

RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 2 AND 3 IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Responsive governance has become an increasingly critical framework for achieving global development priorities, particularly within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Nigeria, the attainment of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) continues to face significant constraints despite ongoing government interventions and international partnerships. This study investigates the relationship between responsive governance and progress toward the SDGs in Nigeria. The paper employed ex-post facto research design to examine the relationship between responsive governance and the documents attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 1,2, and 3. The study draws upon secondary data from national governance reports, policy, surveys, and SDG evaluation frameworks. The findings revealed that challenges, including weak policy implementation, corruption, inadequate public accountability, limited citizen participation, and resource misallocation, substantially impede the realisation of the targeted SDGs. Disparities in governance efficiency between federal and sub-national levels exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities, thereby slowing SDG progress. The study recommends that strengthening institutional accountability mechanisms, enhancing citizen-centred governance processes, improving intergovernmental policy coordination, and adopting evidence-based planning and budgetary frameworks aligned with SDG priorities and pave way for responsive good governance. In conclusion, the study underscores that responsive governance which serves not only as an instrument of public sector reform but also as a determinant of sustainable development outcomes in Nigeria.

Keywords: Responsive governance, Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, poverty, hunger, healthcare, Nigeria.

Introduction

Responsive governance has emerged as a central pillar in the discourse of sustainable development, particularly in low- and middle-income countries such as Nigeria. As defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2019), responsive governance refers to

systems and practices of governance that are accountable, inclusive, participatory, and transparent, especially in responding to the developmental needs of the population. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, responsive governance is not only a means but a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Nigeria, with a population exceeding 200 million, remains Africa's most populous country and largest economy. Yet, it is also one of the countries grappling with multidimensional poverty, chronic food insecurity, and a fragile health system. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2022), over 63% of Nigerians are multi-dimensionally poor, with rural areas most affected. Despite numerous national development plans, including the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP 2017–2020) and the National Development Plan 2021–2025, Nigeria continues to lag in meeting critical SDG indicators. This reality underscores the gap between policy formulation and actual implementation, which scholars argue is fundamentally tied to governance quality (Olasupo, 2018; Akinwale, 2020).

Scholars like Ajakaiye and Olaniyan (2019) emphasize that poverty and food insecurity in Nigeria are less about the scarcity of resources and more about poor governance, corruption, and elite capture of state resources. Similarly, Adepoju and Fabusoro (2021) observe that agricultural policies, though well-articulated, often fail due to lack of continuity, weak monitoring, and limited involvement of grassroots communities. In the health sector, research by Uzochukwu et al. (2015) and Okafor (2020) highlights how inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and inefficient policy responses contribute to high maternal and child mortality rates, which Nigeria continues to record among the highest globally.

The challenges impeding the realization of SDGs 1, 2, and 3 in Nigeria are multifaceted. These include corruption, weak institutions, lack of political will, poor stakeholder coordination, and limited civic engagement. Responsive governance, as argued by Hyden (2006) and Agbaje (2017), entails not just state efficiency, but citizen inclusiveness and trust in public institutions—factors largely deficient in Nigeria's current governance environment.

This paper, therefore, seeks to examine the nexus between responsive governance and the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, and 3 in Nigeria. It interrogates how governance structures and policy responsiveness have either facilitated or hindered progress toward eradicating poverty, ending hunger, and improving health outcomes. Furthermore, it offers practical recommendations for strengthening governance mechanisms to accelerate SDG achievement. Through a critical review of existing literature, empirical data, and policy analysis, the paper contributes to the growing body of knowledge on sustainable development and governance in sub-Saharan Africa.

Conceptual Clarification

Responsive governance: refers to a system of governance that is accountable, inclusive, participatory, and transparent, ensuring that public institutions and leaders respond effectively to

the needs and aspirations of citizens. According to Grindle (2007), responsive governance is measured by how well institutions provide services and engage citizens in policymaking. The World Bank (2011) emphasizes that responsiveness is a core element of good governance, as it ensures timely and adequate delivery of public goods and fosters trust in public institutions.

