

GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FOR COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN NEPAL



Guidelines on
Sustainable
Development Goals
for Cooperative
Movement in Nepal

Guidelines on Sustainable Development Goals for Cooperative Movement in Nepal

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Preface

The National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF) since its establishment has consistently been working for the development and promotion of the cooperative movement in Nepal. The country's cooperative movement led by the NCF has always been contributing to the social, economic, cultural and environmental enhancement of members, society and the nation at large. Since the SDGs agendas have been set forth, it has been a common challenge and opportunity from the global prospects. In these circumstances, the NCF has taken a lead to promote these agendas in Nepal through mobilising the cooperative organisations. The NCF strongly intervenes for the practical implementation of 17 SDGs as it has also aimed to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and many more. In the context of Nepal, the collaboration within government, private and cooperative sector is deemed necessary to achieve National SDG Goals and Targets. However, due to a lack of proper insight, the Nepalese stakeholders and agencies have not been able to work in the line.

Realizing the need for practical implementation, the federation has then taken a lead targeting to enforce a concrete guideline. Interestingly, the National Voluntary Review Report has also underlined the cream contribution of the cooperative sector in the implementation of SDGs which indeed calls for considering the cooperative organisations a potential partner to implement SDGs.

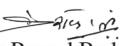
Cooperatives are regularly intervening in the global agendas which however are not measured in the SDG framework. Thus the guideline is designed to encourage different level cooperatives to do their tasks that could be measured from the SDG framework perspective. The guidelines cover the brief synopsis of the cooperative movement of Nepal and engagement and the role of Cooperatives in SDG, most importantly the SDG implementation action plan for cooperatives of Nepal. The NCF took this initiative and has started work in collaboration with different stakeholders.

On this very occasion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Government of Nepal, UN agencies, Development Partners, Cooperatives and Private Sector and stakeholders. My special thanks go to Ms. ChandrakalaPaudel, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Land Management of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Mr. PushkerBajracharya and Mr. SudarshanDhakal for their effort to prepare this comprehensive guideline. Special thanks goes to Mr. Dharma Swarnakar, Programme Analyst of Poverty and Inclusion Unit, UNDP, as well as Mr. SumanShekharManandhar, National Project Manager, CMDP, Mr. Prakash Ghimire, Cooperative Policy Specialist, CMDP, Ms. ChitraKumariThamsuhangSubba, General Manager of NCF, Mr. Suresh Thapa, International Relations and Programme Officer of NCF for their hard work and innovative approaches to make this document possible. I am also thankful to all other colleagues who continuously supported directly or indirectly to bring it forth. Also, thankful to the guidelines editor Mr. Rajesh Khanal, designer and publisher for their meaningful contributions.

Last but not least, I believe that the guideline would be an asset for all level cooperatives to implement the global agendas. I further look forward to the cooperation, coordination and collaboration within primary to federations at the national level to work jointly to obtain optimum outcomes by using this guideline. Furthermore, I am hopeful that this would also be an asset for the private sector, planners, researchers, implementers and all the stakeholders involved in the promotion and development of the cooperative sector.

My sincere gratitude to you all,

Warm regards with Cooperative Greetings!


Keshav Prasad Badal
Chairman

(December 20, 2019)

Foreword

In September 2015, heads of the state from around the world gathered in New York under the aegis of the United Nations and agreed to work towards what became known as Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This is an ambitious, shared blueprint to ensure that a safe, peaceful and prosperous world becomes a reality by 2030. Underpinning the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collectively, the SDGs aim to foster concerted action to address emerging challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change, and violence, among others, and to safeguard the resilience of people and the planet.

A defining characteristic of the Agenda is its emphasis on “leaving no one behind” in this global endeavour to do away with poverty, hunger, and all forms of inequality. *Inter alia*, it fosters improved health and education systems, combats climate change impacts and biodiversity loss, and brings justice to those who need it most.

To achieve these ambitious goals, efforts by governments alone will not suffice. The role of the private sector, including cooperatives, and civil society is equally important.

Cooperatives are value- and principle-based business organizations that have the potential to create sustainable employment in society by providing service packages to their members. The principles behind cooperatives, including their efforts to promote prosperous communities, are aligned with the SDGs’ essence and their spirit of leaving no one behind.

Nepal offers fertile ground for cooperative organizations, which have expanded steadily since 1957. They have played a critical role in improving access to finance and agricultural inputs, empowering women and marginalized communities, as well as proving themselves a democratizing force. One in five Nepalis are associated with some 34,000 cooperatives currently in operation across the country. Nepal’s Constitution recognizes cooperatives as one of the three pillars of the economy. The National Planning Commission, in its recent *SDGs needs assessment, costing and financing strategy* did recognise the important role of cooperatives to achieve SDGs in Nepal.

Cooperatives are important vessels for the achievement of the SDGs. And UNDP has a long-standing commitment to supporting the cooperative approach and its potential to contribute to the equitable economic growth and prosperity goals of Agenda 2030 as they apply to Nepal. Through its projects in Nepal, UNDP has worked cumulatively with over 500 cooperatives, including the National Cooperatives Federation in microenterprise, rural energy, the agriculture value chain and livelihoods. UNDP has also partnered with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation to enhance rural farmers’ access to markets.

UNDP’s support to the preparation of these guidelines is further testament to this long-standing commitment. It is our hope that the guidelines will be useful and will help cooperatives to align their activities and resources to achieving the SDGs.



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Nepal has started its new journey for socialism based on democratic values and principles since the promulgation of its new constitution in 2015. The new constitution has not only guaranteed the fundamental rights of an individual but also set up a framework of new polity for a sustainable, prosperous and just society. The country has adopted the roadmap of mobilizing public, private and cooperative sectors as a key to drive to the targeted destination.

Being the first elected government after the promulgation of the new constitution, the current government has put forth a dream of "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali". To fulfill this dream, the government has set three basic milestones: 1) the country will graduate from the least developed country (LDC) to a developing country by 2022; 2) the country will elevate its level to higher middle-income country with achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and 3) a status of prosperous country will be attained by 2043.

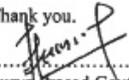
Nepal has forwarded a couple of initiatives to achieve SDG goals by 2030. To illustrate, SDG targets are being adequately adjusted in the 15th five-year plan. It has already prepared "Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-30" and set the indicators and strategies. Additionally, it has prepared "Needs Assessment, Costing and Financial Strategy for Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals" which has estimated the total costs and proposed the financial strategies in achieving SDGs within its deadline. All those strategic documents have adequately outlined the roles of cooperatives and expected notable contributions from this sector.

The cooperative sector, one of the three pillars of Nepal's economy, is a strong member-based sector consisting of 34,737 cooperative organizations in Nepal. One in every four people in the country is a cooperative member; cooperative organizations are found in almost every topography across the country. Moreover, there is one national cooperative federation, 325 district-level cooperative unions and 20 central cooperative unions working on diverse sectors. All those organizations have been helping their members in getting access to credit, inputs, and markets along with creating employment in the country particularly in rural areas and informal sectors.

Moreover, cooperatives are obliged to implement internationally agreed values and principles, and some of the global agenda. So, cooperatives are not only stakeholders of the SDGs but also one of the means to achieve them at different tiers of governmental structure.

Given the context, I would like to thank the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal, for bringing in "Guidelines on Sustainable Development Goals for Cooperative Movement in Nepal" and being a part of this mission. I hope that it will not only mainstream the SDG agendas in strategies of cooperative organizations but also help fulfill the financial gap to implement them.

Thank you.


