

# Interpreting SDGs for South Asia: Afghanistan

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Dhaka, Bangladesh 20 November 2018

# What brings us here today?

- A shared commitment to the goals
- Acknowledgement of contextual challenges
  - National and regional
- Strengthening partnerships for the goals
  - Deeper understanding of how we can aid one another in pursuit of shared universal priorities



# Afghanistan: brief recent history

- 1980s - Soviet invasion and aftermath
- 1990s - Taliban rise to power
- 2001 - U.S. invasion established the current democratic government



# Joining the SDGs

- 2004 - Afghanistan signs onto the MDGs
- In the past 15 years, capacity has grown greatly
- Opportunity to bridge the gap between public and government

**Socio-economic situation**

## POVERTY IS INCREASING

Slow down in growth due to political and security transition has been associated with an increase in poverty.



39% of Afghans are poor in 2013-14

up from

36% in 2011-12

1.3 million more poor than in 2011-12.



## INCREASE IN POVERTY DUE TO DETERIORATING SECURITY AND LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS

Continuous increase in incidents and civilian casualties associated with conflict



3X increase in male unemployment

since 2011-12 due to deteriorating security and withdrawal of international forces



## INCREASE IN POVERTY CONCENTRATED IN RURAL AREAS

No change in urban poverty while rural poverty

increased by

14%

in two years,

up to 44% in 2013-14.



Collapse of service sector employment

and consequent reduction off farm employment

options for the poor.





## JOBS WERE LOST DURING THE TRANSITION PHASE

Slow down in growth has been accompanied by deteriorating labor market conditions:

1.92 million unemployed in 2013-14

Between 2011-12 and 2013-14 unemployment registered a

3X increase in rural areas  
2X increase in urban areas



## JOBS CRISIS ESPECIALLY CHALLENGING FOR YOUTH



1 in 2 unemployed Afghans is 14 to 24 years old.



500,000 male youth are unemployed,

2/3 live in rural areas



## COLLAPSE OF SERVICE SECTOR IN RURAL AREAS

76% of jobs destroyed were in the rural service sector

4 out of 5 of the jobs that were created between 2007-08 and 2011-12 were lost by 2013-14.

Employment changes, male workforce (25-50)

■ Changes between 2007-08 and 2011-12  
■ Changes between 2011-12 and 2013-14



## URBAN/RURAL DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION



Male youth who are unemployed have different education profile depending on where they live:

Majority in rural areas has no education

Majority in urban areas has higher education





## INCREASED CONFLICT RESULTED IN LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance rates fell from **56%** in 2011-12



to **54%** in 2013-14



## CONFLICT KEEPS CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL, PARTICULARLY GIRLS IN RURAL AREAS

**Girls** have **difficulty attending school** due to **conflict**



for every **5 boys**, **2 girls** attend primary school

Children in **rural areas** are **falling behind**

**Urban** school attendance



**boys**

**80%**



**girls**

**73%**

**Rural** school attendance



**boys**

**57%**



**girls**

**37%**



## POOR CHILDREN MORE LIKELY TO BE OUT OF SCHOOL

School attendance **non-poor:**



School attendance **poor:**



Attendance increased for non-poor by **1.8%** from 2011-12 to 2013-14



but **decreased** by **6%** for poor children







## MATERNAL HEALTH IS IMPROVING BUT AT A SLOWER PACE THAN IN THE PAST

63%

of women have access to antenatal care in 2013-14, compared to

51% in 2011-12



improvements of **delivery with skilled assistance** slowed down from

17% annually from 2007-08 to 2011-12

to 7% annually from 2011-12 to 2013-14



## RURAL AND POOR WOMEN ARE FALLING BEHIND

Women in **rural areas** only about **half as likely** to access skilled antenatal care



Delivery with skilled assistance

**Richest** women: **6 out of 10**



**Poorest** women: **3 out of 10**



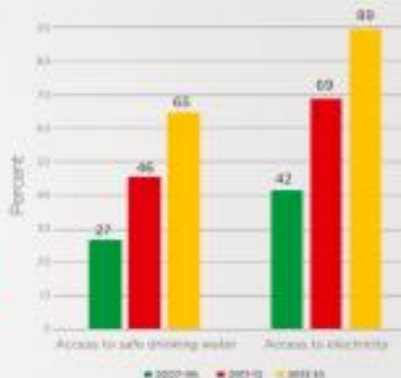
Source: Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) 2007/08, 2011/12 and 2013/14

## ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES: A SUCCESS STORY, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS



Access to **water** and **electricity** continues to **improve**, at even faster rates.

