

Chapter 9 - Sustainable Development Goal-3

The requirements for time-bound achievement of Sustainable Development Goal-3, such as formation of SDG Cell to ensure quality and timely flow of data with regard to SDG indicator framework, mapping of SDG-3 indicators with schemes/departments, dovetailing of health sector plans with SDG-3 targets and assessment of financial resources necessary for achieving SDG-3 targets were not undertaken.

The SDG Core Committee set up for monitoring the SDGs was not functional and the State did not set up any High Level Technical Committee for reviewing the State Indicator framework.

9.1 Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-3 seeks to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 was framed in the context of achieving goals set out in SDG-3.

Government of India (GoI) entrusted (September 2015) NITI Aayog¹ with the responsibility of coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of SDGs.

The State Government set up (November 2017) a State Level ‘SDG Core Committee’ under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Goa. This Committee is responsible for regularly monitoring the implementation and progress of SDGs and its targets.

9.2 Performance of the State pertaining to SDG-3

SDG India Index report by NITI Aayog stipulates a mechanism² with the objective of measuring the progress of SDGs and develop competitiveness among States and UTs. Based on the results of the SDG India Index, States and Union Territories (UTs) have been classified into four categories: Achiever, Front Runner, Performer and Aspirant, where the 'Achiever' category represents the highest rank, and the 'Aspirant' category represents the lowest rank.

Performance of Goa relating to SDG-3 in the SDG India Index and Dashboard Reports 2018, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are shown in **Table 9.1**.

¹ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) is the policy think tank of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

² As per NITI Aayog’s SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018 (21 December 2018)- Aspirant: 0-49; Performer: 50-64; Front Runner: 65-99; Achiever: 100.

Table 9.1: Composite SDG and SDG-3 scores of State

Report	Composite SDG Score of India	Composite SDG Score of Goa	SDG-3 Score of India	SDG-3 Score of Goa
SDG India Index 1.0 ³ 2018	57 (Performer)	64 (Performer)	52 (Performer)	65 (Front Runner)
SDG India Index 2.0 ⁴ 2019-20	60 (Performer)	65 (Front Runner)	61 (Performer)	60 (Performer)
SDG India Index 3.0 ⁵ 2020-21	66 (Front Runner)	72 (Front Runner)	74 (Front Runner)	72 (Front Runner)

As per the above table, Goa is in the “Front Runner” category as per the SDG India Index 3.0 (2020-21).

9.3 Key steps for adoption of Sustainable Development Goals

NITI Aayog reviewed (January-February 2018) progress of implementation of SDGs in six steps *i.e.*, establishment of unit/cell centre on SDGs, mapping of department/schemes, formulation of vision/roadmap/strategy on SDGs, alignment of budget with SDGs, constitution of monitoring framework and consultations/orientations/training. As per this review, Goa displayed no progress under all six steps. Observations of Audit on the steps taken for implementation of SDG-3 are as follows.

9.3.1 Non-Constitution of SDG cell by Nodal department

The Director, Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation (DPSE) was appointed (November 2017) as the State Nodal officer and the Department of Health and Family Welfare as the Nodal Department for implementation and monitoring the progress of SDG-3. The Government further directed to constitute a SDG Cell and depute officers (including statistical personnel of nodal department) to ensure quality and timely flow of data and other aspects with regard to SDG indicator framework.

However, the DHS failed to constitute (August 2022) the SDG Cell even after a lapse of four years from the issue of the Government notification (November 2017) which could affect the planning and decision making pertaining to attainment of SDG-3.

³ SDG India Index 1.0: The first version of the Index *i.e.* SDG India Index Baseline Report, 2018. (SDG India Index 1.0) was released in December 2018. The Index tracks the progress of all the States and UTs on a set of 62 indicators covering 13 SDGs

⁴ SDG India Index 2.0: The second version of the Index builds upon its first version and was launched in December 2019. The Index has been constructed using 100 indicators that covers 54 targets across 16 goals.

⁵ SDG India Index 3.0: SDG India Index 3.0 launched in March, 2021 in which Goa improved its overall SDG score from 65 in 2019-20 to 72 in 2020-21, albeit retaining its position in the Front Runner category.

