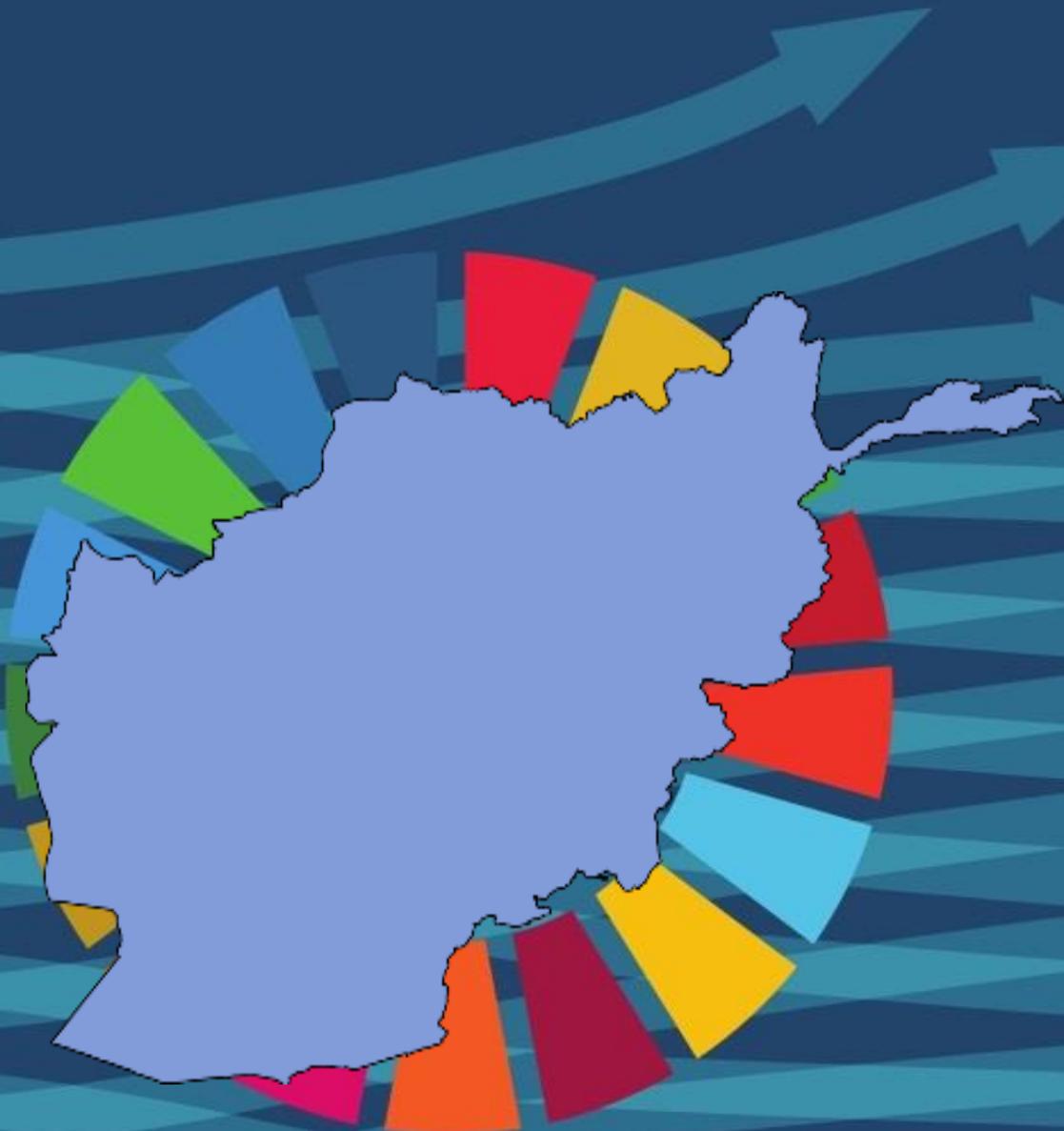




Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Economy



# Aligning National Priority Programs (NPPs) with Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (ASDGs)





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## 1. Introduction

The starting point for measuring and reporting progress on Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (ASDGs) is knowing what the country's national development priorities are, and to what extent are they aligned with Afghanistan's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Obtaining this understanding was the main objective behind the exercise to align Afghanistan's National Priority Programs (NPPs) with ASDGs. Work started after the senior leadership of the Ministries of Finance and Economy established a task force consisted of representatives from both ministries and the UNDP support project. Building on a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) carried out with the technical support of UNDP in June 2018, the task force created a matrix, organized meetings with key stakeholders and aligned almost all the thematic areas of NPPs with the ASDGs.

The initial assumption was to go through the program documents for 10 NPPs, identify key program outcomes and align them to the most relevant ASDG targets. The results of this review were mixed. Many of the program documents did not have a results-framework or specific programmatic outcomes for relevant interventions as stated at the outset of each document. The task was further complicated after it was found out that a majority of the NPPs did not provide any sort of pathway or a common currency that could help in linking interventions with expected outcomes.

A clear grasp of each NPP was necessary for the team to integrate them into the ASDGs. Therefore, a number of meetings were held with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and the Ministry of Agriculture to better understand their NPPs. Many of the participants in these meetings confirmed that at least a number of the on-going programs were not aligned with their respective NPPs. This points to the need for additional work to first align these projects with the NPPs and, later, for NPPs to inform and guide implementation of future interventions.

The Taskforce (TF) continued with the alignment of NPPs with ASDGs. Most of the thematic areas covered in the NPPs were aligned with their relevant ASDG targets. To measure progress on ASDGs, however, alignment with NPPs may not result in providing meaningful metrics. The TF recommends a new course of action—aligning key on-budget and off-budget programs with ASDGs and developing an integrated M&E framework.

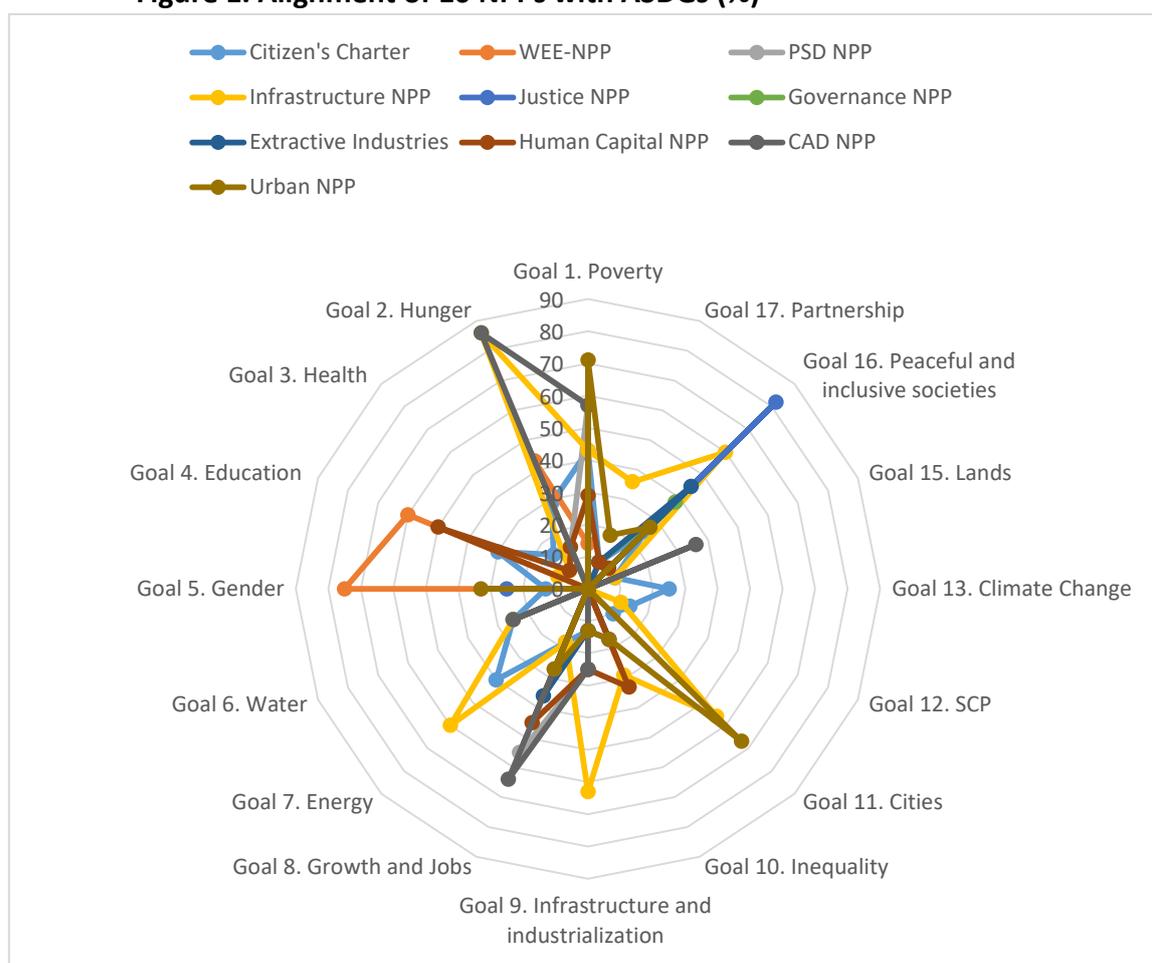




## 2. Alignment

The TF reviewed most of the themes, and, where possible, specific programmatic outcomes in 10 NPPs and compared them against the most relevant ASDG targets. First, we illustrated the alignment in percentage of each NPP across all the ASDGs. Second, we identified the thematic contribution of NPPs to each of the ASDG goals. Third, we aligned the relevant thematic areas of NPPs with the ASDG targets clustered in budgetary sectors: agriculture, health, education, economy, social protection, infrastructure, security and governance. In general, the 10 NPPs mostly covered ASDG goals 2, 16, 11, 5, 1, 8, 3, 4 and 9. It also partially covered ASDG goals 10, 6, and 17. Others could be considered with limited or no coverage at all.

