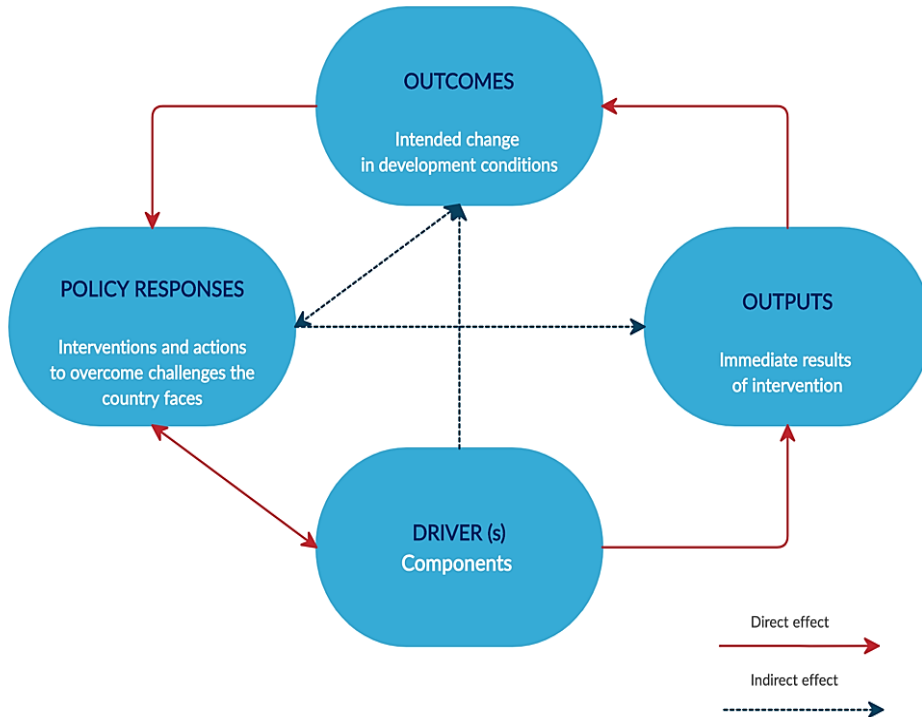# SDG Drivers Framework for North and Central Asia

Purpose of the SDG Drivers Framework

The Framework will enable governments of NCA region and other stakeholders to identify, assess and evaluate actions necessary to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda

Methodology:

- step-by-step approach
- top-down approach
- the process of identification of drivers
- checklist method

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Relationship between drivers and sustainable development outcomes

Driver is a viable factor(s) that catalyze progress and have favorable causal effects on desired sustainable development outcomes

Driver is a set of policies, priority areas, programs, and technical aspects

OUTCOMES
Intended change in development conditions

POLICY RESPONSES
Interventions and actions to overcome challenges the country faces

OUTPUTS
Immediate results of intervention

DRIVER (s)
Components

Direct effect

Indirect effect

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Framework's processes

STEP 1. Determine desired outcomes

STEP 2. Identify potential drivers and components

STEP 3. Analyse how potential driver affects outcome

STEP 4. Develop policy and M&E plan

Step 1. Determining Outcomes

Checklist for Step 1:

✓ Analyze progress in SDGs achievement in your country/region
✓ Identify the most crucial goals, set up in national strategies
✓ Identify, whether the SDG lagging areas are already included in national strategies as a priority
✓ Link outcome to corresponding SDGs. The more often a particular SDG is mapped to the desired outcomes, the more points are assigned to it
✓ Identify challenges
✓ Establish the priority of the SDGs depending on the points scored in descending order
✓ Finalize list of outcomes

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Understanding interlinkages and trade-offs between goals

A goal could have spillover or synergetic effect on others or
A goal could be achieved at the expense of the other

Examples:
(+) Universal access to energy (7.1) as a basic service reinforces the achievement of the target 1.4 which assumes that the poor and the vulnerable have access to basic services.
(-) Economic growth (8.1) and economy industrialization (9.2) may lead to CO_2 emission increase (9.4).

How to deal with this?
>   KnowSDGs platform
>   MPFD Framework
>   Guide to SDG interactions Framework

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Identifying challenges

Common challenges across North and Central Asia

- Informal workers, MSMEs, women and migrants are challenged the most due to impact of COVID-19
- Economic stability is being undermined due to fluctuation of resource price and effects of the ongoing health crisis
- Reduction of fiscal space due to efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19
- Abrupt declination of service sectors
- Environmental initiatives may be pushed back (waste management)