In the African context, Hyden (2006) describes responsive governance as the ability of governments to reflect the will of the people through participatory mechanisms and accountable institutions. In Nigeria, however, scholars like Aiyede (2019) and Agbaje (2017) argue that governance remains largely top-down, with limited feedback loops between government and citizens, resulting in policy failures and weak developmental outcomes.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, and 3 :The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are a universal blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future by 2030.

SDG 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 2 seeks to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 3 focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

According to Sachs et al. (2016), these goals are interconnected and cannot be achieved without coordinated efforts across governance, economy, and civil society. Nigeria's progress in these goals is mixed. The United Nations SDG Report (2023) and the National Bureau of Statistics (2022) both indicate that while some policies exist to address poverty, hunger, and health, the outcomes remain unsatisfactory due to governance failures.

Sustainable development “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UN, 2015). Sustainable Development the preservation of lives in any society is linked with its continual growth and development. Meaning that, whatever decisions is to be taken to attain development presently, most put in consideration future generations of that society. This agrees with the definition of sustainable development Onah and Vincent (2005), reviewed from the Brundtland Report of 1987, which states that sustainable development is the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In addition, Ndubisi (2003) and Nkwede (2014), while considering conditions for sustainable development focuses on institutions of government, and contends that the government of the day must necessarily come up with policies and legislations that address the issue of poverty, hunger and health today and not forgetting the future. This means that the institutions relevant stakeholders are responsible in ensuring development in any society is sustained. The masses too have a part to play in ensuring development continues by managing the scarce resources made available to them, either by the state or nature.

Empirical Literature Review

Responsive Governance and Poverty Reduction (SDG 1)

Poverty in Nigeria is multidimensional, involving not only income but also access to education, healthcare, and public services. Ajakaiye and Olaniyan (2019) argue that poverty persists in Nigeria not for lack of resources but due to misgovernance, corruption, and lack of pro-poor policies. Similarly, Olasupo (2018) notes that policy inconsistencies and elite domination hinder poverty alleviation programmes like N-Power and the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP)

Responsive Governance and Food Security (SDG 2)

Agricultural productivity is central to achieving SDG 2. Yet, Nigeria's agriculture sector is plagued by underinvestment, policy inconsistency, and poor governance. Adepoju and Fabusoro (2021) assert that although the Nigerian government has launched initiatives like the Anchor Borrowers' Programme and the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, weak institutional frameworks and lack of accountability have limited their impact. Ezeano et al. (2020) highlight the importance of involving local farmers in policy formulation and implementation, arguing that responsive governance would ensure that agricultural policies are not only top-down but also bottom-up. Despite these calls, decision-making remains centralized, and corruption often distorts agricultural subsidies and grants

Responsive Governance and Healthcare (SDG 3)

Healthcare governance in Nigeria faces multiple challenges including poor funding, brain drain, and inequitable service delivery. According to Uzochukwu et al. (2015), unresponsive governance has resulted in weak primary health care systems, particularly in rural areas. The study by Okafor (2020) reveals that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has failed to expand beyond the formal sector largely because of lack of accountability and political will.

In a broader African context, research by Gilson (2003) affirms that health systems thrive when governance is inclusive, transparent, and community-centered. In Nigeria, however, the absence of consistent citizen engagement has contributed to public mistrust in healthcare institutions, leading to increased medical tourism and reliance on informal health providers.

Challenges Confronting Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, and 3 in Nigeria.

Despite Nigeria's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the country faces profound challenges in achieving SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being). These challenges are largely underpinned by issues of weak governance, policy inconsistency, systemic corruption, poor infrastructure, and limited public participation in development planning and implementation. The following sections outline key

obstacles based on scholarly research and empirical findings.

