SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Soon after the end of the Civil War, the Republic of Tajikistan adopted the Millennium Development Agenda 2000-2015 and made commendable progress. Notably out of 8 MDGs, Tajikistan achieved MDG 1 Goal on poverty eradication from 81% in 1999 to 31% in 2015, almost achieved MDG 2 in terms of primary education enrollment (99%) and literacy rate of youth (95%), achieved gender parity goals of MDG 3 in primary and secondary education and MDG6 – targets related to HIV and TB incidence rate and malaria. The people of Tajikistan actively participated in UN Secretary General's initiative to hear people's aspiration for post-2015 era, through a global survey the "World We Want. The Government of Tajikistan also reflected their people's aspiration in the elaboration of National Development Strategy 2030.

In September 2015, at the 70th General Assembly, the UN Member States unanimously endorsed Agenda 2030 containing of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and committed to achieve its targets of these universal SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are comprehensive, ambitious and far-reaching, encompassing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development with a view to 'leaving no one behind'. They range from ending poverty and hunger, to quality education, clean water and sanitation, and affordable and clean energy, from quality health and well-being to sustainable cities and communities, climate action, responsible consumption and
production, reduced inequalities and ensuring gender equality as well as from decent work and economic growth to industry, innovation and infrastructure, peace, justice and strong institutions. The cross-cutting nature of SDGs requires a whole of government approach with strong inter-sectoral coordination as well as effective partnership between the government, private sector, civil society and development partners.

The Government of Tajikistan has approved its National Development Strategy 2030 aligned with the SDGs, both in terms of content and timeline. In 2015 UN and the Government signed the new UN Development Assistance Framework for Tajikistan 2016-2020 (UNDAF), aligned with the NDS, and the six UNDAF outcomes of four strategic UNDAF areas are linked to specific SDGs.

This booklet aims to enhance awareness of state bodies, civil society, private sector and population on SDGs and current status under each goal. Implementation of SDG Agenda would require innovative financing and partnership with CSOs, private sector and international development partners as well as sub-regional and global partnership. UN Country Team is committed to supporting the Government and people of Tajikistan in meeting their aspirations for sustainable development.

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Since 1999, the proportion of people living in poverty and extreme poverty in the Republic of Tajikistan has significantly reduced: the poverty rate in Tajikistan has decreased from 81% to 31% in 2015, and extreme poverty (food poverty line of 2,250 kcal per person a day) decreased from 73% to 16.8% in 2014. The poverty rate is higher in rural areas compared to urban households: 4 out of 5 poor people live in rural households. Despite significant progress in this regard, poverty remains widespread and is associated with certain factors such as continued high birth rates, the lack of permanent sources of income, unemployment, lack of access to social services and more.

The Government of Tajikistan has identified the following as its highest strategic goal to 2030: inclusion of the country in the group of countries with an average income; complete eradication of extreme poverty, reduction of poverty more than two times, and increasing the proportion of middle-class population from 22% to 50%.
Improving the nutritional status of the population remains one of issues in need of attention. Chronic malnutrition still affects 26% of the population, while acute malnutrition (hypotrophy) affects 10% of children under five. Many women and children also suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, which is reflected in high levels of anemia and iodine deficiency. The burden of malnutrition in Tajikistan is essential from an economic point of view, it is estimated at the rate of US$ 41 million annually due to the loss of efficiency and productivity.

The National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 defines the following priorities in ensuring food security and public access to quality nutrition: promotion of an effective system of multi-sectoral approach to improve adequate nutrition through coordination of policy in agriculture, public health and social protection sectors, as well as raising awareness on the values of nutrition and sound policies on their financing.
Ensuring good health and well-being of the population is a cross-cutting issue, which depends on the health at birth, lifestyle, state of environment, working conditions, nutrition, welfare and efficiency of the health system, that is, requires a comprehensive approach and decision-making. The Government of Tajikistan consistently pursues reforms in this area, focusing on the introduction of new high-tech services. Since independence, the threat of the spread of dangerous infectious diseases is eliminated, and the rate of infant, child and maternal mortality in the country have fallen more than two times, however, these figures still remain relatively high, especially in the regions.

