

Implementation of SDGs in Sri Lanka: Current Status and Challenges



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Policy Alignment



Institutional Structure



Financing



Partnership & Stakeholder Participation



Data Deficit

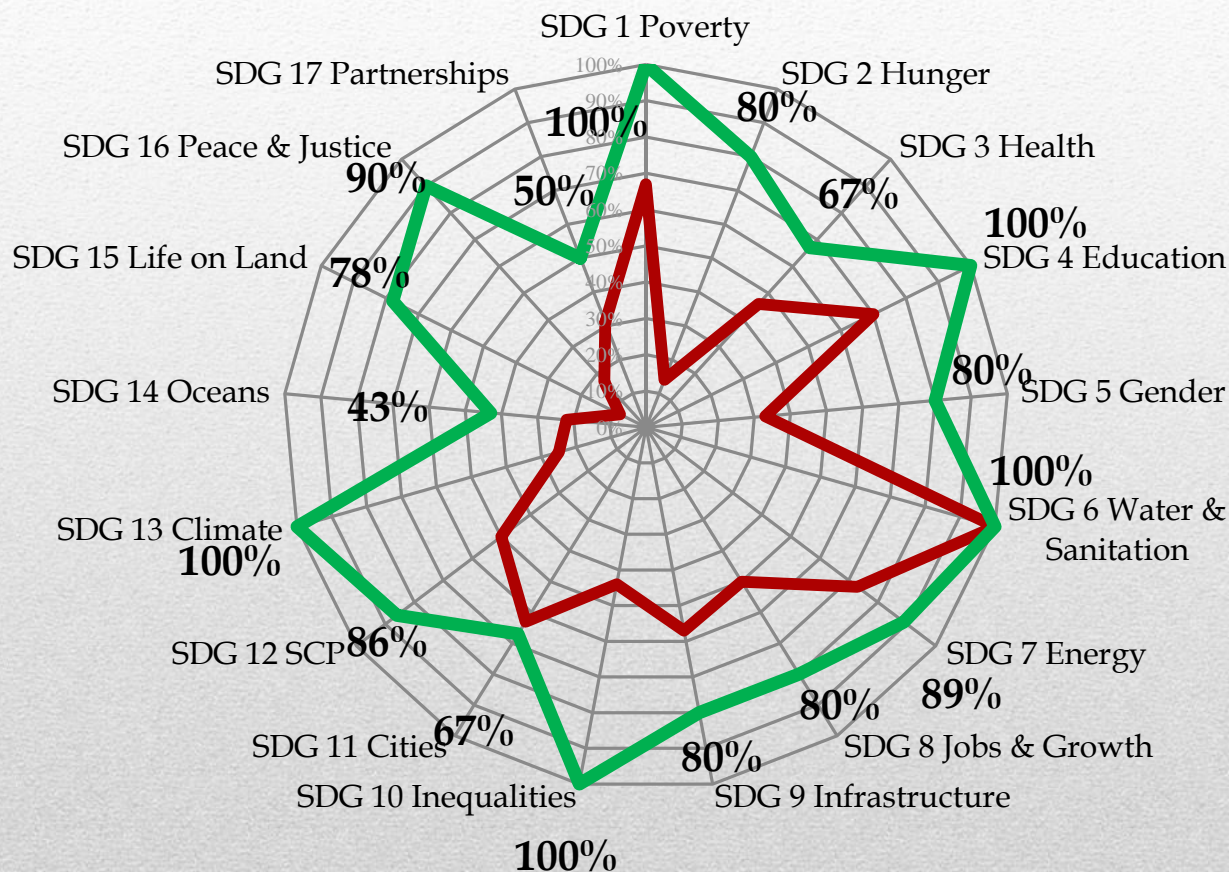
Policy Alignment

- ❖ Sri Lanka's strategic development framework, reflected through its:
 - long-term development plan- *Vision 2025: A Country Enriched*
 - medium-term plan- *Public Investment Programme (PIP) 2017-2020*
 - *'Blue-Green' Budget of 2018*

... aligns with the SDGs and have integrated all three dimensions of sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental

(VNR- Sri Lanka)

Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of PIP 2017-2020

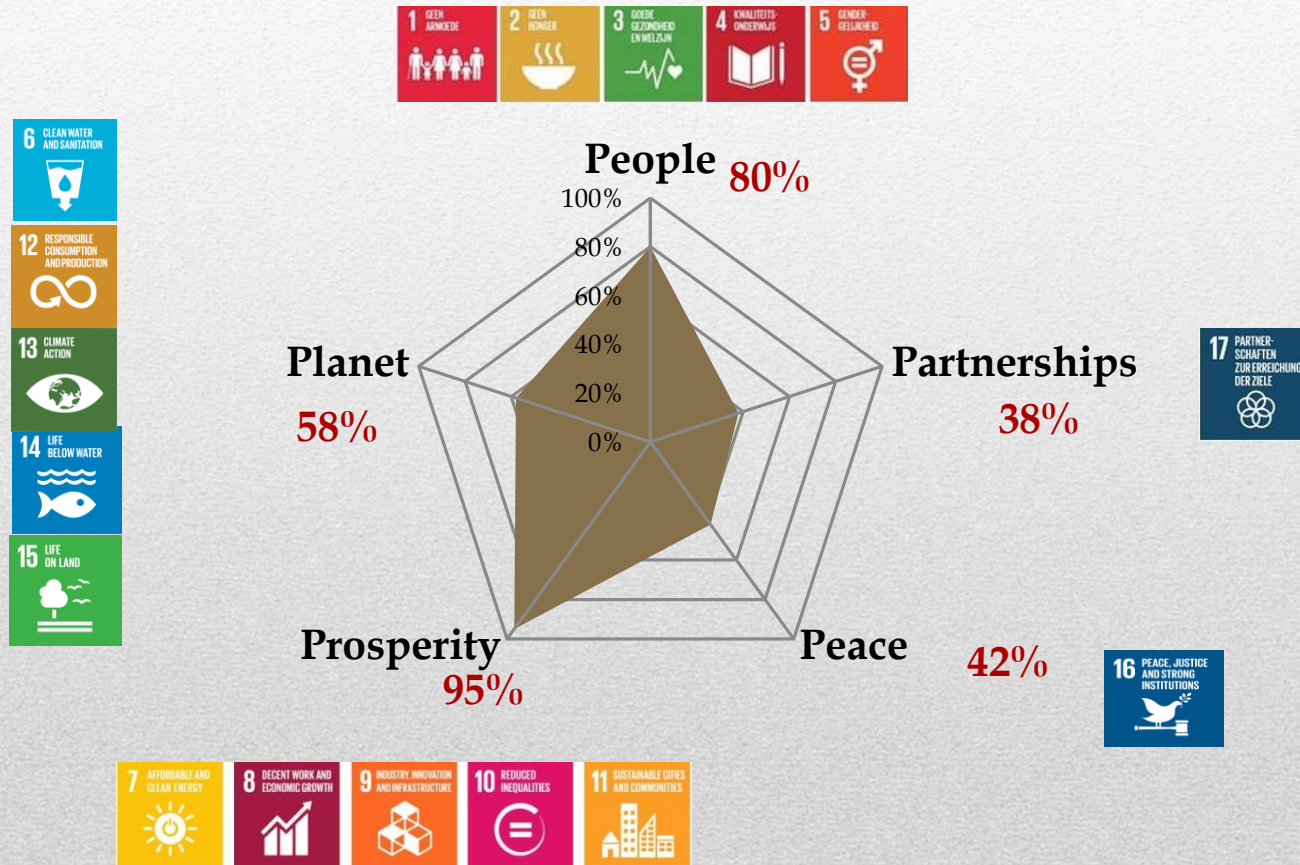


❖ Over 80% of the targets under 12 SDGs are at least partially aligned

❖ All SDGs report over 40% alignment

--- Partially aligned -- Fully aligned

RIA reveals an uneven alignment between the PIP and the 5Ps of SDGs...



Source: MAPS Approach Supporting SDG Implementation in Sri Lanka, Government of Sri Lanka and UN Country Team in Sri Lanka, January 2018

- ❖ This assessment does not provide a holistic analysis of the policy alignment. Need to compliment it with an analysis of other national, sub-national and sectoral plans.
 - ❖ it is important to prioritize SDGs (considering the synergies between goals). Such a national prioritization process is yet to be undertaken in Sri Lanka.
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2) Institutional Structure

- ❖ The government has taken several initiatives to improve institutional coherence

Ministry of Sustainable Development

- Established in 2015 as a focal point for coordinating, facilitating and reporting the SDG implementation
- A Consultative Committee on SDGs- consisting of representatives from key government agencies and other stakeholder groups

Parliamentary Select Committee on SDGs

- Commitment to the SDGs at the highest legislative body
- Facilitate the SDG implementation
- Coordinate the activities of the Parliament with the relevant line Ministries
- Provide expert advice

Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017

- ❖ To provide the legal framework for implementing SDGs
 - ❖ The Act provides for the establishment of the **Sustainable Development Council (SDC)** to guide and oversee SDG implementation and to formulate a **National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development (NPSSD)**
 - ❖ All Government ministries and sub-national bodies are required to prepare SD strategies for their respective institutions in line with the NPSSD and report the progress of the implementation of the said strategies to the SDC
 - ❖ However, the SDC is yet to be fully operational..
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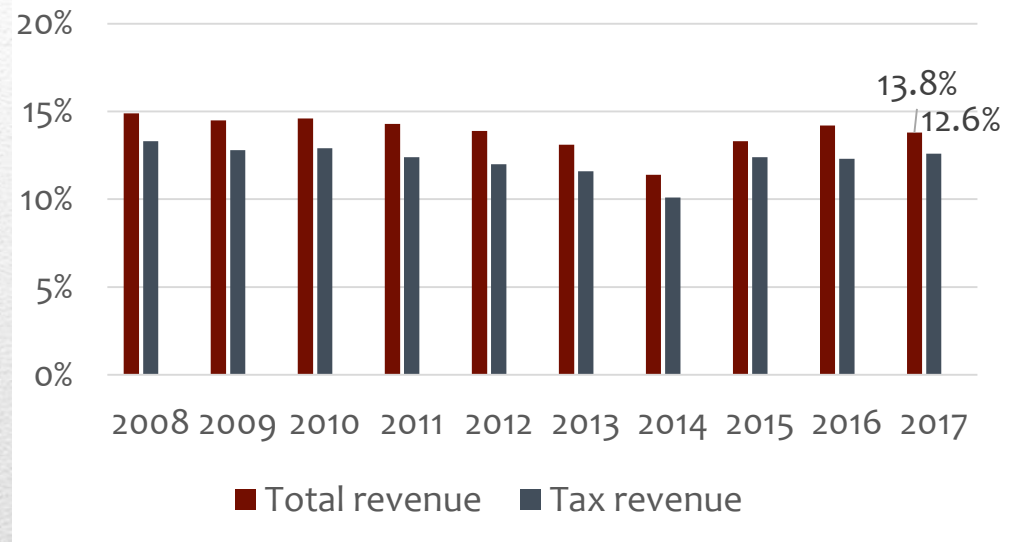
Financing SDGs

Domestic Resource Mobilization

- ❖ Tax revenue has stagnated around 12% of GDP

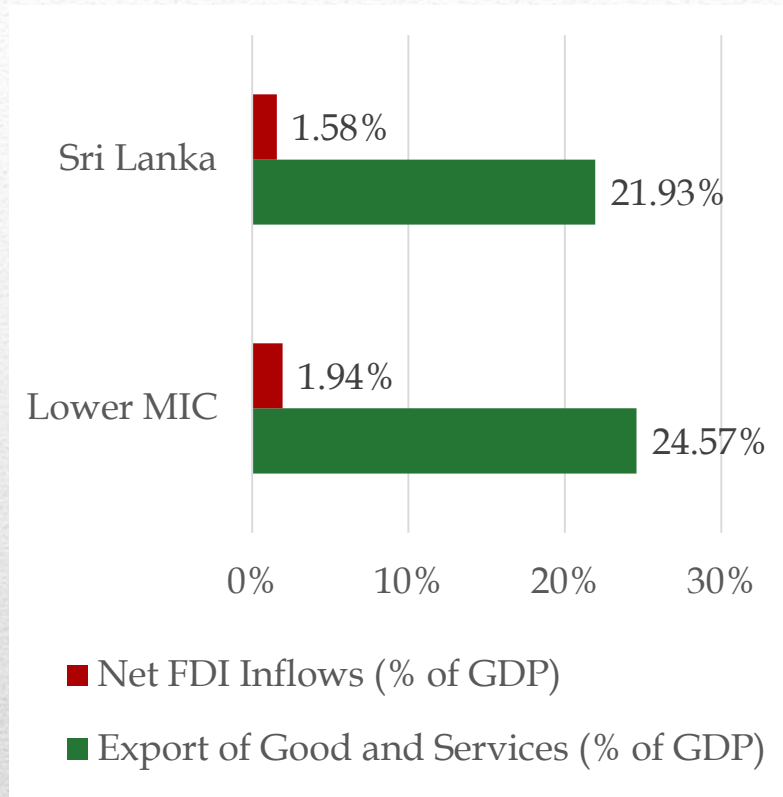
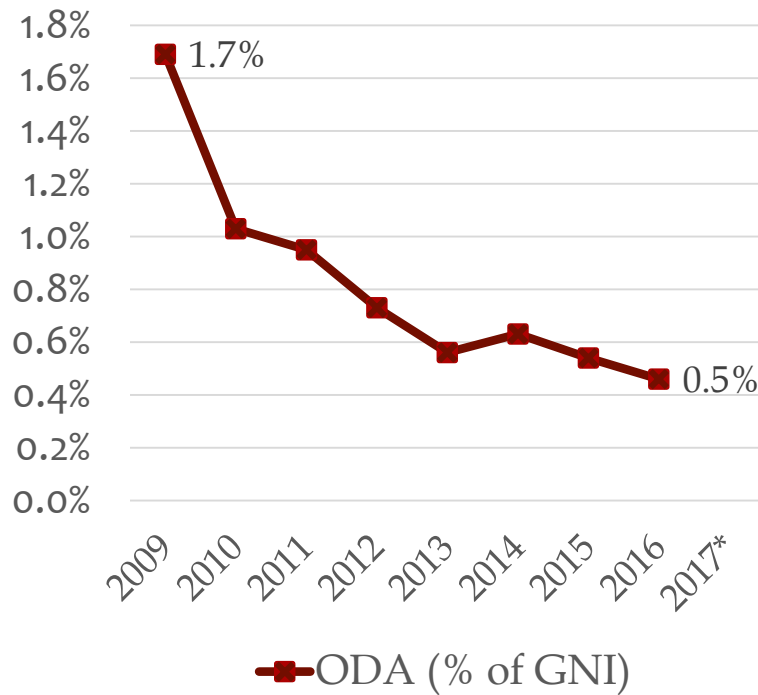
Recent Initiatives:

