

National Indicator Framework For Monitoring and Evaluation Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030)

Ye Naing Htet

Abstract

Myanmar is striving towards Peace, Stability and Development. There are over 53 million people (135 ethnic groups) living in Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar (GoM) aims to improve the living standards of the Myanmar people and increase national incomes in order to move from being an LDC to a Developing Country. So, the GoM launched the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) (2018-2030) in August 2018 as our national development vision. It is made up of 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans. All are firmly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), various regional, global commitments and the 12 point Economic Policy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The MSDP aims to provide a long-term vision (2030) of a peaceful, prosperous, democratic country and transformational economic growth for nation. Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is the National Statistical Authority released SDG Indicator Baseline report of Myanmar for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) SDGs (2030 global agenda) in August 2017. Building on the experience and expertise the CSO developed through the SDG process, the GoM tasked CSO for Monitoring and Evaluation MSDP(2018-2030). CSO has been working together with UNDP, related Ministries and Departments, NGOs and INGOs to prepare a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSDP since July 2018. The NIF identifies the required statistical indicators and responsible data producing agencies to support Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSDP.

Keywords: CSO, NIF, M&E, MSDP, SDGs

1. Introduction

As we know, all countries in the world are implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 global agenda to reach these goals and targets. Myanmar is one of the United Nations Countries, which is also implementation 2030 global agenda to reach no one left-behind the achievement of SDGs in 2030. Myanmar is facing challenges a lot to reach SDGs Goals and Targets that were adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The Government of Myanmar (GoM) laid down Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) under the leadership of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MOPFI) in August 2018 in order to support while implementation SDGs to reach its Goals and Targets.

Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MOPFI) is producing official statistics to support the preparation of policies and plans, or monitoring and evaluation of activities, or resources allocation, or doing research and development activities through accurate and quality statistics. CSO is also the National Statistical Authority in Myanmar. CSO has been Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) SDGs (2030 global agenda) since 2016. Building on the experience and expertise the CSO developed through the SDG process, the GoM tasked CSO for Monitoring and Evaluation MSDP(2018-2030). CSO has been working together with UNDP, related Ministries and Departments, NGOs, and INGOs to prepare a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSDP since July 2018.

2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

2. Objective

This paper aims to reveal the differences between Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Indicator Framework (NIF) and Global SDG Indicators Framework. Furthermore, this paper also aims to share knowledge about that how to prepare a National Indicator Framework (NIF) in Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI), Myanmar.

