



SDGs Support Unit
Planning & Development
Department GoAJK



AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR SDGs FRAMEWORK



Planning & Development Department, GoAJ&K
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Azad Jammu & Kashmir SDGs Framework

Acknowledgement

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List of Abbreviations

ADP(Annual Development Programme
AJ&K	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
AJ&KBoS	Azad Jammu & Kashmir Bureau of Statistics
AJ&KLA	Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly
CPW(s)	Critical Pathway(s)
CSO(s)	Civil Society Organization(s)
FGD(s)	Focus Group Discussion(s)
FY(s)	Fiscal Years
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GoAJ&K	Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir
LoC	Line of Control
MoPD&SI	Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
NEC	National Economic Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
P&DD	Planning & Development Department
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



MESSAGE

Additional Chief Secretary Development Planning & Development Department, GoAJ&K

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a roadmap for equitable, inclusive, and comprehensive governance, focusing on economic, social and environmental aspects of development planning. With its wide-ranging mandate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides governments with an opportunity to localise and implement the SDGs amid prevailing challenges. As done by the Federal and Provincial Governments, the Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) government has also developed its own SDGs Framework to highlight the priorities of the State and to provide a trajectory for regional policy and planning up to 2030.

I am pleased to share the 'AJ&K SDGs Framework' which has been formulated with a holistic grassroots approach to development after comprehensive desk reviews, data analysis, and field visits across the AJ&K. The document categorises the SDGs, as well as its targets, into short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals for both the State as a whole and all 10 districts of the AJ&K. The report also provides data on short-term indicators including baselines, status of progress, and localised targets to support relevant line departments with integration of the SDGs in their development programmes and budgets.

The results of the framework indicate a need for greater emphasis on human development, including improved service delivery and attention towards sustainability. These areas are even more crucial in light of the COVID-19 which has increased the number of people living in absolute and multidimensional poverty across Pakistan, including the AJ&K. A strong economy focusing on our comparative advantages such as high literacy rates, tourism, and abundance of natural resources will allow us to bounce back from this pandemic in a more sustainable manner. Simultaneously, addressing concerns of our key demographics such as women and youth should also be a central pillar of any development initiative. Implementation of policies and programmes is always a key challenge in the context of developing countries; however, it is pertinent to mention that the responsibility of implementation does not lie with governments alone. Non-governmental stakeholders such as civil society, academia, private sector and development partners have an important role to play in achieving positive outcomes. Aligning research, policies, programmatic interventions and business strategies with the SDGs will ensure a whole-of-society approach to development planning, enabling the AJ&K to achieve its localised targets by 2030. I would encourage all concerned to explore such partnerships to improve the quality, scale and effectiveness of their work in the region.

As we develop an Implementation Plan to achieve the results outlined by the AJ&K SDGs Framework, I would suggest all relevant stakeholders in the AJ&K to increase the level of horizontal and vertical coordination with their counterparts to achieve localised SDG targets by 2030. Through dedicated efforts, I am confident that the AJ&K can set a leading example for other provinces/regions of Pakistan on the SDGs implementation.

Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan (PAS)
Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.)

Chapter 1: Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by 193 countries on 25th September 2015, defining the global development landscape for the next 15 years. The SDGs global framework comprises 17 independent but interlinked goals which comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. These 17 SDGs are further bifurcated into 169 actionable targets and 247 measurable indicators, creating a standardised system to measure progress¹.

Figure 1: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Pakistan adopted the SDGs in September 2015 and the National Assembly of Pakistan unanimously declared SDGs as the country's national development agenda on the 16th February 2016. The Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat was also established as an oversight and monitoring institution. Following this, national and sub-national SDG Support Units were established in the country, including the Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The AJ&K SDGs Unit has been operational at the Planning and Development Department (P&DD) since 2018, providing the required technical support to the Government on the SDGs. It performs three main functions:

1. Liaising and coordinating with government line departments and other stakeholders in AJ&K as well as the Federal and the Provincial counterparts;
2. Collating and compiling credible database for monitoring and evaluation of goals and targets adopted as the AJ&K's SDGs; and
3. Policy research on issues of sustainable development.

Furthermore, in April 2019, a Parliamentary Taskforce on the SDGs was established at the AJ&K Legislative Assembly (AJ&KLA). The AJ&KLA also endorsed the resolution of the National Assembly, making the SDGs the development agenda for the State on 10th December 2019².

For administrative oversight, a 'State Steering and Coordination Committee for SDGs' was constituted in AJ&K. The Committee is headed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Development) and its members include the relevant secretaries and other concerned stakeholders. Moreover, approximately 23-line departments are regularly involved in the

¹ Updated as of September 2020 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Statistics Division.