Surya Prasad Gautam
Secretary

ACRONYMS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CU	Central Union
DCU	District Cooperative Union
DRCN	District Road Core Network
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDI	Gross Domestic Income
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICA	International Cooperative Alliance
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NCDB	National Cooperative Development Board
NCFN	National Cooperative Federation Nepal
NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
PV	Photovoltaic
R&D	Research and Development
RTA	Road Traffic Accidents
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendant
TB	Tuberculosis
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat
U5MR	Under 5 Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
US\$	United States Dollar
VR	Village Road

1. Introduction	1
Context and Background	2
Objectives	3
2. SDGs and Cooperatives in Nepal	4
Sustainable Development Goals	5
Nepal's initiatives in SDGs	7
Historical Development of cooperatives in Nepal	8
Engagement of Cooperatives on SDG Agenda	11
Roles of Cooperatives in attaining SDGs in Nepal	12
3. Guidance to Cooperatives for implementing SDGs in Nepal	27
Guideline for achieving SDGs	28
Management Functions	44
Annex: Proposed SDG targets of Nepal	47
References	50

Introduction

Context and Background

Nepal has been implementing planned development since 1956. However, the country is still spinning in widespread poverty, regional imbalance, a deepened social divide and numerous problems related to political, social, economic and cultural issues. This has prompted the economy to pursue various strategies to ensure employment opportunities and inclusive growth to address the fundamental problems of poverty, unemployment, deprivation, and exclusion.

The country's challenge is not limited alone to mitigating poverty from income perspectives. Large disparities are seen to have appeared in a number of social indicators of the people from various geographic regions and socio-economic groups. For the past few years, Nepal has been achieving impressive growth rate; however the country still holds up behind a number of South Asian countries in terms of the social indicators. It calls for radical efforts on poverty alleviation and the creation of employment opportunities. There is an urgency to drive economic forces of the growth strategy towards improving the opportunities not only for town citizens who already have reasonable access to resources but also to people from rural, semi-urban and small towns; women; low skilled and other socially disadvantaged groups.

Overall, the efforts are needed to enhance productive employment for sustainable peace and security apart from reducing poverty and inequity. Despite the facts, job creation, however, is one of the most pressing challenges that Nepal faces today.

Besides conducting a number of efforts at the national level, the country is also taking support from international organisations and communities to accomplish the task of poverty alleviation. For example, the United Nations mechanism has been helping in a number of development fronts in Nepal.

For the first time, Nepal was listed in the status of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in 1973. In the early 90s, the UN established the foundation for developing the human development index (HDI), followed by Gross Domestic Income (GDI), Gender Equality Index, etc. As a concrete

development agenda, the UN had launched MDGs (2000-2015) in 1999. Although all the targets of the MDGs were not fully achieved, it had still brought some major changes in the livelihood of the people. With the MDGs implementation, Nepal was successful to achieve a notable gain in many areas particularly in health, education, infant mortality, women empowerment, and poverty alleviation. The country was even honoured for its remarkable gain in the health sector in particular.

The success of MDGs prompted the UN to develop a more comprehensive strategy—Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—which are guided by the principle of ‘leave no one behind’. SDGs (2015-2030) with 17 goals are aiming at the transformation of the global community. It urges member states along with the private sector, cooperatives, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to collaborate with each other for building a stronger partnership and align the plans and Programmes in realizing the goals. In the process, a lot of works are apparent and all concerned agencies need to play active role in contributing to achieve the targets of the SDGs. This has called for the cooperatives sector as well to assume its responsibility.

Objectives

The major objective of the guidelines is to incorporate the agenda/idea of the SDGs in the functions, tasks, and roles of the cooperatives and their associations to contribute towards their achievement.

The specific objectives are to:

- explore the areas of cooperation, partnership, and intervention at various levels of cooperative organizations to undertake tasks contributing towards the SDGs
- review the roles of various hierarchies of cooperatives in attaining SDGs, and
- prepare a guideline and the action plan to guide the cooperative sector: national and central level federation, district level unions and primary cooperatives

SDGs and
Cooperatives in
Nepal

Sustainable Development Goals

The UN had designed and implemented the Millennium Development Goals, 2000-2015, (MDGs) as one of its most important initiatives. It had targeted to transform the plight of the global population to ensure prosperity and development at least in some of the fundamental areas. The effort was not only commendable but had been successful as well in some of the deprived and vulnerable sectors. Despite the pronounced success in poverty reduction and achievement in some of the socio-economic targets, there are still some prominent challenges :

- Gender inequality
- Big gaps between the poorest and richest households, and between rural and urban areas
- Climate change and environmental degradation have undermined the achieved progress, and poor people suffer the most
- Conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development
- Millions of poor people still live in poverty and hunger, without access to basic services

Accordingly, the UN introduced more comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030 as a post- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The new initiative comprises 17 goals, 169 targets, and 213 indicators. All 193 Member States of the United Nations and Civil Society Organizations are expected to pursue these goals in a non-binding agreement. The SDGs are built on the principle entitled “The Future We Want” agreed upon under the UN Resolution #/RES/66/288. In September 2015, the UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals to take forward the tasks envisioned in 2000 by the Millennium Development Goals. They have become the foundation for bringing in harmonious growth via proper development of infrastructure, job creations and ensuring deprived and the vulnerable groups and individuals of the society with access to financial services. In addition, it also aims at promoting equity, justice and prosperity through an expansion of partnerships and initiatives globally. This ambitious agenda is expected

to frame a course to end poverty, to protect the planet and to ensure prosperity for all by 2030.

Unlike MDGs, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has set the principles of the development goals as well as formulated the methods of development. Principally, SDGs are about to ensure an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future. Though the Programme identifies poverty and hunger as the most urgent challenges at present, it has put forward the concept to keep the 'people' at the centre, to bring the 'prosperity' for all, to safeguard the 'planet', to establish the 'peace' globally and to develop the 'partnership' among all the stakeholders, i.e. the whole actions and strategies are guided by the principle of 'leave no one behind'.

Similarly, SDGs adopts the strategies to bring all the people at the centre of development. It is a joint commitment made by the high-level political leaders across the world. So, every member state needs to mainstream its agendas in their periodic development plans and Programmes and at all the levels of government along with establishing interlinkages among social, economic and environmental components. While doing so, the national level policies and Programmes are needed to be devised, configuring global goals and integration. Similarly, there is a need to cohere among the policies and Programmes.

Also, it is a document of the commitments, which were put forth by the global community to share the technology and opportunities (market) with the needy community people. The mutual sharing by the developed countries and multilateral agencies could help uplift the backward communities and the countries which have fallen behind in the development. Thus, all levels of government and legislative bodies have a key role to promote sustainable development. Also, the role of the private sector, cooperatives, community organizations, local authorities, trade unions, the business community, scientific community, and indigenous groups are equally important in recognising the way out to achieve targets of SDGs. So, SDGs are not only the outcomes but are the process as well, which effort to frame destination and processes and to incorporate the possible stakeholders.

Nepal's initiatives in SDGs

Nepal has made significant accomplishments in internalizing the SDGs. The country has mainstreamed them into planning and budgeting, calculated the cost, and created the institutions. To illustrate, the National Planning Commission (NPC) has prepared “Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap 2016-2030” in 2017. The document has not only localized the SDG indicators but also brought the baseline values and set milestones for the years 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030. Moreover, it serves as a guiding document to all the stakeholders while aligning their Programmes and strategies with SDGs.

Recently, it has also prepared a province-wise web-based information system regarding the status of different SDG indicators. NPC has also prepared “Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy for Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals” which calculates the total costs required to achieve all the SDG targets. A recently published approach paper of the 15th five-year plan underlines how well the authority has aligned its targets and harmonized its sectoral policies with SDGs. Moreover, the approach paper has given priority in partnership among stakeholders—such as government, private sector, cooperatives, community organizations, and the international community, among others. Furthermore, the Government of Nepal has initiated coding the annual activities and respective budget line in the “Annual Development Programme” based on SDGs since 2016/17.