- ❖ Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 to improve direct tax income through simplifying the existing income tax structure, broadening the income tax base, and strengthening tax administration.
- ❖ Amendments to VAT and NBT Acts in 2016 – to lower the registration threshold, and remove exemptions



- ❖ Private sector also can play a key role in financing SDGs (e.g. SDGs 8&9)
- ❖ PPPs need to be encouraged – A PPP unit has been established in 2017
- ❖ CSR related spending is also important to finance grassroots activities

Financing SDGs - External Resources



❖ With Sri Lanka's graduation to middle-income status, its access to concessionary finance has declined

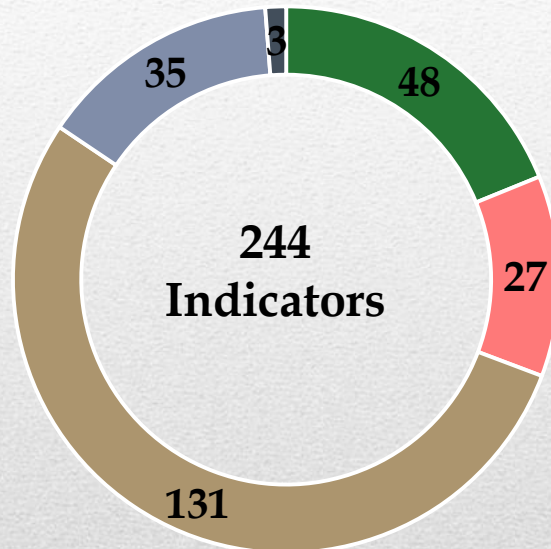
❖ Sri Lanka's current FDI inflow is rather low and export earnings too lower than countries of similar size and development levels.

- ❖ Measures to attract FDI and boost export earnings:
 - ✓ Introduction of a Single Window to improve trade facilitation (as a first step, a trade information portal was launched in 2018)
 - ✓ Focusing on improving country's Ease of Doing Business ranking
 - ✓ Diversifying exports
 - ✓ Promoting FTAs

 - ❖ Remittances (exploring new markets?)
 - ❖ Promoting the tourism sector
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Data Deficit

- ❖ The Department of Census & Statistics (DCS) has prepared an SDG Indicator Framework that categorizes the 244 SDG indicators:



- Already compiled by the DCS
- To be compiled by the DCS
- Available or to be compiled by other institutions
- Regional/Global Indicators
- Not relevant to Sri Lanka

- ❖ For more than half of the indicators, responsibility lies within institutions other than the DCS
 - ❖ Need to strengthen the links between DCS and other institutions and capacity building within DCS and other intuitions
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Partnership and Stakeholder Participation

- ❖ Implementation of SDGs requires a multi-stakeholder approach.
- ❖ SL has taken some initiatives to strengthen stakeholder engagement
 - ✓ MSDW has a multi-stakeholder consultative committee
 - ✓ initial steps to develop a web portal/ multi-stakeholder engagement platform (with the support of UN)
 - ✓ VNR took a multi-stakeholder consultative approach with the aim of creating ownership in SDG reporting process
- ❖ Raising awareness on SDGs among non-state actors is also key in improving partnerships & stakeholder participation



Thank you!