² Resolution No. 147 passed by the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 10th December 2019.

implementation of the SDGs in the AJ&K, alongside stakeholders from academia, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Compared to other provinces of Pakistan, the AJ&K is a small State with a population of 4.18 million³ and with a high population density of 314 persons per square kilometre⁴. It also has a predominantly rural population (82.63 percent) which makes service delivery a challenge. Additionally, the AJ&K has higher levels of unemployment (10.3 percent) compared to the national average (5.8 percent)⁵, alongside a decreasing role of agriculture in employment generation (19.42 percent)⁶. At present, the AJ&K's economy depends on subsistence agriculture, livestock rearing, small industries, hydropower, and tourism. Private investments to the region are limited and the Government remains a major source of employment. Furthermore, there is also a high dependence on foreign remittances in the economy. The Government of AJ&K is committed to capitalising on its comparative advantages to ensure sustainable development in the region, including exploiting potential of its agriculture, small industry, and tourism sectors.

³ AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2020, AJ&K Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Department, Government of AJ&K.

⁴ Ibid.

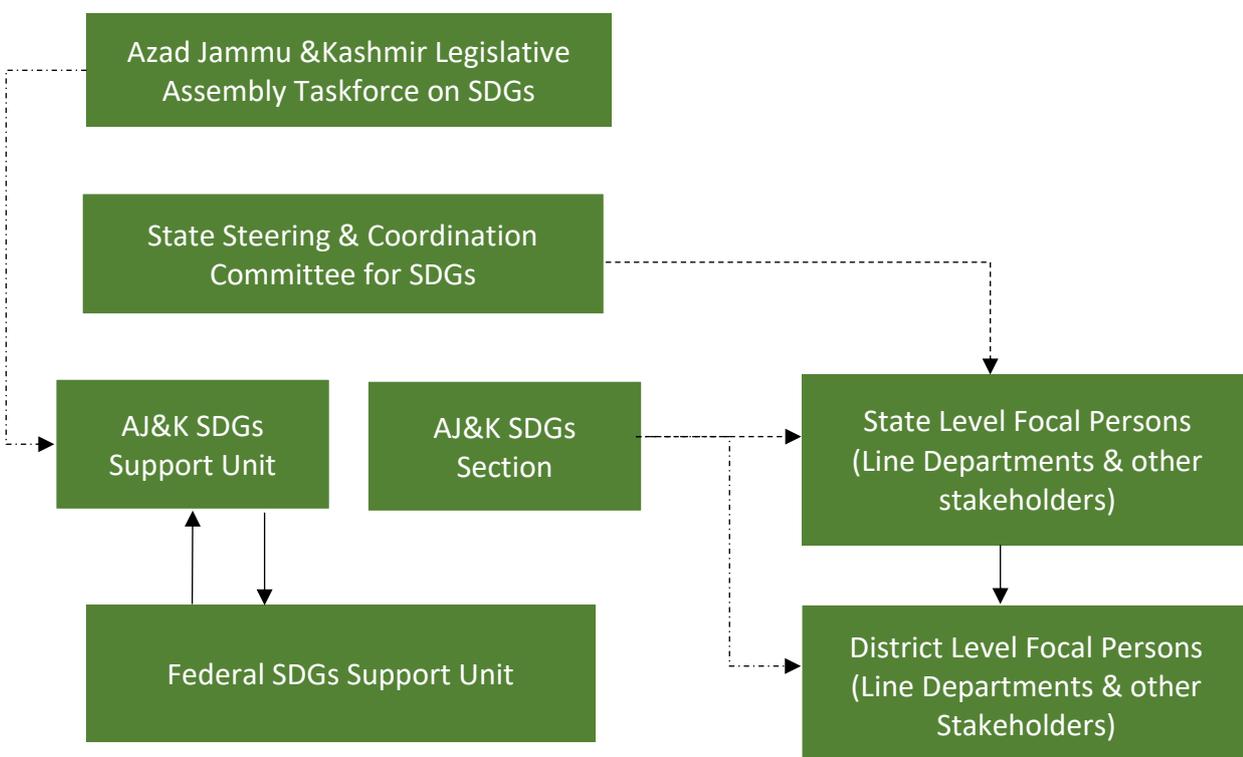
⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Chapter 2: Localising the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda is universal and equally applicable to all countries. Sub-national governments can play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs through localisation and policy mainstreaming. The benefits of the SDGs localisation are two-fold. On one hand, it can provide regional governments with an exclusive framework for local development, and on the other hand, local adoption of the SDGs can ensure substantial progress on the agenda at national and international levels. Therefore, it is essential for countries to consider local contexts while setting the SDGs targets and monitoring progress⁷ against them. In Pakistan, the level of economic and social development is uneven both within and across provinces/regions. Furthermore, the 18th Constitutional Amendment has increased provincial autonomy, making a localised approach to sustainable development even more pertinent. Given these realities, sub-national governments need to develop their own SDG frameworks to identify regional priorities and to introduce supporting implementation plans to achieve the SDGs in the region.