However, **urban-rural inequalities** persist and are increasing. **Poor** Afghans still have **limited access** to basic services



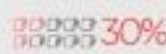
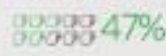
Access to **safe drinking water**



Access to **electricity**



Access to **improved sanitation**

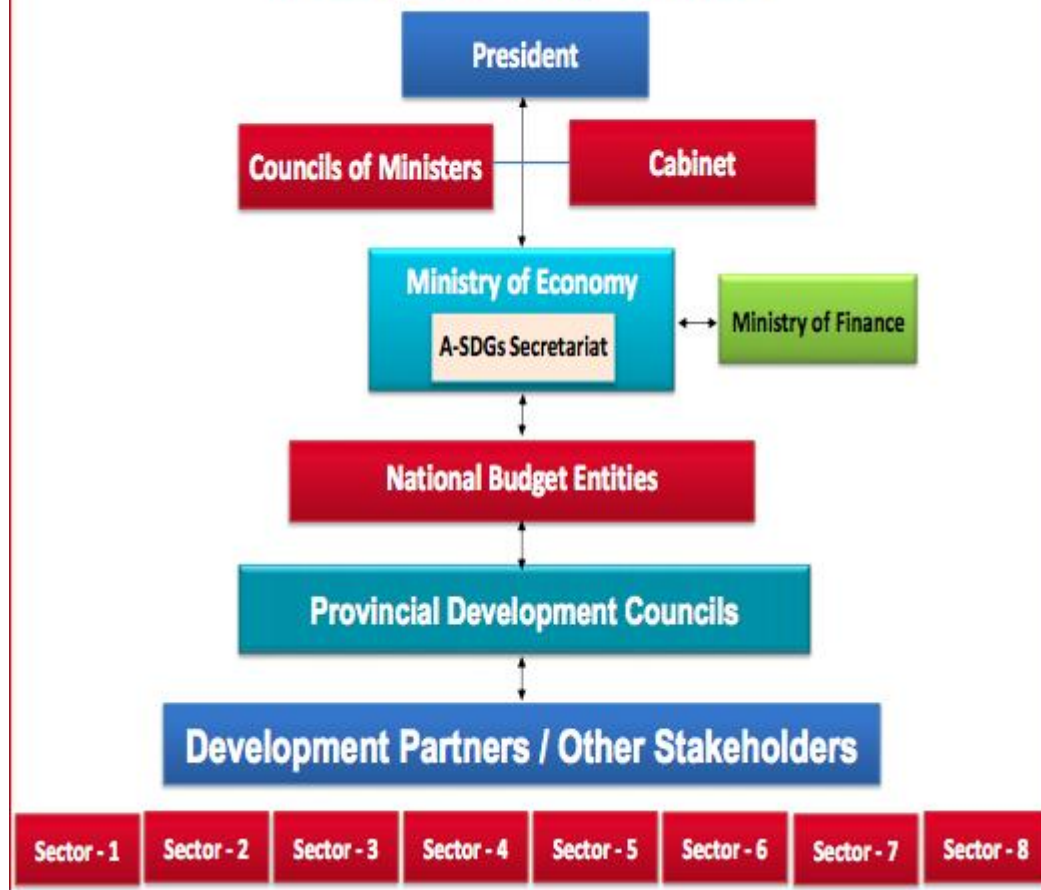


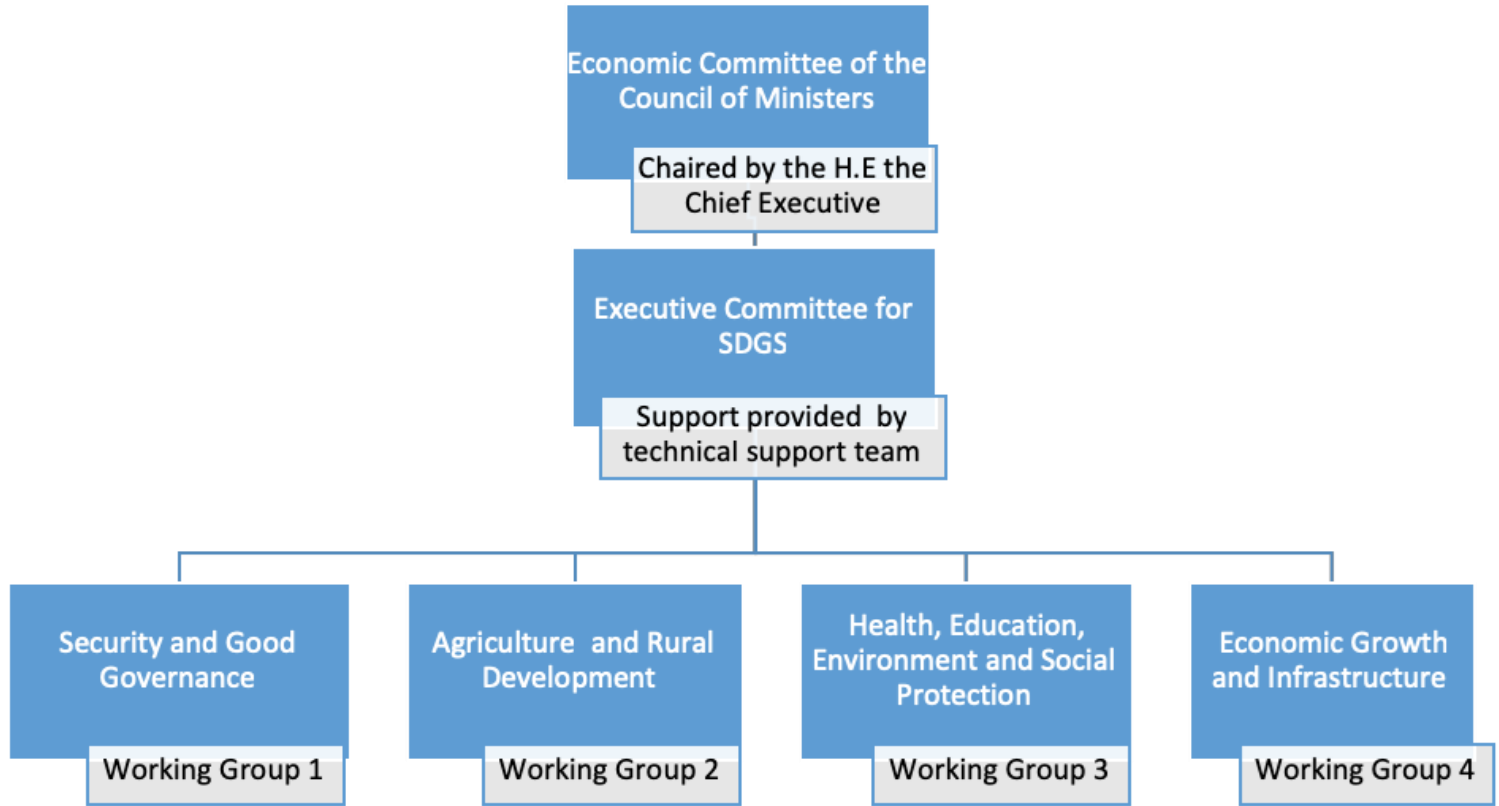
# On the other hand...

- 97% of population under 65 years old
- Untapped natural resources ex. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project
- Geographic location in the heart of the continent
- Hope for a more peaceful and prosperous future