**Figure 1. Alignment of 10 NPPs with ASDGs (%)**



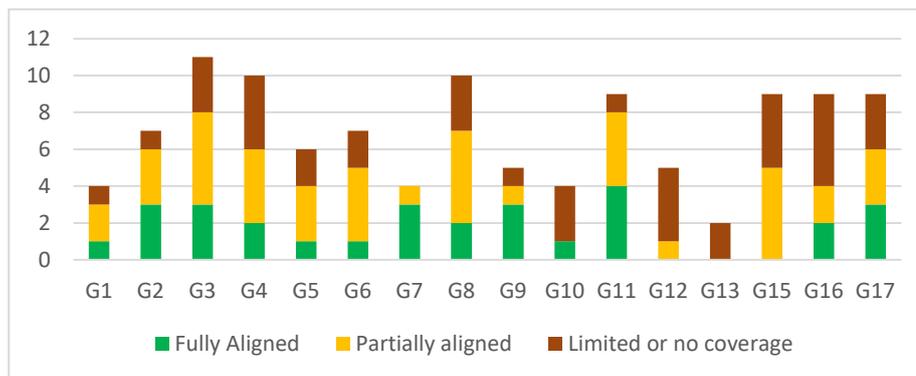


Ending hunger (SDG2), good health and wellbeing (SDG3), clean and affordable energy (SDG7), innovation and industry (SDG9) and sustainable cities (SDG11) are the goals well represented in the NPPs. On the other hand, sustainable production and consumption (SDG12), climate (SDG13) and life on land (SDG15) are the least aligned ASDGs in the NPPs. Other ASDGs such as poverty (SDG1), education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), water and sanitation (SDG6), job and economic growth (SDG8), justice, peace and inclusive societies (SDG16) and partnership for the goals (SDG17) are addressed in the NPPs to some extent.

Given that more than half of the population of Afghanistan live under the poverty line and 43% do not have food security and maternal and child mortality rate is significantly high, targets related to these areas are stressed to a good extent in the NPPs.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, consideration of targets and goals related to climate change and disasters are notably missing in the NPPs. It is important for Afghanistan as a country prone to disasters and vulnerable to climate changes to consider targets related to these issues into national plans and strategies. Access to renewable energy and affordable housing, sustainable urbanization, transport, economic growth, full employment and income growth of the bottom 40% have been considerably emphasized in the existing NPPs. While some important aspects of the social protection such as child labor, violence against women and girls and returnees and IDPs are under-represented in the NPPs.

Target 16.6 which is effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, which is one of the most influential targets of the SDGs, from Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals. Figure 2. shows the goal-wise alignment between ASDGs and NPPs.

**Figure 2. ASDGs Alignment with NPPs (goal-wise)**



### 3. Key Challenges

A large number of NPPs do not lay out in sufficiently clear and more certain terms how progress against each of several planned interventions will be measured—monitored and reported. None of the NPPs have a list of indicators or a reference framework that could be used as a guidance tool for the implementation of programs and projects. Thus, the first challenge makes it very difficult to mainstream on-going programs and projects into an NPP.

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) 2016-2017.





Discussions revealed that many on-budget programs are not integrated into the NPPs. Much of the planning, monitoring, and reporting actually seem to take place at the program and project level in an organization with no reference to NPPs. For government agencies, executing programs that they have designed at an agency level is much easier because they do not crisscross between several agencies and are backed up by a relatively common reporting mechanism.

The only NPP-led program that has an “operational manual” or anything close to a results framework is the first phase of Citizens’ Charter. But even this program works pretty much away from what is prescribed in the Citizens’ Charter NPP. For example, there are two lead agencies for implementing the Citizens’ Charters rural and urban components: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance. But none of these two agencies implement any projects on “ending open defecation,” a key sub-component of the Citizens’ Charter NPP. There are separate M&E mechanisms for the urban and rural components of the Citizens’ Charter program in its current phase. The Citizens’ Charter program had to be fragmented into several components to allow for a single-agency-led project implementation approach.

Having said that, the need for NPPs to develop results frameworks, and how they will contribute, among other things, to alignment with the ASDGs and progress reporting, is subject to debate in favor of exploring this option in conjunction with others. One reason being, in case of some NPPs, the stage they are in in terms of their implementation timeline since their development.

## 4. Recommendations

### 4.1. Going Beyond NPPs

To measure progress on ASDGs, they have to be aligned with on-budget and off-budget programs currently being implemented. The TF suggests stocktaking of ongoing programs that contribute to ASDG targets. This approach would allow a proper integration of these programs and projects into their relevant ASDG sectors. The only way for genuinely reporting progress on ASDG targets is to align them at this level. Most of these projects have an indicators framework and reporting mechanism that will greatly facilitate measuring progress on ASDG targets. Alignment with NPPs is unlikely to achieve the same results.

### 4.2. Develop an integrated M&E Framework

We also recommend the development of an integrated M&E framework. This will serve as a guidance tool for most of the on-budget and off-budget programs to align their key programmatic outcomes with the ASDG targets and measure progress using the ASDG national indicators framework. An integrated M&E framework will turn the ASDGs into a living and breathing strategic document that will guide decision making and helps mobilize resources.





## 5. Integrating NPPs with ASDGs

### 5.1.1. Citizens' Charter

The Citizens' Charter is the government's primary vehicle for extending basic social services and empowering communities in urban and rural settings to set and achieve their own development goals. The Charter allows local community development councils (CDCs) actively participate in the design, delivery and monitoring of social services, such as health, education, and support to the local agriculture sector. The Charter, in conception, exquisitely works away from band-aid measures and focuses on creating ownership by giving communities a choice on what their needs and priorities are. The long-term vision of the Charter goes beyond meeting the immediate development needs of local and urban communities. For example, the engagement of local communities through the CDCs are one way of filling the institutional gaps that exist between the center and the periphery.

As the successor to the National Solidarity Program (NSP), the Charter will be carried out in three phases over the next 10 years. In its first phase, the Charter reportedly reached around 10,000 urban and rural communities in 34 provinces, almost 9 million people.<sup>2</sup> The Charter disbursed around \$100 million of community grants, and nearly 4,000 projects are currently being implemented across the country to build basic infrastructure, extend minimum standard health and education services.<sup>3</sup>

These initiatives are implemented through Community Development Councils (CDCs) with increased women participation in the decision-making processes. It is expected that the next two phases will be scaled up to deliver poverty alleviation initiatives, such as social protection projects and other labor-intensive public works programs to create jobs and generate income for vulnerable populations across the country.

The second phase will probably be rolled-out in mid-2020. This phase will be scaled up to address structural unemployment, uneven development across the different regions of the country, particularly those communities and areas where poverty is highly entrenched.

The TF recommends that, as part of an effort to develop an ASDG-led integrated M&E framework, planning and budgeting processes for the second phase of the Charter should be fully integrated with the most relevant ASDG targets for setting intermediate- and long-term objectives for this phase.

The TF also recommends the mainstreaming of the ASDG national indicators framework during the design and roll-out of the second phase of the Citizens' Charter. Given the Charter's long-term vision, it will facilitate reporting progress on achieving ASDG goals on eradicating poverty, eliminating hunger, creating decent work and unleashing the local communities' long-term economic growth potential. Of course this level of integration and

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<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Finance, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, "The National Priority Programs: A Progress Update." (2018)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.





mainstreaming will only be possible if the ASDGs are underpinned by the required level of political support and a whole-of-government consensus to achieve them. The Charter covers a total of 27 ASDG targets, primarily contributing to ASDG goals 1, 2, 4, 7, and 13 as shown in Figure 2.

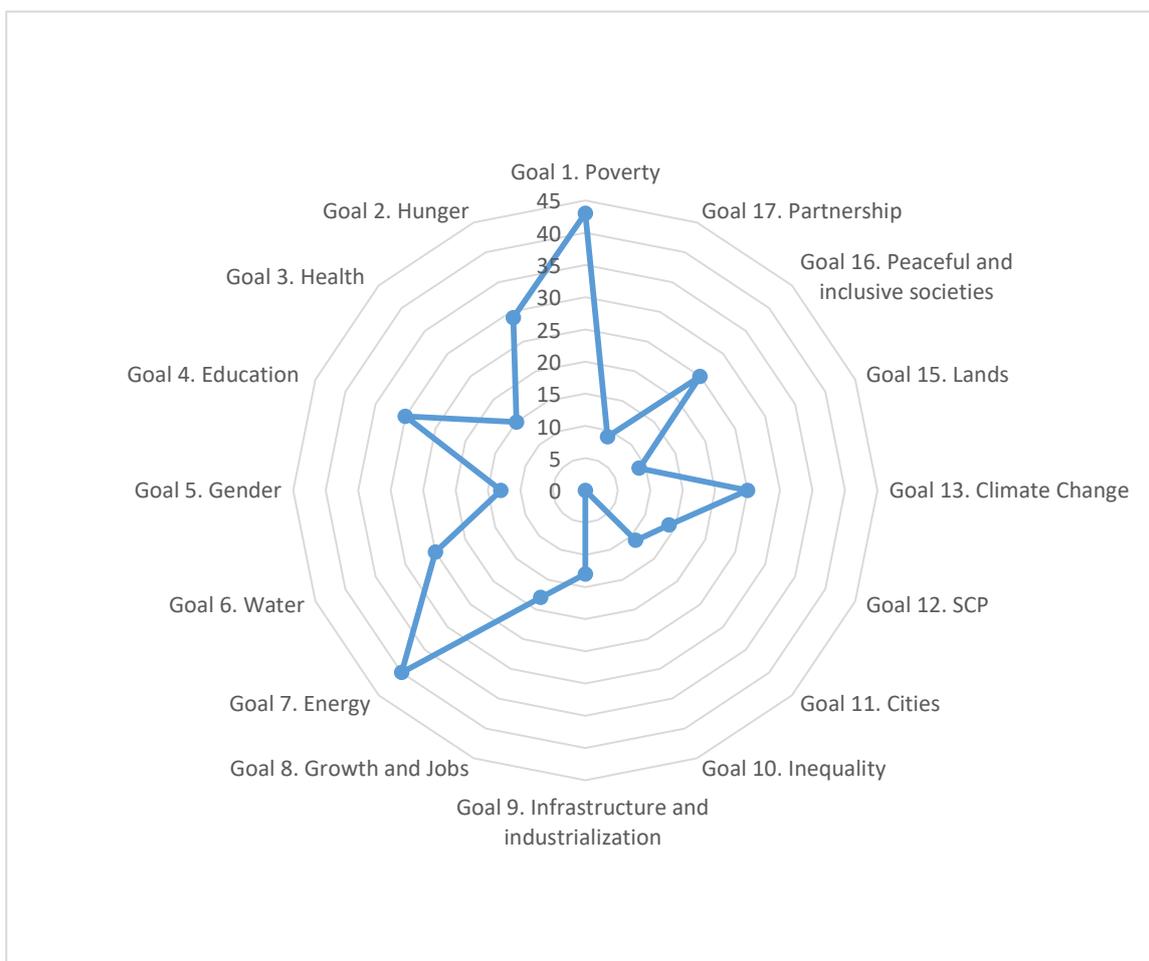


Figure 2. Citizens' Charter's alignment with ASDGs (%)

### 5.1.2. Women Economic Empowerment NPP

The Women Economic Empowerment NPP targets the most vulnerable and poor women across rural and urban areas: delivering skills training programs, provision of start-up technical and financial resources, eliminate and reduce regulatory barriers to women's economic participation. It also addresses issues related to generating sound data on gender in Afghanistan. For example, component one of the program intends to target the increasing of data availability and analysis of gender statistics. One such effort is to enhance transparency by developing a standard language for contracts that, "...provides a priori permission to put final studies and datasets online provided that certain ethical and review permissions have been met."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Women Economic Empowerment National Priority Program, p15.