Figure 2: Institutional Mechanism for the SDGs in AJ&K



In the AJ&K, the localisation process has been formally initiated through a multi-level governance mechanism involving both state and district-level stakeholders, alongside the political and bureaucratic apparatus (Figure 2). These stakeholders meet periodically to discuss progress and highlight challenges for sustainable development in the State.

Furthermore, to contextualise the SDGs, a detailed analysis of targets and indicators has been undertaken to identify those targets and indicators which are relevant to the AJ&K. Data reporting, target-setting and development planning in the State is centred around these applicable SDG targets and indicators.

⁷ 'Roadmap for Localising the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at Sub-national Level', 2016.

Figure 3: Localising the SDGs in the AJ&K



Another important aspect of localisation has been to undertake research on regional challenges to identify issues and to highlight opportunities for development planning purposes. Similarly, annual budgets have also been mapped with the relevant SDGs to identify level of spending against each goal. Alongside this financial analysis, a detailed review of the AJ&K's policy environment has also been undertaken to assess the level of alignment among domestic policies, plans and strategies, and the 2030 Agenda.

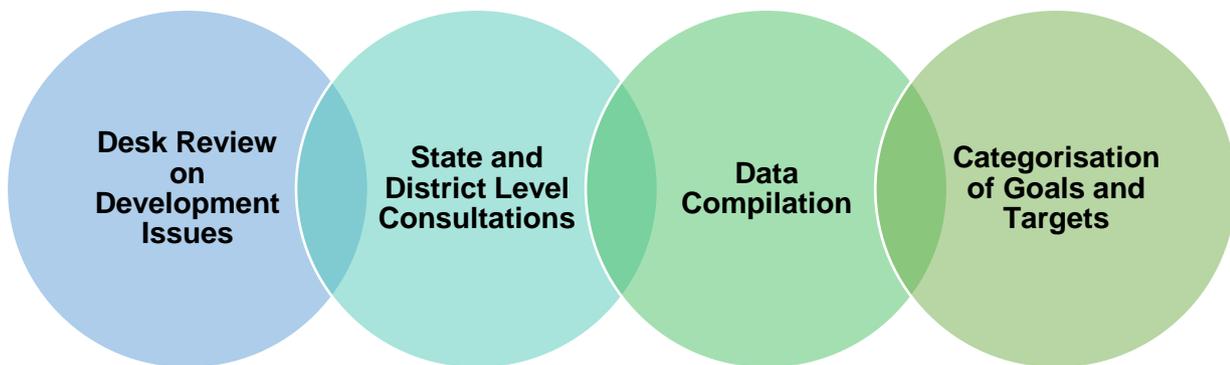
Chapter 3: Developing the SDGs Framework

To ensure effective localisation of the 2030 Agenda in the AJ&K, it is imperative to have a strategic direction for sustainable development in the State. An overarching SDGs Framework can forge a path for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, i.e., economy, society, and environment into development planning. In addition, it can strengthen policy coherence and institutional coordination for future development strategies by incorporating broader objectives into sectoral planning.

At present, development planning in the AJ&K is being undertaken with a scanty focus on evidence-based analysis. As a result, decision-making has not been able to improve the situation on the ground, leading to reduced focus on human development and issues of sustainability. There is a need to diverge from the traditional path of economic development and to focus more on social transformation and environmental protection, along with efforts to create a strong and competitive human capital through reliable data and evidence.

In this backdrop, the SDGs Framework for the AJ&K will be a useful tool to identify the local development needs for categorisation of goals and targets by short-term, medium-term and long-term. The framework would also provide a roadmap for the Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (GoAJ&K) to divert resources towards high priority areas to achieve the localised SDG targets by 2030.

Figure 4: Scope of the SDGs Framework



The development of the SDG Framework for the AJ&K has four distinct stages - (i) desk review (ii) consultations (iii) data compilation/analysis and (iv) categorisation of targets. As a first step, a detailed desk review and the situation analysis were undertaken to understand the development context and challenges of the AJ&K. This included the review of annual budgets and a detailed analysis of policies, plans and strategies to understand the pattern of financial allocations and level of policy coherence in development planning, respectively. In addition, the data landscape for the SDGs in the AJ&K was also examined to assess development trends of available indicators and to identify major gaps which need to be addressed.

In the next stage of the development of the SDGs framework, extensive consultations were conducted with major stakeholders to gather qualitative input as well as different perspectives on local development; this helped fill information gaps at the regional and district levels. District consultations were conducted in nine districts of the AJ&K⁸. The participants included focal persons from the Government's line departments as well as representatives from civil society, academia and welfare organisations. During the focus group discussions (FGDs), the participants were asked about the challenges of development faced by their districts. In particular, attention was paid to local conditions and barriers to the SDGs implementation.