- i. **Weak and Unresponsive Governance Structures:** A major impediment to achieving the selected SDGs in Nigeria is the weakness of governance institutions and the absence of responsive, people-centered governance. Scholars like Aiyede (2019) and Agbaje (2017) argue that Nigeria's governance system is highly centralized and dominated by elites, with limited input from marginalized and vulnerable populations. This top-down approach often leads to policies that do not reflect the actual needs of communities, thereby hindering effective poverty reduction, food security, and health service delivery.
- ii. Grindle (2007) emphasizes that governance failures—such as lack of transparency, limited accountability, and poor service delivery—contribute significantly to development setbacks. Nigeria's weak institutions are further hampered by inconsistent implementation of development strategies and lack of continuity across administrations.
- iii. **Pervasive Poverty and Inequality (SDG 1):** Nigeria remains one of the poorest countries globally, despite its resource wealth. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2022), over 63% of the population is multidimensionally poor, with high levels of deprivation in education, healthcare, sanitation, and housing. Ajakaiye and Olaniyan (2019) link persistent poverty to structural governance challenges, including corruption, rent-seeking, and the mismanagement of public resources.
- iv. **Food Insecurity and Agricultural Sector Mismanagement (SDG 2):** Food insecurity is another critical challenge. Nigeria ranks poorly in the Global Hunger Index (GHI, 2022), reflecting widespread hunger and undernutrition. Adepoju and Fabusoro (2021) attribute this to inadequate investment in agriculture, poor infrastructure, insecurity in rural areas, and lack of access to markets and agricultural inputs.
- v. The mismanagement of agricultural interventions, such as the Anchor Borrowers' Programme, is another major concern. Ezeano et al. (2020) report that political patronage and lack of transparency in allocation of agricultural grants have eroded public trust and reduced the impact of such initiatives. In addition, climate change, desertification, and erratic rainfall further undermine food production, especially in the northern regions of the country.
- vi. **Poor Health Infrastructure and Inadequate Public Health Financing (SDG 3):** Nigeria's health sector is underfunded and overstretched, particularly in rural areas. According to Uzochukwu et al. (2015), poor infrastructure, shortage of qualified health professionals, and unequal access to health services continue to hinder progress in achieving SDG 3. Nigeria's health budget allocation has consistently fallen short of the 15% benchmark recommended by the Abuja Declaration.
- vii. **Insecurity and Armed Conflict:** Insecurity especially in the North-East, North-West, and parts of the Middle Belt poses a significant threat to the achievement of all three goals. Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, banditry, and kidnapping have displaced

millions and disrupted agricultural production, health service delivery, and livelihoods (Obi, 2021). The internal displacement crisis makes it increasingly difficult to deliver poverty alleviation programmes or public services effectively.

- viii. **Corruption and Lack of Transparency:** Corruption remains a systemic barrier to sustainable development in Nigeria. It diverts funds from critical sectors such as health, agriculture, and social welfare. Aiyede (2019) and the Transparency International (2023) report confirm that corruption undermines public confidence, distorts policy priorities, and limits the capacity of government to deliver essential services needed to meet the SDGs.
- ix. **Data Gaps and Poor Monitoring Mechanisms:** Reliable data is essential for tracking progress on SDGs. However, Nigeria suffers from serious data deficiencies and inconsistencies. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2021) and Sachs et al. (2016) note that many government agencies lack the capacity and coordination to collect, analyze, and utilize data effectively for evidence-based policymaking. This hampers the ability to monitor progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies.

Responsive Governance–Development Synergy Showing Development Indicators and Governance Bottlenecks for Sustainable Development Goal 1, 2 and 3.

