



MAPPING THE ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 2016-17 to 2020-21 WITH THE SDGs

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List of Abbreviations

ADP(s)	Annual Development Programme(s)
AJ&K	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
AJ&KBoS	Azad Jammu & Kashmir Bureau of Statistics
AJ&KLA	Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
DCRIP	Disaster and Climate Resilience Improvement Project
FERRP	Flood Emergency Reconstruction and Resilience Project
FY(s)	Fiscal Year(s)
GoAJ&K	Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
P&DD	Planning and Development Department
PSDP	Public Sector Development Programme
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Introduction

In relation to the geographic size of Pakistan and its provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) is a very small State. The population of AJ&K is 4.11 million and the annual growth rate is 1.64 percent¹; however, the population density of AJ&K is high i.e. 309 persons per square km². A high dependency ratio requires major effort to produce food and it also places great pressure on health facilities, besides affecting the ability of households to save. Moreover, 17.4 percent of the State's population lives in urban areas whereas 82.6 percent³ lives in rural areas, with a majority depending upon off-farm employment for income.

In AJ&K, job opportunities have not kept pace with population growth and hence, unemployment stands at 10.3 percent⁴. Furthermore, a significant proportion of those employed within the domestic economy are engaged in less productive and poorly remunerated jobs. Poverty rate in AJ&K stands at 18.06 percent⁵, and is made more acute by the high dependence on subsistence agriculture in rural areas. It is anticipated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the poverty rate for the State will be much higher than previously reported and this necessitates greater attention be paid towards poverty alleviation in future development initiatives.

Figure 1: The Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 ambitious goals that cut across multiple complex themes in global development. They focus on improving outcomes and processes, including changes in governance systems, institutional mechanisms and financial allocations. The National Assembly of Pakistan adopted the SDGs as 'Pakistan's Development Agenda' in February 2016⁶ and the AJ&K Legislative Assembly (AJ&KLA) endorsed this resolution in December 2019, making SDGs the development agenda for AJ&K. The Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (GoAJ&K) has been working on implementing SDGs in the State since early 2016.

In terms of the institutional set-up, a Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs has been established in the AJ&K Legislative Assembly which provides the necessary political and legislative support to implement SDGs in the State. An AJ&K SDG Support Unit has also been established in the Planning and Development Department (P&DD) to develop technical capacity and improve coordination between government line departments and stakeholders on SDGs. The Unit is also working to improve data collection, reporting and monitoring with regards to the 2030 Agenda, and has partnered with Government line departments and the AJ&K Bureau of Statistics (AJ&KBoS) to gather comprehensive data on SDGs. A summary of progress on key SDG indicators is presented in Annex A.

Currently, the P&DD is in the process of devising the AJ&K SDG Framework, which will help streamline the planning process by prioritizing SDG Goals and Targets within the AJ&K context. The framework is being developed by localizing the 2030 Agenda and will encompass inputs from district level stakeholders to ensure holistic planning and inclusive decision-making.

^{1,2,3,4} AJ&K at a Glance, AJ&K Bureau of Statistics, P&DD, GoAJ&K, 2019.

⁵ Analysis of National Socioeconomic Registry 2010-11, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

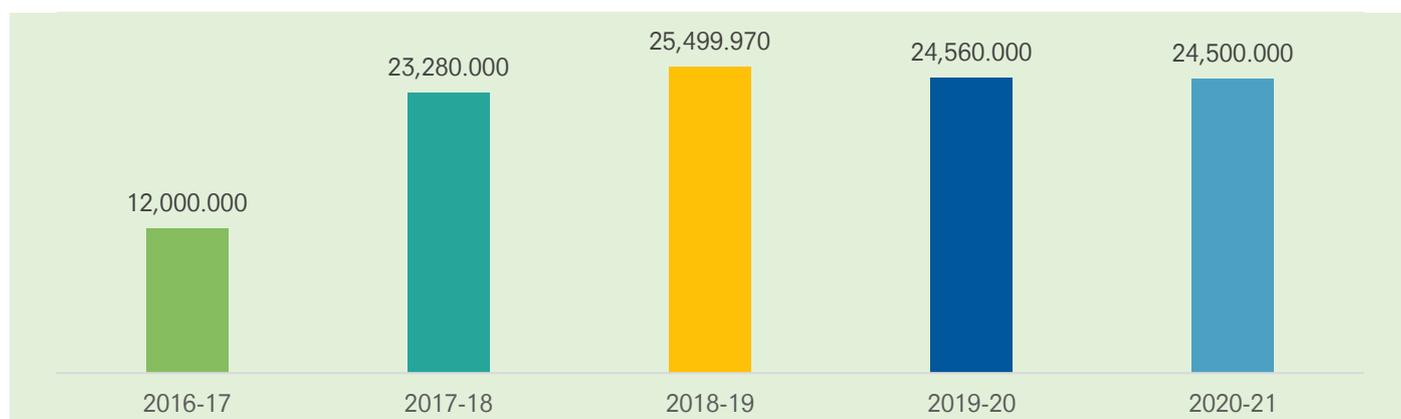
⁶ http://www.na.gov.pk/en/resolution_detail.php?id=229.

2. Overview of Annual Development Programmes

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) is a document containing a list of all the projects and programmes being undertaken in AJ&K and their allocations for the fiscal year (FY). It includes all types of Government-funded and Foreign Aid Projects (ongoing and new) to be implemented in the State.

Over the past five financial years, between FY 2016-17 and FY 2020-21, the Government of AJ&K has allocated approximately Rs. 109,839.970 million on various development initiatives across the State. While there are moderate annual changes, there was a significant increase in the ADP for FY 2017-18, which has been maintained for subsequent fiscal years. A breakdown of ADPs allocations for each financial year is presented below.

Figure 2: Annual Development Budgets FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



Each year the Planning and Development Department (P&DD), GoAJ&K produces an analysis of the development budget with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals. The exercise is conducted to (i) examine the alignment of development projects with SDGs and (ii) to identify future areas of investment for the Government based on development priorities.

In the mapping exercise, each scheme is individually mapped against one of the 17 SDGs and its associated targets. To avoid double counting, projects or programmes with cross-cutting impacts are aligned based only on the primary objective of an ADP scheme.

In order to organize discussion around SDGs and relevant ADP schemes, the goals have been divided into four thematic clusters – ‘Social’, ‘Economic’, ‘Environment’ and ‘Inclusivity & Governance’. The **Social Cluster** includes goals on health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender (Goal 5) and clean water & sanitation (Goal 6). The **Economic Cluster** is composed of goals on hunger (Goal 2), energy (Goal 7), economic growth (Goal 8), industry (Goal 9) and sustainable cities (Goal 11). The **Environment Cluster** consists of goals for responsible consumption and production practices (Goal 12) as well issues of climate change (Goal 13), water (Goal 14) and land (Goal 15). The **Inclusivity & Governance Cluster** discusses poverty (Goal 1), inequalities (Goal 10), institutions (Goal 16) and partnerships (Goal 17).

The following table presents the SDG composition for each cluster.

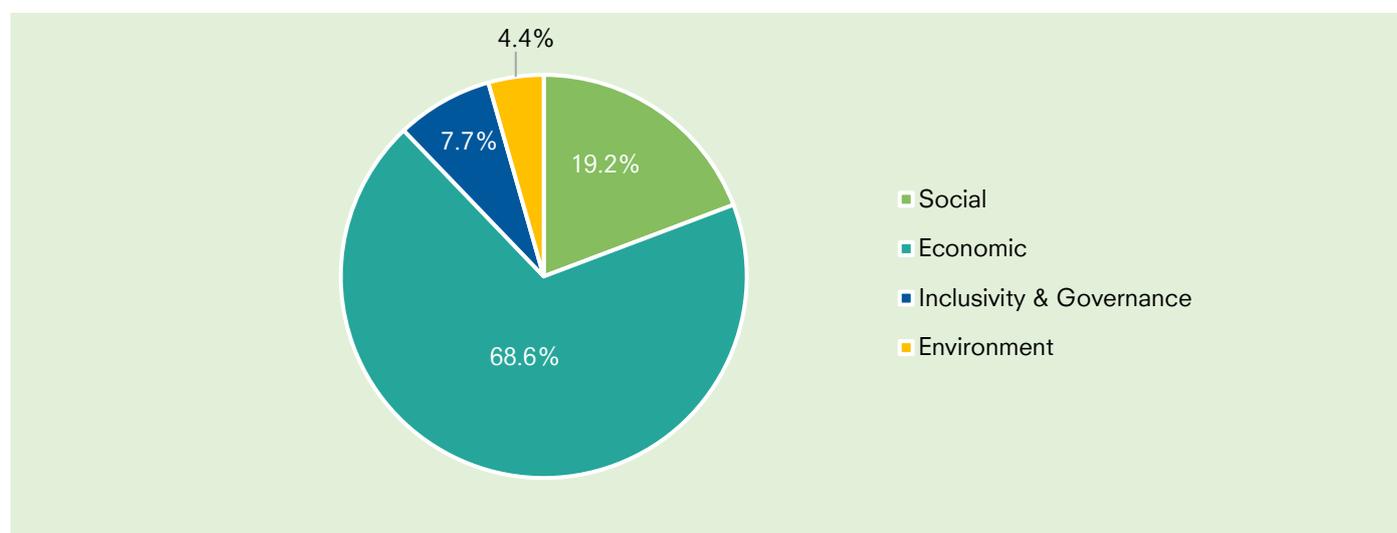
Table 1: Breakdown of Clusters by SDGs

	Relevant SDGs
Social	Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6).
Economic	Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).
Environment	Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15).
Inclusivity & Governance	No Poverty (SDG 1), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

3. Analysis by Cluster

A review of the development budget in the context of SDGs indicates that a greater proportion of the budget over the last five years, between FY 2016-17 and FY 2020-21, was dedicated to the ‘Economic’ cluster at approximately Rs. 75,382.630 million, followed by the ‘Social’ cluster at approximately Rs. 21,115.555 million and the ‘Inclusivity & Governance’ cluster at approximately Rs. 8,495.197 million. The least spending was on the ‘Environment’ cluster at Rs. 4,846.588 million.