Besides, the government has formed two high-level committees to supervise and guide the implementation and assessment of the SDGs. At the apex level, there is a National Steering Committee on SDGs chaired by Prime Minister. Under this, Implementation Coordination and Monitoring Committee on SDGs is formed under the chairpersonship of the vice-chair of NPC which will work for institutional arrangements, approval of the Programmes to enhance capacity at local and regional levels, mobilization of financial resources to implement Programmes, coordination with stakeholders, and framing the indicators.

The NPC in partnership with UNDP Nepal is working to help localize and internalize the SDGs in the provincial-level development planning. NPC

has prepared two model-manuals for Plan Formulation for local and provincial governments as well, with adequately suggesting the process of internalizing and localizing SDGs and way of coordinating with the federal governments. Recently, the apex planning authority has also prepared a web portal that shows the province-wise baseline information of SDG indicators. In addition to the government sector, the private and cooperative sector is also taking into account the spirit and objectives of the SDGs and has been exploring the ways to contribute in the line.

In regards to the response of SDG agendas, NCF, the apex organization of cooperatives in Nepal, has come up with the official slogan “Cooperatives to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals,” which is used in letterheads, banners, and publications. The federation has been organizing various capacity-building activities targeting to its member organizations to sensitize SDG related issues across the country. Moreover, civil society organizations have also created forums to exchange the experiences and ideas regarding their role in helping SDG implementation in Nepal.

The proposed targets for 2030, which have partially been attained as of now, are expected to take forward the nation at a faster pace, transforming it from the status of the least developed country to a developing country and thereby to a vibrant and, growing middle-income country. Hence, it calls for building collaboration among all the concerned agencies to come forward to attain the cherished mission.

Historical Development of Cooperatives in Nepal

Cooperatives are autonomous associations of persons voluntarily united to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, cooperation and solidarity (ICA, 2015). Collective or community enterprises, particularly cooperatives, hold enormous potential to meet the aspirations of a better distribution of wealth, better public control of the economy and a better balance between economic and social concerns.

Nepal, for long, has a traditional practice of fulfilling common needs via

informal community-based cooperation practice which includes Dhukuti and Guthi, among others. With the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990, there was a visible change in the attitude of the Government towards cooperatives. The National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB) was established in August 1991 for the development of policy and research in cooperatives. The Cooperative Act that enacted for the first time in 1992 tried to value the norms and principles of cooperatives.

New cooperative development policies were introduced in the Eighth Five-Year-Plan (1992-97) which included the objectives of developing cooperatives as producers and distributors enhancing the participation in cooperatives to create prosperity. The successive plans further reinforced the importance accorded to cooperatives. The Eleventh Plan for the first time provided a separate chapter on the cooperative sector which underlined the role of the public, private and cooperative sectors as the three pillars of the economy. Similarly, the government introduced the National Cooperative Policy in 2012, which is a milestone guideline for further actions to improve the cooperative sector.

Nepal's Constitution includes socialism oriented ideology as an integral part of the state. So, political, economic and social principles are set accordingly. To illustrate, the constitution has recognized cooperatives as one of the three pillars, along with public and private sectors, for economic development. Article 50.3 of Directive Principles states that:

The economic objective of the State shall be to achieve sustainable economic development, while achieving rapid economic growth, by way of maximum mobilization of the available means and resources through participation and development of public, private and cooperatives.

Similarly, the article 51.d.1 and 51.d.3 which talks on state policies relating to economy, industry, and commerce; have mentioned clearly “to enhance national economy through partnership and independent development of the public, private and cooperative sectors” and “to promote the cooperative sector and mobilize it in national development

to the maximum extent,” highlighting the role of cooperatives.

In addition, the establishment of the federal structure has given rights to provincial and local governments to bring their own policies and laws regarding cooperatives in order to promote and regulate the cooperative sector in their respective areas. The cooperatives working within a local government unit fall in the purview of the respective local government and cooperatives working more than one local government units are governed by the provincial government. Similarly, cooperatives working in more than one province are under the jurisdiction of the federal government. It shows that each of the three tiers’ governments holds the right to regulate the cooperatives in their respective areas. At the same time, they have responsibility to promote such organizations in their areas as per the need of the respective local and provincial governments. To comply with the spirit of the federal structure, new act and regulation at the central level were enacted in 2017 and 2019 respectively. Main features of the new Cooperative Act 2017 is to support the sound management of cooperatives and to ensure more contribution of the sector in sustainable development via the following measures:

- Power sharing provisions among local, provincial and federal governments.
- Creation of Cooperative Promotion Central Fund.
- Provision of Deposit and Loan Guarantee Fund for risk management.
- Provision of a Stabilization Fund for liquidity management.
- Compulsory arrangement of Patronage Refund based on transactions of members with a profit of 25 percent after deducting from Reserve Fund.
- Three tiers federal structure of cooperatives (district, federal, central) and one national federation.
- Provision of women representation of at least 33 percent in the Board of Directors.
- Recognition of the roles of federations regarding the supervision of member cooperatives.
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the National Cooperative Federation.

In 1990, there were 830 cooperative societies and 30 plus district unions. As of July 2017, in around a decade and a half, there were 34,737 cooperatives followed by 325 district unions, 20 central unions, and one cooperative bank. There are altogether 6.5 million people—more than 51 percent of it is women—associated with this sector. This sector now mobilizes above NRs345 billion saving which is more than 10 percent of Nepal’s GDP. Loans and investment of cooperatives have crossed NRs332 billion. Cooperatives have made a notable mark in the financial map of Nepal. Furthermore, according to Economic Survey 2018/19, the cooperative sector has directly created jobs for more than 63 thousand people and created hundreds of thousand indirect jobs in Nepal. The National Cooperative Federation (NCF) is the apex body of the cooperative movement of Nepal. NCF is an active member of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) since 1997. It has been strongly lobbying with the government and stakeholders for the promotion and development of the cooperative movement in Nepal. As a result, the cooperative sector, considered as one of the three pillars of economic development, has a distinct policy, progressive act, and regulations. The cooperatives played an important role to reduce the poverty rate of Nepal. Coincidentally, it is seen that the incidence of multidimensional poverty is lower in those provinces where cooperatives are in a larger number.

Engagement of Cooperatives on SDG Agenda

The Sustainable Development 2030, in one of its main agendas, has explicitly recognized cooperative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs, creating an opportunity for cooperatives to place themselves as partners with similar institutions at global, national, regional and local levels to achieve sustainable development. The Cooperative model of business is based on ethics, values and principles that put the needs and aspirations of their members simply above the goal of maximizing profit. Through self-help, empowerment, reinvestment in their communities and concern for the well-being of people and the world in which we live, cooperatives nurture a long-term vision for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental responsibility in the business processes. All the seven principles of cooperatives are

directly or indirectly associated with attaining SDGs. The fourth principle in particular that stresses on maximum participation of the cooperatives' members in economic activities, is directly related to eradicating poverty, generating employment opportunities and removing hunger.

In addition, the way in which cooperatives operate their businesses also contribute in attaining some different goals. Decent working mechanism, gender equality, environment protection, sustainable consumption and production are some of them. Moreover, in line with the resolution 66/288 (which had indorsed "The Future We Want"—the guiding document for constructing SDGs), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in January 2013 officially brought "Blue Print of Cooperative Decade 2020," which puts forward the economic, social and environmental sustainability as one of the five intervention areas of cooperative organizations to be promoted until 2020. The document claims that cooperatives are 'builders of sustainability' citing that cooperatives contribute to the stock of a nation's 'social capital', in ways that investor-owned businesses do not. Thus, the way cooperatives operate contribute in attaining SDG agendas in general and decent work, gender equality, environment protection, sustainable consumption and production, in particular, is instrumental to contribute to an effort of attaining the SDGs in a more significant manner.