3. Methodology

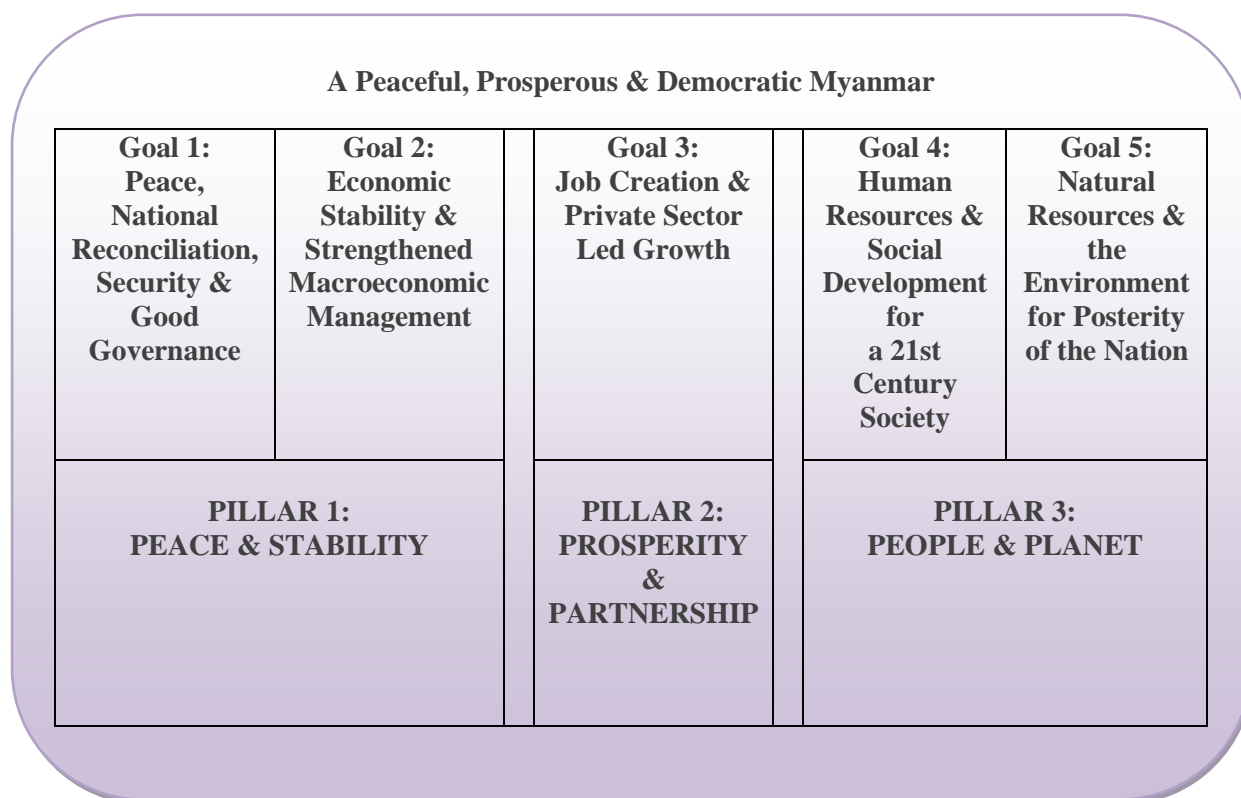
This paper is qualitative research by reviewing the existing documents from Central Statistical Organization and the Global SDG Portal.

4. National Indicator Framework For Monitoring and Evaluation Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030)

A. What is Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP)?

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is our national development vision. MSDP aims Myanmar to be Peaceful, Prosperous and Democratic country. The Government of Myanmar launched the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) (2018-2030) under the leadership of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MOPFI) in August 2018. There are 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans in MSDP. All are firmly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), various regional, global commitments and the 12 point Economic Policy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Figure 1. Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan Summary Framework



2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

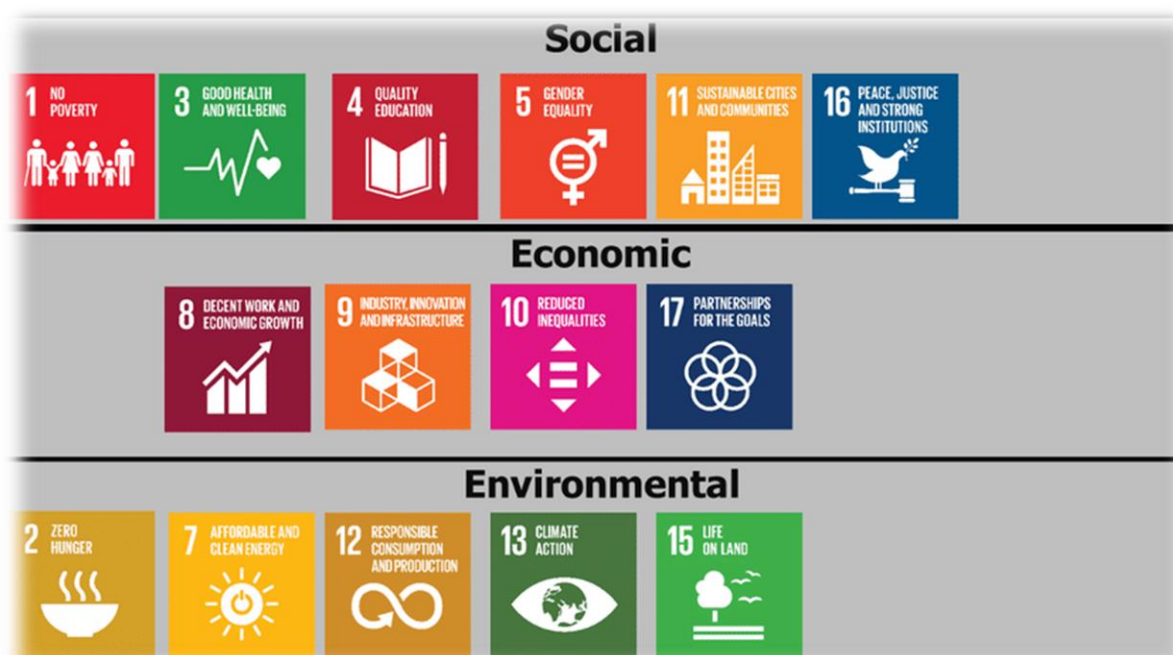
A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