Goal	Indicators	Primary Governance Bottleneck
SDG 1: No Poverty	Proportion living below the international poverty line	Fragmented social protection systems, weak targeting mechanisms causing exclusion, and lack of vertical coordination.
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Average income of small-scale food producers. Proportion of agricultural area under productive, sustainable and productive practices	Insecure land tenure rights, unequal resource distribution, and poor horizontal policy coherence (e.g., agricultural subsidies undermining environmental and nutritional goals)
SDG 3: Health and Well-being	Maternal mortality ratio. Health workers' density and distribution	Institutional corruption, lack of decentralised health care delivery, and underfunded, inefficient public service management.

Source: UN SDG Indicators Database, 2025

Theoretical Framework

The paper adopted Responsive Governance-Development Synergy Theory (RGDS Theory). The Responsive Governance-Development Synergy Theory (RGDS Theory) posits that the effectiveness of sustainable development outcomes particularly in the areas of poverty reduction (SDG 1), food security (SDG 2), and health (SDG 3) is directly proportional to the responsiveness of governance structures to the socio-economic needs of citizens. The theory emphasizes a dynamic interaction between governance actors (state institutions, civil society, and citizens) and development indicators, where responsiveness defined as timely, inclusive,

transparent, and accountable decision-making serves as the catalyst for measurable development results.

Drawing from State-Synergy Theory propounded in 1996 by Peter Evans, Society systems theory and participatory governance models (Grindle, 2007; Fung & Wright, 2003), RGDS Theory introduces a feedback-loop mechanism in which citizens' needs and feedback shape government responses, while government responsiveness enhances citizen trust, participation, and ultimately, development outcomes.

Key Assumptions of RGDS Theory Governance is not merely about rule enforcement but about actively engaging with citizens to co-produce development. Sustainable development is not achievable without a governance structure that is transparent, accountable, and people-cantered. Responsive institutions serve as intermediaries that translate policy inputs into impactful development outputs. There is a mutual reinforcement between responsive governance and sustainable development: one fuels the other.

Nigerian Experience

SDG 1 (No Poverty) In Nigeria, despite several poverty alleviation programmes such as N-Power, the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), and the National Social Investment Programme high poverty rates persist (World Bank, 2022). RGDS Theory explains this by noting that governance institutions often design interventions with minimal input from poor communities, leading to poor targeting, corruption, and policy misalignment. Application: If poverty programmes were co-designed and monitored by citizens (especially vulnerable groups), the programmes would more accurately reflect real needs and lead to better outcomes. States like Ekiti and Kaduna have piloted participatory budgeting models that align with this approach, yielding more community-centered interventions.

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) The agricultural sector in Nigeria is plagued by poor subsidy distribution, insecurity, and weak extension services (Ezeano et al., 2020). RGDS Theory suggests that a top-down governance model in agriculture suppresses farmers' voices and limits local innovation. Application: Through responsive governance—where farmers are part of planning committees and resource allocation decisions the agricultural value chain can be revived. Evidence from Oyo State's agricultural cluster model shows that involving farmers in planning increases yields and access to markets.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) Nigeria's health sector is marked by poor access, underfunding, and weak accountability. For instance, the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) has faced issues of mismanagement and non-disbursement (Uzochukwu et al., 2015). Application: Under RGDS Theory, health systems must be people-centred and feedback-driven. This means creating real-time complaint and response mechanisms, health facility scorecards, and community health boards. Lagos State's success with primary healthcare revitalization partially reflects these principles. Theory calls for a shift from elite-driven governance to citizen-embedded decision-making frameworks. Encourages scholars to empirically assess how various

dimensions of governance responsiveness correlate with SDG performance metrics. SDG progress should be tracked not only through outcome indicators (e.g., poverty rates) but also through governance indicators such as response time, inclusion level, and public trust.

In conclusion, The RGDS Theory provides a new analytical lens to understand the interdependence between governance responsiveness and sustainable development outcomes. Applied to Nigeria, it reveals that the persistent underperformance in SDGs 1, 2, and 3 is not solely a resource problem but a governance failure rooted in low responsiveness. To move forward, Nigeria must institutionalize governance systems that are open, participatory, adaptive, and accountable, ensuring that citizens are not just recipients but co-architects of development.