Roles of Cooperatives in attaining SDGs in Nepal

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has identified the targets within the 17 SDGs that are of most relevance to cooperatives. The identified targets are grouped into three main action areas: mitigating poverty, improving access to basic goods and services and protecting the environment. Cooperatives active in the food and agriculture sectors have designated space to explore their involvement to yield desired outputs. The conference on Sustainable Development (Rio±20), has acknowledged the role of cooperatives in contributing to social inclusion and poverty reduction, particularly in developing countries. In paragraphs 41 and 67 of the outcome document, cooperatives are acknowledged within the private sector as key role player at the implementation stage.

The present section highlights key targets of SDGs borrowing from NPC (2017) and suggests how cooperative could help achieve them.



Using an international benchmark for extreme poverty (US\$ 1.25 per day), Nepal's poverty stood at 21.6 percent in 2015. Similarly, poverty at US\$ 1.9 per day is estimated to be 36 percent. The Multidimensional Poverty Index shows that 28.6 percent of Nepalese are multidimensionally poor. Nepal proposes to reduce extreme poverty to less than 5 percent and raise per capita income to US\$ 2,500 by 2030 from US\$ 766 in 2015 (NPC, 2017).

To fulfill the task, the cooperative sector can play a major role as their principles aim at promoting economic activities, reaching untouched segments, accessing support and ensuring an enabling environment to participate in economic activities. Cooperatives have the advantages of identifying economic opportunities for the poor; empowering the underprivileged to defend their interests and to take part in decision-making in the issue concerned to them, and providing security to the poor by allowing them to convert individual risks into collective risks. Therefore, cooperatives could be the vehicles for poverty alleviation by

- improving access to finance in rural areas and in the informal sector,
- supporting farmers to get access to agricultural inputs,
- helping farmers to process and market their products,
- supporting members to get access to household supplies,
- helping poor and marginalized people come into mainstream.



In Nepal, 30.1 percent of children aged 6–59 months are still underweight, while stunting (low height for age) and wasting (low weight for height) for children under 5 years of age are 36 percent and 11.3 percent respectively. Anemia remains a major health challenge for almost 53 percent of the children. Anemia amongst women of reproductive age is also high at 46 percent. It is observed

that one-third of the child population aged up to 59 months suffer from undernourishment (NPC, 2017).

The government aims to improve those conditions substantially by the end of 2030. While addressing hunger, the cooperative sector can

- support sustainably small-scale producers and farmers to achieve economies of scale and improve their access to markets, financing, information and other resources and contribute to the agriculture sector,
- help improve productivity and incomes through various strategies; for example, jointly purchasing inputs, investing in productive assets such as storage and processing facilities, marketing products and organizing skills training,
- innovate and adopt improved and resilient agricultural practices.
- help increase their negotiating power for better prices and improved terms and conditions of transactions,
- improve access to financial source for their members.

SDG 3



ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES

The progress in the health sector so far is encouraging in Nepal. The NMR and U5MR have come down to 23 and 38 per 1,000 live births in 2015, respectively. Similarly, MMR has also declined to 258 (per 100,000 live births), and several recent observations indicate that this must have further decreased as the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased to 47.1 percent in 2015, while the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has decreased to 2.3 in 2015. Furthermore, the adolescent fertility rate remains high at 71 live births per 1000 women aged 10-14 (NPC, 2017).

Similarly, the number of new HIV infections among adults aged 15-49 is low and prevalence of TB, Lymphatic Filariasis, and Dengue; the number of cases of Malaria, Kala-azar, Rabies, Trachoma, and Cysticercoids have decreased. However, the country is seriously confronting hepatitis, water-borne diseases, communicable diseases, premature mortality from

NCDs, incidence of suicide cases and Road Traffic Accidents (RTA), among others.

The proposed targets of the SDG three include the reduction of MMR, reduction of preventable death of newborns and children, elimination of the prevalence of HIV, TB, Malaria and other tropical diseases, and water-borne diseases. The cooperative sector can significantly aid in this direction by:

- adopting and disseminating information on healthy habits and practices among its members to improve the health situation,
- promoting cooperative based hospitals and health institutions and offering services such as financing for health, medical insurance, among others, to the members,
- creating a support system in case of accident and illness; organizing the health campaign, blood donations, and awareness of health issues,
- organizing awareness to their members and communities to escape from non-communicable diseases.

SDG 4



INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION

Nepal is committed to enhancing access to education, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged groups. As a result, Net Enrollment Rate in primary education has reached 96.6 percent in 2015. Similarly, the numeracy rate for all 15 years and above reached 62.2 percent and the literacy rate of the population age 15–24 years reached 88.6 percent in 2015..... Also 81 percent of the children have attended early childhood education Programmes (NPC, 2017).

The proposed specific targets for SDG 4 include further improvement in net enrolment and completion of primary education, gross enrollment in secondary education. The other targets are to improve the situation that ensures students enrolled in grade one reach grade eight; youth and adults having relevant skills (including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship); adults--both men and women--achieved literacy and numeracy; elimination of the gender

disparities in tertiary education. Education and training are important activities in the cooperative sector which could:

- provide essential lifelong learning opportunities for their members through training and education,
- support financing for education and direct provisions of scholarship contributes to the quality education for the members' children,
- help cooperative based child care centers, support the inclusive and quality education for the children of the community,
- support the local schools regarding infrastructures and extra curriculum activities to improve the quality of education,
- organize the enrollment campaigns and awareness creation for the poor and backward community to promote education for all in the community.

SDG 5



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

According to NPC (2017), Nepal has narrowed the gender gap in important socio-economic domains, notably in education, health, and in participation in political decision-making processes. Improvement has also been made in eliminating practices that promote gender inequality and violence. Significant progress has been made in ensuring wage equality for similar work, gender parity in labor force participation and political empowerment of women. However, an imbalance proportion of women and men among professional and technical workers, different forms of gender violence, girls trafficking and malpractices such as an allegation of witchcraft, Chhaupadi, dowry, early marriage, among others, are often fatal. Nepal has the third-highest rate of child marriage in South Asia, after Bangladesh and India. Child marriage is still in high prevalence, with 37 percent of women getting married before the age of 18, and 10 percent getting married before the age of 15.

The proposed specific targets for SDG 5 include the elimination of wage discrimination for similar work; elimination of physical/sexual violence; eliminating all harmful practices; increasing seats held by women in the national parliament; women's share at the decision-making positions

of public services. These will eventually lead to improving the Gender Inequality Index and raising Gender Empowerment Measure significantly. Cooperative sector can support to achieve these targets by:

- encouraging women membership in cooperatives,
- enacting the provision of the federal cooperative act regarding at least 33 percent of women participation in decision-making positions,
- enhancing women's capacity through the creation of opportunity for employment, education, and training,
- creating opportunities to enhance leadership skills by participating in their organization's governance and taking decisions.

SDG 6



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

According to NPC (2017), as of 2015, a total of 87 percent of the population had access to drinking water supply facilities while the ones in sanitation reached 82 percent. However, only 49.5 percent of households have access to the piped water supply. Providing safe water through a pipe is challenging, as a recent survey indicated that 82.2 percent of the households use contaminated water. Only two-thirds of the population are using latrine while only 30 percent of urban households are connected to sewer systems. The proposed specific targets for the year 2030 in SDG 6 include an increasing number of people's access to basic water supply and piped water supply and improvement in sanitation. The cooperative sector can provide services to communities in these areas

- generate awareness and initiate activities to devise and to implement projects,
- involve in the cleanliness of water sources in distributing clean drinking water,
- start of water processing industries.