These results were also corroborated through an internal appraisal, conducted by the P&DD. Further, the complete results were shared with all the secretaries of the GoAJ&K development departments as well as State- and District-level SDG focal persons for their review.

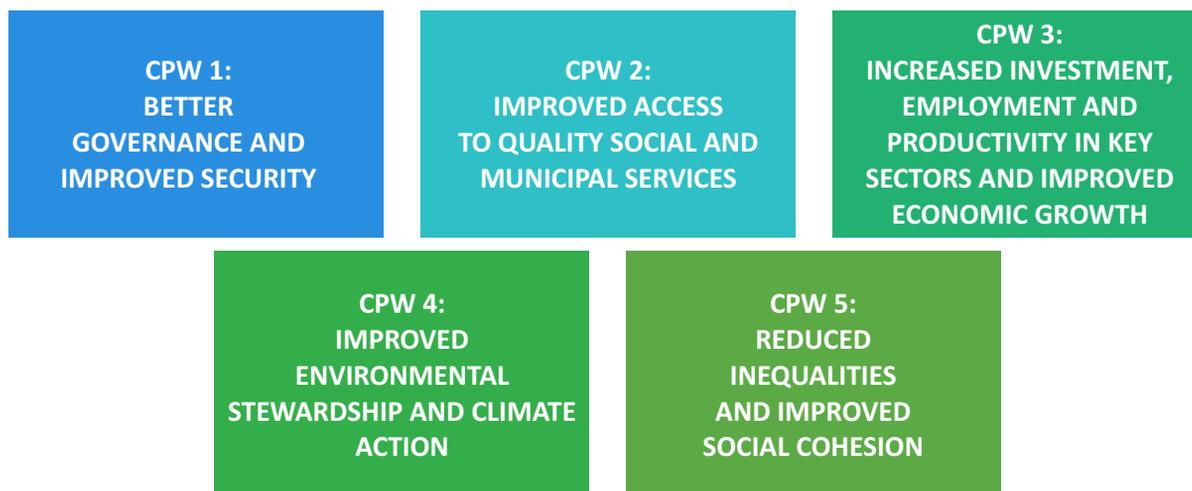
Subsequently, the outcomes from desk research and consultations were compiled and assigned numerical values to ensure standardisation. For categorisation purposes, the results were weighted to produce short-term, medium-term and long-term goals and targets for the AJ&K. The next chapter explains the categorisation process in greater detail.

⁸ Consultations could not be undertaken in District Neelum due to the situation at the Line of Control (LoC) and COVID-19.

Chapter 4: Categorisation Process

The categorisation exercise undertaken in the AJ&K followed the guidelines established by the Federal SDGs Unit at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI). The 169 SDGs targets were streamlined across five **critical pathways** (CPWs) as shown in the figure below. Each critical pathway focused on a particular theme such as governance, social service delivery, economy, environment and inequalities.

Figure 5: Critical Pathways for the SDGs



Under these CPWs, the related SDG targets were clubbed together to highlight a broader issue. For example, under CPW 2, Target 3.1 on maternal mortality and Target 3.2 regarding child mortality were combined to reflect the aim to “improve maternal and child health and reduce mortality”. Similarly, under CPW 5, Target 2.1 on reducing hunger and Target 2.2 on ending malnutrition were combined to state the goal of “end(ing) all forms of hunger and malnutrition”. In this manner, the 169 SDG targets were reduced to 55 key issues, allowing for a simplified analysis.

Furthermore, six **criteria** were developed to assess these 55 key issues across a range of dimensions. These criteria are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Criteria for the SDGs Framework

Goal	Explanation
Width	The number of people affected by a certain issue
Depth	How badly people were affected by a certain issue
Multiplier	How many other targets this issue contributes to
Resource Requirement	Level of resources required to address this issue
Structural Change	Level of institutional change required to manage it
Relevance	Importance of this issue was for each district of AJ&K

Relative weights were assigned to each criterion instead of giving each aspect an equal importance. In this manner, the nature of the issue (as reflected by the multiplier and relevance scores) was given greater consideration than the structural and financial constraints. The details of weights assigned are shown in the Table 2.

Table 2: Normalised Relative Weights for Criteria

Goal	Weightage	Rank
Width	14%	4
Depth	18%	3
Multiplier	29%	1
Resource Requirement	9%	5
Structural Change	5%	6
Relevance	25%	2

For **target-level categorisation**, each issue was assigned a score between '0' and '10' across each criterion. An issue was given a higher score (i) if a large number of people were affected by it, (ii) if the issue was considered severe for a particular district, (iii) if the issue exacerbated other problems, (iv) if less financial resources were required to address the issue, (v) if less structural change was required to achieve the target, and (vi) if the issue was also a problem for other districts. The sample scoring sheet is presented in the table below.