Step 2. Identifying drivers and components

Two approaches

- Step-by-step by using expert-opinion methods
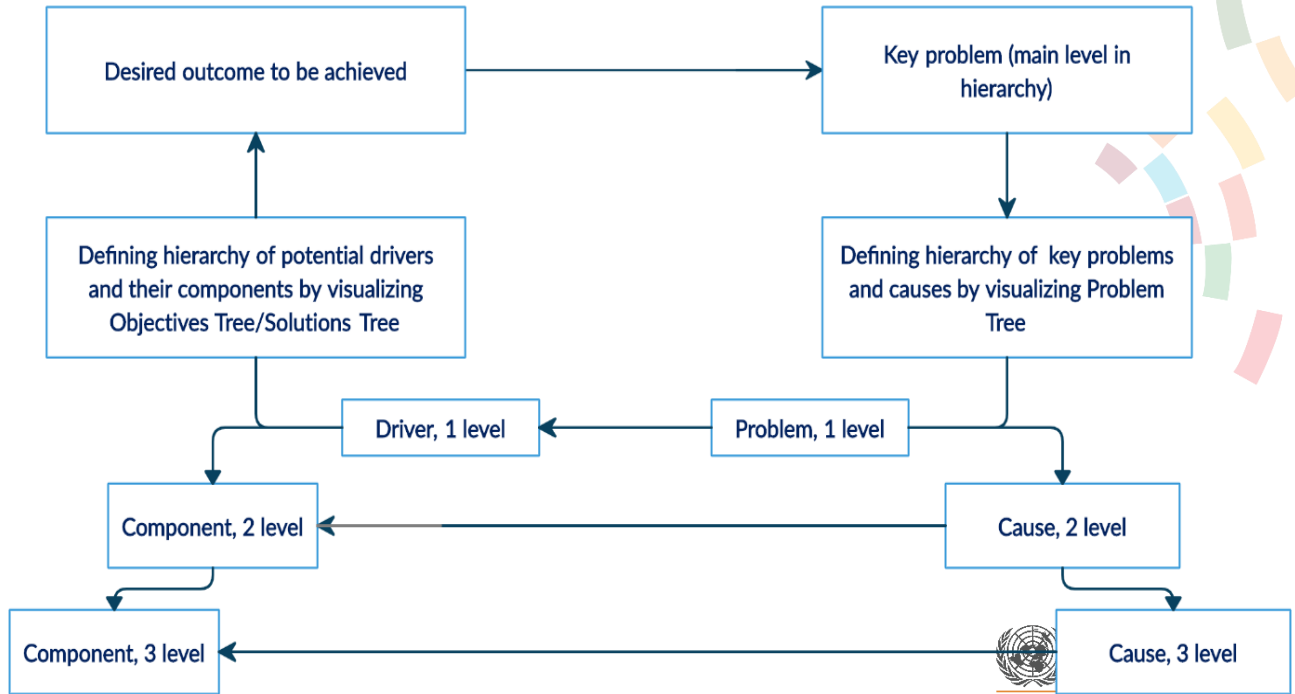
- Apply existing holistic models

Approach I: Step-by-step identification of drivers

What it is necessary to undergo in order to achieve the identified outcomes?

Checklist for constructing a driver:
- ✓ Match the key problem with the relevant outcome and define hierarchy of problems
- ✓ Identify all potential drivers and their components
- ✓ Prioritize and select drivers or their key components

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Checklist scheme: identification of drivers

Approach II: Identification of drivers using existing holistic models

- ✓ Analyze pre-determined drivers and understand whether they can be applied at the country's context
- ✓ Models built by different analytical centers allow measuring the country's capacities to achieve SDGs, to identify optimal pathways for progress towards sustainable development
- ✓ Depending on the specifics of the model, it can serve as a tool to solve various problems

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Step 3. Evaluation of the driver-outcome relationship

Checklist for analysis:

✓ Understand and map out the behavior between variables (components of driver, desired outcomes) based on logical framework
✓ Collect data for identified variables
✓ Formulate equations based on mapped out flows (loops and processes) between variables
✓ Conduct model simulation
✓ Test model's response to different policies

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Example: poverty model for Kyrgyzstan

Poverty Model for Kyrgyzstan

The third report on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals utilized a poverty model for Kyrgyzstan. A multiple regression of the dependence of poverty reduction rate on the economic growth rate per capita (Δg), the growth rate of the social protection budget (Δsp) and the growth rate of remittances (Δr) was developed for the period of 2000 to 2009.

$$\Delta P = -1.91 * \Delta g - 0.027 * \Delta sp - 0.09 * \Delta r + 8.98 \quad R^2 = 0,55$$

The model had rather good short-term predictive power, significant coefficients and allowed to quantify impact of the three factors on poverty reduction.

In this example the government spending **on the social protection is a potential driver.** The estimated relationship suggests that increase in government spending on social protection will decrease the poverty rate in the country by 2.7 percentage points.

Source: The Kyrgyz Republic: The third report on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals [UNDP, 2013]

Step 4. Checklist for drafting policy

- ✓ Implementation plan
- ✓ Stakeholder analysis
- ✓ Budget allocation
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Evaluation to connect national priorities with SDGs

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Conclusion

- Since sustainable development is a complex paradigm, it is important to understand interlinkages between social, economic and environmental development pillars.

- The Framework proposes an analytical exercise on how to deal with potential trade-offs during the process of driver identification.

- It is necessary to identify drivers that have a multifaceted impact on outcomes that is tangible for all sustainable development pillars.

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