ministries

Ministry of Health

Provincial and sectoral
Departments

Implementing
Agencies

Other Stakeholders

Private, CSOs,
PRIs, NGOs

Bureau of Stats

Statistical Agency



Nationalization of health-related SDG Indicators

Country	Data gap analysis	26 Indicators SDG 3	22 Indicators SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17
Afghanistan	Yes	26	
Bangladesh	Yes	18	7
Bhutan	Yes	25	6
India	In progress	In process	
Nepal	Yes	26	22
Pakistan	In progress	In process	
Sri Lanka	Yes	42 (8 adopted with changes and 34 directly accepted)	

Major Challenges in Adoption of SDG3 Indicators

Country	Challenges
Afghanistan	Challenges in interpretation of some indicators.(eg: indicator on UHC covers service coverage, ignores quality, content and financial protection.)
Bangladesh	Lack of accountability of the huge private sector in providing service statistics in the central pool.
Bhutan	Limited participation of the private sector and CSOs, inadequate resources and unavailability of periodic data for monitoring purpose.
India	Less engagement with private sector; lack of inter-sectoral co-ordination in monitoring; role of public sector not outlined clearly; lack of evidence based policy making
Nepal	Difficulty in monitoring the progress of outcomes due to limited financial and technical resources.
Pakistan	Adaptation yet to start.
Sri Lanka	Non-availability of private sector data.

Status of multi-sectoral approach

Country	Present	Extent
Afghanistan	Yes	Consultation and coordination
Bhutan	Yes	To develop national plans
Bangladesh	Yes	In progress - initiative ongoing for engaging private sector
India	Yes	At consultations level. Eg. nutrition programs, convergence of Ministries and Departments
Nepal	Yes	Specific programs- multi-sectoral nutrition, WASH programs
Pakistan	Yes	With varying degree by different stakeholders; at govt. cluster approach for SDGs
Sri Lanka	Yes	Certain health related programs: NCD prevention, Nutrition

Challenges in Implementing health-related SDGs

1

Access to Finance: Require huge sums of financial resources. National budgets may not have allocated funds for financing health related SDGs.

2

Data Monitoring and Accountability: Challenges in providing regular, timely and representative quality disaggregated data on different health related SDGs.

3

Continued Research: Cost effective and sustainable mechanisms for implementation.

Conclusion

South Asian countries have initiated the **adoption of SDGs** each with their own **development plans and programs**. This will contribute towards implementing health-related SDGs.

Varying degree of **multi-sectoral action** and depth of engagement is evident among the seven countries.

National level **preparedness** across the countries could be further enhanced by clear roles and responsibilities, coordination and communication channels established among stakeholders.

Several factors such as finances and data continue to **inhibit the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of health-related SDGs.