The National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 has a priority to radically improve the quality of diagnosis and provision of all types of medical care, as well as the reorientation of the sector to preventive medicine.
Human Capital Development is defined as a priority of the Government of Tajikistan. Before independence, there were 13 higher education institutions functioning in Tajikistan with 70,000 students. Now the number of these institutions has risen to 39, while the number of students - up to 170,000. At the same time, the education system still faces serious challenges, such as insignificant increase in the number of preschool institutions, poor quality school infrastructure in the regions and low qualification of teachers.

In accordance with the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030, the following priorities are identified to ensure a breakthrough in the development of education and science system: (1) ensuring equality and access to education; (2) improving the quality of education at all levels; (3) enhancing financial stability and efficiency in the education sector; (4) upgrading national centers of research-and-development and experimental development; (5) strengthening and effectively implementing country's scientific potential.
The issues of unequal access of women and men to tangible (land, finance, etc.) and intangible (education, health, etc.) resources are limiting factors for the development of not only women but also the development of society and the economy as a whole. An essential prerequisite to ensure gender equality is harmonizing the goals and objectives of adopted socio-economic and gender strategies / programs aimed at involving unused resources and potential of women.

Recognizing that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary basis for peace, prosperity and sustainable development, Tajikistan carries out necessary reforms in all spheres of economy and life. In 2014, the Republic of Tajikistan was in the middle of the list of countries on gender equality (ranked 69 out of 155 countries with the Gender Inequality Index value of 0.357).
Tajikistan is rich in water resources, more than half of water resources in Central Asia is generated in its territory, while the country actually uses only about 20% of it. Despite the fact that the overall access to water is constantly improving, still only about 2/3 of the population has access to drinking water. Only 44% of the population living in rural areas have access to the centralized water supply systems with as low as 1% of rural population to the centralized systems of drainage.

The National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 along with an emphasis on the importance of ensuring universal access to drinking water and sanitation, also focuses on water quality, water efficiency, integrated water resource management, protection of water ecosystems, as well as the expansion of water cooperation and partnership.
Since independence, Tajikistan has created a unified energy system of the country and put into operation more than 1,300 MW of new capacities. In order to ensure a reliable energy supply, there is a program implemented on the diversification of generation sources through the development of small hydropower and construction of thermal and electricity power stations. Despite progress in the reconstruction and development of the country energy sector, the relevance and magnitude of a number of issues are still valid.

One of the main priorities of the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 is ensuring the energy security of the country through the development of existing hydropower potential, the use of renewable energy sources and implementation of a set of measures on energy saving and increasing energy efficiency of the national economy.
Ensuring inclusive, stable and sustainable economic growth is an important long-term development objective. Currently, Tajikistan needs a new development model, based on attracting investments and new technologies in the real economy, productive employment policy, resource-generating financial system and adequate investment climate. It is precisely these sectors that will determine in the coming years the quality of future growth and direction of structural reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of the use of national wealth represented by human, natural, physical and financial capitals. Introduction of the new growth model will create enabling environment for mass creation of new high-end jobs, faster growth of formal employment and registered sector of the economy.

The need for simultaneous quantitative growth of sustainable productive employment and productivity is one of the main development goals in Tajikistan.
In the long run, ensuring sustainable development of the country is impossible without the use of innovation in all spheres of social and economic life. Therefore, the foundations of a systematic approach in elaborating the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 are based on three basic principles for future development: (1) prevention, or preemption (decrease) the vulnerability of future development; (2) industrialization, or more efficient use of national resources; (3) innovation, or development through innovation in all spheres of social and economic life of the country.

In Tajikistan, a job created in the industry can generate 9.7 times more income than in the agricultural sector. It is, therefore, planned to increase the share of industry in the GDP of the country by 2030 and to ensure gradual transition of the economy from an agrarian-industrial to an industrial-agrarian model.
The levels of income inequality and social inequality in Tajikistan remain high. Significant differences persist in the quality of water used by urban and rural population for drinking purposes, as well as gap between regions is also observed in the level of social infrastructure development. At the same time, women and children are vulnerable due to the lack of effectiveness of existing mechanisms for ensuring and protecting their rights and interests. There is also a need for further strengthening efforts on supporting children in difficult life situations, orphans and children with disabilities.