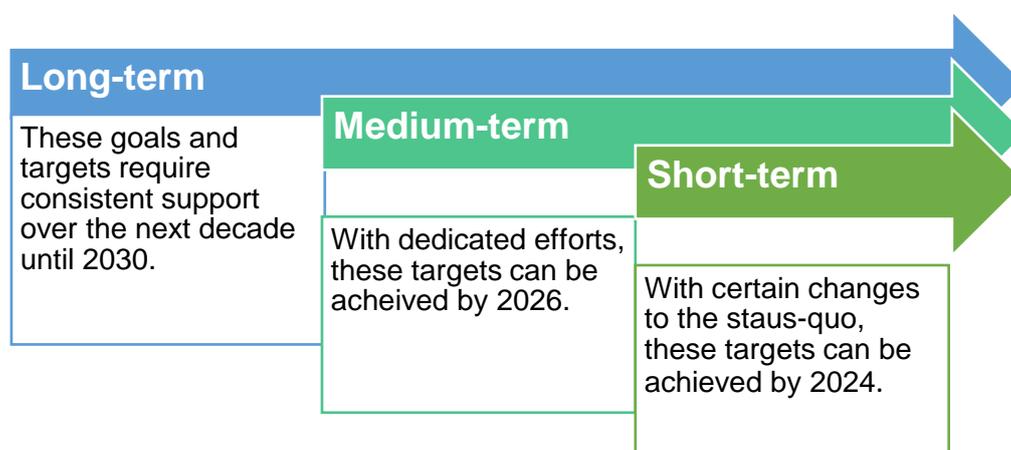
Table 3: Sample Scoring Sheet for the SDG Targets

Criteria/ Issues	Width	Depth	Multiplier	Resource Requirement	Structural Change	Relevance
Healthcare Access						
Education Access						
Clean Water Availability						
Unemployment Rate						

The numerical score assigned was then multiplied with the normalised weight for each criterion (as shown in Table 2) to obtain the weighted scores. This final score was then ranked into three categories – 'short-term', 'medium-term' and 'long-term' goals and targets.

The categorisation exercise was designed to identify the most effective mechanism to achieve the objective of localising the SDGs in the next 10 years. Short-term goals and targets are expected to be addressed quickly in the AJ&K, followed by medium-term targets which require some gestational period to produce results. Long-term targets, however, require regular planning and budgetary focus by the Government over the next 10 years to see positive results.

Figure 6: Categorisation of the SDGs



Chapter 5: Categorisation of Goals

The categorisation of the SDGs was undertaken following the methodology described in the previous section. To ensure localisation and to capture the heterogeneity of the State, the same exercise was also conducted for each district.⁹ The results for the AJ&K are shown in the table below, and district-level results have been presented in Annex A.

The framework highlights that the AJ&K needs to adopt a more *human-centric approach* to development, with a *strong focus on social service delivery and sustainability*. These aspects should be supplemented by a strong economy which capitalises on local comparative advantages. The goal should be to generate economic activity without creating further inequities or environmental degradation.

Table 4: Goal-wise Categorisation of the SDGs in the AJ&K

Timeline	Description of Goal	SDG	Detail ¹⁰	Strategy
Short-term (2024)	Good Health & Well-being	3	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.	Given the limited timeframe, concurrent action must be taken on these goals, with a review in 2026 to assess progress and possible revision.
	Quality Education	4		
	Affordable and Clean Energy	7		
	Sustainable Cities and Communities	11		
	Partnerships for the Goals	17		
Medium-term (2026)	No Poverty	1	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.	
	Zero Hunger	2		
	Clean Water and Sanitation	6		
	Decent Work and Economic Growth	8		
	Responsible Consumption and Production	12		
Climate Action	13			
Long-term (2030)	Gender Equality	5	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.	Results from the review may require acceleration of action for these goals up to 2030.
	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9		
	Reduced Inequalities	10		
	Life Below Water	14		
	Life on Land	15		
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	16			

The results from Table 4 indicate that in the short-term, the GoAJ&K needs to make concerted efforts on issues around energy, education, health, finance and urbanisation. Then, over the medium-term, greater attention must be paid to climate change, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), consumption and production patterns, economy, and reduction in poverty and hunger.

In the long run, the AJ&K needs to bring about structural changes through consistent policy support. This includes introducing industrialisation as a pillar of economy, sustainably consuming natural resources, reducing inequalities including those related to gender and developing stronger institutions. Constant efforts on these issues over the next decade will help the AJ&K meet its SDG ambitions by 2030.