The Director, DHS accepted (November 2022) that the SDG Cell was not created; however, it was stated that HIB⁶ section was attending to all SDG related assignments.

Further, the Director also replied (November 2023) that the Department has established a committee to review the progress of SDG.

The reply is not acceptable as the SDG Cell was not set up (March 2024) and the details available with HIB in regard to SDG progress was not provided to Audit.

9.3.2 Mapping of SDG-3 indicators with associated departments/ schemes

The State constituted (October 2020) three working groups to monitor the performance of SDG indicators at regular intervals. The working groups were responsible to monitor the expenditure of all schemes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)/Central Schemes in order to improve performance for better rankings with a view to become front runners in all the SDGs. The working group of health sector was tasked with the mapping of schemes with SDG indicators.

However, no such activity has been undertaken by the health working group in the State.

The Director, DHS accepted the observation and stated (November 2023) that it has requested Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation to provide technical details on mapping of SDG-3 indicators with associated department/schemes.

9.3.3 Dovetailing Health Sector plans with SDG-3 targets

Non-alignment of health sector plan with SDG-3 could impact achievement of SDG-3 in a time bound manner. The DHS prepared (October 2020) a “Vision Document 2025” for the health sector including Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the delivery of quality health care to citizens. The Vision Document prepared does not specifically refer to SDG-3 targets but covers planned interventions in key areas relating to the health sector and spells out specific health targets to be achieved by 2025.

Thus, dovetailing of health sector plans with defined milestones aligned with SDG-3 targets was yet to be prepared in the State.

⁶ Health Intelligence Bureau (HIB) is a section under DHS which collects data from all peripheral health institutions and periodically provides information pertaining to SDG to the Directorate of Planning, Statistics & Evaluation.

The Director, DHS agreed with the observation and stated (November 2023) that the dovetailing of the Health Sector plan with SDG-3 targets is being taken up on priority.

Recommendation 20: The State Government may dovetail health sector plans with SDG-3 targets for achieving the targets in a time bound manner.

9.4 Monitoring of implementation of SDG-3 targets

The State set up (November 2017) a State Level SDGs Core Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The SDG Core Committee was responsible for regularly monitoring the implementation and progress of SDGs and its targets. The committee was required to meet at least once in three months or more often at the convenience of the Chairman.

No records of minutes of any meetings held for monitoring the implementation and progress of SDGs were made available to Audit by the Department.

Further, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), GoI issued (July 2019) guidelines for institution of High Level Technical (HLT) Committee under the chairmanship of Planning Department to develop, review and refine the State Indicator Framework (SIF). The guidelines also envisaged the states to make efforts to bring out a State SDG Index (district wise) in line with SDG India Index to promote healthy competition among the districts.

The Director, Planning, Statistics and Evaluation regarding preparation of SIF replied (November 2023) that SIF was developed, reviewed and refined in consultation with the concerned Departments and other stakeholders and was published in March 2022. The Director further (February 2024) stated that the State SDG Index in line with India SDG Index has been prepared and placed in Goa Legislative Assembly on 8 February 2024. In respect to the constitution of HLT Committee, it was informed that State has already constituted HLT Committee *i.e.*, State Level SDGs Core Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

However, reply of the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, GoG (February 2024) regarding formation of HLT Committee considering the SDGs core committee as HLT Committee is not tenable as both the Committees should be separate entities with different set of objectives as per MOSPI guidelines.

9.5 Achievement of targets for SDG-3

MOSPI, GoI developed NIF for each SDG to assist the Government in monitoring and tracking the progress of SDGs at the national level. There are 41 indicators in NIFs developed for SDG- 3 “Good Health and Well-Being”. In

accordance with MOSPI guidelines, the SIF for the State of Goa was published in March 2022.

Subsequently, the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, Government of Goa prepared the Goa SDG Index, 2023, which was tabled before the State Legislature in February 2024. Performance of the State against 24 indicators reported are detailed in **Appendix 9.1** As per Goa SDG Index, 2023, the State has achieved the targets in nine out of 24 indicators.


Recommendation 21: The State Government may strengthen the monitoring and reporting mechanism to track the achievement of SDG targets.

Panaji
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