“Nearly three-fourth of the country’s households use solid fuels as the primary source of energy for cooking while one-fifth use LPG for cooking. While nearly three-fourth of the households have access to electricity, actual supply of electricity is grossly inadequate electricity supply from off-grid hydropower plants is limited, due to which the available electricity is used just for lighting purposes and recharging various home appliances including mobile phones. Electricity supply generated out of the solar PV home systems is growing but it is limited mostly for lighting only. Grid electricity is unreliable with erratic power cuts in the dry season” (NPC, 2017).

The proposed specific targets for SDG 7 include increasing the accessibility of the households to electricity, reducing the dependency of the households upon firewood for cooking, limiting the use of LPG, adding generation of hydroelectricity, and increasing per capita electricity consumption. In this regard, the cooperative sector could:

- work towards reducing the use of firewood in household consumption,
- encourage household members to shift to renewable energy,
- invest in the production and distribution of renewable energy through active participation of members, generate awareness and launch actions which could discourage people using fossil fuel-based energy for their household needs.



NPC (2017) mentions that the average GDP growth of the country over the last two decades hovered around 4 percent. Nepal’s GDP growth mostly depends on agricultural yield, which largely depends on weather conditions. The material intensity of manufacturing is as high as 66 percent. The rate of underemployment in the age group of 15 to 59 years, stands at 27.8 percent while nearly a quarter of those who are employed

fall in the category of working poor. The labor market is predominantly informal with limited social security coverage and gender-based wage discrimination and child labour is not wholly eliminated, with 30 percent of them are still working under hazardous conditions.

The global target for 2030 is to achieve per capita GDP growth of at least 7 percent annually. The other targets are to reduce the material intensity in manufacturing, lower underemployment, eliminate the worst forms of child labor, increase the annual number of jobs in the tourism industry, increase the direct contribution of tourism to GDP and improve the access to community based financial institutions. To achieve these targets, Nepal's cooperative sector could:

- contribute to enhancing employment creation and income generation activities,
- encourage to establish workers' cooperatives for creation of decent job by formalizing the informal economy,
- protect and promote employees' rights,
- ensure low material intensity production techniques
- formalize the job sources.

SDG 9



RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION

Nepal faces a severe deficit in physical infrastructure. By the end of the 2015/16, about 13,000 km of strategic roads were in operation. The lengths of the District Road Core Network (DRCN) and Village Roads (VR) has now reached 25,728 km and 31,904 km respectively. However, the existing road density (km/sq. km) is very low at less than 0.5 km/sq. km despite so much of priority being accorded to this sector by politicians. Most roads do not conform prescribed standards. In terms of tele-connetivity, there has been a dramatic surge in use, with cell phone subscriptions exceeding the population size by a wide margin.

The industrial sector (manufacturing, water and electricity,

and construction) suffers from low investment and lack of competitiveness, particularly in manufacturing which contributes just 15 percent contribution of the GDP and less than 7 percent of total employment (NPC, 2017) .

To help develop resilient infrastructure, cooperatives may not have much scope to contribute. However, some of these might involve:

- filling the gaps in productions of environment-friendly goods and services where public and private investors are reluctant to invest,
- promote SMEs and entrepreneurship among youth members.

SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Inequality in consumption, measured by the Gini coefficient, is estimated at 0.33 in 2015 while income inequality is 0.46. Out of total consumption, the share of the bottom 40 percent of the population is only 18.7 percent. Similarly, the share of the bottom 40 percent in total income is nearly 12 percent. Despite this, the improvement in the Gini coefficient from the level of 2004 (0.47) suggests that the growth in income experienced by the bottom of the income groups has been faster than that of groups above. This transition is reflected in the ratio, measured by the share of the income of the top 10 percent in proportion to that of the bottom 40 percent, which was steady at 1.3 between 2010 and 2015.

In 2015, the proportion of the richest quintile in the income group completing primary education was 2.2 times the poorest quintile while children free of stunting in the richest quintile were 1.6 times higher than the poorest quintile (NPC, 2017).

The proposed specific targets for SDG 10 are set to reduce consumption inequality (index), income inequality, and the Palma ratio. The targets also include increasing the share of the bottom 40 percent of the population to total income and increasing the ratio of nominal wage index to the consumer price index. Growth of cooperative business would help improve inequality as they:

- promote equality as it is one of the basic cooperative principles,
- ensure the inclusive business practices as it is one of the fundamental principles adhered by cooperatives.

SDG 11



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

In Nepal, less than 30 percent of people have been living in houses that meet the safety standards. There is a huge demand for building safe houses in urban areas. The private sector is emerging as an active player in urban housing, which however is inadequate in number and expensive. About 500,000 people are living in slums or as squatters; nearly 46.7 percent of the households have a family size of five or more persons in one house (NPC, 2017).

According to NPC (2017), the 2030 targets also to develop at least 60 new satellite cities. The catastrophic earthquake of 2015 damaged 756,000 houses (499,000 fully), 6,063 health facilities and 1,711 other structures. In addition, 2,900 cultural and religious heritages at least a century old were either destroyed or damaged. For those affected by the earthquake, the construction of safe housing on government subsidies is in progress. The government has targeted to complete the reconstruction by 2020. The 2030 target is to reduce the number of households residing with more than five persons, implement the global standards safety norms at a number of highways and increase the proportion of households living in safe houses. Similarly, the targets include reducing air pollution, preventing deaths and injuries due to disaster, repairing and reconstructing all cultural heritages destroyed by the earthquake, and increasing the budget allocation to the protection of cultural heritage. The cooperative sector can contribute to:

- to be excellent partners in making human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient, and respectful of the environment,
- to initiate establishment and promotion of housing cooperatives which could provide lodging for people in need and allow them to manage it according to their needs as tenants,
- to provide the services of insurers and help people vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change to protect their

homes and livelihoods, often when other insurers are not willing to take the risk,

- to help raise awareness as they have the long-term vision for environmentally sound investments, such as energy efficiency, safe and sustainable building materials, and disaster resilience.
- to work as shepherds of culture and heritage.

SDG 12



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Nepal has abundant water resources, but only 10 percent of such resources have been utilised to generate hydroelectricity at the commercial level. Given the low productivity in agriculture, there is ample room for doubling land productivity rather than expanding cultivated land. Currently, 80 percent of the cultivated land is being used for cereal crop production, and cultivable land is shrinking due to unplanned urbanization and other alternative uses. Thus, the target is set for making at least 75 percent of cultivable land available for cereal crop production. Currently, the country's consumption of wood stands at 0.11 m³ per capita per year, and this is proposed to be reduced to 0.05 m³ per year. The use of plastic that stood at 2.7 gram per capita per day in 2015 has been proposed to make almost nil. Similarly, the post-harvest loss of food grains is targeted to reduce from 15 percent in 2015 to less than 1 percent by 2030 (NPC, 2017).

Expansion of the cooperative business will help achieve sustainable production and consumption targets because:

- environmental sustainability is a particular strength of Cooperatives, given their shared principle of concern for the community,
- they are committed to use natural resources in a sustainable way and promote sustainable practices to the community,
- cooperative movement thrives for sustainable consumption and production: comprehensive recycling and reuse Programmes,

- innovative ways of reducing food waste and food loss along the entire supply chain,
- investment in sustainable packaging and transport.

SDG 13



CLIMATE ACTION

According to Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory, the agricultural sector is the largest GHG emitter (68 percent). The transport and industrial sectors each emit about 12 percent, while only 5 percent of GHG is emitted by the commercial sector. A number of initiatives are to be taken to integrate mitigation of and adaptation to climate change at the national and sub-national levels. The proposed specific targets for SDG 13 include halving the existing CO2 emission level. (NPC, 2017).