Given that now less than 10 years remain until 2030, it is essential for the AJ&K to consider this period as a **decade for action**. Furthermore, with only three years until 2024, it is more prudent for the GoAJ&K to combine short-term and medium-term categories for collective action across these goals until 2026. As a next step, a review can be undertaken on the progress made across the goals during this time and an action plan can be developed to accelerate progress in the last four years until 2030.

⁹ This excludes District Neelum where the consultation exercise could not be undertaken.

¹⁰ Summary for the National Economic Council (NEC), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Framework, Planning Commission, MoPD&SI, March 2018.

Chapter 6: Categorisation of Targets

While goal-wise rationalisation is important to establish a development trajectory, a detailed target-level categorisation is essential for programming purposes to ensure progress at the grass-roots level.

In the AJ&K, Target 6.1 i.e. “By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” was considered the most important aspect to address. This signifies that availability of water as well as its safe consumption are major concerns in the State. On the other hand, Target 16.2 i.e., “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” was categorised as a long-term target. The findings from district consultations indicate that efforts must be made to increase awareness, change mindsets, and encourage reporting of such cases which require continuous support.

Figure 7: Categorising the SDG Targets in the AJ&K



Of the 98 SDG targets considered relevant to the AJ&K, 58 can be considered ‘social’ targets, 24 as ‘economic’ targets whereas 16 can be categorised as ‘environmental’ targets. Following the categorisation exercise, 33 of the 98 targets were categorised as short-term targets and 45 were categorised as medium-term targets which require consistent efforts for the next few years. A further 20 were emerged as long-term targets which cannot be achieved quickly; rather, these require sustained support from the GoAJ&K over the next decade to achieve favourable results. These findings are summarised below.

Table 5: Target-level Breakdown for the SDGs

Timeline/Dimension	Social	Economic	Environmental	Total
Short-term	25	7	1	33
Medium-term	21	11	13	45
Long-term	12	6	2	20
Total	58	24	16	98

The Table 6 below shows that in the short-term, the GoAJ&K should accelerate efforts towards social targets, with an increased focus on environmental and economic targets in the medium-term and a steady focus across the three dimensions in the long-term. A list of ‘short-term’ targets across the three dimensions is presented in Annex B.

Overall, short-term, medium-term and long-term targets are distributed across all 17 SDGs. However, it is important to note that for the Goal 4 – Quality Education and the Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, all targets emerged as short-term, making them short-term goals. A goal-wise breakdown of target-level categorisation for each SDG is presented in Table 6 below, where the number in bold indicates the highest number of targets in a given category for each SDG.

Table 6: Goal-Target Mapping of the Categorisation Exercise

Goal	Target Category			Goal Category
	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term	
1 – No Poverty	1	4	1	Medium-term
2 – Zero Hunger	0	4	2	Medium-term
3 – Good Health & Wellbeing	7	5	1	Short-term
4 – Quality Education	9	0	0	Short-term
5 – Gender Equality	1	3	4	Long-term
6 - Clean Water and Sanitation	3	4	0	Medium-term
7 - Affordable and Clean Energy	2	0	0	Short-term
8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	4	1	2	Medium-term
9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	0	2	2	Long-term
10 – Reduced Inequalities	0	2	2	Long-term
11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	4	3	0	Short-term
12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	1	4	0	Medium-term
13 – Climate Action	0	2	0	Medium-term
14 – Life Below Water	0	0	1	Long-term
15 – Life on Land	0	6	1	Long-term
16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	0	5	4	Long-term
17 – Partnerships for the Goals	1	0	0	Short-term
Total	33	45	20	-

In most cases, the goal-level categorisation corresponds to the category with the highest number of targets. For example, the Goal 2 – Zero Hunger has four ‘medium-term’ targets and two ‘long-term’ targets, placing it in the ‘medium-term’ category in goal-wise categorisation. Similarly, the Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production has one ‘short-term’ and four ‘medium-term’ targets, resulting in the goal being categorised as medium-term.

However, there are exceptions such as the Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, the Goal 15 – Life on Land and the Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions where target-level categorisations do not match the SDG categorisation. This is because in each instance corresponding targets were in a higher category by a lower margin, and in a lower category by a higher margin, resulting in a skewed average response towards a lower category. Such shortcomings further illustrate the need to focus on target-level categorisation for implementation purposes in the AJ&K compared to goal-level categorisation.

Chapter 7: Barriers and Constraints

Achieving the SDGs requires a movement away from business-as-usual with increased reliance on innovation and a recalibration of development planning. As such, it is necessary to be mindful of the barriers which could impede attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

First, given the geography and topography of the AJ&K, there are external risks which need to be considered. They include: the situation at the LoC and increase in natural disasters due to climate change. Any development strategy must find ways to address or mitigate their negative impacts on the State's economic growth.

Additionally, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, future planning must consider aspects of public health in development priorities. Globally, health and economic uncertainties have negatively impacted poverty and unemployment rates, making the poor even more vulnerable to external shocks.

