

Developing Country Support Needs for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Results from a Survey conducted by the United Nations
Development Programme

April 2016

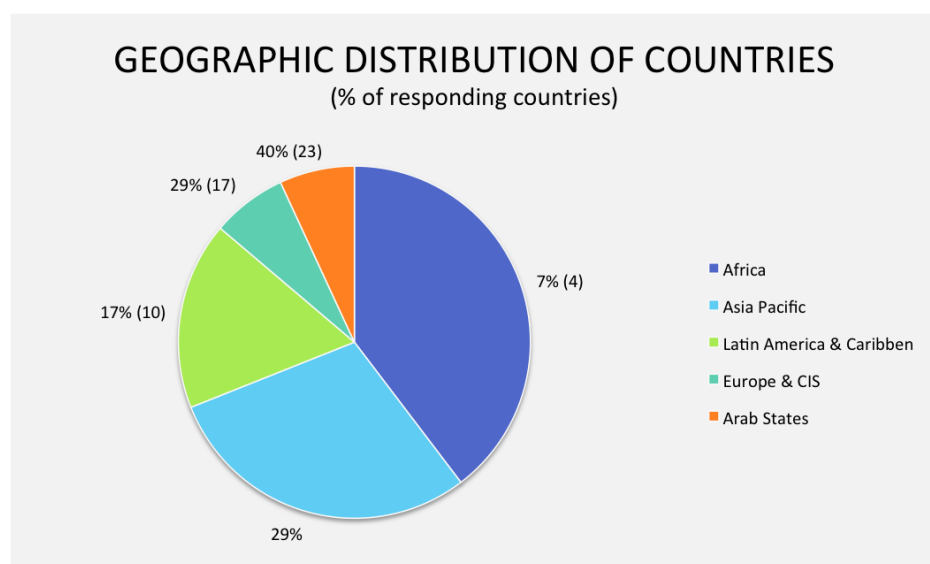


UNDP Survey on NDC Implementation Support Needs

Building on its previous country support in the run up to the Paris Agreement, UNDP conducted a survey to assess countries' capacity development support needs as they prepare for implementation of the Paris Agreement and, in particular, their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The survey addressed countries' progress on NDC implementation planning, as well as capacity development or technical assistance needs related to NDC implementation. While the survey was conducted to inform UNDP's internal discussions on NDC work, UNDP is sharing the results as they may prove useful for other organisations and partners providing NDC-related support.

The survey was distributed to countries that participated in UNDP's past NDC regional technical dialogues as well as in sub-regional technical training workshops that were organized by UNDP in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat. Responses were received from 72 respondents (66 valid), representing 58 developing countries (17 from Asia-Pacific, 10 from Latin America & the Caribbean, 23 from Africa, 4 from Europe & CIS, and 4 from Arab states). Eleven of the countries were Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and 19 were Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Figure 1. Distribution of Responding Countries by Region