There is no doubt that the Women Economic Empowerment NPP came out of good intentions on the part of the Afghan government to empower women’s participation in various economic sectors of the country—enabling them to join the local, regional, and national labor markets, start-up businesses and compete on a more equal footing in various social and economic affairs in the country.

Afghan government also reported some progress on implementation of this national program. For example, the Ministry of Education is reported to have recruited 2,500 female teachers in 2017.<sup>5</sup> The Ministry of Public Health has trained over 1,000 midwives and nurses in the most underserved areas of the country.<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Commerce and Industries launched the “Made by Afghan Women Logo” together with the Afghan Women’s Chamber of Commerce. An inter-ministerial committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Women Affairs, coordinates the overall activities of the Women Economic Empowerment NPP.

The primary challenge, however, is the fact that many of the activities reported as progress made on the implementation of the Women Economic Empowerment NPP are not sufficiently linked to this national program through a logical chain—there are no results or M&E frameworks to pinpoint these linkages in a measurable and logical way. One could argue that these activities reported as progress on the Women Economic Empowerment NPP were initiatives conceived long before this national program was designed.

What is the value that a national program like Women Economic Empowerment NPP creates if many of the agencies responsible for its implementation are still bunkered in their own programming cycles—without any significant level of commitment on their part to its implementation and reporting. Take the Ministry of Commerce and Industries as an example. It does not have, at an agency level, a workable mechanism to implement those components of the program that fall within the scope of its mandate. The development of an ASDG-led integrated M&E framework will need to consider these limitations. Nevertheless, the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) program’s components cover a total of 21 ASDG targets and directly contributes to ASDG goals 5, 4, 2, 10, and 8. Figure 3 shows the percentage of NPPs alignment with ASDGs.

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<sup>5</sup> National Priority Programs: A Progress Update, p15.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



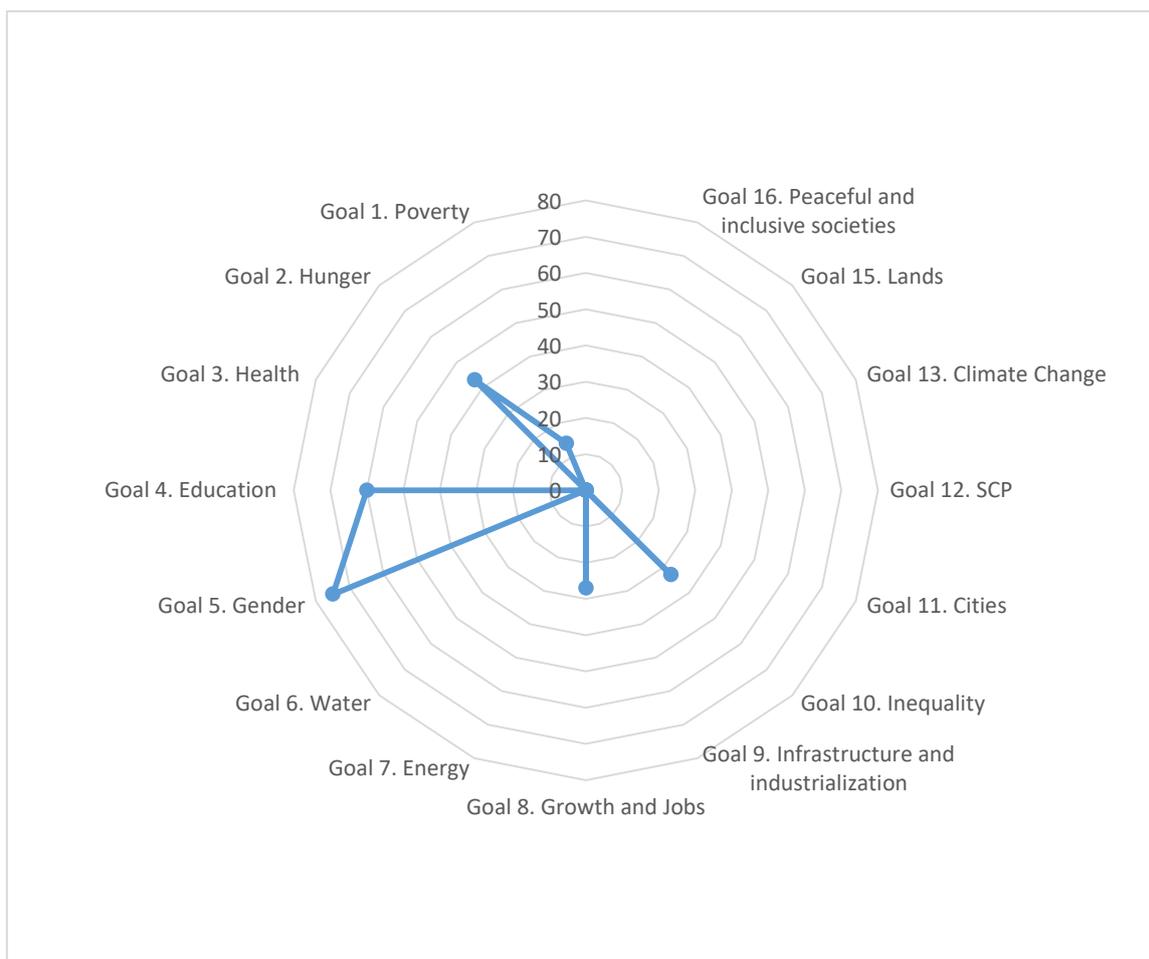


Figure 3. WEE-NPP's alignment with ASDG goals (%)

### 5.1.3. Private Sector Development NPP

Long-term economic growth in Afghanistan largely depends on the capacity of the private sector to generate jobs, create new industries, and ultimately restore confidence in the country's economy. It also depends on the government's willingness to ensure an enabling legal and political environment that encourages practical application of know-how and technology in the creation of new economic enterprises. The Private Sector Development NPP has been conceived in the light of such a recognition.

This national plan seeks to revitalize the Afghan entrepreneurial spirit and channel it in the most economically productive ways. For example, it focuses on the need to lower taxation and render regulation less rigid and more flexible so that small businesses are created in an efficient way and are able to get off the ground. As such, the government has undertaken a number of reforms that has elevated Afghanistan from 183<sup>rd</sup> to 167<sup>th</sup> on the World Bank's Doing Business Indicator (DBI) rankings.

Again, the overall reform agenda of the government, particularly those reforms bent on creating an enabling business environment, fall outside of the scope of Private Sector



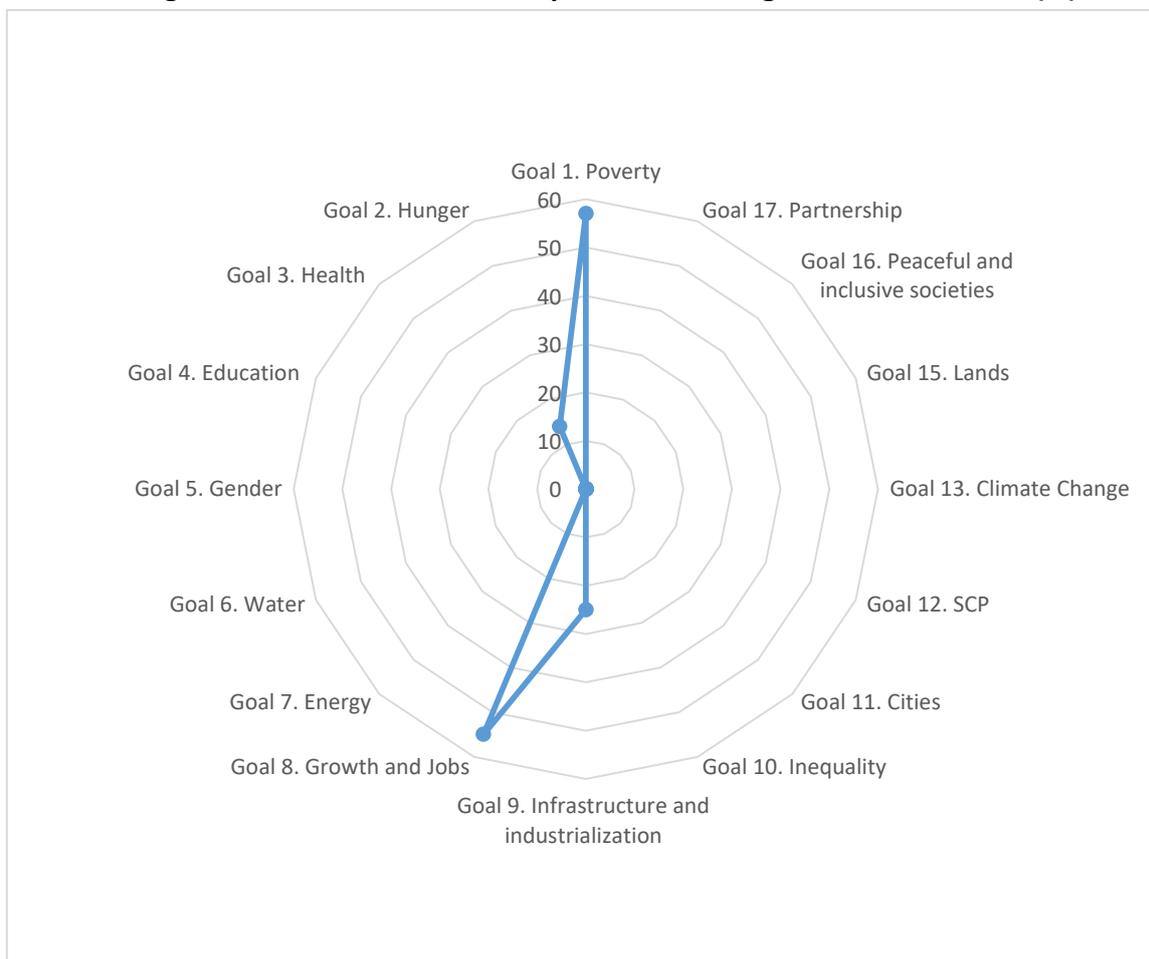


Development NPP and thus cannot be reported as progress on the implementation of priorities set out under this NPP. First, the successful implementation of the priorities and programs identified under this NPP largely hinges on the development of a number of strategies that will accomplish most of the targets set under this NPP. For example, the conception of a small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) strategy, the updating of an e-governance strategy as well as creating an e-payment mechanism for small- and micro-businesses. Second, most of the priorities of the Private Sector Development NPP are not aligned with the overall government planning and budgeting processes and programs and projects that are currently under way.