Another important factor to consider is the nature of economic, social and environmental development in the AJ&K. The State's growth predominantly centres around infrastructure, with limited attention being paid to the productive and social sectors. This trend will have undesirable consequences for the region in coming years with decreasing food security, increased environmental degradation, substantial loss of natural resources and may leave a huge part of the population uneducated. Besides, it is also essential to increase budgetary allocations for the health sector to improve tertiary care in the State.

Furthermore, it is crucial for the GoAJ&K to generate and utilise authentic, reliable and consistent data for development planning purposes. Without data, it is difficult to understand the ground realities and develop effective policy options. Line departments and the AJ&K Bureau of Statistics (AJ&KBoS) can play an important role in this regard.

In addition, at present most programmatic and policy planning is being undertaken in silos and there is a limited inter-departmental coordination. There needs to be an institutional change regarding this issue and greater cooperation should be ensured for sustainable development purposes. Equitable distribution of resources to reduce disparities and inclusiveness may be insured at all levels.

Lastly, it is important to recognise the heterogeneity of the AJ&K as the districts have different cultural and economic challenges. As such, development planning needs greater devolution and localisation, so that it can adequately address challenges at the grassroots level.

Chapter 8: Way Forward

The development of the AJ&K SDGs Framework is an important step in mainstreaming and localising the 2030 Agenda in the State. However, in order to undertake measures necessary for progress, it is important to place this Framework in the institutional, policy and financial realities of the AJ&K. For this purpose, the AJ&K SDG Unit is planning to conduct the following supplementary activities:

- 1) Mapping of the Annual Development Programmes (ADPs) for fiscal years (FYs) 2016-17 and 2020-21 to understand the current pattern of allocations, to identify gaps and to provide recommendations for better utilisation of allocated funds.
- 2) A review of the institutional and policy environment of the AJ&K to facilitate policy coherence through a systems-thinking approach.
- 3) A comprehensive data gap analysis for the SDGs in the AJ&K to finalise relevant targets, to collect standardised data on indicators and to encourage administrative reporting.
- 4) A detailed baseline and target-setting report for the AJ&K to effectively localise the 2030 Agenda, to understand the landscape and to visualise gaps.
- 5) A study on financing the SDGs to calculate the monetary requirements to achieve the targets set for the State.
- 6) A supporting implementation plan for the AJ&K Framework to streamline implementation and to ensure effective monitoring of progress.

Additionally, the above-mentioned activities will be supplemented by various initiatives designed to improve technical capacity of the stakeholders at the P&DD, the AJ&KBoS as well as the focal persons from government line departments.

Achieving the SDGs over the next decade will require concerted political, institutional and policy support. This is especially true for those goals which are a priority for the medium- and long-terms. As is evident by the results reflected in the Framework, major structural changes and financial realignments might be required to see sustainable results. Overall, the socioeconomic conditions of the AJ&K made it well-placed to achieve substantive results under the 2030 Agenda.

Annex A: SDGs Categorisation for the AJ&K Districts

District Muzaffarabad

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health and Wellbeing	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	13	Climate Action	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	17	Partnerships for the Goals	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	5	Gender Equality	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Neelum¹¹

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	13	Climate Action	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	5	Gender Equality	
	9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Jhelum Valley

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	13	Climate Action	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	

¹¹ As district consultations could not be undertaken for Neelum Valley, the results are borrowed from the State-level rationalization of SDGs.

Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	5	Gender Equality	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Bagh

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail	
Short-term (2024)	4	Quality Education	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.	
	7			Affordable and Clean Energy
	8			Decent Work and Economic Growth
	11			Sustainable Cities and Communities
	13			Climate Action
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.	
	2	Zero Hunger		
	3	Good Health & Well-being		
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation		
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure		
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production		
Long-term (2030)	5	Gender Equality	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.	
	10	Reduced Inequalities		
	14	Life Below Water		
	15	Life on Land		
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		
	17	Partnerships for the Goals		

District Haveli

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	13	Climate Action	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	5	Gender Equality	
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	

	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Poonch

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Medium-term (2026)	2	Zero Hunger	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	13	Climate Action	
	14	Life Below Water	
Long-term (2030)	1	No Poverty	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	5	Gender Equality	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Sudhnoti

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	13	Climate Action	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
Long-term (2030)	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	5	Gender Equality	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	

District Kotli

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time
	5	Gender Equality	
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	

	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	period and consistent policy support.
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
	13	Climate Action	
Long-term (2030)	2	Zero Hunger	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Mirpur

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	1	No Poverty	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	13	Climate Action	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	5	Gender Equality	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