Figure 3: Distribution by Cluster for ADPs FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21



There have been some changes to the overall composition of the development budget besides the routine annual growth in allocations. For example, the ‘Inclusivity and Governance’ cluster has witnessed an almost doubling of allocations between FYs 2016-17 and 2020-21. Moreover, after a trend of annual increases for the ‘Economic’ cluster between FY 2016-17 and 2018-19, there was a noticeable reduction in allocation for FY 2019-20, with a complementary increase in expenditures for the ‘Social’ and ‘Environment’ clusters. A subsequent increase in allocations for the ‘Economic’ cluster in FY 2020-21 is still below the peak allocation in FY 2018-19, suggesting a change in allocation patterns.

However, in terms of composition, the economic aspect of development still exceeds the sum allocated to all other dimensions in the Annual Development Programmes (69 percent versus 31 percent). The limited increase in allocations towards the ‘Social’ and ‘Inclusivity & Governance’ clusters, and a significant drop in financial resources allocated towards the ‘Environment’ cluster indicate that there is a greater need to ensure harmony between the three pillars of sustainable development (economy, society and the environment) in the development planning and budgeting for the State.

An analysis of budgetary allocations for all four clusters across the last five years (FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21) is presented in the table below.

Table 2: Distribution by Cluster for ADPs FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Social	2,535.407	3,624.862	4,154.431	5,366.787	5,434.068	21,115.555
Economic	8,097.523	16,405.270	18,109.990	15,911.871	16,857.976	75,382.630
Environment	475.000	919.000	1,330.000	1,627.000	495.588	4,846.588
Inclusivity & Governance	892.070	2,330.868	1,905.549	1,654.342	1,712.368	8,495.197
Total	12,000.000	23,280.000	25,499.970	24,560.000	24,500.000	109,839.970

a) Social Cluster

A breakdown of allocations under the 'Social' cluster over the last five years indicate that the greatest spending in AJ&K was seen under education initiatives (SDG 4), followed by WASH (SDG 6) and health (SDG 3), respectively whereas the least amount was spent directly on gender initiatives (SDG 5). A breakdown of spending by SDGs over during this time period is presented below.

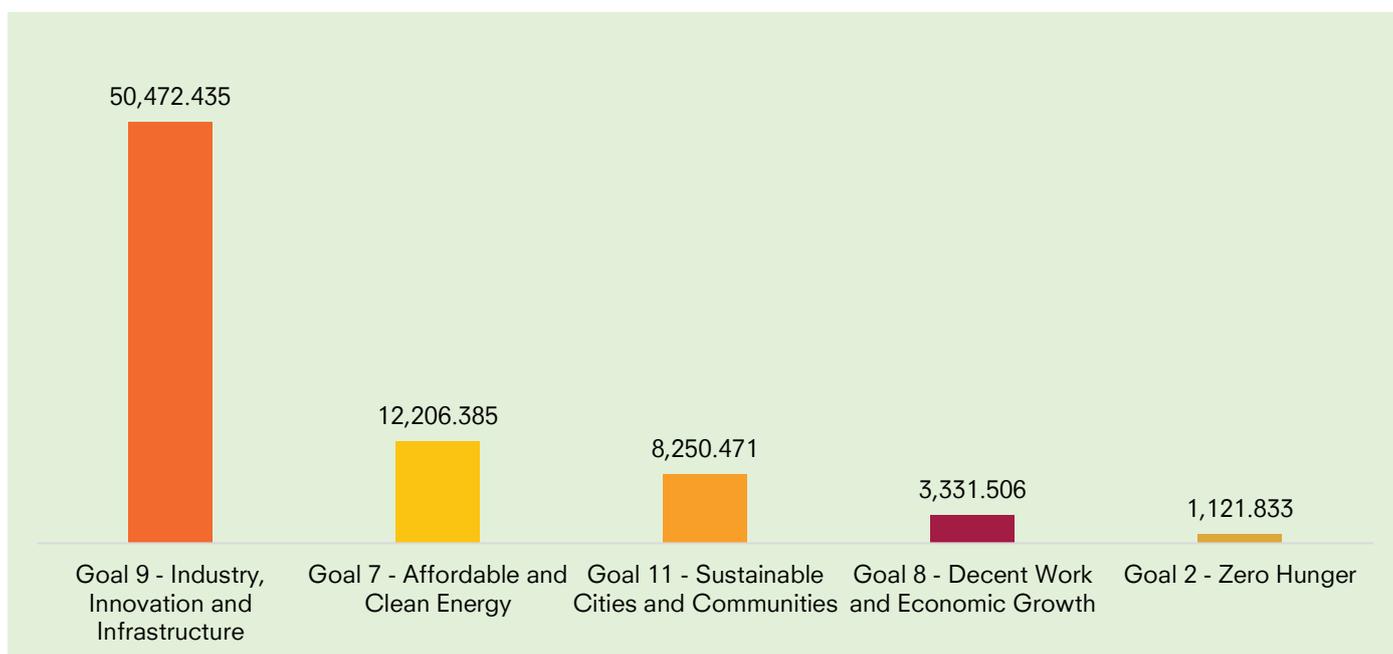
Figure 4: Expenditure on Social Cluster FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



b) Economic Cluster

Similarly, a review of budgets under the 'Economic' cluster indicates that a great proportion is allocated to infrastructure initiatives (SDG 9), with projects on energy (SDG 7) and urbanization (SDG 11) coming in at a distant second and third place, respectively. Financial allocations towards issues of economy and labour (SDG 8) as well as nutrition and agriculture (SDG 2) are even further down the line, as presented in the figure below.

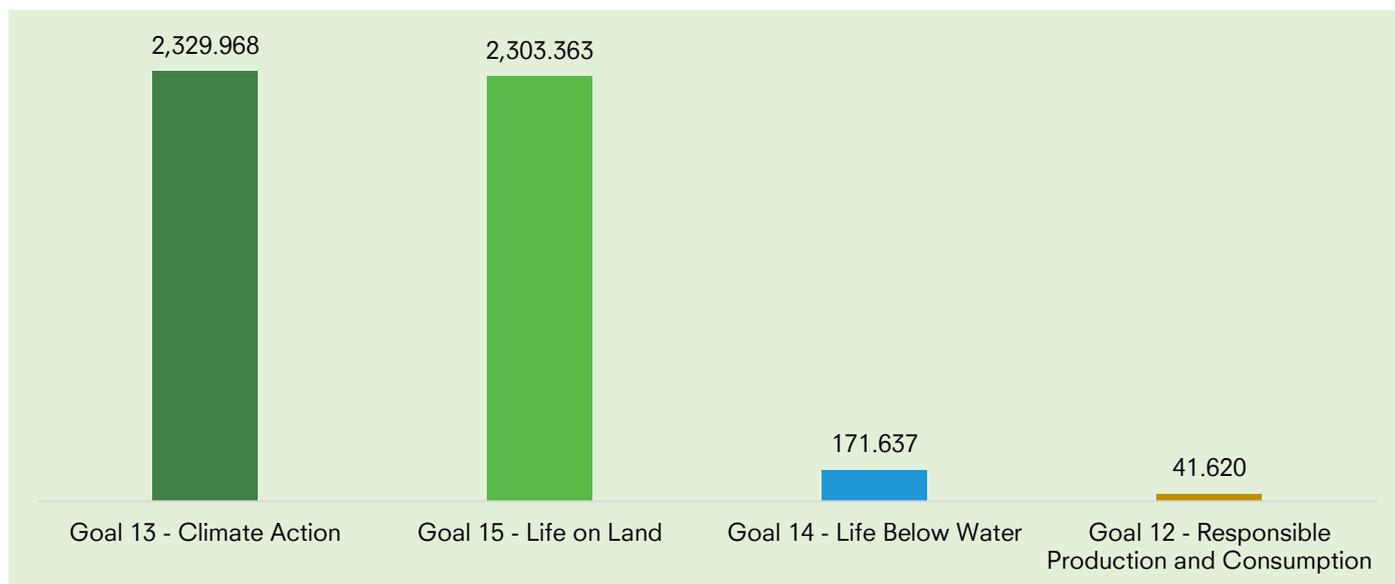
Figure 5: Expenditure on Economic Cluster FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



c) Environment Cluster

With the least aggregate spending across five years, the 'Environment' cluster represents the smallest proportion of the AJ&K development budget. The greatest allocation was on climate action (SDG 13) followed closely by land-based environment initiatives (SDG 15). However, there is a significant lack of investment for water-based initiatives (SDG 14) as well as responsible consumption and production patterns (SDG 12). The details of funding across this cluster are presented in the chart below.