# Country process

## A-SDGs Leadership Structure





Working group	Goals	Targets	Indicators	Number of indicators with no baseline
<b>Security and good governance</b>	Goals 3, 11, 16	16.2,16.3, 16.5, 16.8, 16.9, 3.6, 11.7, 16.4, 16.A	3.6.1, 11.7.2, 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.4.1, 16.4.2, 16.A.1, 16.2.2, 16.3.3, 16.5.1, 16.5.3, 16.8.1, 16.9.1	2 - (16.a.1, 11.7.2)
<b>Agriculture and rural development</b>	Goals 2, 6, 9, 12, 15	2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.a, 2.c, 6.1, 6.2, 9 .1, 12.3, 15.1, 15.2	2.1.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.5.1, 2.a.1, 2.c.1, 6.1.1, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.3, 9.1.1, 12.3.1, 15.1.1, 15.2.1	1 - (2.A.1)
<b>Health, education, environment, and social protection</b>	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16	1.3, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.a, 4.b, 4.c, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.b, 10.4, 10.7, 10.c, 11.4, 11.5, 11.b, 12.a, 12.b, 13.1, 16.1, 16.2, 16.10	1.3, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.a, 4.b, 4.c, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.b, 10.4, 10.7, 10.c, 11.4, 11.5, 11.b, 12.a, 12.b, 13.1, 16.1, 16.2, 16.10	19 - (4.c.6, 4.c.1, 4.A.2, 4.A.3, 3.3.1, 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 4.7.3, 4.7.4, 4.7.5, 4.6.1, 4.1.1, 4.3.1, 4.5.3, 8.5.1, 8.8.1.1.5.2, 10.7.5, 8.8.3)
<b>Economic growth and infrastructure</b>	Goals 1, 6, 12, 9, 17, 5, 11, 7, 15, 13, 10, 8	1.2, 1.a, 5.b, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.b, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.b, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.10, 9.2, 9.3, 9.a, 9.c, 10.1, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.6, 11.a, 12.4, 12.6, 13.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a, 17.1, 17.3, 17.6, 17.8 17.11, 17.13, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19	1.2.1, 1.a.1, 1.a.2, 5.b.1, 6.3.1, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.6.1, 6.b.1, 7.1.1, 7.2.1, 7.3.1, 7.b.1, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.3.1, 8.10.1, 8.10.2, 8.10.3, 9.2.1, 9.2.2, 9.3.1, 9.3.2, 9.a.1, 9.c.1, 10.1.1, 11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.2, 11.6.1, 11.6.2, 11.a.1, 12.4.1 12.6.1, 13.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.4.1, 15.5.1, 15.7.1, 15.8.1, 15.9.1, 15.a.1, 17.1.1, 17.1.2, 17.3.1, 17.6.2, 17.8.1,17.11.1, 17.13.1, 17.17.1, 17.18.1, 17.18.2, 17.19.1, 17.19.2	12 - (9.3.2, 7.3.1, 7.b.1, , 15.7.1, 8.2.1, 8.10.1, 8.10.2, 8.10.3, 9.3.2, 10.1.1, 11.6.2, 15.9.1)

# Phases of implementation

- Phase 1: Nationalizing and Aligning (2016–2020)
  - Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) adopted 16 out of 17 goals, which contains 112 targets and 178 indicators
  - High and technical level committees were formed, consultations held among different government groups. Goals and responsibilities split among 8 sectors (see next slides)
  - Ministry of Economy has led a series of workshops for provincial leaders to educate, raise awareness, and prepare them for budget planning on a local level.
- Phase 2: Implementation (2021–2030)
  - Developing a data collection, monitoring, and reporting mechanism
  - Successful implementation of SDGs based on the strategic framework