B. What are the differences between SDGs and MSDP?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is well known as a global agenda or 2030 agenda. This agenda with the motto “Leaving no one behind” was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015. SDGs is made up of 3 Pillars, 17 Goals and 169 Targets. All the United Nations Member Countries have been implementation actions to reach SDGs Goals and Targets by using their respective ways since 2016.

Figure2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Pillars



Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) is a global agenda for leaving no one behinds the achievement of SDGs across the world by 2030, but Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) (MSDP) is only Myanmar National Development Plan that aims Myanmar to be Peaceful, Prosperous and Democratic country by 2030. Furthermore, there are main findings the differences between SDGs and MSDP in the following Table1.

Table1. SDGs Vs MSDP

SDGs	MSDP
3 Pillars	3 Pillars
17 Goals	5 Goals
169 Targets	251 Action Plans
Monitoring & Evaluation by SDG Indicators Framework	Monitoring & Evaluation by National Indicator Framework

2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

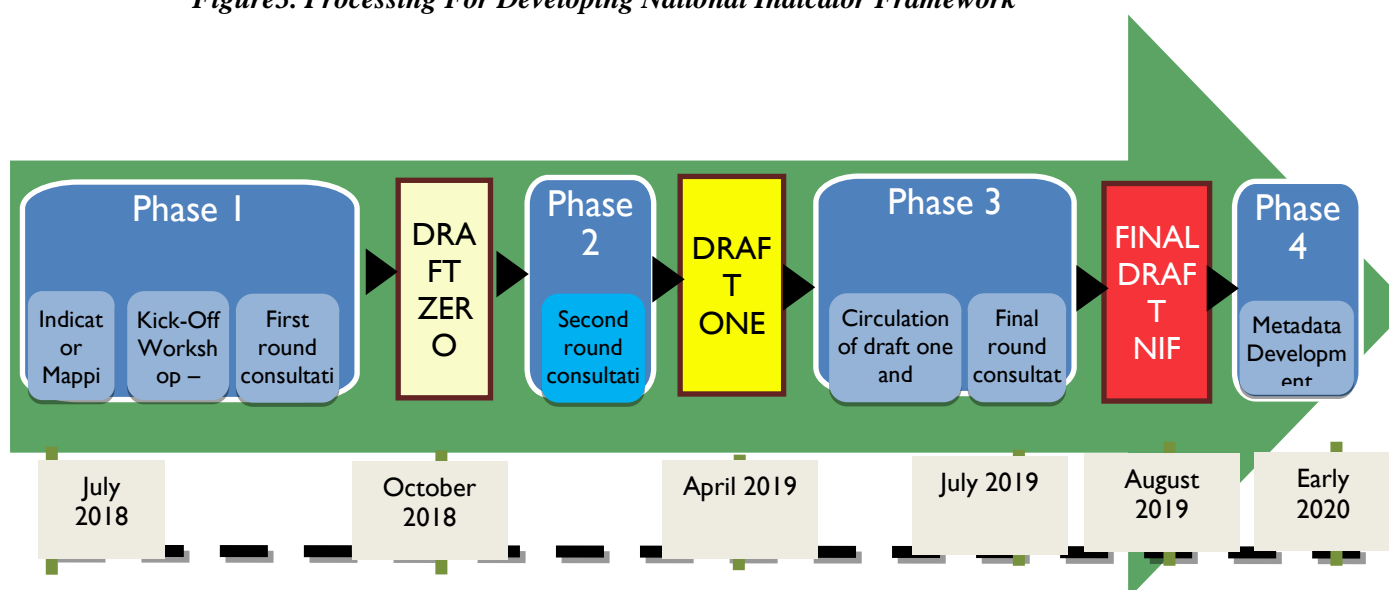
15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

