

Accelerating Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Post COVID-19

PRESENTED BY

KENNETH ODARI



WWW.APOLLOWAKIAGAFUNDATION.ORG

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Introduction

Since 2015, the world has been on a journey towards Agenda 2030 underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs are a roadmap for humanity and achieving the goals requires integrated action on the social, environmental and economic front, with a focus on inclusive, participatory development that leaves no one behind.

Implementing SDGs Post Covid 19

The current crisis is not only a challenge but an opportunity to reorient the development approach and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

SDG Accelerators

Accelerators refer to prioritized areas that, when addressed, can directly incorporate multiple development priorities and have a multiplier effect on the SDGs

- **Prudent utilization of existing resources-** Infrastructure, Capacities, Data, Social services.
- **Increased financial investments** by governments, private sector and third sector.
- **Adopting a data driven digital technology ecosystem** to solve problems or make strategic decisions.
- **Mainstreaming of certain COVID 19 containment measures.**

Prudent utilization of existing resources- Infrastructure, Capacities, Data, Social services

On poverty, hunger, education and health SDG targets 1, 2, 3 and 4 can be realized through;

- Strengthening of vertical and horizontal collaboration between national and county authorities
- Establishing a network of Communities of Practice (CoP) of institutions or organizations with common goals for which they can share knowledge.

On SDG target 8, existing labor laws offer protections for both employers and employees.

For energy, climate, water and land SDG targets 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 15 can be derived relatively directly from existing frameworks to protect the environment and accelerate decarbonization.



Increased financial investments by governments, private sector and third sector

Domestic public resources, can be increased and spending optimized with respect to achieving SDG targets 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 10.

The financing needed to achieve the SDGs 5,6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 can also be raised from the large amounts of (mostly private) investable resources available globally.

Financing solutions to effectively unlock and direct resources toward realizing the SDG 9 especially for micro-, small- and medium-enterprises (MSMEs).

Increased investment to close specific gaps of the health systems under SDG 3 by the private sector, civil society and faith-based organizations as well as the public service system with emphasis on increasing coverage and service quality while increasing effective supply chain for life-saving equipment, supplies, vaccines, contraceptives and drugs.

Adopting a data driven digital technology ecosystem

Data driven digital technology can accelerate achievement of SDG targets 1,2,3,4,5,7,,10,11,12,13,14 and 15. These include actions to end poverty, combat hunger, improve health and education, inclusivity and promote prosperity and equality plus environmental sustainability.

On goal 5, can Improve national level capacity to track and report on progress, gaps and opportunities through better generation and use of sex-disaggregated data and statistics, including on time use.

On goal 6; can be instrumental in ensuring that people: have access to clean water and sanitation technologies.

On goal 9, workers who will adapt to digital transform will get a decent job.

On goal 17, can enable more agile, efficient and evidence-based decision-making to better measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a way that is both inclusive and fair.

Mainstreaming certain containment measures

COVID 19

On SDG target 1, 2, 5,8 & 10, targeted stimulus packages by the central bank and government, had an immediate socio-economic impacts and provided liquidity.

On SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10, support measures directed towards the vulnerable groups, including cash transfer, reducing the burden of tax and social protection contributed immensely.

On SDG target 3 effective health information dissemination and contact tracing was well received despite earlier skepticism.

On SDG target 3, public health standards triggered by the contagion resulted in frequent inspection of public spaces and facilities where people gather. Use of face masks and gloves should be mandated for not only health workers but food handlers and waste management workers

On goal 16, thermal devices for visitor screening at premises added another layer of security.

Final Thoughts

There may never be a Post Covid-19 situation.

Attempting to revert to the former status quo can only cause chaos.

Existing collaboration should be broadened to a wider sub-regional and regional level.