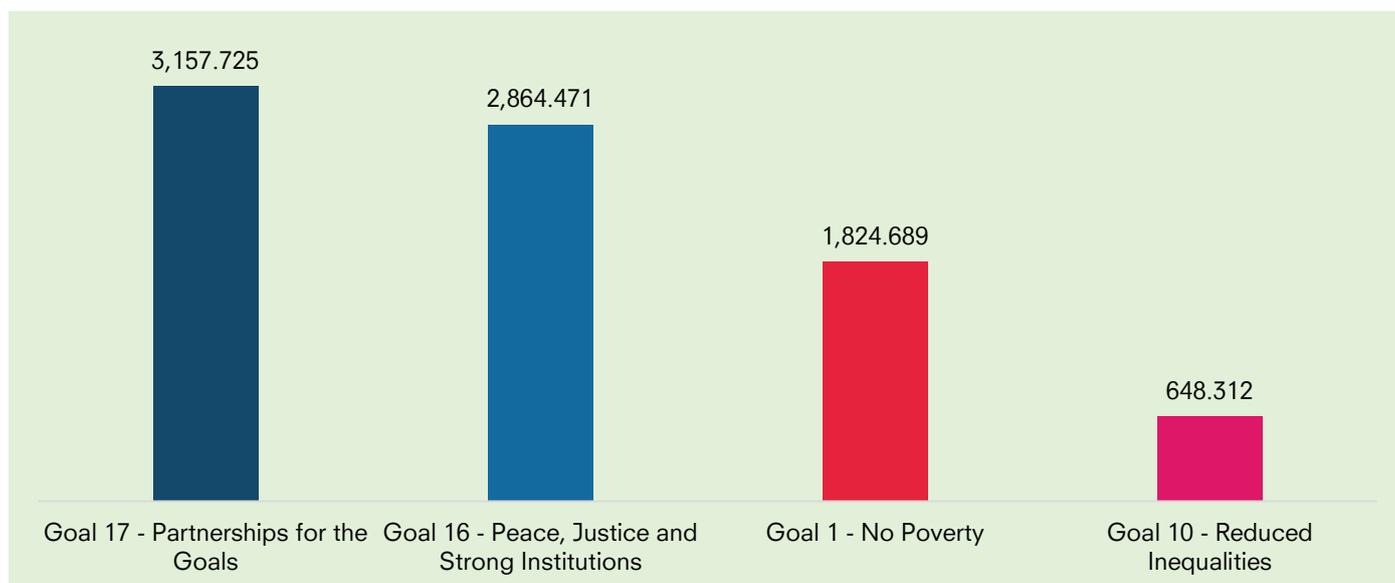
Figure 6: Expenditure on Environment Cluster FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



d) Inclusivity & Governance Cluster

Under the 'Inclusivity & Governance' cluster, the greatest allocation was under Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. This is followed closely by investment in institutions and governance (SDG 16), with a reduced share allocated directly to poverty alleviation (SDG 1) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10). The chart below illustrates this pattern.

Figure 7: Expenditure on Governance Cluster FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



The next section will discuss the five-years trend in ADP allocations for each SDG in detail. A detailed tabular analysis for the trend constituting annual allocations, percentage changes in allocations across five years, and the relative positions of goals in terms of allocations is presented in Annex B.

4. Goal-Wise Trends in ADPs 2016-17 to 2020-21

a) No Poverty (SDG 1)

There has been an annual increase in direct allocations for poverty reduction, from Rs. 124.539 million in FY 2016-17 to Rs. 960.738 million in FY 2020-21, representing an over 600 percent increase in allocations across five years. For overall funding of SDGs in the annual development budget, Goal 1 stands at 12th place, having received Rs. 1,824.689 million between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21. As poverty reduction is a cross-cutting theme for all schemes in the ADP, direct allocations to this goal are supplemented by indirect financing through other projects and programmes. The annual trend in allocations for Goal 1 are presented below.

Figure 8: Allocations for SDG 1 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



In order to achieve the targets for poverty reduction set under the 2030 Agenda, the Annual Development Programmes designed by the relevant stakeholders should address the following themes:

1. Reducing extreme poverty as well as multidimensional poverty for men, women and children of all ages.
2. Developing appropriate social protection systems and measures for all people in AJ&K.
3. Ensuring equal access to economic resources, including inheritance, property and financial services.
4. Building resilience against climate-related and other socioeconomic and environmental shocks and disasters, especially for the poor and vulnerable.
5. Ensuring significant resource allocation to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.
6. Creating sound policy measures which are pro-poor and gender-sensitive in order to eradicate poverty.

b) Zero Hunger (SDG 2)

Given the substantial increase in ADP from FY 2017-18 onwards, there has not been a substantial increase in allocations to Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, which addresses issues of nutrition and sustainable food systems. Small increases to the budget were seen between FYs 2016-17 to 2019-20 which can be attributed to a substantial increase in the development budget. For FY 2020-21, the allocation for Goal 2 is lower than previous years which raises concerns about the level of importance given to issues of nutrition and food security. In terms of financing, this goal stands at 13th place, having been allocated Rs. 1,121.833 million between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21. The graph below displays the annual trend.

Figure 9: Allocations for SDG 2 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



To make substantial progress under the SDG 2, the following themes need to be considered by associated departments in their development planning:

1. Ending hunger and ensuring access to sufficient and nutritious food for all, especially the poor and the vulnerable, including infants.
1. Addressing malnutrition, decreasing rates of stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age and improving nutrition of adolescent girls as well as pregnant and lactating women.
2. Increasing agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers through access to land, knowledge, financial services, markets, opportunities for value-addition and non-farm employment.
3. Ensuring sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices to increase productivity and adaptation to climate change.
4. Maintaining genetic diversity of seeds and animals and increasing investment in agriculture to improve productive capacity.
5. Adopting measures for proper functioning of food commodity markets and ensuring timely access to market information to help limit extreme food price volatility.

c) Good Health & Wellbeing (SDG 3)

There has been an improvement in allocation for health initiatives between FY 2016-17 and FY 2020-21, with an overall increase of 107 percent. The largest jump was seen from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18, corresponding to the increase in the overall development budget for that year. Since then, the annual growth in allocation has been moderate, as displayed in the figure below. Considering the development budget, Goal 3 has the 6th highest allocation of all the goals in the last five years at Rs. 4,672.541 million.

Figure 10: Allocations for SDG 3 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



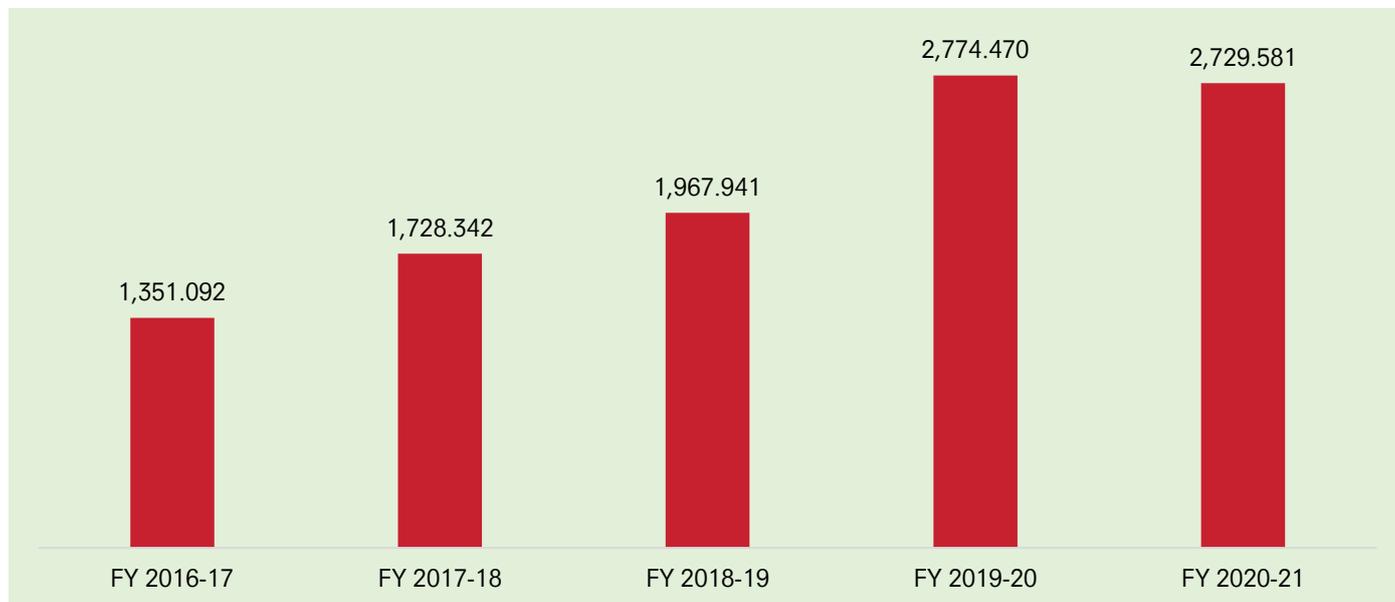
In order to adequately address and improve health outcomes in the State, the following themes should be considered for development planning purposes:

1. Reducing maternal mortality ratio, neonatal and under-5 mortality rates.
2. Ending the epidemic of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and combating hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable and non-communicable diseases.
3. Strengthening measures against tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption.
4. Reducing deaths from road traffic accidents and suicides.
5. Improving planning of and access to reproductive healthcare services.
6. Achieving universal health coverage and reducing illness and death from hazardous chemicals as well as air, water and soil pollution.
7. Supporting the research and use of vaccinations.
8. Increasing financing, recruitment, training and retention of healthcare workers.
9. Strengthening capacity for early warning risk reduction and management of health risks.

d) Quality Education (SDG 4)

Allocations under Goal 4 have seen an increase of 102 percent from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21, with the greatest jump in FY 2019-20 when the development budget increased to Rs. 2,774.470 million. Between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21, development allocations made to this goal have been the 3rd largest of all the SDGs amounting to Rs. 10,551.426 million. The graph below displays this trajectory.