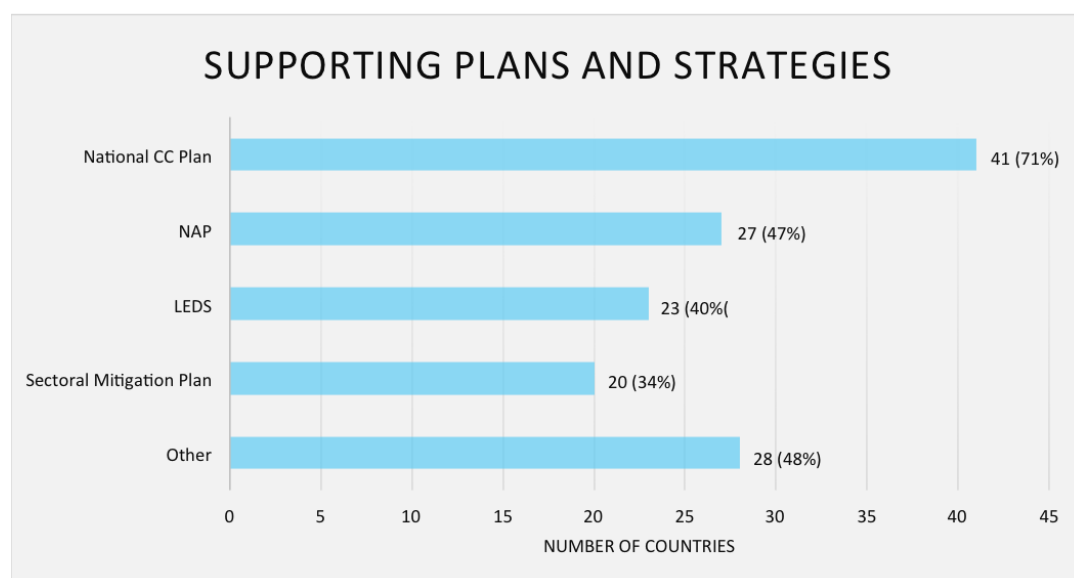


Current Status of NDC Planning in Developing Countries

With the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement, countries are now beginning to plan for implementation of the NDCs that they submitted in the lead-up to the climate change negotiations. However, countries are at different stages in developing plans or strategies that will guide national implementation of their NDCs. The survey found that more than two-thirds of the responding countries have either not yet started with planning for NDC implementation (34%) or are in initial discussions with stakeholders (33%). Technical support for NDC planning and readiness will therefore be crucial over the coming years in order to achieve successful implementation of NDCs.

In most cases, countries' NDC planning and implementation will build on existing climate change-related plans and strategies. The survey found that over two-thirds (71%) of responding countries have already developed a national climate change strategy or plan; nearly half (47%) of the countries have a national adaptation plan; more than a third (34%) have developed sectorial mitigation plans; 40% have a low emission development strategies (LEDS); and 48% have other plans or strategies that will contribute to NDC implementation (e.g., national development plans, sectorial adaptation plans, climate change laws, energy policies, etc.). These plans and strategies will play a key role in national efforts to translate NDCs into concrete actions.

Figure 2. Existing Plans and Strategies to Support NDC Implementation

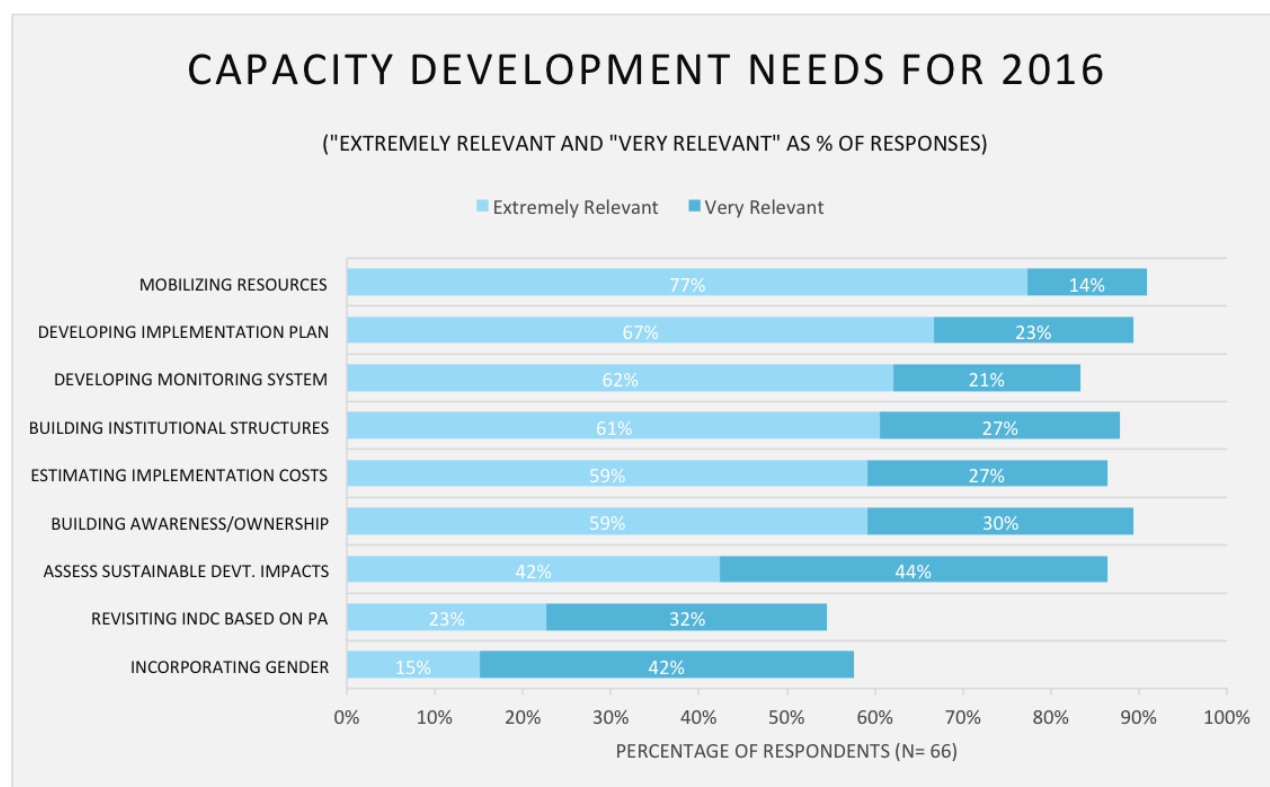


Identified Support Needs for NDC Implementation

The primary objective of this survey was to identify key capacity development/technical assistance needs related to NDC implementation. The top four needs identified by respondents were capacity development/technical support for: 1) mobilizing resources for NDC implementation (77% answering "extremely relevant"), 2) developing NDC implementation plans (67%), 3) developing/improving information base and monitoring systems (62%), and 4) building institutional structures and coordination mechanisms (61%).