To implement this NPP, it would have to be mainstreamed into the government planning and budgeting processes. As for now, like many other NPPs, it lies in fallow. Therefore, the effort to align the NPPs with ASDGs would only be meaningful if they are fully part of the national planning budgeting processes. If not, ASDGs will have to be aligned with programs and projects planned and currently being implemented.

The Private Sector Development NPP components cover 13 ASDG targets and mostly contribute to ASDG goals 1, 8, 9, and 4. Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of alignment of the Private Sector Development NPP components with ASDGs.

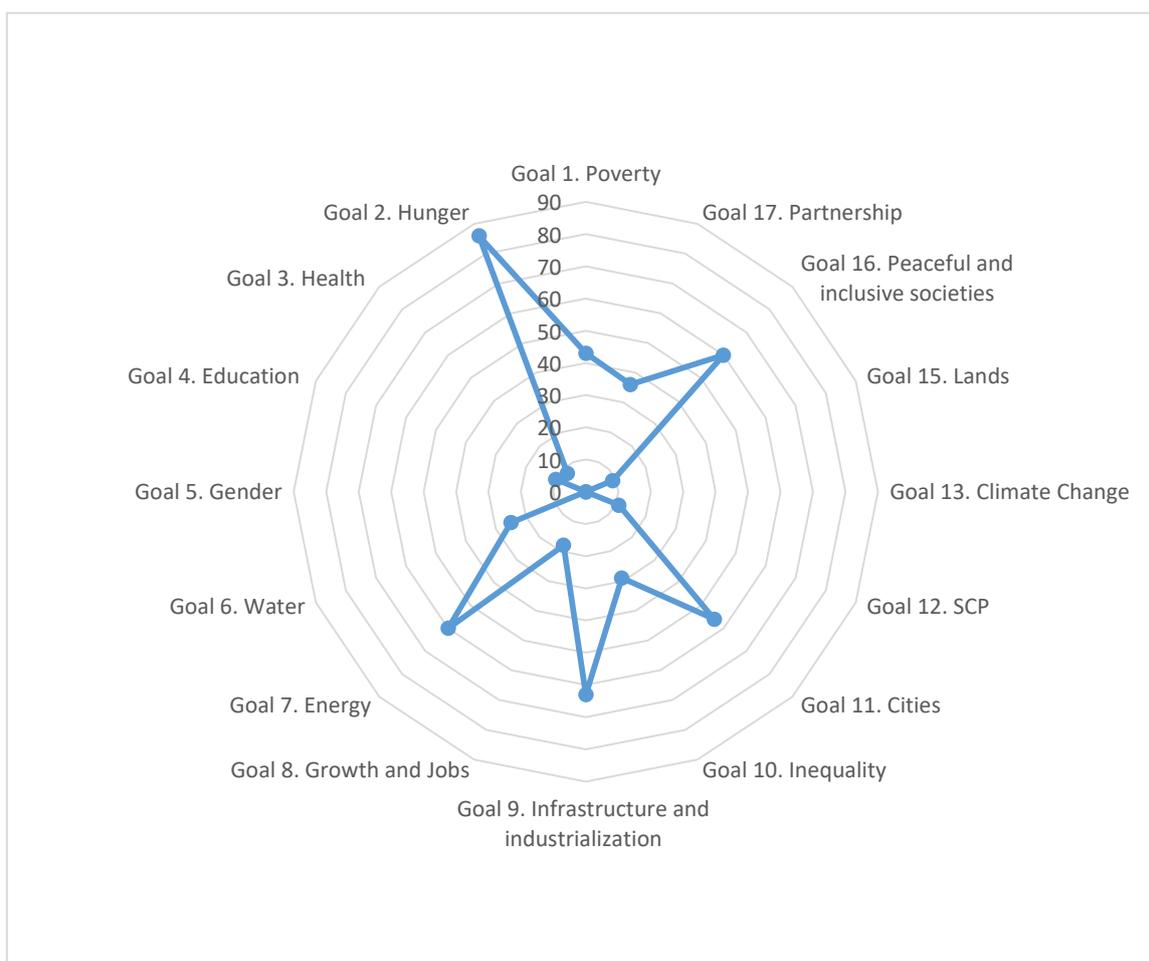
**Figure 4. Private Sector Development NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)**





#### 5.1.4. Infrastructure NPP

At the conception level, the Infrastructure NPP is the government's main planning instrument for infrastructure development and counter-cyclical investments on economic growth and job creation in Afghanistan. Compared to the rest of NPPs, Infrastructure NPP covers a significant number of ASDG targets in these areas. For example, it covers 42 targets and directly contributes to ASDG goals 2, 9, 7, 16, and 11. It also partially covers ASG goals 1 and 17 respectively. Figure 5 shows the percentage of alignment of this NPP with ASGs.



**Figure 5. Infrastructure NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)**

#### 5.1.5. Justice Sector NPP

The Justice Sector NPP mainly focuses on issues of fighting corruption, rule of law, and a gender-sensitive reform agenda. There are five strategic objectives outlined in this national program document. For example, a commitment to extending effective access to justice is listed as the first strategic objective followed by strengthening the rule of law, tackling corruption, and organized crime. Throughout the document, issues such as merit-based appointments of legal and administrative staff, mainstreaming gender equality, and capacity-building are re-emphasized. The document also enumerates public awareness programs on citizens' rights and responsibilities as key projects with fixed timelines and

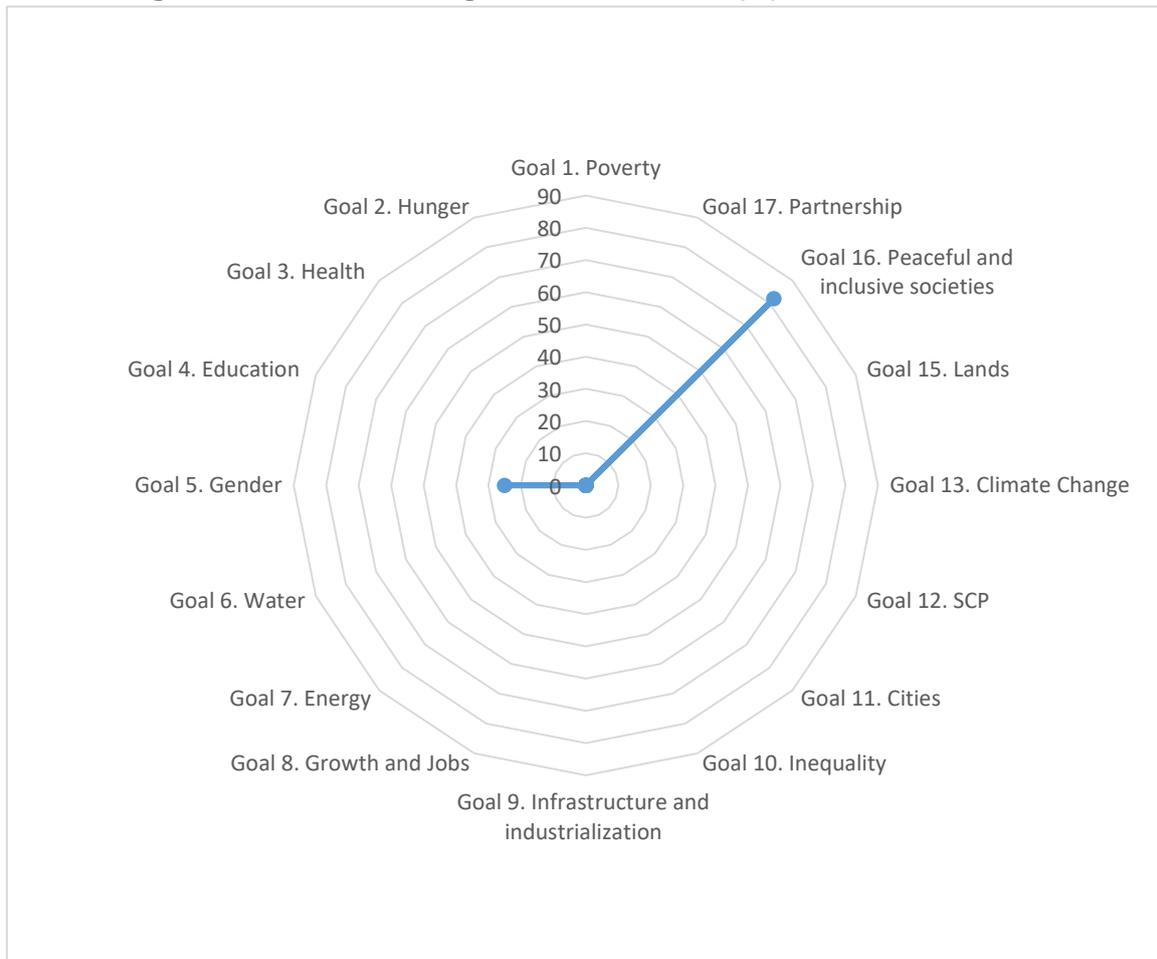




budgets in its implementation plans. Gender equality, particularly in issues such as recruitment and capacity-building programs for staff, effectively cascades to many of the program components of this NPP.

Therefore, the Justice Sector NPP primarily covers 11 targets of ASG goals 16 and 5. Figure 6 shows the percentage of this coverage.

**Figure 6. Justice NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)**



#### 5.1.6. Effective Governance NPP

A public sector reform agenda is at the core of the Effective Governance Sector NPP. In a nutshell, this national priority program seeks to reinvent the Afghan government through four key government entities: Afghanistan Civil Service Commission, Ministry of Finance, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, and National Statistics and Information Authority. Key actions and agenda points for this national program are four: 1) redefining core government functions with the objective to create clarity of purpose and mandate; 2) establishing a professional civil service through systematic training and capacity building programs and transparent recruitment procedures; 3) strengthening public financial management systems.