Figure 11: Allocations for SDG 4 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



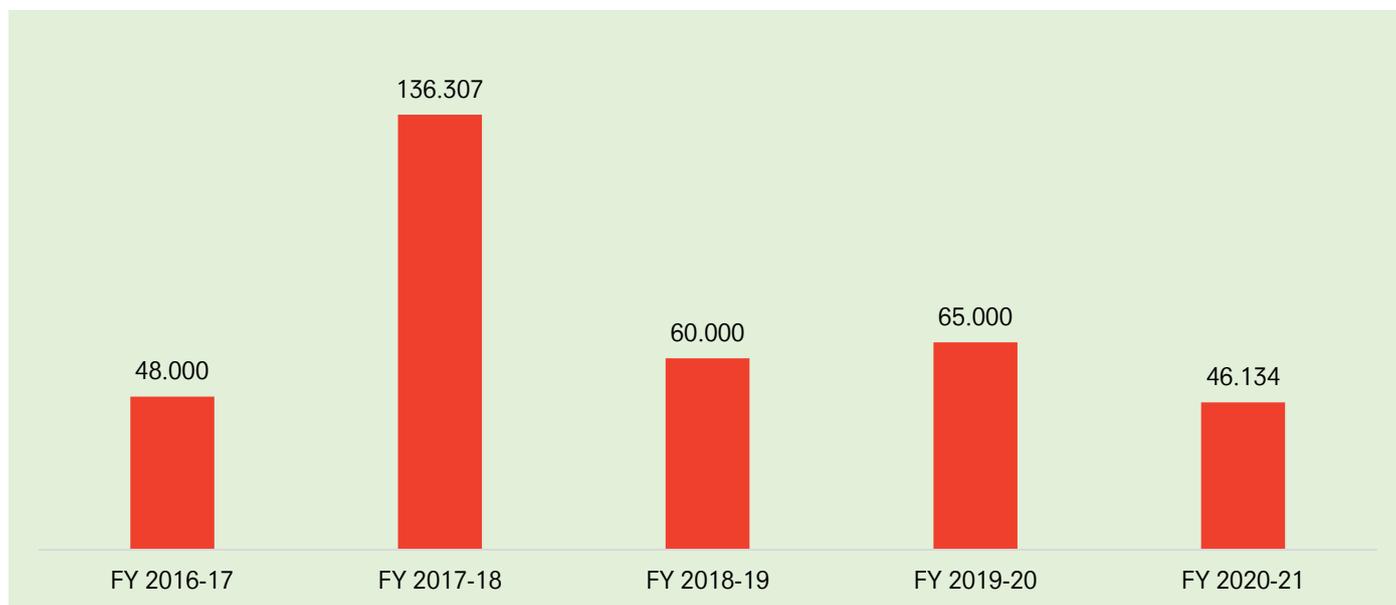
Education remains a central focus of development priorities. In order to ensure quality education, in line with national and global objectives, programmes introduced need to incorporate the following themes:

1. Working towards free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to effective results.
2. Ensuring access to early childhood development, pre-primary education, technical and vocational education as well as tertiary education for all.
3. Increasing the number of youth and adults with relevant technical skills for employment.
4. Eliminating gender disparities in education.
5. Ensuring a substantial proportion of both men and women achieve literacy and numeracy skills.
6. Encouraging learners to acquire knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development.
7. Improving the infrastructure of education facilities.
8. Increasing the supply of qualified teachers.

e) Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Direct allocations to projects aimed at improving gender equality have been limited, with an increase seen in FY 2017-18, followed by comparatively lesser allocations for subsequent years. The allocations for FY 2020-21 have been lower than the allocation from FY 2016-17, despite the doubling of the annual development budget during this time. With an allocation of Rs. 355.441 million between FYs 2016-17 and 2020-21, this issue remains the third least funded (15th position) of all the goals. The graph below shows the allocations for each year.

Figure 12: Allocations for SDG 5 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



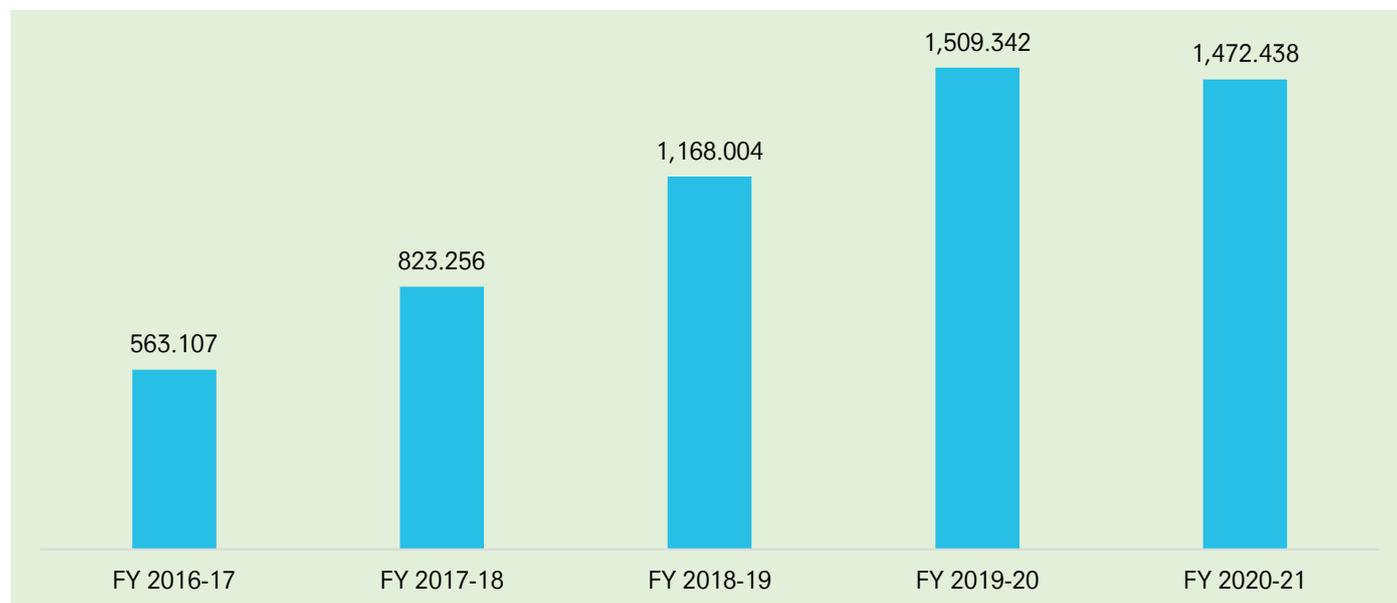
Gender parity remains an essential component for sustainable development, and relevant stakeholders should ensure that budgetary resources are allocated to this goal in accordance with the following themes:

1. Ending discrimination against girls and women, including all forms of violence and practices of early, forced and child marriages.
2. Recognizing the importance of unpaid care and domestic work.
3. Ensuring female participation in leadership opportunities.
4. Ensuring access to reproductive health and rights.
5. Undertaking reforms to ensure women have equal right to access economic resources.
6. Using information and communication technology (ICT) to promote the empowerment of women.

f) Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

It can be seen from the graph below that there has been marked improvement in allocations made for projects related to clean water and sanitation over the years. The change in allotment, from the original allocation of Rs. 563.107 million in FY 2016-17 to Rs. 1,472.438 million in FY 2020-21, represents an increase of 161 percent over five years and places this goal at 5th position (Rs. 5,536.147 million) in terms of allocations. The increase in the development budget of this sector indicates a positive trend.

Figure 13: Allocations for SDG 6 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



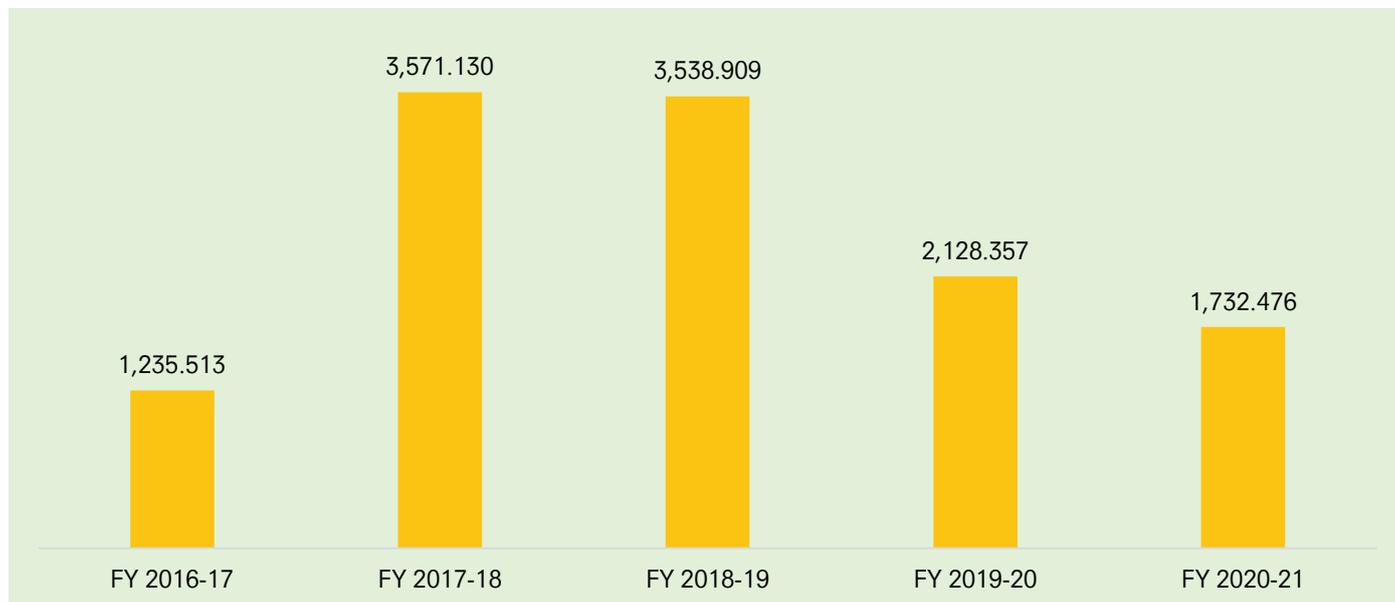
Achieving targets under this goal require that development programmes introduced keep the following themes in consideration:

1. Achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water as well as sanitation and hygiene facilities.
2. Improving water quality and reducing wastewater.
3. Increasing recycling and reuse.
4. Increasing water-use efficiency and sustainable water withdrawals.
5. Implementing integrated water resource management.
6. Protecting water ecosystems and increasing local community participation in water and sanitation management.

g) Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)

Allocations to the energy sector saw a steep jump in FY 2017-18, when the overall ADP budget increased substantially. There was a minor decrease in allocations the following year, with a major decline in the last two years, with allocations falling to Rs. 1,732.48 million for FY 2020-21. This means that the net average increase in allocations from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21 is 40 percent. Nevertheless, amongst all SDGs, Goal 7 stands at 2nd position in terms of allocations (Rs. 12,206.385 million) between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21. The graph below displays the annual allocations to the sector.