Other key areas identified as extremely relevant were estimating NDC implementation costs (59%) and building awareness and ownership of NDCs at the national level (59%). Linkages to sustainable development goals play an important role: respondents noted the need for support to assess sustainable development impacts of NDCs (42% noting extremely relevant). Furthermore, respondents noted the relevance of technical assistance for revisiting NDCs based on the Paris Agreement and for incorporating gender considerations in NDC implementation. Responses received from the 66 respondents are summarised in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Capacity Building Needs of Developing Countries



In addition to the support areas identified above, qualitative comments received from respondents noted the need for trainings or consultations with stakeholders in key economic sectors, IPCC greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory methodologies, and emission factor studies. Other areas of interest include understanding the application of market mechanisms, and developing the capacity of industry and local and federal governments to identify opportunities for mitigation and adaptation.

Key Themes Identified in Survey Responses

Areas of Support Needs:

- 1) Moving from INDCs to NDC Implementation
- 2) Building Support for Climate Action
- 3) Assessments & Priority Setting
- 4) Developing an Information Base and Monitoring Systems
- 5) Institutional Arrangements
- 6) Sector-specific Approaches and Access to Technology
- 7) Mobilizing Resources and Private Sector Participation for NDC Implementation

1) Moving from INDCs to NDC Implementation

Respondents expressed uncertainty around the next steps required to move from submitted INDCs to NDC implementation. Translating these submitted INDCs into concrete policies, programs, and projects will be key to successful implementation. Respondents identified a need to develop capacities to institutionalize robust NDC processes that link sustainable development with ambitious mitigation and adaptation efforts. They highlighted the need for support for the development of NDC implementation plans, including guidance from technical experts and the sharing of experiences between countries.

Furthermore, respondents noted the need to increase technical capacities for GHG inventories; policy assessments; enabling policies and regulations; cost estimates for NDC implementation; and preparing for future rounds of NDCs. The need to develop capacities of national and sub-national actors was stated as well. One idea championed by respondents was to facilitate peer-to-peer learning among countries based on similar NDC contexts.

2) Building Support for Climate Action

The lack of awareness and/or knowledge about the Paris Agreement, climate change, and NDCs provides a significant obstacle to successful NDC implementation. Respondents recognized the importance of building political support at the highest level, and requested technical support for education and awareness raising among political leaders, decision-makers, and the general public.

Respondents thereby saw awareness as a key step to securing political approval and commitment. The lack of clarity among policy makers with respect to international support for finance and knowledge of NDC implementation is one of the most fundamental challenges. It was further suggested that questions regarding the mobilization of climate finance could be addressed through roundtables or dialogues with partners. Overall, the need for communication and awareness strategies around INDCs and NDC implementation was emphasized.

3) Assessments & Priority Setting in the context of the NDC

Given the scale of NDC implementation, respondents saw a need to disaggregate NDCs into sector based reviews to define priority areas and interventions. Countries requested support for the development of baselines and scenarios which are key to designing clear road maps of mitigation measures. Support would include exercises on how to establish the baseline for key sectors, targeted sectorial exercises (including REDD+) to understand economy wide mitigation action, as well as exercises in scenario building for mitigation and adaptation. In addition, countries identified the need for support for GHG projections and the impact of policies and measures on the mitigation target.

Developing the capacity to understand markets and the application of market mechanisms for mitigation actions was identified as another key support area. Furthermore, countries were interested in enhancing skills for economic modeling and economic instruments for the design and implementation of mitigation projects. Conducting feasibility studies for mitigation actions and developing technology roadmaps were identified as support needs as well.

The integration of adaptation emerged as another strong concern. Specifically, the need to strengthen capacity for technical assessments and methodologies for assessing vulnerabilities and adaptation needs (including community-based assessments) was identified.

4) Developing an Information Base and Monitoring Systems

Respondents identified the need to develop capacities for data collection, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and/or verification mechanisms for the national as well as the subnational level. Training has been requested for emissions accounting, as well as for understanding processes relating to compliance (including reporting to UNFCCC process).

Countries need support for developing and strengthening Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in the context of their NDCs, strengthening monitoring capacities, and carrying out gap analyses on data availability and sharing. The question of how to ensure robust data sets from various sectors was raised as well.

5) Technical Assessments in the context of the NDC

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