The cooperative sector can:

- work towards renewable energy, ending the use of plastic bags, or stepping in to support communities vulnerable to natural disasters,
- organize plantation Programmes,
- help members find local solutions to problems created by environmental change, such as redefining land and resource use or diversifying activities to support the green revolution.

SDG 15



LIFE ON LAND

Communities manage 39 percent of Nepal's dense forest. In the context of conservation of bio-diversity, 23.2 percent of the total land area is declared protected. Similarly, the country also protects 1,727 lakes, wetlands and ponds. More than two-third (67.8 percent) of the mountain ecosystem is covered by the conservation areas. Twenty out of the 5,358 lakes found in Nepal are considered to require special protection measures. So far, 3,346 watersheds have been conserved. Similarly, 1,675 kilometers of rivulets and riverbanks have been conserved through bio-engineering processes. Degradation of natural habitats has threatened flora and fauna.

Some species are on verge of extinction at an ever-faster pace, with a heavy decline in both their population size and distribution. There are 12,480 plant and 11,706 animal species, of which 60 plant species (0.48 percent) and 95 animal species (0.81 percent) are under a threat.

Cooperatives aim to meet the needs of their members, but it has been realized that their members' needs cannot be met if the natural environment is not protected. In this regard, the cooperative sector can:

- work to preserve freshwater sources, forests, and biodiversity,
- encourage and support their members to produce herbal products,
- create a fisher community which would train their members to avoid overfishing and adopt practices in the line of sustainable development,
- create forest users' community which would help harvest the wood in a way that protects and replenishes the area being used, educates the community and promote love for forest ecosystems,
- plant trees, which is environment-friendly and suitable to the soil, having medicinal significance.

SDG 16



PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Despite having a progressive democracy, which has made significant advancement in inclusion, Nepal has not been able to achieve in larger extent the target of good governance, such as transparency, accountability and decent rule of law. The freedom and vibrancy of the press and history of civic activism have provided a fine counterbalance to shortcomings at various state mechanisms and created widespread demand among the population for better governance in the coming years.

The proposed specific targets for SDG 16 include ending death from violence and conflict, violence against women, and violence against children, and to improve transparency and accountability scores on globally benchmark

indices. The targets also include abolishing marriage before the age of 18 years and to ensure universal birth registration.

Cooperative enterprises are democratic workshops which run on the norm of active member participation under the theme ‘one member, one vote’ governance and help people develop their skills as fair decision-makers and leadership among themselves. By providing adequate rooms without discrimination, cooperatives are also a forum for people to strengthen their interpersonal and intergroup relationships. They persist to function even during political turmoil, economic crisis, displacement, and violence, and help people find peace with their neighbors and rebuild their societies. In order to promote peace, justice and democratic practices in the society, the cooperative sector can contribute by:

- ensuring implementation of cooperative principles, global and national commitments, and national laws and regulations,
- investing to foster a sense of community, empowerment, and inclusion,
- streamlining people from all groups regardless of the differences in political, caste, economic class and gender underlying in them,
- promoting its belief against violence and injustice.

SDG 17



PARTNERSHIPS

Nepal’s ‘tax effort’ is relatively strong, as revenue collection stood at nearly 20 percent of the GDP in 2015. The targets for revenue collection for 2030 are set at 30 percent of the GDP. The government expenditure financed from internal revenue sources is targeted to reach 80 percent in 2030. The target appears modest because of a scaled-up public investment drive to redress critical infrastructure gaps that will require large amounts of external resources, in addition to strong revenue collection. To meet the financing gap from private sector investment, foreign direct investment needs to multiply at least five-fold from the figure at present.

The founding principle of co-operation among Cooperatives ensures that the global Cooperative movement is a vast network with shared goals. Cooperatives are working together to strengthen the overall movement. For example, consumer Cooperatives in Europe work with agricultural Cooperatives in Africa to source products for their shoppers and increase their opportunities out of trading. Now, it has come to a notice by Cooperatives that they are not the only forces at work when it comes to sustainable development. For this context:

- federation at all levels and unions with primary cooperatives need to work together under the principle of cooperation among cooperatives
- cooperatives need to work with governments, civil society, and the UN system to achieve the targets set by the SDGs
- they must extend partnerships for putting together knowledge and skills and financial and technical resources

Guidance to
Cooperatives for
implementing SDGs
in Nepal

SDGs aim to safeguard the people and the planet from all forms of risks and challenges. Though Nepal’s cooperatives have been contributing to achieve a couple of development objectives since long which could have been measured in SDGs, now they need to work in the structured framework so that they could create synergic effect through cooperative sector. The present guideline will serve as the framework of the actions by Nepal’s cooperatives—from primary to central/federal levels—in mainstreaming SDGs in their work. The chapter is divided into two parts: first section will offer the guidance to different levels of cooperatives regarding the relevant activities with targets and second section suggests an action plan to implement them.

Guideline for achieving SDGs

This section is presented in the table. The table attempts to convert the relevant SDGs into the activities and suggests the targets to the different levels of cooperatives.

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
SDG 1 No Poverty			
Preparation of Cooperative Guidelines to include identified poor people	NCF	2020	Guideline document
Orientation and Dissemination of Guideline	Central Federations, NCB Land DCUs and other district level unions	2022-25	Number of guideline distribution, number of guideline related events

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Implementation of guideline	Primary cooperatives	2022-30	90 percent of the identified poor will be enrolled in cooperatives , Total loan recipients reach 20% from such group by 2025 and 50% by 2030
Reporting the implementation of Poverty-related guideline	Primary Cooperatives to DCUs/central federations/ NCBL, and from DCUs/central federations/ NCBL to NCF	2021-30	Number of annual reports of primary cooperatives/ DCUs/central feds. /NCBL,
Campaigns for promoting social protection through insurance of livestock, crop, health&life of the members and members' family.	Primary Cooperatives	2030	50% members have some form of insurance by 2025.
Capacity building on Micro enterprise start up and development at grassroots level	Primary cooperatives	2020 onward.	Number of Entrepreneurship / Skill base trainings for youth members

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Institutional Capacity building of Cooperatives	NCF/District Federations/ Central/ federations/ NCB L	By 2025.	Institutional Development training for 50% of Board of Directors and managers
		by 2030	100 percent BoD and managers

SDG 2 Zero Hunger

Advocacy for defined role of cooperatives in provincial level agri. related policies	NCF	2022	Number of cooperative friendly agri. related policies
Capacity support to primary cooperatives	NACCFL, CDCAN, NEMCCU, CVFCUN	2021 to 2025	Number of trainings to all member cooperatives
Provision of wholesale services of technology, agro. inputs, technical knowhow to respective primary cooperatives	NACCFL, CDCAN, NEMCCU, CVFCUN	2025	Number of primary cooperatives receiving wholesale services regularly by respective central federations
Provision of basic services of technology, agro. inputs, technical knowhow to member farmers	Primary cooperatives	2025	Number of farmer members
		2030	90 percent of farmer members

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Adequate supply of biofertilizers to cooperative organizations	NCF	2022	Number of cooperative orgs. receiving biofertilizers regularly
Operationalization of One stop advisory service centre for cooperative farming	DCUs	2021	Number of DCU sestablishing service centre
Run Cooperative Farming	Primary Cooperatives	2021 onwards	Number of Cooperative Farming run by Primary Cooperatives
Operationalization of cooperative market	Agri. related primary cooperatives	2022	Number of collection centres
	District level unions	2025	Number of processing plants Number of outlets
	Agri. related Central unions, consumer cooperatives and their union	2025	Number of cooperative markets and outlets