Figure 14: Allocations for SDG 7 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



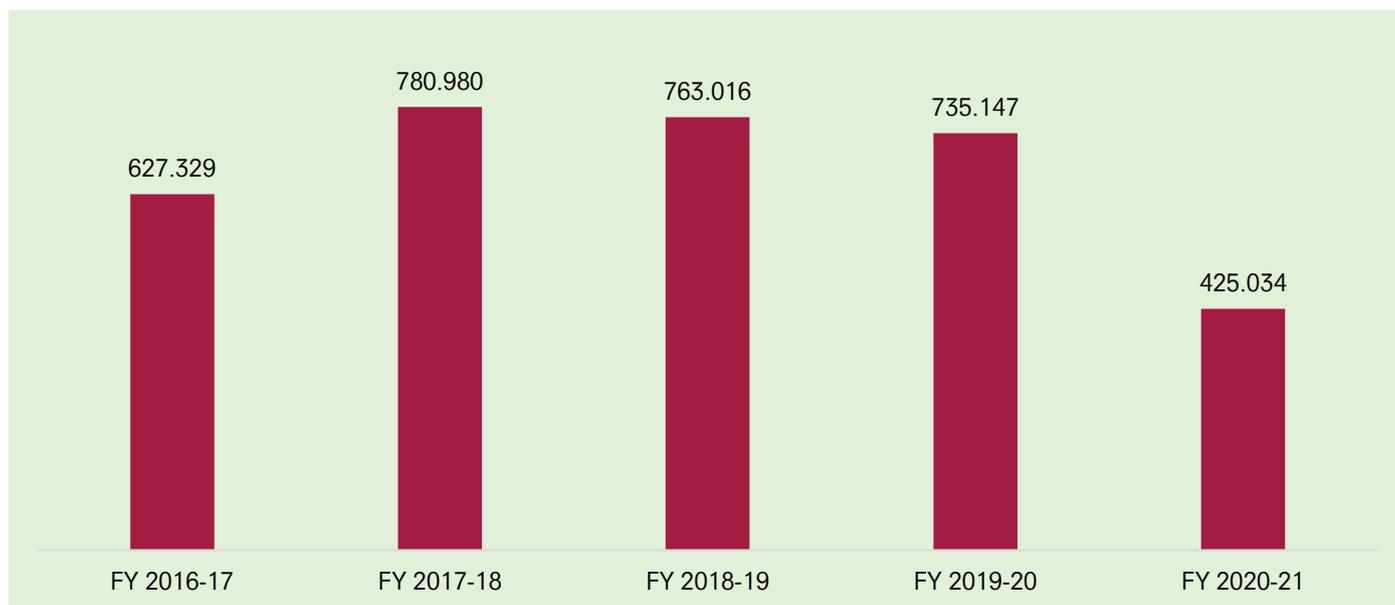
Sustainable development with relation to energy requires relevant stakeholders to consider the following themes when formulating the annual development programmes:

1. Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, modern and uninterrupted energy services.
2. Increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.
3. Expanding infrastructure and updating technology for modern and sustainable energy services.

h) Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

With the increase in development budget, there was a moderate rise in allocations for Goal 8 for the fiscal year 2017-18. However, since then allocations have been falling slightly, with a major reduction in FY 2020-21. The most recent allocation represents a 32 percent decrease compared to figures from FY 2016-17. This contrasts with the doubling of the development budget between these time periods, indicating a less than equivalent allocation for this goal. SDG 8 stands at 7th position with Rs. 3,331.506 million allocated over the last five years.

Figure 15: Allocations for SDG 8 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



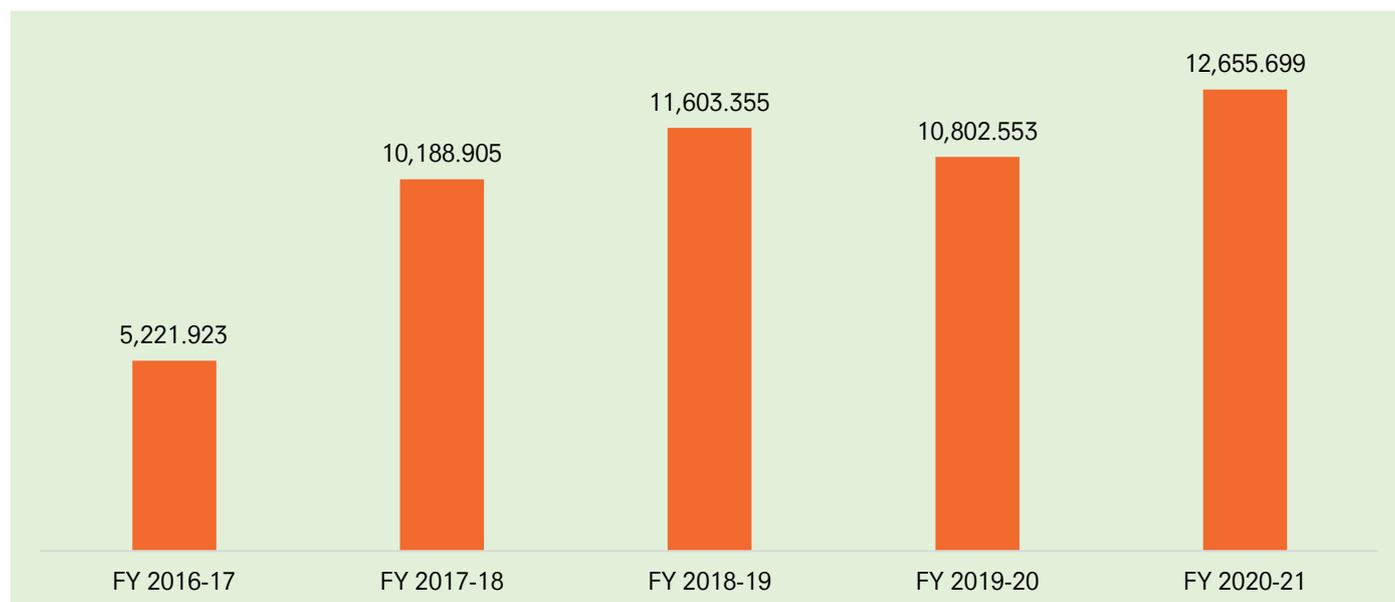
Economic growth remains an important aspect of sustainable development. Line departments need to ensure that actions are taken related to the following themes:

1. Promoting decent job creation through diversification, innovation, technology and focusing on high-value-added and labour-intensive sectors.
2. Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including youth and people with disabilities and ensuring equal pay for equal work.
3. Reducing the rate of youth unemployment.
4. Undertaking effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.
5. Protecting labour rights and ensuring safe and secure working environments for all.
6. Devising policies to promote and implement sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local products and culture.
7. Developing strategies for youth employment.

i) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9)

Infrastructure has the highest allocations in the development budget of AJ&K. As such, Goal 9 has seen an increase of 142 percent between FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21, from Rs. 5,221.923 million to Rs. 12,655.699 million, respectively, as displayed in the figure below. It has the highest allocation of any goal by far and stands at 1st position with Rs. 50,472.435 million budgeted between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Figure 16: Allocations for SDG 9 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



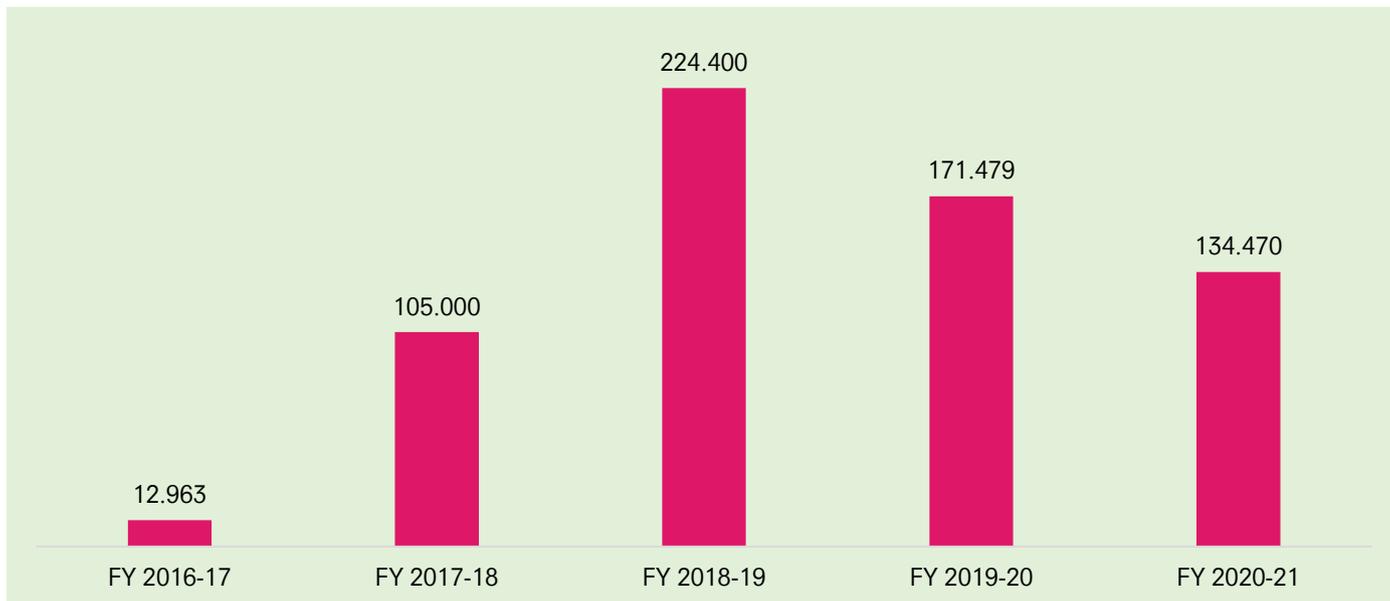
In order to improve outcomes under this Goal, the following themes should be considered for development planning purposes:

1. Developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and social wellbeing.
2. Promoting sustainable and inclusive industrialization, which contributes towards employment and the economy.
3. Increasing access of small-scale industries to finances and ensuring their integration into value chains and markets.
4. Enhancing scientific research, upgrading technological capabilities of industrial sectors and encouraging innovation.
5. Increasing affordable access to information and communication technology (ICT).

j) Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)

The allocations made to this goal have seen an improvement from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21, from Rs. 12.963 million to Rs. 134.470 million, respectively. This represents an over ten times increase in annual allocation over five years. In absolute terms, the highest increase was seen for FY 2018-19, when allocations to the goal reached Rs. 224.400 million. Goal 10 has the 4th lowest allocation (14th position) between FYs 2016-17 to 2010-21 with Rs. 648.312 million. The graph below illustrates these trends.

Figure 17: Allocations for SDG 10 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



To make substantial progress under this Goal, the following themes need to be considered by relevant Government departments in their development planning:

1. Achieving and sustaining income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a higher rate than the national average.
2. Empowering and promoting socioeconomic and political inclusion of all.
3. Ensuring equal opportunities and reducing inequalities of outcomes by removing discriminatory laws and practices.
4. Adopting fiscal, wage and social protection policies and achieving greater equality.

k) Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)

The overall increase in allocations for this goal between FYs 2016-17 and 2020-21 is 132 percent. The largest growth in share came with the increase in annual development budget in FY 2017-18 when the overall development budget was increased. For FY 2020-21, there was a reduction of approximately Rs. 60 million when compared with the previous year. Currently, the goal stands at 4th position with Rs. 8,250.471 million allocated between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Figure 18: Allocations for SDG 11 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



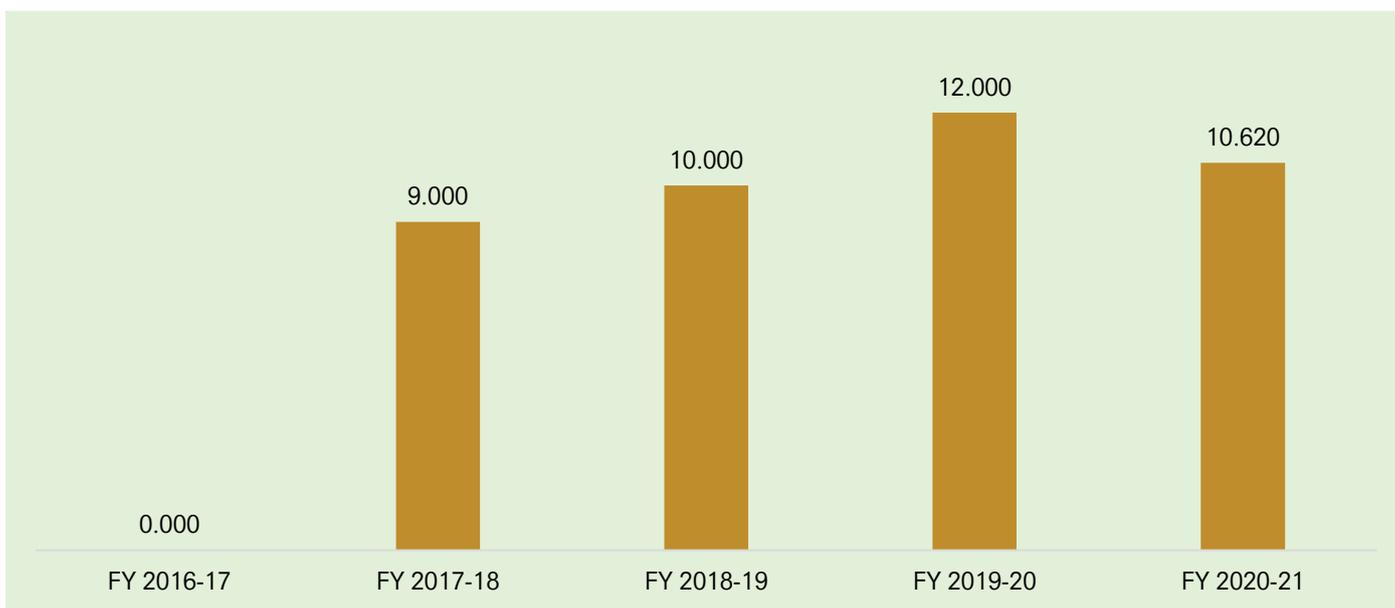
Sustainability should remain a central focus of our development and programmes introduced need to incorporate the following themes:

1. Ensuring access to adequate, affordable and safe housing for all including provision of basic services.
2. Providing access to safe, accessible, sustainable and affordable transportation for all, improving road safety and expanding public transport.
3. Enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable settlements.
4. Strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage.
5. Reducing the number of deaths, people affected and amount of economic losses due to disasters, focusing on protecting the poor and vulnerable.
6. Reducing adverse environmental impact of cities, including improving air quality and waste management.
7. Providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, especially for women, children, older and disabled persons.
8. Adopting policies of inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and resilience to disasters.

I) Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)

This goal has been paid little attention in the ADPs. However, given that no budget was allocated for the issue in FY 2016-17, the small allocations made in subsequent years mark a positive trend. There have been incremental increases in allocation from FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20, with the latest allocation being Rs. 10.620 million for FY 2020-21. However, over the last five years this goal has the least amount of allocations (17th position) at Rs. 41.620 million out of Rs. 109,839.970 million available in the development budget. The graph below represents the dynamics for Goal 12.

Figure 1: Allocations for SDG 12 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



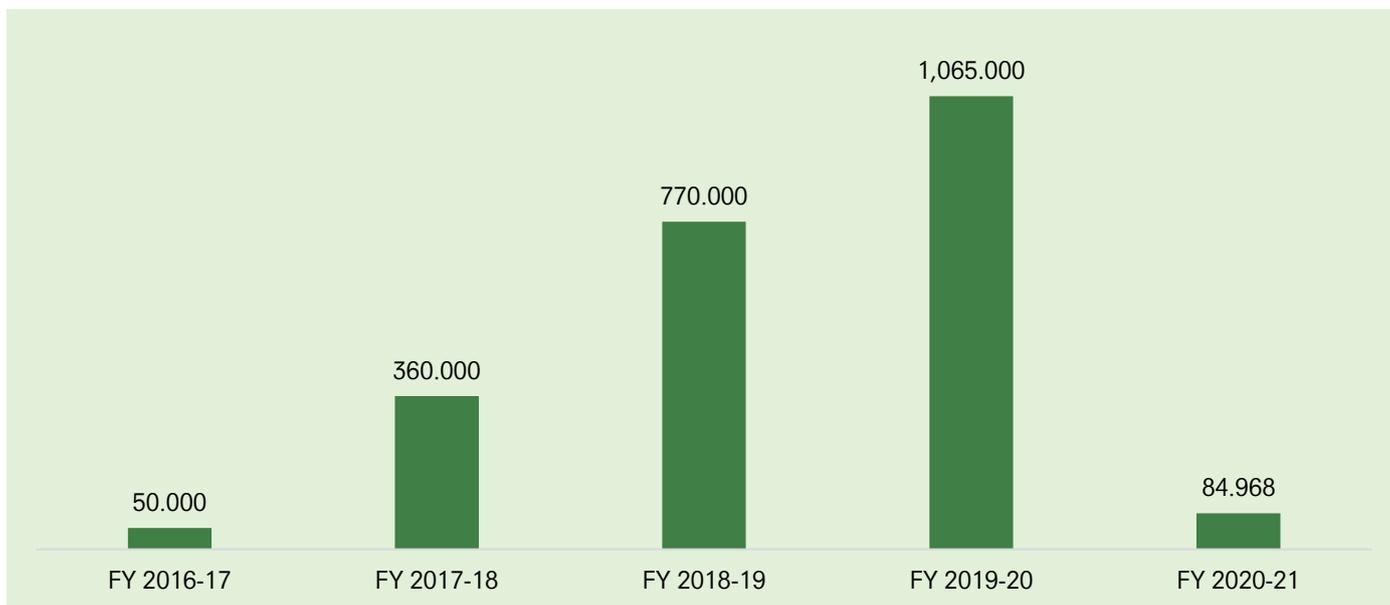
There is an immediate need to improve outcomes under this goal for the State. As such, the following themes need to be considered for future development projects and programmes:

1. Achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
2. Reducing the amount of chemicals and waste released in air, water and soil, in order to decrease the impact on human health and environment.
3. Reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling.
4. Ensuring people have information on sustainable development and lifestyles.
5. Developing tools to monitor sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes culture.

m) Climate Action (SDG 13)

Allocations made to schemes associated with climate action have seen a sustained rise from FY 2016-17 to FY 2019-20, indicating an over 20 times increase in annual budgets – from Rs. 50.000 million in FY 2016-17 to Rs. 1,065.000 million in FY 2019-20. However, for FY 2020-21 there has been a substantial reduction in allocations to programmes and projects on climate change, with allotments of Rs. 84.968 million. Goal 13 stands in 10th place (Rs. 2,329.968 million) in terms of total allocations over the last five years. The graph below indicates this.