# Process flow



*PHASE 1: 2016-2020*

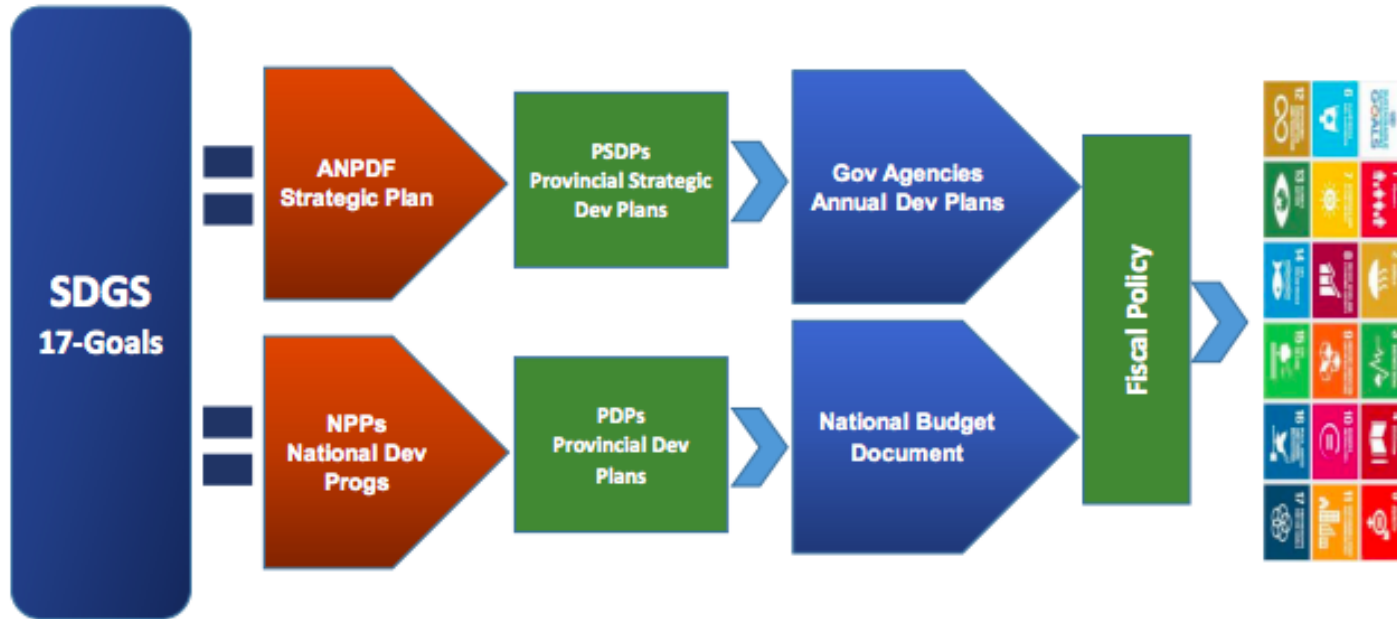


*PHASE 2: 2021-2030*





# Nationalization of the goals



# Implementation challenges

# Policy alignment

- ANG will continue to build private-public relationships, regional alliances, international partnerships, and local working groups to advance the country mission toward the goals.
- Utilize country context and adopt goals that are most feasible.
- Multi-level coordination across levels of government.
- Consultant meetings between top officials to narrow in on the appropriate national targets for Afghanistan.
- Integrate planning into the national budget and long-term considerations for the country.

# Institutional structure

- Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF)
  - infrastructure, improving finances, peace, inclusion, and economic development away from an agricultural economy and toward a manufacturing economy.
  - Presented at the 2016 Brussels Conference on Afghanistan.
  - The international community pledged \$15.2 billion for the 2017-2021. Aims to improve farmer livelihoods in a number of targeted ways:
    - Increasing horticulture capacity, investing in value-chains, and supporting women-owned agricultural enterprises
    - Increasing investment in water management, irrigation, and reservoirs
    - Increasing wheat yield and cutting harvest losses
    - Enforcing tariffs on imported livestock and improving domestic livestock management
    - Strengthening grain reserves
    - Expanding reforestation and agroforestry
    - Decentralizing the Ministry of Agriculture to become more farmer-centric

# Financing

- Afghanistan is a donor-dependent country, with 95% of the country budget being donor-funded.
- Decades of international support for Afghanistan, interest in the country is dwindling for many external allies because return on investment for development projects operates within a long-term time frame.
- Afghanistan's ultimate success in achieving the SDGs will depend upon the country's ability to find new sources of public and private funds.

# Partnerships and stakeholder participation

- Approximately 2300 NGOs, facilitating over 5000 projects have been working in Afghanistan over the past year, spending almost 1 billion dollars toward the goals.
- Of this work, domestic and local organizations have spent 34%, with international organizations spending the remaining 66%.
- Regional relationships play a key role in Afghanistan's ability to work toward the SDGs. Information-sharing from other countries have allowed for networks of best management practices and information sharing.

# Data deficit

- 14% of data needed for indicators not currently available to be collected or analyzed. At this point, data is needed for baseline targets.
- The country as a whole is lacking technical and professional capacity including professional skills, that would allow for successful collection of data.
- The Ministry of Economy coordinates with the Central Statistics Organization and appropriate ministries to address issues of data collection and deficit in order to improve the flow and accuracy of data.

