IDFI | Institute for Development of Freedom of Information

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Introduction

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in the Black Sea Region

UNDP – SIDA supported Project – “Facilitate the Landing of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the National Level in Georgia”
Challenges for SDG implementation in Georgia

- **Data**: nationalization of SDGs and how to measure progress
- **Institutional Setup**: getting organized around SDGs
- **Ownership**: who is in charge of SDGs?
- **Policy Linkages**: translating SDGs into actions
Data: nationalization of SDGs and how to measure progress

Institutional Setup: getting organized around SDGs

Ownership: who is in charge of SDGs?

Policy Linkages: translating SDGs into actions

Challenges/Needs:

- Weak indicators and data sources of nationalized targets
- Difficult to measure progress
- Not all SDG targets were nationalized
- Responsible government institutions lack the capacity to generate and analyze relevant data for the implementation of SDGs
Data: nationalization of SDGs and how to measure progress

Institutional Setup: getting organized around SDGs

Ownership: who is in charge of SDGs?

Policy Linkages: translating SDGs into actions

Solutions:
IDFI has employed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) expert in order to help the public institutions in:

- Improving indicators and data sources of each target
- Nationalization of new targets
- M&E expert works closely with civil servants to provide consultancy on data collection and analysis
- Provide input for the first national monitoring report on SDG to be produced in 2018
Data: nationalization of SDGs and how to measure progress

Institutional Setup: getting organized around SDGs

Ownership: who is in charge of SDGs?

Policy Linkages: translating SDGs into actions

Context:
- Georgia was not actively engaged in implementation of MDGs
- No sufficient institutional framework and experience for coordinating the process on national level

Challenges/Needs:
- Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for implementing SDGs in Georgia
Thematic Working Groups:
• Comprised of civil servants, international organizations, NGOs and business
• Four Thematic Groups:
  • Social Inclusion
  • Economic Development
  • Democratic Governance
  • Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection

SDG Council
• Chaired by the Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia
• Co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator
• Reports directly to the Prime Minister
Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) for SDGs:

- Back-end system for public entities to report their progress
- Front-end system for public users
- Testing and training of civil servants scheduled for October 2018
Lack of experience and awareness among public institutions on (MDGs) SDGs, especially in the beginning

Lack of awareness/involvement among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the private sector and academia
Data: nationalization of SDGs and how to measure progress

Institutional Setup: getting organized around SDGs

Ownership: who is in charge of SDGs?

Policy Linkages: translating SDGs into actions

Challenges:
- Translating global goals into national/local policies

Solution:
- Not creating overarching SDG strategy
- Creating linkages between SDG targets and policy documents
Lessons Learned

✓ CSO/Government partnership is crucial for implementation of SDGs – unique experience of Georgia

✓ Close partnership in one policy area does not necessarily guarantee even access to information in other areas

✓ SDGs have potential to become unifying framework for inclusive policymaking
Lessons Learned

✓ Systemic challenges in terms of quality dialogue with non-state stakeholders persist in Georgia

✓ Few legal guarantees for non-state actors to engage in policy process, especially at early stages
✓ Dialogue with non-state actors is not an institutional practice
✓ Civil society struggles to use limited civic rights that it has
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CSOs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Governments</strong></th>
<th><strong>International Organizations</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep up bottom-up pressure and healthy criticism</td>
<td>Ownership is crucial for implementing SDGs</td>
<td>Financial support to ensure long-term monitoring activities of CSOs</td>
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<td>The Government is in need for partnership and assistance from civil society</td>
<td>Consider access to human and financial resources to include SDGs into the policy system</td>
<td>Ensuring that the Government does not lose interest and ownership of implementing SDGs</td>
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<td>Success of SDGs depends on the ability of the government and civil society to find common ground</td>
<td>Proactively disclose all data and documents related to monitoring SDGs</td>
<td>Providing technical and organizational assistance to government</td>
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<td>Engage in monitoring of SDGs</td>
<td>Engage CSOs in decision-making process on data sources, relevant local targets and indicators</td>
<td>Being a reliable counterpart in negotiations with various stakeholders</td>
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<td>Provide alternative, non-state data to measure progress on SDGs</td>
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Thank You!