MSDP Pillars are similar to SDGs Pillars. MSDP Pillar1: *PEACE & STABILITY* is related to SDGs Pillar1: *Social Development*. MSDP Pillar2: *PROSPERITY & PARTNERSHIP* is related to SDGs Pillar2: *Economic Development*. MSDP Pillar3: *PEOPLE & PLANET* is related to SDGs Pillar3: *Environmental Protection*.

C. What is National Indicator Framework (NIF)?

National Indicator Framework is to monitor and evaluate Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). Central Statistical Organization has been working together with UNDP, related Ministries and Departments, NGOs and INGOs to prepare a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Monitoring and Evaluation MSDP since July 2018. The NIF identifies the required statistical indicators and responsible data producing agencies to support Monitoring and Evaluation of the MSDP.

Figure3. Processing For Developing National Indicator Framework



There are 13 task teams under the leadership of CSO and UNDP for identifying and deciding on the indicators of National Indicator Framework for each MSDP Strategy.

Table2. Task Teams for identifying and deciding on the indicators of NIF

No.	Task Teams	MSDP Strategies
1	Peace	1.1 Secure and further foster Union-wide peace 1.2 Promote equitable and conflict sensitive socio-economic development throughout all States and Regions
2	Governance	1.4 Enhance good governance, institutional performance and improve the efficiency of administrative decision making at all levels

2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

		1.5 Increase the ability of all people to engage with government
3	Rule of Law	1.3 Promote greater access to justice, individual rights and adherence to the rule of law
4	Macroeconomics	2.1 Effectively manage the exchange rate and balance of payments 2.2 Reduce inflation and maintain monetary stability 2.3 Increase domestic revenue mobilisation through a fair, efficient and transparent taxation system 2.4 Strengthen public financial management to support stability and the efficient allocation of public Resources 2.5 Enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of State Economic Enterprises
5	Agriculture and Water	3.1 Create an enabling environment which supports a diverse and productive economy through inclusive agricultural, aquacultural and polycultural practices as a foundation for poverty reduction in rural areas 5.3 Enable safe and equitable access to water and sanitation in ways that ensure environmental sustainability
6	Job Creation and Private Sector-Led Growth	3.2 Support job creation in industry and services, especially through developing small-and mediumsized Enterprises 3.3 Provide a secure, conducive investment enabling environment which eases the cost of doing business, boosts investor confidence and increases efficiencies 3.4 Further reform our trade sector and strengthen regional and international

2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

		cooperation and Linkages
		3.5 Increase broad-based access to financial services and strengthen the financial system overall
		3.7 Encourage greater creativity and innovation which will contribute to the development of a modern economy
7	Infrastructure and Road Access	3.6 Build a priority infrastructure base that facilitates sustainable growth and economic diversification
8	Education	4.1 Improve equitable access to high quality lifelong educational opportunities
9	Health and Nutrition	4.2 Strengthen health services systems enabling the provision of universal health care using a path that is explicitly pro-poor
		4.4 Increase secure access to food that is safe and well-balanced
10	Social Protection	4.3 Expand an adaptive and systems based social safety net and extend social protection services throughout the life cycle
		4.5 Protect the rights and harness the productivity of all, including migrant workers
11	Environment	5.1 Ensure a clean environment together with healthy and functioning ecosystems
		5.2 Increase climate change resilience, reduce exposure to disasters and shocks while protecting livelihoods, and facilitate a shift to a low-carbon growth pathway
		5.5 Improve land governance and sustainable management of resource-based industries ensuring our natural resources dividend benefits all our people
12	Energy	5.4 Provide affordable and reliable energy to populations and industries via an appropriate energy generation mix