Reducing social inequalities has positive economic and political consequences as it contributes to the quality of growth and investment activity. Addressing the causes of inequality and transformation of structural barriers to new opportunities is a key condition for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive economic growth.
The basis for ensuring a balanced sustainable development of any country is the development of its regions. The Government of Tajikistan considers development of regions as the endpoint of all of its efforts in priority areas and the most important stage of implementing economic reforms.

The National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 singles out the following priorities for its regions development: (1) equal regional development with special emphasis on the territorial alignment of basic living standards indicators and improving the quality of human capital in the regions; (2) integrated rural development; (3) promotion of urbanization and urban development processes, including small towns; (4) creation of territorial and industrial clusters and development of economic corridors; (5) spatial expansion of the labor market.
Sustainable consumption and production involves stimulating the rational use of resources and energy; building sustainable infrastructure; ensuring access to basic social services; providing "green" and decent jobs and ensuring a better quality of life for all.

Ensuring rational production models in Tajikistan will be achieved through the introduction of new energy saving technologies, reduction of waste and CO2 emissions, thus creating opportunities for "green employment" (i.e., a combination of decent work with the use of clean technologies). According to the estimates of international financial institutions, the Republic of Tajikistan, in percentage terms, is now ranked among the top six countries in the world on the production of environmentally friendly ('green') energy, which production in the country is now at the rate of 96%.
Climate change is the cause increased frequency of extreme weather events (droughts, floods and fluctuations in heat and cold waves). Its consequences aggravate desertification and soil erosion, lead to irreversible changes in ecosystems and loss of biodiversity. Climate change affects all aspects of the human life: sources of food, water and energy, course of diseases and their exposure zones, methods of production and consumption, as well as the overall employment rate. Tajikistan, according to the World Bank, is the most vulnerable to climate change country in the region and has the least adaptation capacity.

Therefore, the Government of Tajikistan intends to implement effective environmental policies in the regions, which includes measures on the adaptation to climate change at the regional level, reducing the negative human impact on the environment, improving the quality of land, drinking water and atmospheric conditions.
Human activities on land, along with the growing level of poverty and population growth, increasingly affect the health of coastal and marine systems. The oceans are essential even for Tajikistan, which has no outlet to the sea, given the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to it, transportation of pollutants over long distances, as well as taking into account the impact of land-based activities on the marine environment.

In this regard, despite the fact that the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development has no direct relation to the Republic of Tajikistan, however, the interpretation of this goal in the context of the use of aquatic compartment and water resources is vitally important for Tajikistan.
Tajikistan possesses unique natural and recreational (regenerative) resources, practically intact ecosystems and rich biodiversity. The diversity of the country’s natural ecosystems, from the hot deserts to cold alpine areas, is a habitat for various species of animals and vegetation of many plant species, including the rare ones. However, the low level of environmental protection and the unsustainable use of natural resources have an adverse impact on the environment.

Land degradation, deforestation and desertification could have a serious impact on both the ecosystems and the secure level of livelihoods, as they cause enormous damage to the rich flora and fauna of the country, as well as have a significant impact on the poor. Therefore, environmental issues (including the protection of ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use, combating desertification, land degradation and halting the loss of biodiversity) are a cross-cutting goal of the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030.
The issues of peace, national accord, ensuring democratic governance in the country, the rule of law, protection of rights and empowering human opportunities are priority for the Republic of Tajikistan. Therefore, the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan until 2030 puts forward the issues of strengthening the institutional development in ensuring efficient, transparent and anti-corrupt management controls through the introduction of modern information technologies at all levels of the government.

The reduction of criminalization among youth, effective operation of the institutions of justice, ensuring the rule of law and access to legal services, as well as the reduction of social and gender inequality in all its forms, are important areas in the actions of legislative, executive and judicial institutions.
Partnership is a tool for development and strengthening human potential. It plays an important role in the achievement of strategic development plans and programs. Through the real and meaningful partnership of all stakeholders in development interventions, degree of corruption can be reduced and a greater efficiency relatively to inputs and activities can be achieved. To ensure coordination of cooperation between public authorities, private sector, civil society and development partners on the national development priorities of the country, there is a National Development Council established under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The main focus will be on private sector support, trade as an engine of the economy and partnerships, development of technology and cooperation among countries. Ultimately, it will facilitate move to a new model of economic growth, which will be based on the equilibrium of the main pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental and will help to expand economic and social opportunities for men and women.