# Additional challenges

- 1) Translation of SDGs to national context often changes meaning
- 1) Poor means of implementation and divisiveness among national government partners
- 1) Symbolic non-state actor involvement



# The national goals



# Goal 1: No poverty

- Global trends of reduced poverty do not ring true in Afghanistan.
- With escalating violence in Afghanistan, over a million more people have fallen into poverty over the past five years
- Citizens searching for security within the country are likely to move to cities, putting additional pressure on populations that currently reside there.
- Poverty Analysis and Policy Committee to end poverty in the country.
- The Afghan Citizen Charter Project is a national program to end poverty, with the goal of improving infrastructure and social services. \$2.1 billion has been allocated for this project over the next 10 years.



## Goal 2: Zero hunger

- Afghanistan relies on agriculture for food, but also for the major part of the country's economy.
- More than 80% of Afghanistan's population is directly engaged with agriculture and food production.
- Country malnutrition and infant mortality rates are extremely high.
- Plans to improve the situation include employing integrated best management practices, improving irrigation, restoring forests to build a green belt, and institutional reform toward these goals, such as the use of Geographic Information Systems in cooperative policy-making.
- The private sector should be utilized for food access and security, including the use of refrigeration trucks for storage and preservation.
- Prioritize access to land for all and cracking down on poppy cultivation.



## Goal 3: Good health and well-being

- In Afghanistan, the under-5 mortality rate dropped 60% from 2002 to 2016, while the number of births with medical assistance increased at a similar rate over the same time period.
- Health care facilities with female staff increased over 60%, though there are still many challenges to overcome.
- The maternal mortality rate is much higher than neighboring countries and malaria is high risk in the country, though the rate of incidence has gone down 85% since 2003.



# Goal 5: Gender equality

- In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Women's Affairs will be the unit chiefly responsible for the implementation of this goal.
- The National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan has improved the lives of women around the country, providing women with skills in agriculture and crafts to sell.
- The plan has three goals: ending discrimination against women, empowering women, and promoting women's leadership.
- Six additional ministries will partner with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. This coalition has worked to produce legal documents and raise awareness
- Today, women occupy only 10% of leadership positions in government, and women are still subjected to violence and mistreatment all over the country.



## Goal 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure

- Poor design, inefficient contractor oversight, and bad construction have worsened roads and infrastructure already damaged from years of conflict.
- Pre-qualified list of contractors and a number of related agencies including the Road Authority, Road Fund, and Transport Institute.
- CASA-1000, Salma multipurpose dam, Turkmenistan 500 KV power lines, and TAPI natural gas pipeline, are some capital projects currently being coordinated in the region to make energy more accessible around the country.
- Afghanistan is still in the process of constructing a national energy grid.



# Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

- The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework specifies the principles of aid effectiveness, ownership, accountability, and harmonization.
- International donations that specifically support the national budget priorities
- Afghanistan remains committed, nationally and internationally, to working toward the SDGs until 2030.
- Continuing to build partnerships, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization, and UN agencies, will increase efficiency of progress toward the goals.

National contribution to a regional  
framework



# Institutional arrangements



- Every country in the region has a long way to go toward the goals
- For Afghanistan to achieve success on a national level, there must be an increase in regional research, transfer of knowledge, technical support, and capacity-building programs.

# Security

- The insurgency in Afghanistan, in particular, requires national and regional efforts to reach its end.
- Establishment of a partnership for which the South Asian subregion can cooperate on securing a sustainable peace in Afghanistan.
- Peace is a precondition for implementing the SDGs, while development could contribute heavily in taming the insurgency.
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- High Peace Council that oversee the peace building and reconciliation efforts

# Peace-building

- Generating understanding and unifying efforts between Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.
- It is in the best interests of the region to work for peace
- Government corruption, unequal service delivery and security are some problems
- Regional sharing about effective governance and the role of insurgent safe havens in Pakistan

# Energy



# Industrialization

- Country reliance on imports
- Improve self-sufficiency:
  - 9% growth rate by 2024
  - improving the trade balance substantially
  - increased mobilization of private capital for development
  - Expansion of exports to \$8 billion by 2024
- Afghanization, industrialization, commercialization

# Conclusion

*Achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan is in part dependent on finding and developing a regional framework to address problems. The nature of several problems in Afghanistan are layered with complicated historical and geographic elements that also have regional roots. As such, regional, national, and global solutions require additional regional cooperation to achieve them.*

Thank you

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