District Bimber

	SDG	Description of Goal	Detail
Short-term (2024)	1	No Poverty	These goals require immediate action as targets can be achieved in the short run.
	4	Quality Education	
	7	Affordable and Clean Energy	
	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	17	Partnerships for the Goals	
Medium-term (2026)	3	Good Health & Well-being	These goals require somewhat extended time period and consistent policy support.
	6	Clean Water and Sanitation	
	8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	10	Reduced Inequalities	
	12	Responsible Consumption and Production	
Long-term (2030)	13	Climate Action	These goals need an incubation period and require significant reforms.
	2	Zero Hunger	
	5	Gender Equality	
	9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	14	Life Below Water	
	15	Life on Land	
	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

Annex B: Short-term SDG Targets for the AJ&K by Dimension

Dimension	Targets
Social (25 targets)	<p>1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.</p> <p>3.6 By 2030, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.</p> <p>3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.</p> <p>3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.</p> <p>3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States.</p> <p>3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.</p> <p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.</p> <p>11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.</p> <p>11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.</p>
	<p>4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.</p> <p>4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.</p> <p>4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.</p> <p>4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.</p>

Dimension	Targets
	<p>4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.</p> <p>4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.</p> <p>4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.</p> <p>5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.</p> <p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.</p> <p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.</p>
<p>Economic (07 targets)</p>	<p>7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.</p> <p>7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.</p> <p>8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p> <p>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</p> <p>8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labor Organization.</p> <p>17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.</p>
<p>Environmental (01 target)</p>	<p>12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.</p>

Annex C: Short-term SDGs – AJ&K Baseline, Progress & Targets¹²

SDG Indicator	Baseline	Progress	Target 2030	Source
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.	4.9% (2018)	NA	15%	NNS 2018
3.6.1 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents (per 100,000 population)	4.10 (2015)	4.19 (2019)	1.60	AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2017 and 2020
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	19.1% (2017-18)	NA	62%	PDHS 2017-18
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	15-19 years: 92 (2017-18)	NA	70	PDHS 2017-18
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	44.3% (2018)	NA	70%	Health Department 2018
3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	15 – 49 years: Male: 31.5% Female: 1.1% (2017-18)	NA	NA	PDHS 2017-18
3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program	62% (2014-15)	77% (2018-19)	98%	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19
3.b.3 Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis	40% (2018)	NA	60%	Health Department 2018
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution (per 10,000 population)	Doctor: 2.04 Nurses/LHW: 8.50 Dentist: 0.19 Pharmacists: 0.02 (2015)	Doctor: 2.46 Nurses/LHW: 8.91 Dentist: 0.19 Pharmacists: 0.03 (2019)	NA	AJ&K at a Glance 2015 and Statistical Yearbook 2020
4.5.1 Parity indices (female/ male, rural/ urban, bottom/ top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	Gender Parity Overall: 0.78 Urban: 0.82 Rural: 0.77 (2014-15)	Gender Parity Overall: 0.76 Urban: 0.82 Rural: 0.76 (2018-19)	1.0	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19
4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	Literacy: 77% Male: 85% Female: 66% (2014-15)	Literacy: 77% Male: 85% Female: 65% (2018-19)	Literacy: 90%	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19

¹² Abbreviated sources include National Nutrition Survey (NNS), Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS), Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey, Labour Force Survey (LFS), Physical Planning and Housing Department (PP&H) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). NA indicates the data is 'Not Available'.

SDG Indicator	Baseline	Progress	Target 2030	Source
4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities	Electricity: 27% Water: 56% Sanitation: 37% (2014-15)	Electricity: 30.5% Water: 57.1% Sanitation: 44.6% (2018-19)	80%	Education Department 2014-15 and 2018-19
4.c.1 Proportion of teachers qualified in basic education by education level	Pre-service Primary: 93.7% (2017-18)	Pre-service Primary: 95.05% (2018-19)	100%	Education Department 2017-18 and 2018-19
5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Relations: 66.6% Contraception: 51% (2016-17)	NA	NA	PDHS 2016-17
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Improved: 65.43% (2014-15)	Improved: 60% (2018-19)	NA	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19
6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	92% (2014-15)	91% (2018-19)	96%	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	97.6% (2014-15)	96.9% (2018-19)	99%	PSLM 2014-15 and 2018-19
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	70.3% (2014-15)	74.1% (2017-18)	NA	AJ&K LFS 2014-15 and 2017-18
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Total: 11.2% Male: 9.4% Female: 30.5% (2014-15)	Total: 10.3% Male: 8.4% Female: 22.6% (2017-18)	NA	AJ&K LFS 2014-15 and 2017-18
8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy	None (2015)	None (2020)	NA	GoAJ&K 2015
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Less than 1% (2018)	NA	NA	PP&H 2018
11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Adopt: 100% Implement: Nil (2018)	NA	Adopt: 100% Implement: 100%	SDMA 2018



**National Initiative for
Sustainable Development Goals**

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