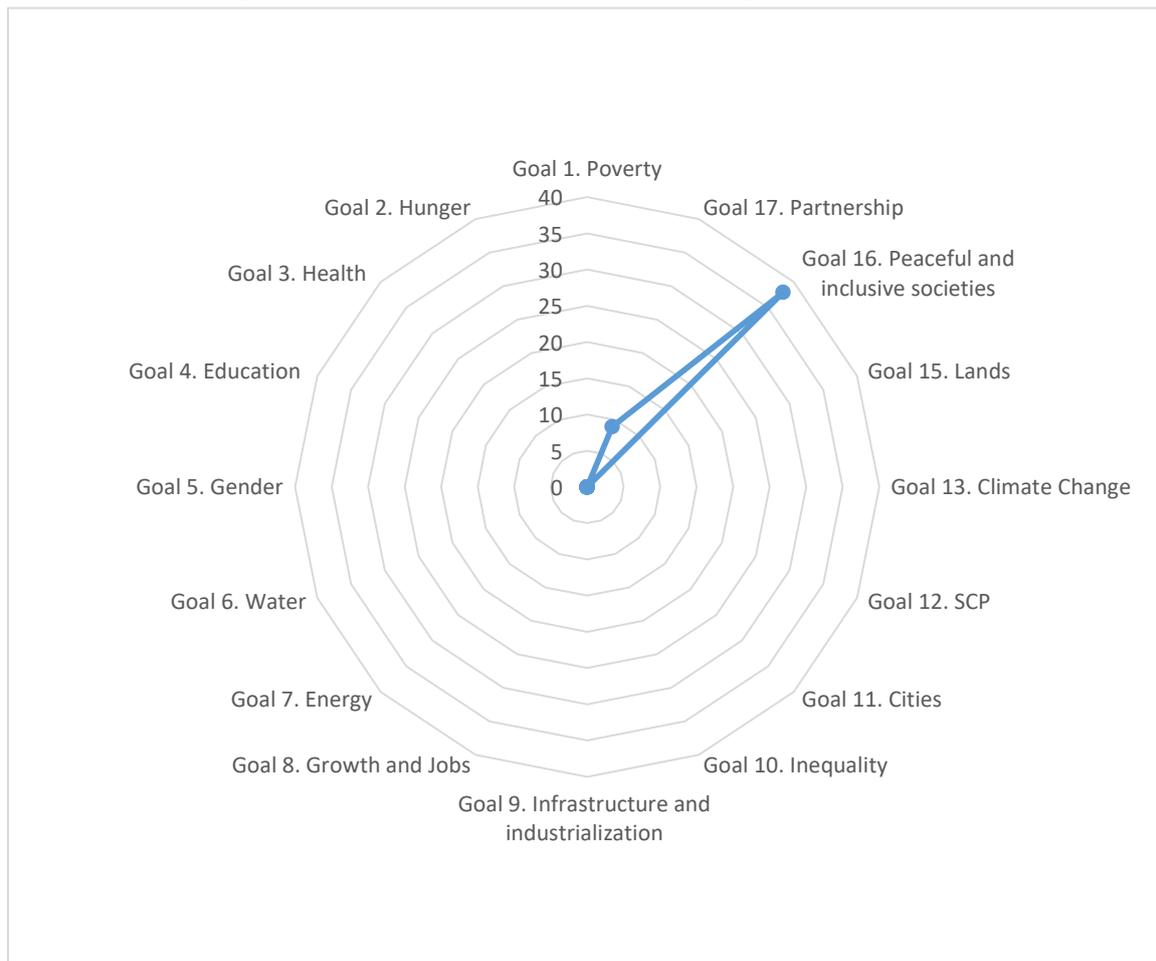




All of the key components will supposedly be achieved through a number of programs at the level of each agency. For example, the Afghanistan Civil Service Commission will achieve the objective for creating a professional public sector and civil service through the implementation of the World Bank-funded TAGHIR program. It also focuses on the importance of women’s participation in public affairs.

As such, Effective Governance NPP chiefly covers most of the targets of ASDG goals 16 and 17. Figure 7 shows the percentage of this coverage.

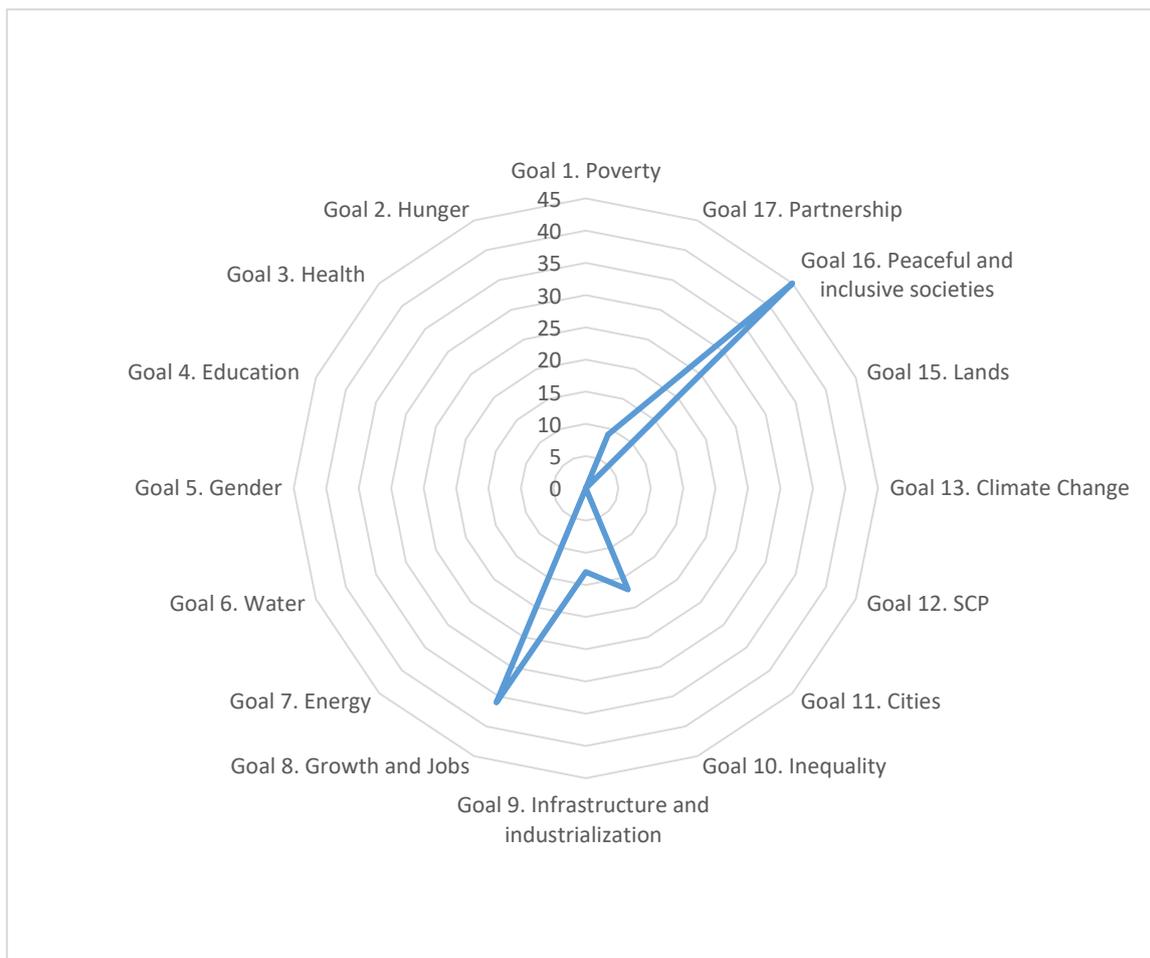
**Figure 7. Effective Governance NPP’s alignment with ASDGs (%)**



#### 5.1.7. Extractive Industries NPP

The Extractive Industries NPP attempts to guide programs and projects on Afghanistan’s mining sector and attempts to lay out the ground work for investments in this area through regulatory reform, anti-corruption regulations. It covers a total of 12 targets of ASDG goals 16, 8, 10, 9, and 17. Figure 8 demonstrates the percentage of its alignment with ASDGs.





**Figure 8. Extractive Industries NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)**

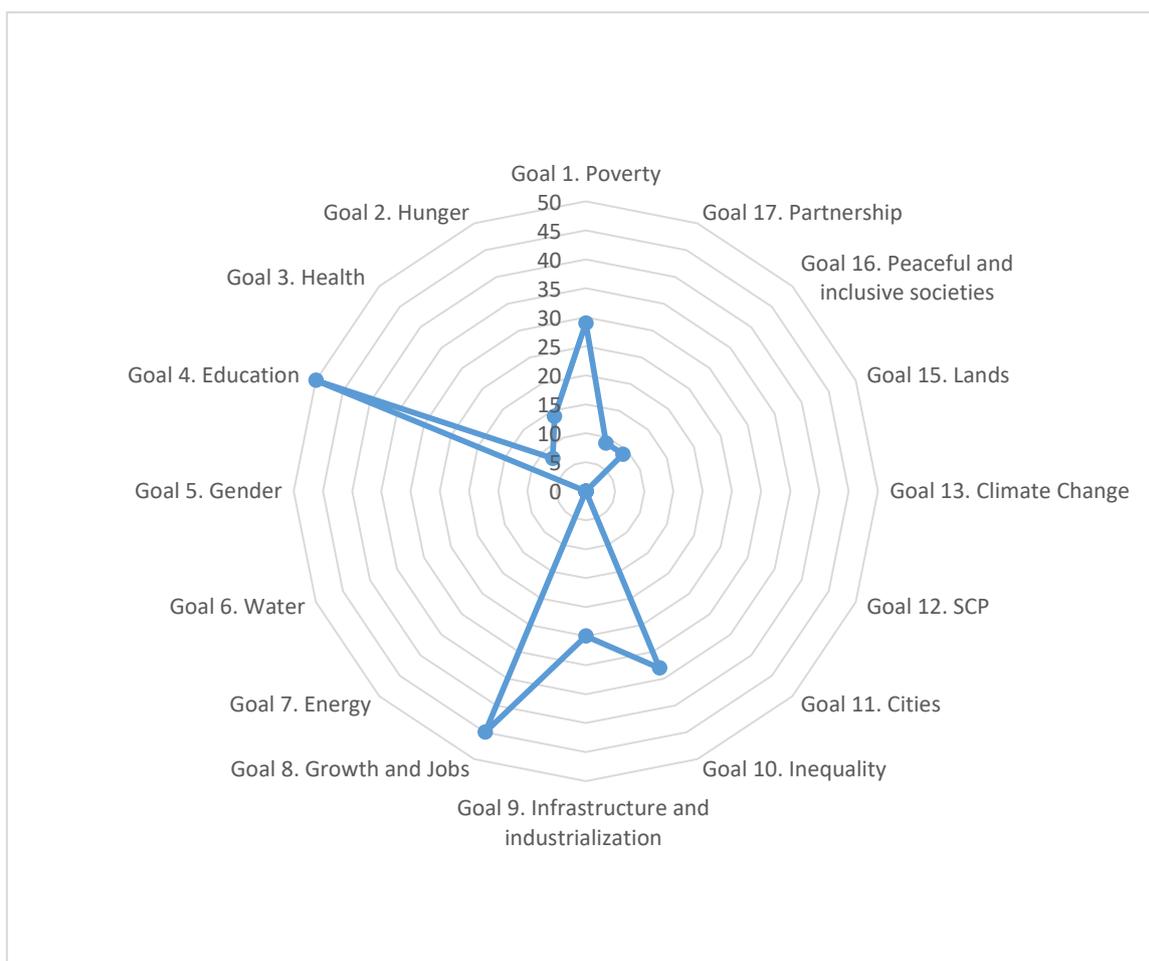
#### 5.1.8. Human Capital NPP

In today's world, countries mostly compete on the skills of their people. This has also been the vision for the Afghan government. As a country trapped in a protracted conflict, without an access to the sea, and surrounded by regional challenges, Afghanistan's serious chance for economic growth and equitable long-term development is also pretty much tied to investments on its people—training for and building those sets of skills that cater to the demands of local, regional, and international labor markets. The Human Capital NPP was conceived based on such a vision. It mostly covers 11 targets of ASDG goals 4, 8, 10, 1, and 9. Figure 9 shows the percentage for this coverage.





