



Lessons learned from the use of SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS) to accelerate progress towards SDG 6: Final workshop and next steps

10-11 November 2020

Draft Concept Note

Background

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) by 2030 is expected to allow countries to reach an important milestone in their journey towards sustainability. Nevertheless, “*ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*” is a global challenge and many countries are still struggling to realign their policies and implementation plans while lacking reliable evidence on SDG 6. In this context, strengthening the enabling environments is critical to the achievement of SDG 6, and evidence to support countries with a systematic approach for effective planning and policy implementation must be a priority. If countries aim to achieve SDG 6, they need to assess their current national progress effectively now. This means identifying the gaps and weaknesses and addressing them with workable policies and action plans to promote strong enabling environments.

To address these challenges, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) and the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea (MOE), Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) and national partners from Tunisia, Costa Rica and Pakistan – the Regional Hubs countries – developed the SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS). This tool was designed to generate evidence on the enabling environment of SDG 6 through a framework that shows strengths and weaknesses and missing data across all SDG 6 targets and indicators, and consists of the following components: Capacity Assessment; Finance; Policy and Institutional Assessment; Gender Mainstreaming; Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Resilience Mainstreaming; and Integrity. These components are a result of a collaborative approach between project partners and were chosen as they allow a better understanding of the enabling environment for achieving SDG 6. SDG-PSS also monitors and evaluates another component of SDG 6, ‘Status’ – which gives an overview of trends for targets and indicators of the goal. The tool and its online course for capacity building are currently available online in English, French, and Spanish languages.

During the project’s second phase (2019-2020), project partners organized three regional workshops to engage with more countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions and promote the implementation and use of the SDG-PSS. In these workshops, experts and policymakers from 34 countries (Figure 1) discussed how the tool can be used to generate evidence on the enabling environment

of SDG 6, providing regional and national perspectives over the challenges and possibilities in achieving the goal. Overall, participating countries provided critical feedback and recommendations on the SDG-PSS and contributed to the project's advancement. According to their feedback, strengthening institutional leadership and building technical capacity are key to ensure successful implementation of the tool at the national level. Identifying national focal points to champion the implementation of the tool and its integration in national reporting mechanisms for SDG 6 is an important step. Countries also need to identify key sectors, those who are more likely to benefit from the use of the tool. Data needed by the SDG-PSS was also mentioned as a critical aspect of the challenges experienced by countries.

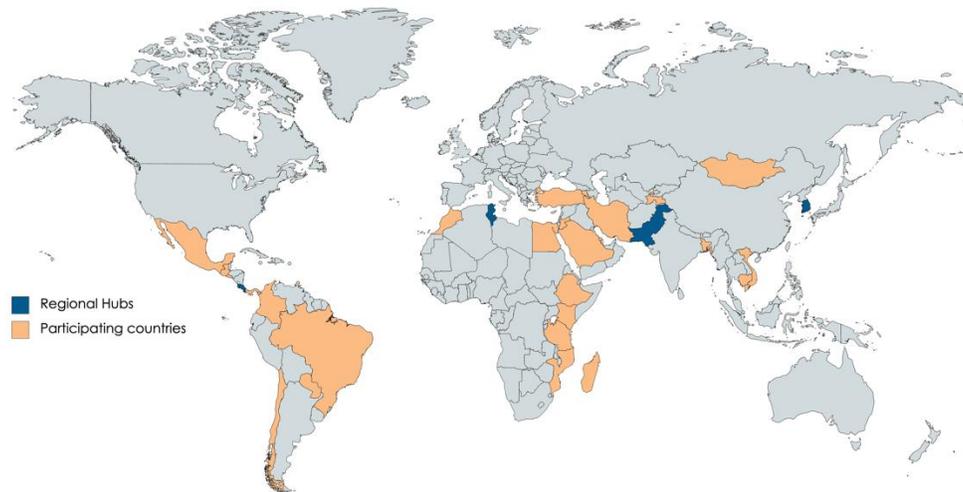


Figure 1: Regional hubs and participating countries in the regional workshops (2019-2020).

In this context, project partners have been providing support to countries currently implementing and using the SDG-PSS. For this reason, the project's third phase (2021-2022) aims to build on the lessons learned to further expand the implementation and use of SDG-PSS to more countries and strengthen its implementation in countries already using it, leading to a revision and improvement of the tool and its associated products according to the needs and recommendations of project partners. The final project workshop aims to reflect on the next steps, as the project enters in its third phase, and is an opportunity for project partners, regional hubs and participating countries to share their feedback on the implementation and use of SDG-PSS, exchange on the lessons learned, practices and different approaches used to collected data and generate evidence on SDG 6 through the tool.

Timeline and duration

This 2-day workshop will be organized during 10-11 November 2020 and will take place virtually due to the international travel circumstances.

Format

There will be 2 live online sessions (2 hours each, 4 hours in total).

To complement the limited time allowed in the live sessions, participants will be invited to an online discussion board where they can express views, share stories and interact with each other at their convenience.

Meeting language

This event will be conducted in English. Simultaneous translation in French and Spanish will be available.

Participants

Countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions are expected to join this final workshop. The final workshop will be open to all countries which participated in the regional workshops and was designed to accommodate participating countries' different time zones. The countries and total number of participants are yet to be confirmed.

Since several researchers and policymakers have been involved in the use and promotion of SDG-PSS in the Republic of Korea as a Regional Hub country, around 5 participants will join the workshop from the Republic of Korea.

The number of participants from UNOSD and UNU-INWEH is expected to be around 6.

Outputs

This final workshop will contribute to 1) sharing and discussing experiences, challenges and possibilities in the implementation and use of SDG-PSS for generating evidence on SDG 6; 2) discussing ways to improve the SDG-PSS in the project's third phase; and 3) strengthening participating countries' engagement.

A final workshop report with contributions from project partners, regional hubs and participating countries for the project's next phase will be produced afterwards.

Organizers

This final workshop is co-organized by UNOSD, UNU-INWEH, MOE and K-eco.