Methodology

This paper adopted an ex post facto research design to examine the relationship between responsive governance and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in Nigeria. The ex post facto design is appropriate because the variables under investigation governance responsiveness and SDG outcomes cannot be manipulated by the researcher, as they have already occurred within the socio-political context of the country. According to Kerlinger and Lee (2000), ex post facto research is suitable for analysing existing conditions to establish possible causal relationships. Similarly, Nworgu (2015) emphasises that this design enables the study to investigate phenomena retrospectively, allowing the identification of trends, patterns, and associations based on already existing data. The United Nations data on SDG contributions to governance was analysed. The choice of this method aligns with the study's objective of assessing challenges and recommendations for improving governance mechanisms that influence SDG performance in Nigeria.

Findings

Governance and Institutional Weakness

Governance in Nigeria is highly centralized, elite-dominated, and top-down, with limited citizen participation and feedback. There is a persistent gap between policy formulation and implementation due to poor accountability, lack of continuity across administrations, and weak institutional capacity.

Poverty and Social Intervention Failures

Over 63% of Nigerians are multidimensionally poor, with rural areas worst hit. Poverty persists not due to lack of resources but due to misgovernance, corruption, and elite capture. Key social intervention programmes such as N-Power and NSIP have recorded limited impact because of poor targeting, lack of transparency, and weak monitoring mechanisms

Food Insecurity and Agricultural Sector Challenges

Nigeria faces chronic food insecurity and ranks poorly on the Global Hunger Index. Agricultural policies like the Anchor Borrowers' Programme have underperformed due to corruption in subsidy allocation, underinvestment, and exclusion of local farmers from policy design. Additional constraints include insecurity, climate change, poor rural infrastructure, and lack of access to markets

Health System Deficiencies

The health sector remains fragile with one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates globally. Primary health care, especially in rural areas, is weak due to inadequate funding, brain drain, and poor infrastructure. The National Health Insurance Scheme has failed to expand beyond the formal sector due to lack of political will and accountability. This has led to public mistrust, medical tourism, and reliance on informal providers.

Cross-Cutting Structural Constraints

Several cross-cutting issues undermine SDG progress: Corruption and lack of transparency that divert resources from critical sectors. Insecurity and armed conflict that disrupt agriculture, health delivery, and livelihoods. Poor infrastructure and underfunding- the health budget is below the Abuja Declaration 15% target Data gaps and weak M&E systems that hinder evidence-based policymaking and SDG tracking.

Conclusion

This study has critically examined the nexus between responsive governance and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in Nigeria. The findings reveal that despite Nigeria's formal commitment to the 2030 Agenda, persistent challenges such as weak institutions, corruption, policy inconsistency, insecurity, and low citizen participation continue to hinder significant progress toward these goals. Responsive governance characterized by transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, and participatory decision-making remains largely underdeveloped in the Nigerian context, thereby undermining the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes, food security strategies, and healthcare delivery systems.

Scholarly evidence suggests that development outcomes are significantly enhanced when governance systems are attuned to the needs and priorities of citizens. The literature further confirms that good governance is not merely a complementary factor but a central driver of sustainable development. Therefore, achieving SDGs 1, 2, and 3 in Nigeria requires a fundamental reorientation of governance processes to become more people-centered and performance-driven.

To this end, the paper suggests a multi-dimensional approach: strengthening institutional capacity, promoting inclusive policymaking, increasing investments in agriculture and healthcare, enhancing data systems for monitoring and evaluation, and fostering citizen engagement at all levels of governance. Responsive governance must not be viewed as an ideal but as a practical framework for policy design and implementation.

In a bid to make tangible progress in eradicating poverty, eliminating hunger, and ensuring healthy lives for all by 2030, Nigeria must prioritize governance reforms that place citizens at the heart of development. Only through inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance can the promise of the SDGs be fully realized.