13	Urbanization	5.6 Manage cities, towns, historical and cultural centers efficiently and sustainably
----	--------------	---

There are 286 indicators in National Indicators Framework, according to the final round task teams’ consultation result in June 2019. These total indicators numbers of NIF represents in average 10.2 indicators per MSDP strategy. The share of SDG indicators is 41% in this NIF. A large majority (74%) of NIF indicators are readily measurable. Furthermore, a large majority (72%) of NIF indicators are at the strategic level (outcome or impact indicators).

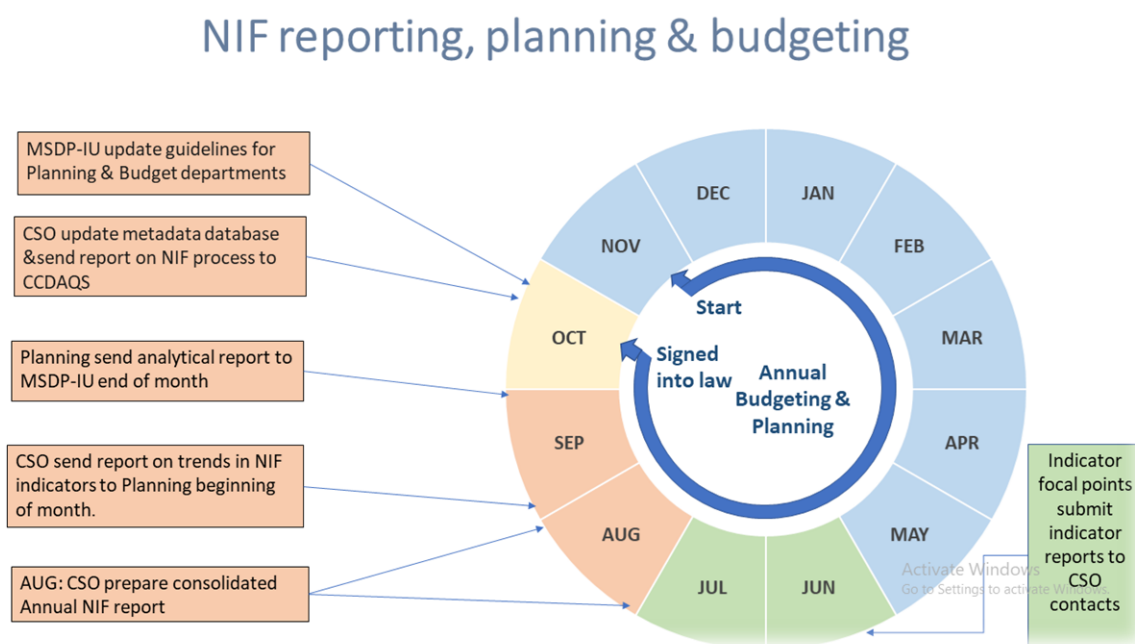
There are 12 Statistics Sections under CSO that have been working together with UNDP, related Ministries and Departments, NGOs and INGOs to prepare Metadata Development of NIF indicators by their respective sections since August 2019. The Metadata Template Form of NIF indicator has mainly 8 components.

Eight Components of Metadata Template Form of NIF Indicator

- (1) Indicator Information
- (2) Data Reporters
- (3) Definitions and Concepts
- (4) Data Sources and Collection Methods
- (5) Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations
- (6) Data Availability and Disaggregation
- (7) Comparability with International Data/Standards and Alternative Estimates
- (8) References, Documentation, and User Engagement

Indicator Focal Ministries and Departments (Data Producers/Data Supporters) have to submit their respective indicators’ report to CSO by the following timeline.