Figure 9. Human Capital NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)



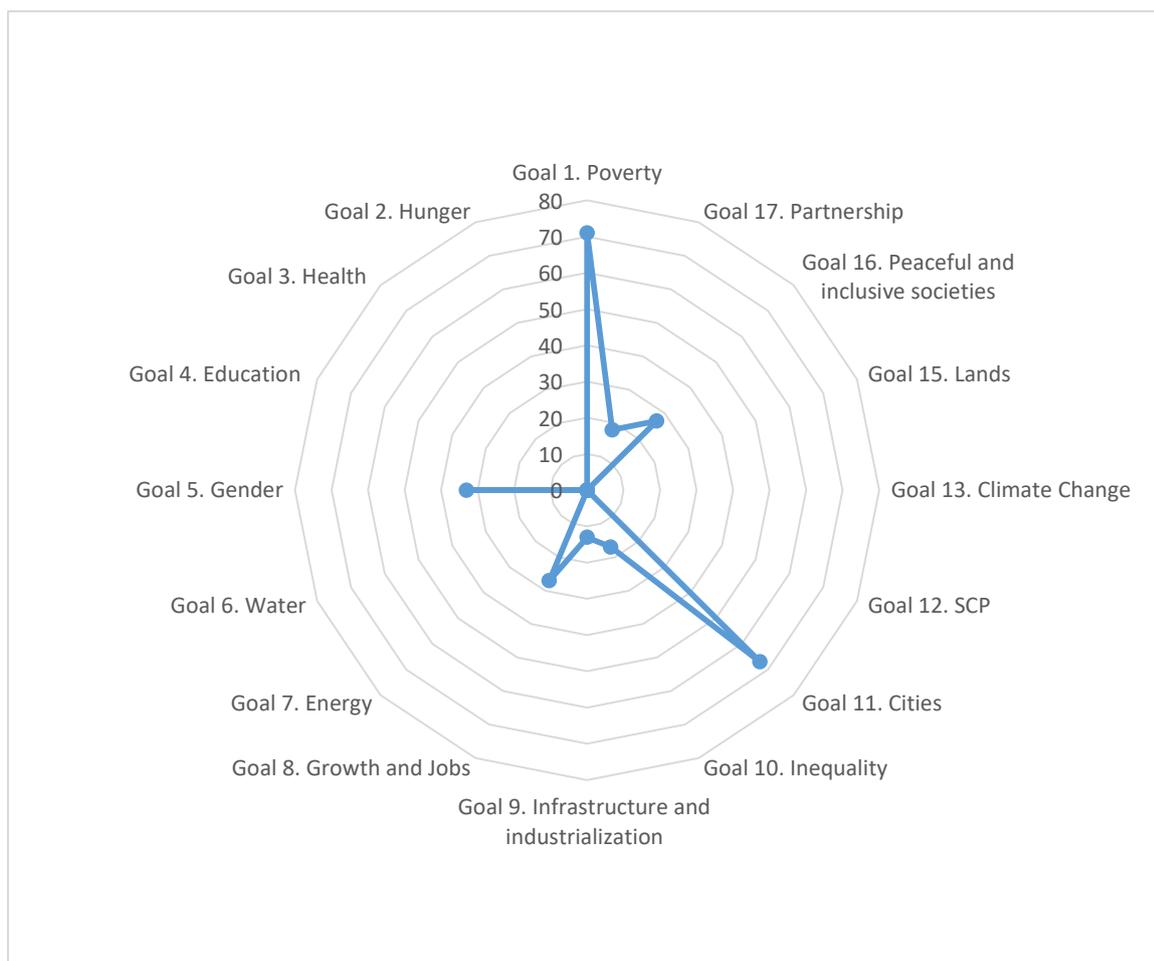
#### 5.1.9. Comprehensive Agricultural Development NPP

As an agricultural oriented economy, the government of Afghanistan recognizes the critical role of investments on some of the promising agricultural sub-sectors, and the role of private sector investments on some of the most strategic agricultural value chains. The Comprehensive Agricultural Development NPP was designed to streamline these efforts and increase the share of agriculture in the country's GDP through this NPP. It covers a total of 25 targets of ASDG goals 2, 8, 1, 15, 6, and 9. Figure 10 shows the percentage of this NPP's alignment with ASDGs.





Figure 10. CAD NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)



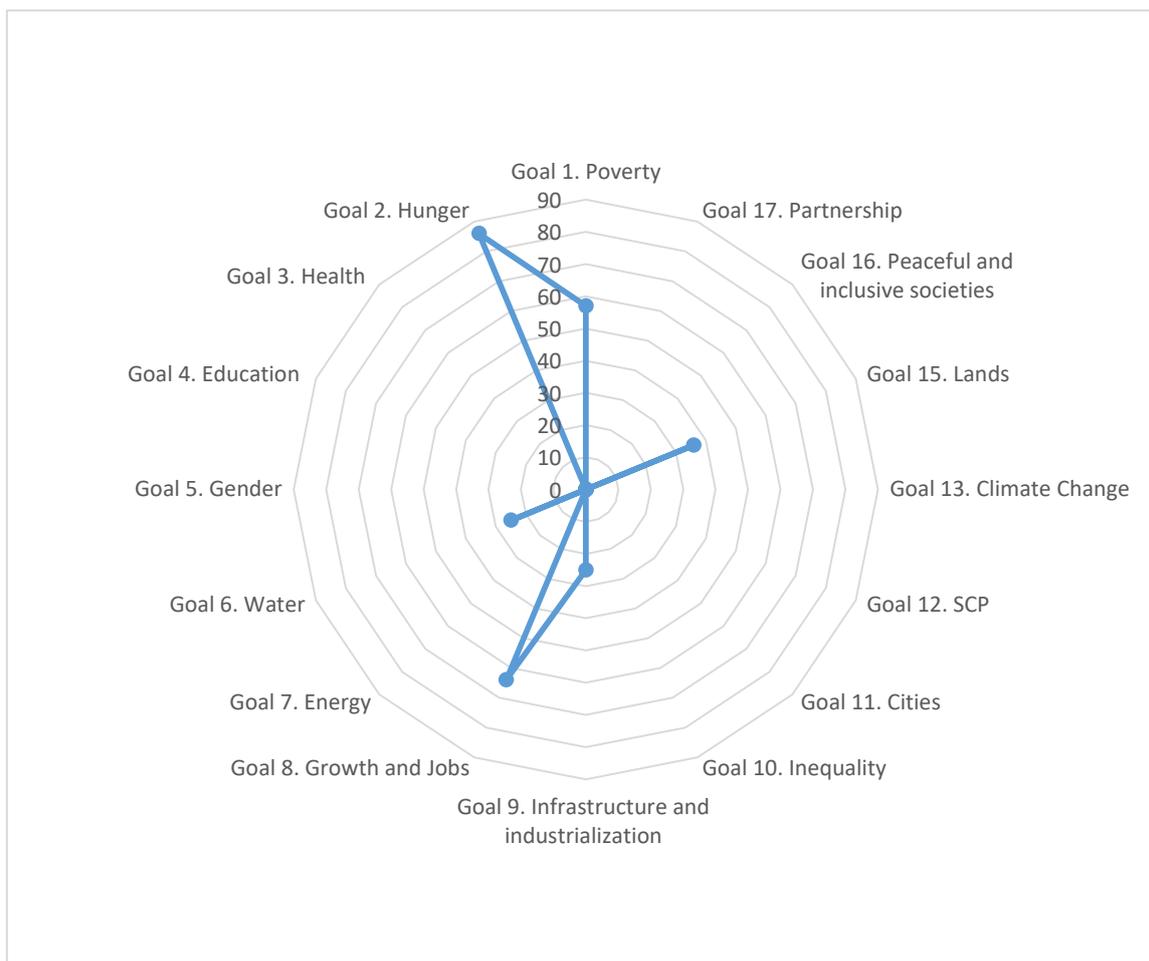
#### 5.1.10. Urban Development NPP

The Urban Development NPP is relatively elaborate program document that presents the challenges and opportunities in Afghanistan's urbanization. It mostly covers 24 targets of ASDG goals 1, 11, 5, 8, and 16. Figure 1.11 shows the percentage of Urban Development NPP's with ASDGs.





Figure 11. Urban Development NPP's alignment with ASDGs (%)



## 6. ASDGs Sectors' Alignment with NPPs

One of the key objective of this assessment is detecting the level of ASDGs coverage in the NPPs. Therefore, the ASDG targets were aligned with the NPPs' components and sub-components, where possible, in a matrix developed by the TF. The ASDGs-NPPs alignment matrix compares NPPs thematic areas against ASDG targets and shows whether the ASDG targets are fully aligned, partially aligned or have limited or no coverage.

The 16 SDGs consist of 111 targets and 178 indicators, clustered into 8 budgetary sectors in Afghanistan. The national budget is allocated to 8 sectors, namely Security and Governance, Health, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Infrastructure, Social Protection and Economic Growth. The SDG targets are categorized into their relevant sectors.