Figure 20: Allocations for SDG 13 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



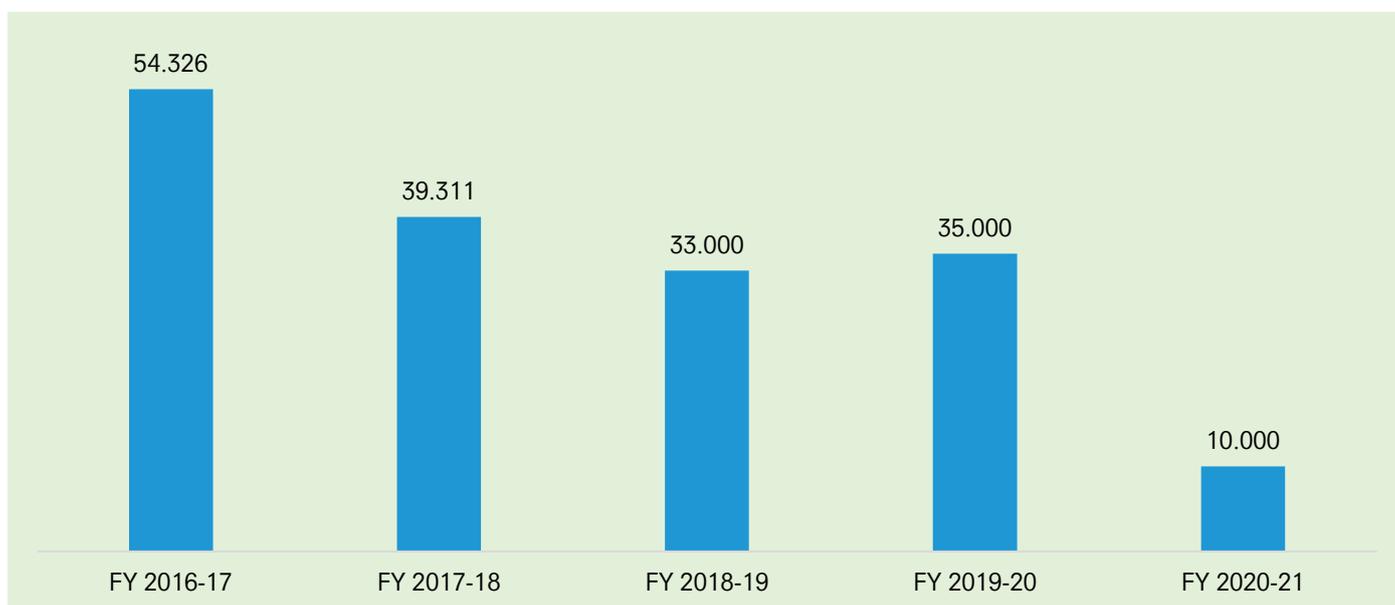
Climate action remains an integral part of sustainable development, and relevant stakeholders should ensure financial allocation in development schemes according to the following themes:

1. Strengthening reliance and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
2. Integrating climate change measures in policies, strategies and planning.
3. Raising awareness on climate change through education and developing capacity on climate change mitigation, adaption and impact reduction.

n) Life Below Water (Goal 14)

While AJ&K has been endowed with numerous freshwater resources, there is a lack of annual allocations from the development budget to ensure their sustainability and biodiversity. Goal 14 witnessed an overall reduction in allocation from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21 despite an increase in the overall development budget. At present, the annual allocation in the development budget is only Rs. 10.000 million and this is far less than the Rs. 54.326 million which was allocated five years ago. It stands at the second last spot (16th position) with total allocations at Rs. 171.637 million. The graph below shows the annual trends.

Figure 21: Allocations for SDG 14 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



Achieving targets under this goal require that development programmes introduced focus on the following themes:

1. Preventing and reducing water debris and nutrient pollution.
2. Protecting water ecosystems.
3. Regulating harvesting and ending overfishing, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing as well as destructive fishing practices in order to ensure sustainability of fish stocks.

o) Life on Land (Goal 15)

There was an increase in allocations to Goal 15 following the increase in the development budget for FY 2017-18 to Rs. 510.689 million from Rs. 370.674 million in FY 2016-17. Allocations have since tapered off, with a significant reduction for FY 2020-21, placing the goal at 11th position overall (Rs. 2,303.363). The annual trends are presented below.

Figure 22: Allocations for SDG 15 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



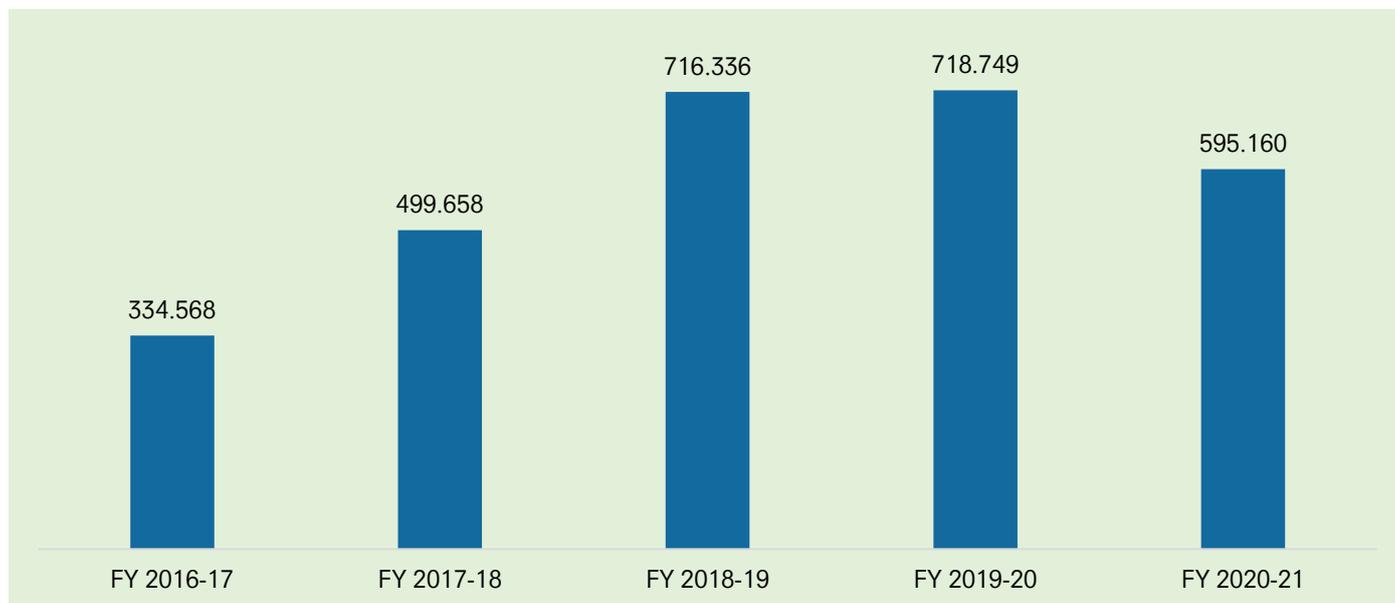
Environment protection remains an important aspect of sustainable development. Relevant stakeholders need to ensure the following themes are considered:

1. Ensuring conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, such as forests.
2. Promoting sustainable management of forests, limiting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and increasing afforestation and reforestation.
3. Ensuring conservation of mountain ecosystems including their biodiversity.
4. Taking urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt loss of biodiversity and protect threatened species.
5. Taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of flora, fauna and illegal wildlife products.
6. Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem values in local development planning.
7. Increasing financial resources to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.
8. Enhancing efforts to limit poaching and trafficking of protected species, including increasing capacity of local communities.

p) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)

Goal 16 has seen a 78 percent increase from FY 2016-17 to FY 2020-21, from Rs. 334.568 million to Rs. 595.160 million, respectively. There has been an annual increase in allocations for this goal until FY 2019-20, as illustrated in the graph below. It places 9th in terms of development allocations between FYs 2016-2021 with an allocation of Rs. 2,864.471 million. The figure below presents the five-year trend.