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Maintain genetic diversity of seed, plants and animals	NACCFL	2022	Number of capacity building trainings on “How cooperative could contribute agriculture genetic resources”
	Agri. related primary cooperatives	2025	Number of Community Seed Banks
	Primary Cooperatives	2025	Number of cooperatives promoting organic crop production with traditional varieties
SDG 3 Ensuring Healthy Lives			
Awareness to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant mortality	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards, regularly	Number of Campaign Number of pamphlet/poster distribution and Brochure/ annual report incorporating healthy life related information
Organization of Health Camp	Primary Cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of Cooperatives organizing health Camp every year

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Awareness to end AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, and combat hepatitis including water borne and other communicable diseases	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards, regularly	Number of Campaign Number of pamphlet/poster distribution Brochure/ annual report incorporating healthy life related information
Awareness for prevention and facilitate treatment for abuse of drugs and harmful use of alcohol, prevention of non communicable diseases.	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards, regularly	Number Yoga campaign with health education; Number of pamphlet/poster distribution
Partnership between health cooperatives and non-health cooperatives for healthy life promotion	Health cooperatives, andNCHCU	2020 onwards	Number of trainings to primary cooperatives
SDG 4 Inclusive and quality education			
Scholarships Programme for the poor students	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of cooperatives providing scholarship
Subsidised Education Loan Programme for vocational, higher education	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of cooperatives providing subsidized education loan

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Establishment of child care center or pre-primary schools and encourage members to use available facility	Primary cooperatives	2025-2030	Number of cooperatives operating child care centre/pre-primary schools
Literacy and numeracy Programme for members	Primary cooperatives	Once in a year	Number of cooperatives operating literacy and numeracy class
SDG 5 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment			
Ensure 50 percent women board of directors, and at least 33 percent women employees at management level	NCF/Central and provincial federations/ District federations/ primary cooperatives	2025	Percentage of women board of directors
		2030	Percentage of women employees at management level
Preparation of Cooperatives' Gender Policy	NCF	2022	"Cooperative Gender Policy" in place
Dissemination of Cooperatives Gender Policy	Central Unions/ NCBL/DCUs	2022 onwards	Number of cooperatives having Gender Policy
Organize entrepreneurship Development (Skill) Training and Financial Literacy for Women and girls	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of coops. providing entrepreneurship training to women members

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Awareness/ sensitization against gender violence	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards (regularly)	No of cooperatives shaving GE sub-committee and gender related focal person
Support for justice in the case of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	Primary cooperatives	2022	Number of cooperatives providing mediation services on gender violence

SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

Waste management Programme	Primary cooperatives	2022	Number of cooperatives collecting solid wastes
	DCUs	2025	Number of DCUs engaged in solid waste management
Awareness for using clean water, creating sanitation and using toilets	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards regularly	Number of cooperatives organizing campaign regularly

SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Cooperation, support and joint initiatives with relevant stakeholders	NCF	2020 onwards	No of projects on clean energy
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Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Initiate to establish model energy cooperatives	NCF	2030	Number of model energy cooperatives
Soft loan for alternative energy / production of solar energy	National Cooperative Bank	by 2025	Number of projects invested
Promotion of biogas plants	NCF, primary and district level agriculture, multipurpose and dairy cooperatives	2021 onwards	Number of cooperatives providing services of biogas installation

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

Promoting cooperative tourism for the community development via home stays, restaurants, hotels and other facilities to the visitors, in collaboration with all levels of governments.	NCF	By 2025	Number of cooperatives engaging on tourism services
Establishment of workers' cooperatives	NCF	2020 onwards	Number of workers' cooperatives
Sensitization on labor and social security act	NCF and central unions	2025 onwards	Number of sensitization events

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Training for youth members on entrepreneurship	DCUs, National Coop Bank, Central Unions, NCF	2020 onwards	Number of cooperatives organizing entrepreneurship training
Work-related skill development activities including business counseling services	Primary cooperatives, district level unions	2022	Number of primary cooperatives engaged in skill development activities
Financing for micro, small and medium size enterprises through members	Primary cooperatives	(at least 30 percent loan by 2025 and 50 loan by 2030)	Number of cooperatives investing at least 50 loan to registered enterprises of members
Revision of human resource policy on the basis of incumbent Labor act and Social Security Act for the promotion of decent working environment	All cooperatives	2022	Number of cooperatives having revised Human Resource Policy
Collective investment in processing plant, cold storage, input supply for agriculture and marketing	Central and district unions, and specified cooperative unions	2022 onwards	Number of cold storages, processing plants, common markets for agriculture products established by cooperatives

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Financing priority in the production, processing and marketing of local production and consumption	Coop. Bank, NEMCCU, primary cooperatives	2020	Number of cooperatives investing at least 30 % in agriculture value addition activities

SDG 9 Resilient infrastructure and inclusive and sustainable industrialization

Establish cooperative warehouse, cold storage and processing plant	Central Federations/ DCUsSpecialized Coop Unions	2025	Number of cooperative warehouse, cold storage and processing plant
Financing for promoting and developing resilient infrastructure	NCBL	2020 onwards	Number of financing to specialized projects

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities

Develop Policy to ensure equality (Sustainable consumption, equal wages, social security schemes, livelihood, income distribution, and enhancing opportunities for the poorer and the deprived segments of society)	NCF	2020	Policy is in place
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Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Monitor members' access to resource and income distribution	NCF	Surveys in 2024 and 2030	Comparative analysis of survey
Generate awareness to promote culture of equality as enshrined in the cooperative principles	NCF	2022 onwards	Survey of member cooperatives
Sensitization and dissemination of policy	NCF, Central Federations/ DCUs	2022 onwards	Number of sensitization events

SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Promote Housing Cooperatives to contribute for SMART CITY concept of Nepal Government	NCF collaborating with different level cooperatives	2022 onwards	Number of Housing cooperatives
Promote transport cooperatives	Primary Cooperatives	Regularly	Number of transport cooperatives
Support to victims of disasters for relief and rehabilitation	NCF/Central and Provincial Federations and Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of support Programmes
Finance for sustainable transport	Primary cooperatives/ NCBL	2022 onwards	Number of financing on transportation
Protect and safeguard the cultural and natural heritage at the local level	Primary Cooperatives	2022 onwards	Number of Programmes

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Awareness, Campaign and Lobbying for clean environment	All level cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of events
Contribution to greenery of public spaces or parks for recreation	Primary cooperatives	2022 onwards	Number of parks and recreational centre made by cooperative
SDG 12 Sustainable consumption and production			
Develop strategies and guidelines for sustainable consumption and production for cooperatives and members	NCF	2022	Strategies and guideline are in place
Create awareness among members for responsible consumption and production	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of orientations and publications, media, trainings or demonstrations.
Create awareness for practices of sustainable use of natural resources	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of orientations, publications, training and demonstrations.
Sound management of chemicals use in farming and protection of products and human health and the environment	Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of orientations, publications, media, training or demonstrations

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
SDG 13 Climate Action			
Educate the members about climate change situation with adaptation and mitigation	NCF, CUS/DCUs and Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of related events
Disseminate and share the knowledge and information regarding issues of climate change through publications and seminars	NCF, CUS/DCUs and Primary cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of related events, publications and trainings
SDG 14 Life on water and sea			
Create awareness among the members and community to stop using poisonous materials in water to ensure the lives of aquatic	Fishery Coops and NACCFL	2020 onwards	Number of orientations and awareness campaigns
SDG 15 Life on land			
Generate awareness about the need for protecting the life on land	All level cooperatives	2021 onwards	Number of Programmes campaigns and awarness
SDG 16 Peace, justice, and strong institutions			
Promote cooperative governance in practice	NCF/Central and provincial Federations/ Banks	2020 onwards	Number of well govern cooperatives