Recommendations

In light of the challenges confronting Nigeria in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being), it becomes imperative to put forward strategic and practical suggestions that align with the principles of responsive governance. The following suggestions are proposed as actionable steps to improve Nigeria's development outcomes in these priority areas:

- I. **Poverty Reduction through Economic Empowerment and Inclusion (SDG 1):** Poverty reduction should go beyond cash transfers and target economic inclusion: Support informal sector workers through access to microcredit, skills development, and social protection schemes. Promote rural development strategies that improve infrastructure, market access, and financial inclusion for vulnerable populations. Decentralize social protection programmes to state and local governments for better adaptation to local contexts and monitoring.
- II. **Transforming Agricultural Governance for Food Security (SDG 2):** Food security is fundamental to poverty eradication and health outcomes. Scholars call for structural reforms in agricultural governance. Thus, Nigeria should: Increase public investment in agriculture, particularly in rural infrastructure (irrigation, roads, storage facilities) and research and extension services. Promote agro-based cooperatives to enhance farmers' access to markets, credit, and inputs. Decentralize agricultural support services and involve farmer groups in policy formulation to make programmes demand-driven and locally relevant. Address insecurity in farming areas through community policing and peacebuilding initiatives. Agricultural Governance and Food Systems Reform (SDG 2)
- III. **Strengthening the Healthcare System (SDG 3)** To achieve universal health coverage and improve health outcomes, the Nigerian need to increase health budget allocation in line with the Abuja Declaration's 15% target. Revitalize primary healthcare centres (PHCs) and ensure they are adequately staffed, equipped, and funded. Expand the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to cover informal sector workers and indigent populations through targeted subsidies. Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) to

improve infrastructure and service delivery in health institutions.

- IV. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Public Sector Accountability:** Governance reform is central to achieving sustainable development. As Aiyede (2019) and Grindle (2007) observe, weak institutions and lack of accountability impede service delivery and inclusive development. Therefore, the Nigerian government should: Reform civil service institutions to be more transparent, professional, and performance-driven. Strengthen anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC and ICPC with autonomy, funding, and political backing to reduce leakages in poverty alleviation and health programmes. Ensure fiscal accountability by adopting open budget initiatives and enhancing legislative oversight.
- V. **Promoting Inclusive and Participatory Governance:** Responsive governance requires citizen engagement and inclusion in policy processes. To this end, Institutionalize community participation in local government planning, especially in designing poverty reduction and agricultural programmes. Strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to monitor SDG implementation. Implement digital platforms for feedback and social auditing at state and federal levels, enhancing citizen-government communication.
- VI. **Addressing Security Challenges and Development Disruption:** Security is fundamental to development, especially in agriculture and health service delivery. Implement integrated rural security frameworks that combine community policing with intelligence-led operations. Support internally displaced persons (IDPs) with targeted SDG interventions in health, nutrition, and livelihoods. Rebuild critical infrastructure in conflict-affected areas to restore services and encourage resettlement.
- VII. **Enhancing Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Management:** Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are necessary for tracking SDG progress. Sachs et al. (2016) and UNDP (2021) highlight the importance of quality data. Thus: Invest in national and subnational data infrastructure, including partnerships with academic institutions and the private sector. Develop an integrated SDG monitoring dashboard that links national and state-level performance indicators. Train M & E personnel in ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) for better policy tracking and evidence-based planning.
- VIII. **Fostering Inter-Sectoral and Multi-Level Coordination** Poor coordination among federal, state, and local governments hampers SDG implementation. Strengthen inter-governmental relations mechanisms to ensure alignment between national plans and subnational implementation. Establish SDG implementation task forces at state and local government levels to mainstream the goals into budgeting and development planning. Promote knowledge sharing through national SDG forums, workshops, and cross-sectoral policy dialogues.

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