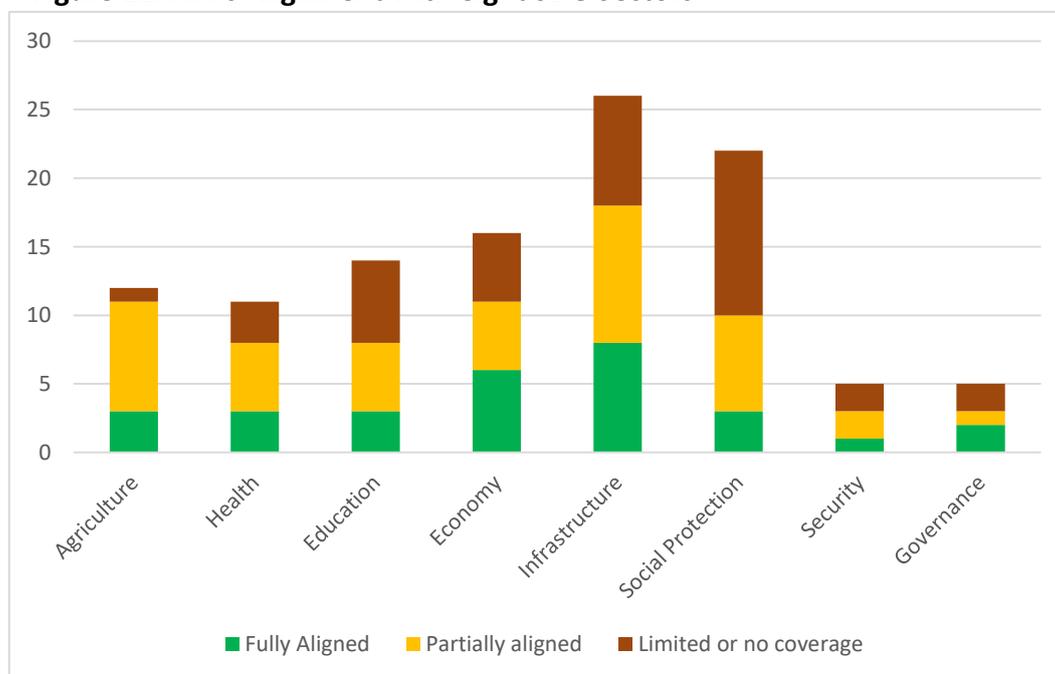
Discovering the level of ASDGs alignment with the NPPs at sector level helps us understand the extent and coverage of the ASDGs in the NPPs across each sector and provides insights on how government allocated budget to different programs in budgetary sector. By conducting the alignment at the sector level, it was revealed that the level of coverage of each ASDG sectors are different. For instance, Social Protection Sector has the least





percentage of coverage in the NPPs. ASDG targets such as child labor, internally displaced people, refugees, returnees and girls' early marriages are not emphasized in the existing NPPs. At the same time, targets linked to economic and agriculture sectors of the ASDGs are well addressed in the NPPs.

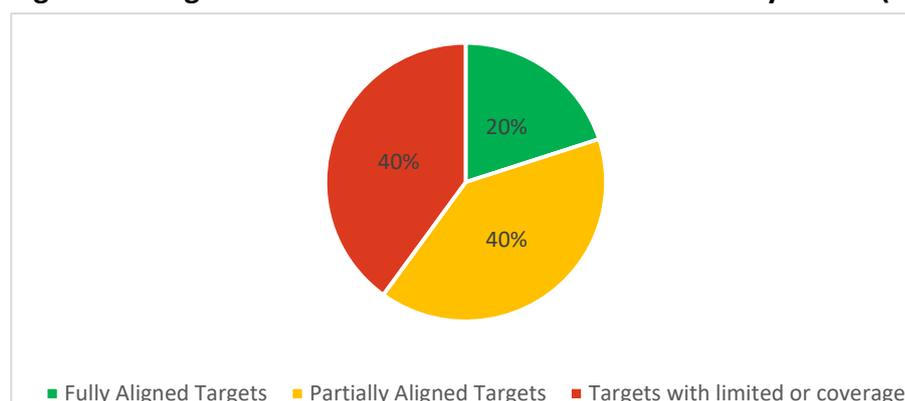
Figure 12. NPPs Alignment with eight SDG Sectors



### 6.1.1. Security Sector

The security sector covers 5 targets and 7 indicators in the ASDGs. Major priorities include combating all forms of crime, eliminating violence against women and men and reducing mortality due to insecurity and traffic accidents. The sector's goals also include promoting peace for sustainable development, creating effective and accountable agencies, bringing security and safety to cities and improving public welfare. "Promote rule of law and justice for all," is the only target which is fully aligned with the objectives listed in the NPPs. The targets which are partially covered in the NPPs include "reducing death due to traffic accidents" and "green and safe public space." However, targets, "combating organized crime such as financial and arm flow" and "existence of institutions to prevent violence, terrorism and crime" are not addressed anywhere in the NPPs.

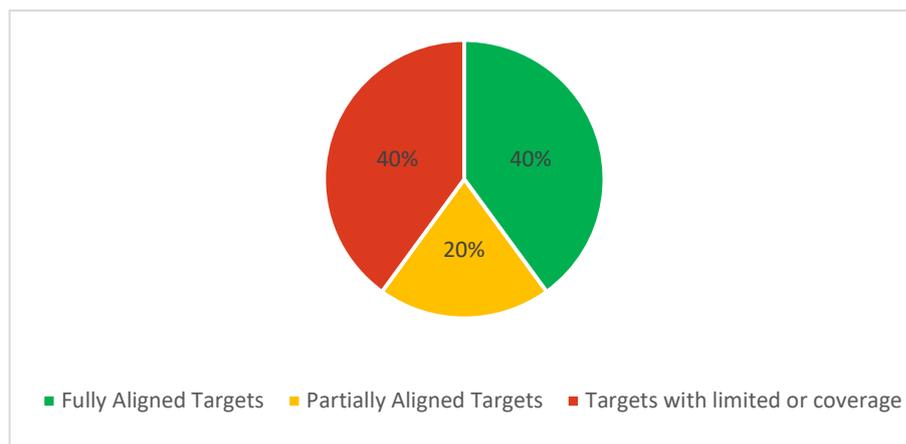
Figure 12. Alignment of the NPPs with the ASDGs Security Sector (%)





### 6.1.2. Governance Sector

The governance sector covers 5 targets and 6 indicators. The focus areas are rule of law, equal access to justice and eradication of corruption and bribery. Creating effective and accountable institutions and equal access to inclusive justice are important SDGs in the governance sector. Two NPPs namely Justice Sector and Effective Governance NPPs cover the targets of this sector. Out of 5 ASDG targets included in this sector, 2 are fully aligned, one is partially aligned and 2 have limited or no coverage. Among the targets included in this sector, “ending abuse and violence against children” and “developing countries participation in global governance have not been emphasized in any of the NPPs. Whereas, “rule of law” and “ending bribery and corruption” are the targets which are significantly covered in the NPPs, with “legal identity for all” featured to some extent in the NPPs.

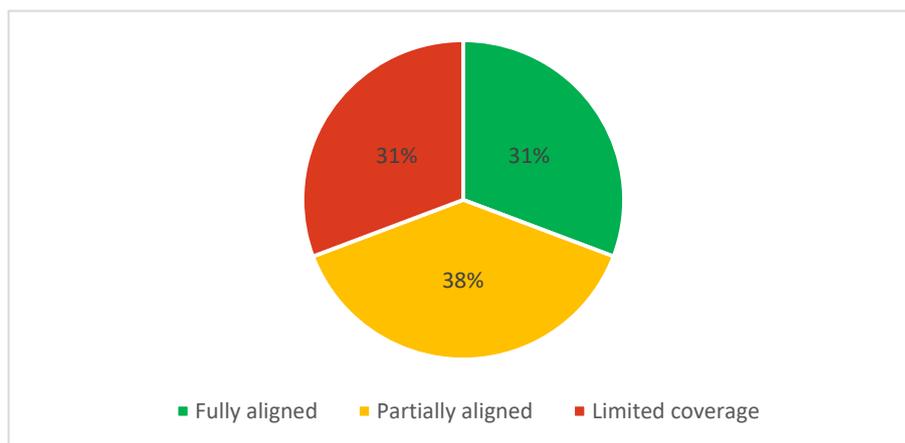


**Figure 13. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Governance Sector (%)**

### 6.1.3. Infrastructure Sector

The infrastructure sector covers 26 targets and 30 indicators of the ASDGs. The most important issues it addresses are: sustainable access to water and sanitation for all citizens, improved water quality, effective use of water resources, protection and safety for aquatic ecosystems and increased participation of local communities in water management. The SDG targets related to this sector emphasize infrastructure development, use of technology to provide all citizens access to energy services, increased effectiveness and access for all to internet, communication and information technology through international and regional cooperation. This sector covers a larger number of ASDG target than any other ASDG sectors. 26 targets included in this sector is aligned by components and sub-components of four NPPs. Out of 27, 8 targets are fully, 10 are partially aligned. However, 8 of the target have limited coverage or are not covered by any NPP.





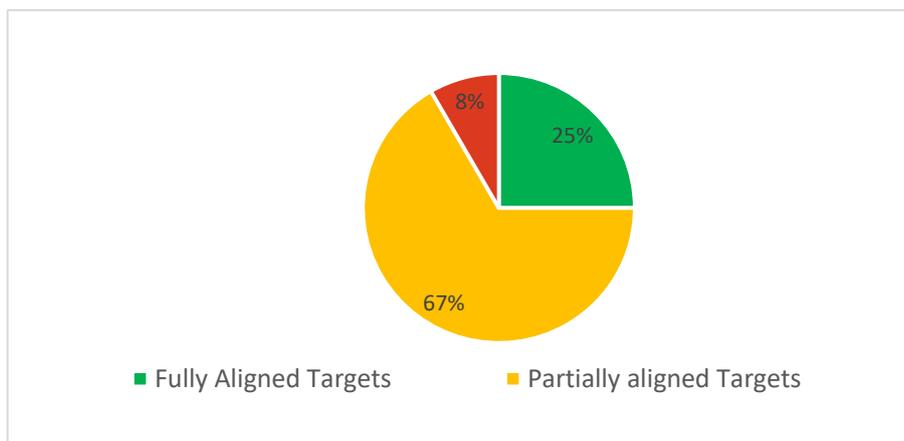
**Figure 14. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Infrastructure Sector**

#### 6.1.4. Agricultural and Rural Development

The agriculture and rural development sector has 12 targets and 15 indicators in the ASDGs and affects important issues, including ending hunger, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring access of farmers to land and resources. There are three NPPs including CAD, CC and PSD that covers ASDGs targets in this sector. Among these, 3 targets are fully aligned, 8 are partially aligned. With only one target with limited coverage, Agriculture sector is one of the highly aligned ASDG sectors.

Agriculture is one of the most aligned sectors of the ASDGs. Out of 12 only one target has limited coverage in the NPPs, which is access to sanitation and ending open defecation. Target 6.2 of the ASDGs is mentioned in the Citizen Charter NPP introduction, but is not included in any of the NPP's component or sub-components. Targets such as hunger, food production, agriculture productivity, access to safe drinking water and forest restoration is well stressed in the NPPs.