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Preparation and implementation of code of conduct in each level of governance with prudential standards	Federations and Primary cooperatives	2020	Code of Conduct and Prudential Standards is in Place
Network strengthening for vibrant cooperative movement	Among Federations/ Unions and Primary cooperatives along with ICA	2020 onwards	Number of cooperatives aligned in Network
SDG 17 Partnerships			
Promote partnerships with all levels of cooperatives and federations.	NCF/CUs and DCUs/Banks and Primary Cooperatives	2020 onwards	Number of MoU, agreements
Develop strategies and sign Memorandum of Understanding on SDGs implementation, reporting and monitoring between NCF and Federations/ Unions /Primary cooperatives	NCF and CUs	2020 onwards	

Activities	Responsibility	Targets and time	Means of verification
Promote partnerships with other stakeholders and agencies to attain the SDGs through the Cooperative Movement	NCF/CUs/ Stakeholders	2020 and onwards regularly	Number of MoUs, agreement, events
Set strategies to receive assistance from Nepal government (Federal, Province and Local) for the implementation of SDGs	NCF/CUs/ Stakeholders	2020/2019	Number of MoUs, agreement, events
Promote cooperation with development partners to initiate joint actions for effective and visible results	NCF	Continuously	Number of projects and joint actions
Initiate cooperation with appropriate development partners for smooth implementation of the action plan	NCF	Continuously	Number of projects and joint actions
Promote implementation of code of conduct	NCF and central level cooperatives	2020 Regularly	Number of cooperatives implementing code of conduct

Management Functions

Implementation of the proposed activities requires a sincere execution plan. Such plan is important not only to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness but also to align the activities with the efforts of the government and other stakeholders. Below, an action plan is suggested to the cooperatives at different levels to implement the guideline in Nepal.

No.	Activities	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Supportive Roles
1.	Conduct base line survey on Poverty Alleviation, Agriculture Production, Gender Equality, Employment Creation and Livelihoods in cooperatives and publish the status paper and data	2020-2022	NCF	Nepal government/ Donors/ Technical partners
2.	End line Survey on Poverty Alleviation, Agricultural Production, Gender Equality, Employment Creation and Livelihoods in cooperatives and publish status paper and data	by 2030	NCF	Nepal Government/ donor
3.	Midline Survey on Poverty Alleviation, Agricultural Production, Gender Equality, Employment Creation and Livelihoods in cooperatives and publish status paper and data	by 2025	NCF	Nepal Government/ donor

4.	Advocacy for suitable policies and awareness for Housing, Health, School and University, Tourism, Energy, Consumer and Worker cooperatives.	Regularly	NCF	Nepal Government/ donor
5.	Orientation on SDGs to the Board members and employees of national, province and district level unions.	By 2022	NCF	Nepal Government/ Donors
6.	Include SDGs in strategic and business plan	2020-2030	NCF/Central and Provincial Federations/ coop banks/ district federations and primary cooperatives	Self
7.	Notice board and Banner for SDGs at Offices	By 2020	NCF/Central and Provincial Federations/ Coop Banks/ district federations and primary cooperatives	Self/designed by NCF by 2019
8.	Deputation of Focal Officer for SDGs in every organization.	2019-2020	NCF/Central and Provincial Federations/ Coop Banks/ district federations and primary cooperatives	Self

9.	Join Co-ops for 2030 Campaign of ICA	2020-2030	ICA Member organization of Nepal	Self
10.	Reporting to AGM and NCF on SDGs	2020 to 2030	DCU and CUs	Self
11.	Publication on SDGs on Responsibilities of Cooperatives	2020-2030	NCF, Central Federations and Coop Bank	Nepal Govt./donors
12.	Media/Use of IT for SDGs	Regular	NCF, Central Federations and Coop Bank	Self
13.	National platforms for SDGs commitment and reporting by cooperative enterprises voluntarily	By 2022	Reporting the progress by all level cooperatives on NCF News Platform	

Annex: Selected SDG targets of Nepal

(in % except specified)

SDGs	Particulars	Status 2015	Target 2030
SDG 1	National Population below poverty line	21.6	4.9
	Employed people in poverty	22	1
	Multidimensional poverty index head count ratio	28.6	6.48
	Social security expenditure to total budget	11	15
SDG 2	Prevalence of undernourishment	36.1	3
	Underweight children <5 years	30.1	9
	Year-round irrigation availability	25.2	80
	Agriculture orientation index for govt. expenditure	0.14	0.38
	Low Productivity (AGAP) USD	3278	7018
SDG 3	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)	258	70
	Birth attendance by SBAs	55.6	90
	<5 mortality rate (in 1000)	38	22
	Neonatal mortality rate (in 1000)	23	12
	HIV prevalence in 15-49 age group	0.03	0.014
	TB prevalence (in 100,000)	158	20
	Government health expenditure CS percent/ GDP	5	7
SDG 4	Net enrolment rate in primary education	96.6	99.5
	Students enrolled in grade one who will reach grade eight	76.6	95
	Gross enrolment in secondary education	56.7	99
	Literacy rate of 15-24 age group	88.6	99
	Malaria incidence per 1000	0.1	0.01

SDG 5	Gender empowerment measurement index	0.578	0.69
	Gender balance in labor force participation	0.93	1
	Pro-gender budget	22	30
	Women aged 15.49 yrs who experience physical/sexual violence	26	6.5
SDG 6	Basic water supply coverage	87	99
	Population using safe drinking water	15	90
	Sanitation coverage	82	99
SDG 7	Per capita energy consumption (GJ)	16	24
	Population with access to electricity	74	99
	LPG use (people using for cooking and heating)	18	39
SDG 8	Electricity consumption (KWh per capita)	80	1500
	GDP growth (Annual)	2.3	7
	Underemployment rate (15-59 Yrs)	27.8	10
	Youth underemployment rate	35.8	10
	Children working under hazardous conditions	30	0
SDG 9	Road density (km/sq.km)	0.55	1.50
	Industry's share in GDP	15	25
	R&D expenditure as % of GDP	0.3	1.5
SDG 10	Consumption inequality (measured by Gini)	0.33	0.16
	Income inequality (measured by Gini)	0.46	0.23
	Global competitive index	3.9	6
	Doing business index (global rank)	105	60
SDG 11	Population living in slums/squatters (in '000)	500	125
	Households with thatched straw roof	19	5
	Households living in safe houses	29.8	60
	Planned new cities (number)	10	60
	Concentration of total suspended particulates (ug/m ³ 24 hours)	230	115

SDG 12	Consumption of wood (cu.mt. per capita)	0.11	0.05
	Plastic use (per capita gram/day)	2.7	0
	Post-harvest loss	15	1
	Food loss Index(% of supply cereal)	10	2
SDG 13	G1 + (C02) by Agri Gg Energy)	23014	29063
SDG 15	Forest under community management	39	42
	Conservation area (of total dense forest)	23.2	23.3
SDG 16	First marriage before 18 for women 20-49 years	48.8	0
	Transparency, accountability and corruption in public (out of 6)	3	5
	Quality of public administration (out of 6)	3.0	5
	Birth registration population under 5	58.1	100
	Good Governance (Scale 2.5 to 2.5) for control of corruption	0.78	2
	Population of decision making position held by women in public	15	35
SDG 17	Government revenue as % of GDP	19.1	30
	Official development assistance as % of total domestic budget	15.4	18
	FDI as % of GDP	4.8	20
	Outstanding debt to GDP	26.5	35
	Internet density (per 100 persons)	49.8	95
Source: National Planning Commission, 2017			

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