Figure.4 NIF Indicator Reporting, Planning and Budgeting Timeline



D. What are the differences between Global SDG Indicators Framework and NIF?

SDG indicators are to monitor and evaluation SDGs Goals and Targets. There are 232 indicators in Global SDG Indicators Framework. The Metadata Development of SDG indicators are being made by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) since March 2016. Forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission created the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) on 6 March 2015. The IAEG-SDGs consists of 27 representatives of national statistical offices and one ex officio member and also includes, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. This Expert Group meet physically twice a year, and otherwise conduct its work electronically. The Expert Group report annually its group discussion result to the Statistical Commission and seek guidance from it.

According to the decisions of IAEG-SDGs WebEx meetings on 27 November and 4 December 2019, the updated SDG Indicators Tier Classification contains 116 Tier I indicators, 92 Tier II indicators and 20 Tier III indicators. In addition to these, there are 4 indicators that have multiple tiers (different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers) as of 11 December 2019.

By the conclusion, there are main findings the differences between Global SDG Indicators Framework and NIF in the following Table3.

Table3. Global SDG Indicators Framework Vs National Indicator Framework

SDG Indicators	NIF Indicators
232 indicators (Total)	286 indicators (Total)
116 Tier I indicators	(74%) of NIF indicators are readily measurable
92 Tier II indicators	(72%) of NIF indicators are at the strategic level (outcome or impact indicators)
20 Tier III indicators.	The share of SDG indicators is 41% in NIF
4 indicators that have multiple tiers	-
For Monitoring and Evaluation SDGs Goals and Targets	For Monitoring and Evaluation MSDP

NIF Indicators have not been tier classified yet, but NIF readily measurable indicator definition is like SDG Tier II indicator. CSO and UNDP expect to classify NIF indicators after receiving all NIF indicators Metadata Template Forms from Ministries and Departments (Data Producers and Data Supporters). In NIF, the highest ratio of SDG indicators is 100% (Strategy 4.1 – Improve equitable access to high quality lifelong educational opportunities) and the lowest is 11% (Strategy 2.2 – Reduce inflation and maintain monetary stability).

Tier I: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Tier II: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

Tier III: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

(Source: IAEG-SDGs)

Input Indicator: measures the financial and non-financial resources invested into a project.

2020 Asia–Pacific Statistics Week

A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leaves no one and nowhere behind

15-19 JUNE 2020 | Bangkok, Thailand

Process Indicator: describes the activities implemented and the structures and institutional arrangements within which they occur.

Output Indicator: describes the products, capital goods and services, capacity gains, which result from a project.

Outcome Indicator: describes a higher-level change in conditions and capacities to which achieved outputs are meant to contribute.

Impact Indicator: describes the changes, negative or positive, in people's lives and in the country's overall development conditions

(Source: OECD, UNDP)

5. Conclusion

Total number of NIF indicators is more than even total number of SDG indicators. It can be assumed as NIF is a best indicator framework for monitoring and evaluation MSDP. On the other hand, CSO and other related Ministries & Departments (Data Producers/Data Supporters) are facing the following Challenges:

- Difficulty in having the Census and Survey data for monitoring and evaluation SDGs and MSDP because it is the high cost to do Census and Survey
- Limited investment in Statistics Sector in Myanmar
- Lack of staff has statistical knowledge in related Ministries and Department
- It is difficult to compile private data except Survey
- Limited advanced capacity of Statisticians in CSO

The government should encourage the expenditure of Statistics Sector for producing not only Administrative Data, but also Survey and Census Data. The Ministries & Departments (Data Producers/Data Supporters) also should engage with Custodian Agencies of SDG indicators such as World Bank, International labor Organization, etc. in order to get financial and technical support for producing NIF indicators because 41% of NIF indicators are also SDG indicators.

6. References

- [1] Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030)
- [2] National Indicator Framework (as of September 2019)
- [3] The Statistics Law (Myanmar)
- [4] Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- [5] Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators (as of 11 December 2019)
- [6] IAEG-SDGs Term of Reference 2017
- [7] Metadata Template for NIF indicators
- [8] Documents for NIF Indicators' Metadata Development Meetings in CSO