**Figure 14. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Agriculture and Rural Sector**



#### 6.1.5. Education Sector

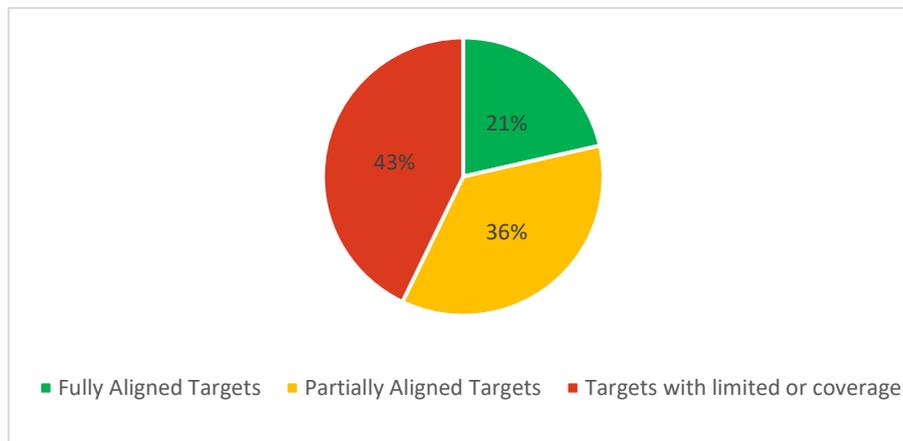
The education sector covers 14 targets and 41 indicators in the ASDGs, demonstrating the government's commitment to improving education nationwide.





The education sector targets are covered by components from six NPPs including Human Capital, Citizen Charter, WEE, PSD, Justice and NIP. Among the 14 ASDG targets included in this sector, 3 target are fully aligned, 5 are partially aligned and 6 has limited or no coverage at all. About less than half (43%) of the education sector targets have limited or no coverage in the NPPs.

These target includes: early childhood development, knowledge and skills for development, scholarships, cultural and natural heritages, science and technology in developing countries and sustainable tourism strategies. On the other hand, the partially and fully aligned targets included in this sector are: access to primary and secondary quality education, VET and university, gender in education, literacy and numeracy, education facilities, quality teachers, tourism jobs and public access to information.

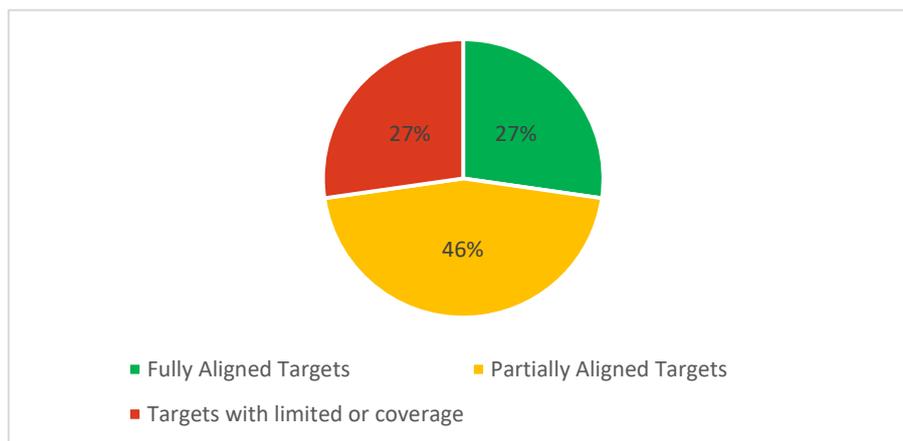


**Figure 15. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Education Sector**

#### 6.1.6. Health Sector

The health sector has 11 targets and 20 indicators, which mainly focus on the health of citizens and improvement of public welfare for all people of all ages. The Ministry of Public Health is the only government entity responsible for ensuring good health for the citizens of Afghanistan, though a number of other ministries and government agencies play similar roles. The health sector targets are covered by components from 3 NPPs including Human Capital, Citizen Charter and WEE. Among the 11 ASDG targets included in this sector, 3 targets are fully aligned, 5 are partially aligned and 3 have limited or no coverage at all.





**Figure 16. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Health Sector**

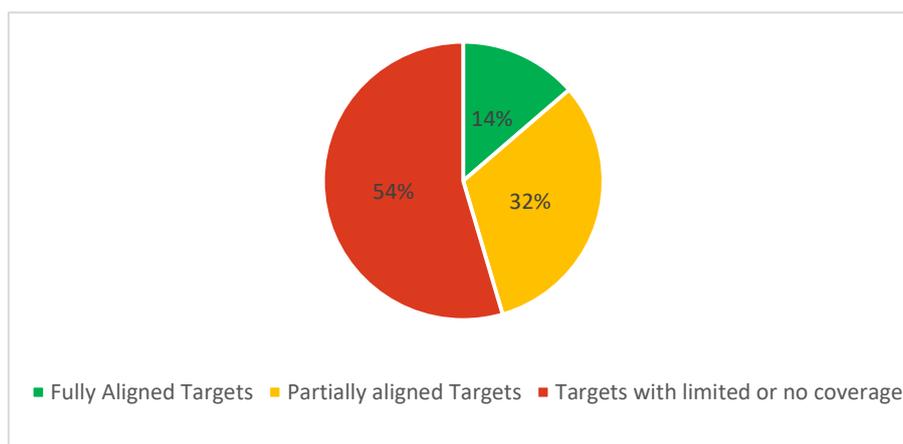
#### 6.1.7. Social Protection

The social protection sector includes 22 targets and 33 indicators in the ASDGs. Issues such as eradicating poverty, achieving gender equality and empowering women, reducing national and international inequalities, implementing measures to combat climate change and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, are major objectives of the sector.

Social Protection has the least percentage of alignment with the NPPs. This sector has some important ASDG targets included which are not considered under any NPP. Targets such as child labor, migration, internally displaced people, unpaid works, violence against women and girls, ending exploitation and torture of children and labor right protection are among the targets which are not covered by the existing NPPs.

The mentioned ASDG targets bears significant importance in social protection and resilience of the poor and vulnerable. Nonetheless, ASDG targets such as: full employment, resilience of the poor, access to TVET and youth employment are considered to a good extent in the NPPs.

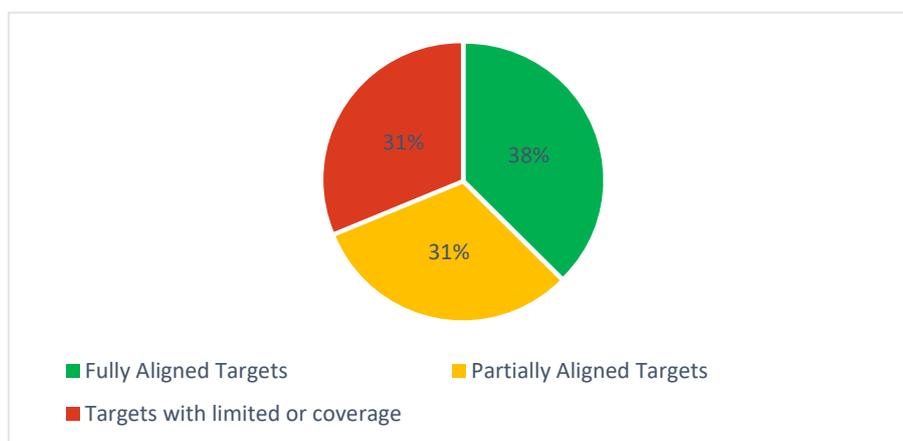




**Figure 17. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Social Protection Sector**

#### 6.1.8. Economic Sector

The ASDGs economy and private development sector has 16 targets and 26 indicators. ASDG targets included in this sector are covered by components and sub-components of the eight NPPs, which are PSD, CAD, WEE, CC, Ext Ind, NIP, Urban and Effective Governance. Among 16 targets 6 are fully aligned, 5 are partially aligned. There are 5 targets that are not covered at all.



**Figure 18. Alignment of NPPs with ASDGs Economic Sector**

## 7. Conclusion

At the beginning of this report, it was stated that reporting on attainment of ASDGs will only be possible if they are properly aligned with national priorities, planning and budgeting processes. The exercise to align 10 NPPs with ASDGs was undertaken with that objective in mind. First, the TF compared the most relevant themes of each NPP against their ASDG targets—identifying their percentage of alignment with ASDGs across all the targets. The outcome of this process was the identification of NPPs' alignment with ASDGs in their





totality (all 10 NPPs were singularly compared against 112 ASDG targets). Second, it was also necessary to show the percentage of alignment of all NPPs against a single ASDG goal. This way we compared all the thematic areas NPPs against the different targets of an ASDG goal. For example, we could show the contribution of NPPs to different ASDG goals. Third, and since ASDGs were clustered into different budgetary sectors for ease of integration, we aligned NPPs with each of the ASDGs sectors, such as security, governance, health, education, social protection, and economic growth.

What did we find? After a comparison of the specific themes and program components of NPPs against ASDG targets, it was found that most of the NPPs were partially aligned with ASDGs. In other words, the level of alignment for most of the components and sub-components of NPPs does not exceed the 50 percent threshold for a majority of ASDG goals. For example, only goals 2 (zero hunger), 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies), 5 (gender equality), 11 (cities), and 8 (decent work and economic growth) are sufficiently aligned with NPPs. In the meantime, ASDG goal 13 (climate change) has a very limited alignment. The ASDG sectors, such as security, governance, and social protection, cover only a limited number of targets. For example, the total number of ASDG targets fully aligned with NPPs in the social protection sector do not exceed the 14 percent threshold.

The TF also identified, as a result of many discussions and meetings in different government ministries, that almost all NPPs lie in fallow. Around 5 NPPs do not have a concrete action plan or a results framework. These include the Citizens' Charter, Human Capital, Effective Governance, the National Infrastructure Plan, and the Women's Economic Empowerment National Priority Program. Additionally, most of the NPPs are not aligned with government's planning and budgeting processes. Most of the on-budget projects and programs, for example, are not aligned with their relevant NPPs. The Ministry of Finance reported that efforts were underway to align the 10 NPPs with the on-budget programs, and also integrate them into the country's national budgeting processes.<sup>7</sup> However, this is only one version of thinking at the Ministry of Finance. The reality is, however, more complex. For example, the Comprehensive Agriculture Development NPP was conceived in 2016 and did not have an action plan until mid-2018.<sup>8</sup> This national plan remained without an action plan or a results framework for over two years. During this period, many initiatives related to this NPP were designed, and implemented, at an agency level through the normal planning and budgeting processes.

Therefore, the TF made a number of specific recommendations in the light of these findings. For example, the TF recommended that ASDGs will need to be aligned with on-budget and off-budget programs. This level of alignment will enable agencies to properly measure and report progress on their targets. This will also allow most of the ASDG targets and indicators to be integrated into the national planning and budgeting processes. An ASDG-led integrated M&E framework could be a trigger for this.

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<sup>7</sup> National Priority Programs: A Progress Update, (2018).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