Figure 2: Allocations for SDG 16 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



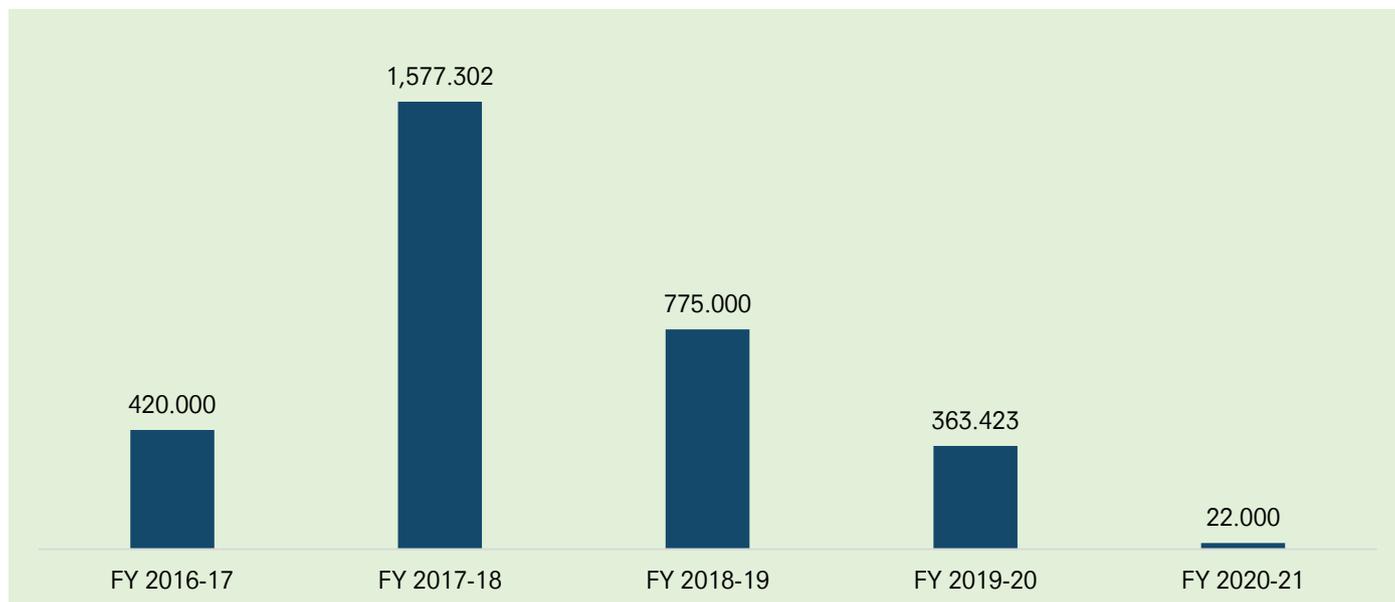
In order to achieve the targets for Goal 16, Government line departments should address the following themes in the annual development programmes:

1. Reducing all forms of violence and related deaths as well as ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence against children.
2. Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice.
3. Reducing illicit financial and weapons flow and strengthening recovery of lost assets.
4. Reducing corruption and bribery and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions.
5. Ensuring responsive and representative decision-making and public access to information.
6. Providing legal identity to all including birth registration.
7. Strengthening institutions and promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and practices for sustainable development.

q) Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)

Allocations for this goal saw an increase in FY 2017-18, from Rs. 420.000 million in the previous year to Rs. 1,577.302 million. There was a fall in allocation in the subsequent years. For FY 2020-21, only Rs. 22.000 million has been allocated which is lower than the allocation from FY 2016-17 when the development budget was half its current value. The graph below depicts the trends in development allocations for this goal. It stands at 8th position in allocations (Rs. 3,157.725 million) amongst all the goals.

Figure 24: Allocations for SDG 17 from FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21 (in Rs. millions)



Achieving targets under this goal requires development programmes introduced focusing on the following themes:

1. Strengthening domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.
2. Mobilizing additional financial resources for sustainable development.

5. Next Steps

It is illuminating to analyse AJ&K's annual development schemes with the SDGs. The breakdown illustrates that efforts have been made in recent years to gain representation for issues such as Goal 13 – Climate Action, given the changing global and national landscape surrounding the climate change emergency.

However, greater action is still required in aligning annual development budgets with the SDGs, especially with regards to Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 14 – Life Below Water, Goal 5 - Gender Equality and Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities. These are the least represented goals in the AJ&K ADPs between FY 2016-17 and FY 2020-21, with financial allocations of approximately Rs. 650 million or lower per goal across five years.

An analysis of annual trends has also indicated that further consideration is required for issues of biodiversity and forestation (Goal 15) as well as nutrition and food security (Goal 2). There is a need to reallocate some of the heavy investment away from infrastructure (Goal 9) towards softer aspects of development including social protection (Goal 1) and gender initiatives (Goal 5). With the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our State's socioeconomic indicators, these measures are even more crucial.

A reason cited for lower allocations towards these sectors has been their lack of absorptive capacity for greater financing, with departments surrendering a portion of their allocated funds at the end of most financial years⁷. However, this does not represent the complete picture and efforts must be made to understand the underlying causes hampering allocations and expenditures for these departments. As such, this trend highlights the need to further build the technical and financial capacities of relevant line departments so that they can meet the existing and emerging challenges of AJ&K pertaining to their sectors.

On a positive note, Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land) are supplemented by various Federal Funded Programmes, the Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and Donor Assisted Projects, which collectively increase the total financial contributions made towards these themes in AJ&K by Rs. 21,331.175 million.

Table 3: External Financial Support for SDGs in AJ&K⁸

Sr#	Project Name	SDG	Allocation (Rs. millions)
1.	Green Pakistan Programme – Revival of Wildlife Resources in Pakistan	15	276.000
2.	Promotion of Trout Farming in Northern Areas of Pakistan	14	431.646
3.	Backyard Poultry Production Programme for AJ&K	2	103.413
4.	Calf Feedlot Fattening in Pakistan	2	168.193
5.	Productivity Enhancement of Wheat	2	74.720
6.	Green Pakistan Programme	15	355.000
7.	Billion Tree Tsunami Programme	15	19,284.890
8.	Disaster and Climate Resilience Improvement Project (DCRIP)	15	92.841
9.	Flood Emergency Reconstruction and Resilience Project (FERRP)	15	544.472
Total			21,331.175

Progress has been made in recent years on balancing the SDG financing portfolio in AJ&K, greater effort is still required to achieve desirable outcomes. This is particularly the case for environmental challenges, which have been historically neglected in favour of economic endeavours. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the intricate link between the three dimensions of sustainable development and the impact non-economic factors can have on economic growth and development outcomes. It is imperative for us to learn from this experience and implement measures that will help balance the social, economic and environmental allocations for the State in order to successfully achieve the targets set under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁷ Analysis by the ADP Specialist, P&DD, GoAJ&K, 2020.

⁸ Figures provided by the ADP Specialist, P&DD, GoAJ&K, 2020.

Annex A: Progress on Key SDG Indicators 2014-15 to 2018-19⁹

No.	Indicator	2014-15	2018-19
2.1.2	Food Insecurity	25.9%	22.9%
3.1.1	Maternal Mortality Ratio	201	104
4.6.1	Literacy Rate	76.6%	76.8%
	Male	88.1%	86.9%
	Female	64.9%	67.3%
5.5.2	Proportion of Women in Managerial Positions	3.4%	8.4%
7.1.1	Proportion of Population with Electricity	90.7%	93.8%
8.3.1	Informal Sector Employment	70.3%	74.1%
	Male	73.4%	77%
	Female	30.5%	45.8%
8.5.2	Unemployment Rate	11.2%	10.3%
	Male	9.4%	8.4%
	Female	30.5%	22.6%
15.1.1	Forest Cover	13%	13%
3.NT.1	Population Growth Rate	2.7%	1.64%
3.NT.2	Total Fertility Rate	4.0	3.6
3.NT.4	Physicians per 1,000 Population	0.20	0.24
3.NT.5	Dentist per 1,000 Population	0.02	0.02

⁹ Data on indicator 2.1.2 is from NNS 2011 and 2018. Values for indicator 3.1.1 are from MICS 2007-08 and Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey 2019. Data on indicators 4.6.1, 5.5.2, 8.3.1, 8.3.2 and 8.5.2 are from the AJ&K Labour Force Surveys from 2014-15 and 2017-18. Indicator 7.1.1 is from AJ&K at a Glance 2015, AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2017, and AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2019. Indicator 15.1.1 is from AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2015 and 2019. Figures for 3.NT.1 are from the 1998 and 2017 census. The data for 3.NT.2 is from MICS 2008/9 and the Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey 2019: Key Indicator Report. Values for 3.NT.4 and 3.NT.5 are from the AJ&K at a Glance 2015 and AJ&K Statistical Yearbook 2019.

Annex B: Allocation Summary for the 17 SDGs: FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21

SDG	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	% change 2016-21	Allocation Position
Goal 1 – No Poverty	124.539	148.908	189.813	400.691	960.738	1824.689	+671%	12
Goal 2 – Zero Hunger	190.805	262.005	262.405	270.910	135.708	1121.833	-29%	13
Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being	573.208	936.957	958.486	1,017.975	1,185.915	4672.541	+107%	6
Goal 4 – Quality Education	1,351.092	1,728.342	1,967.941	2,774.470	2,729.581	10551.426	+102%	3
Goal 5 – Gender Equality	48.000	136.307	60.000	65.000	46.134	355.441	-4%	15
Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation	563.107	823.256	1,168.004	1,509.342	1,472.438	5536.147	+161%	5
Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	1,235.513	3,571.130	3,538.909	2,128.357	1,732.476	12206.385	+40%	2
Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	627.329	780.980	763.016	735.147	425.034	3331.506	-32%	7
Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	5,221.923	10,188.905	11,603.355	10,802.553	12,655.699	5,0472.435	+142%	1
Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities	12.963	105.000	224.400	171.479	134.470	648.312	+937%	14
Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	821.953	1,602.250	1942.305	1,974.904	1,909.059	8,250.471	+132%	4
Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	0.000	9.000	10.000	12.000	10.620	41.620	Increase	17
Goal 13 – Climate Action	50.000	360.000	770.000	1,065.000	84.968	2329.968	+70%	10
Goal 14 – Life Below Water	54.326	39.311	33.000	35.000	10.000	171.637	-82%	16
Goal 15 – Life on Land	370.674	510.689	517.000	515.000	390.000	2,303.363	+5%	11
Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	334.568	499.658	716.336	718.749	595.160	2,864.471	+78%	9
Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	420.000	1,577.302	775.000	363.423	22.000	3,157.725	-95%	8
Total	12,000.000	23,280.000	25,499.970	24,560.000	24,500.000	109,839.97	104%	-



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