

Documenting what works and does not on the STI for SDG roadmap: Lessons Learnt

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Introduction

- There are about six steps provided in the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) guidebook on the implementation of Science Technology Innovation (STI) roadmaps for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We document lessons on each of the Steps based on our experience developing Kenya's roadmap in agriculture and manufacturing sectors in Kenya.

Step 1: Define objectives and scope

- This step followed the guidelines by IITA. In developing the objectives, it was noted that Kenya is currently in the process of coming up with medium term plans to support the implementation of Vision 2030
- The focus for the roadmap was SDG 2 and SDG 9.
- From our experience we **learned**; there is a need to analyse goals and objectives of the sectors targeted. While there are no specific methodologies outlined in the guidebook for this step, these questions are useful to guide this step:
 - a) What are the sectors' priorities?
 - b) Has there been any review of the sectors' policies?
 - c) What has been achieved so far?
 - d) What are the gaps and challenges?
 - e) Policy document review and stakeholder consultations (some key informant interview-KII) were useful to prepare for this step.
- While this is the first step in the guidebook, in our case, this step came after step No. 2

Step 2: Assess current situation

- The IITA guidebook propose this as the second step. This step to assess the SDG gaps was the first step we carried out devolving into the sectors. We performed the following 3 steps to identify the SDG gaps and the STI entry points:
 - a) Situational analysis of the SDGs in the country: The guidebook proposes some methodologies such as, benchmarking assessments such as those by Bertelsmann Stiftung. For our case we reviewed policy documents and other grey materials to assess the gaps. In addition, the SDG for STI committees represented by various agencies, think tank institutions and other stakeholders developed some parameters to help monitor progress and the implementation of the SDGs.
 - b) Detailed analysis of the sectors with respect to the SDGs.
 - c) Entry points of STI to address gaps in SDG 2 and 9: We **learnt** that prioritization exercise is recommended for a detailed analysis of STI entry points

Step 3: Develop vision, goals and targets

- There are several questions provided by the guideline to guide this step in terms of developing an ambitious vision of the roadmap.
- We relied on consensus by stakeholders in a workshop to develop the vision aligned to Kenya's Big four agenda which targets food security, affordable housing, universal health care, manufacturing and job creation.
- To develop strategic objectives and the strategies, we **learnt** there is a need to:
 - a) Take an inventory of the gaps in each of the sectors as identified in Step 2.
 - b) Develop a criteria to prioritise the gaps and the gaps then leads to the development of strategies.

Step 4: Assess alternative pathways

- This step was guided by the identified strategic issues. We developed several pathways that could help meet/achieve the strategic objective.
- There were several pathways listed but we developed a framework by identifying some relevant themes to prioritise the pathways. Feasibility, cost-effectiveness and scalability were some of the criteria suggested.

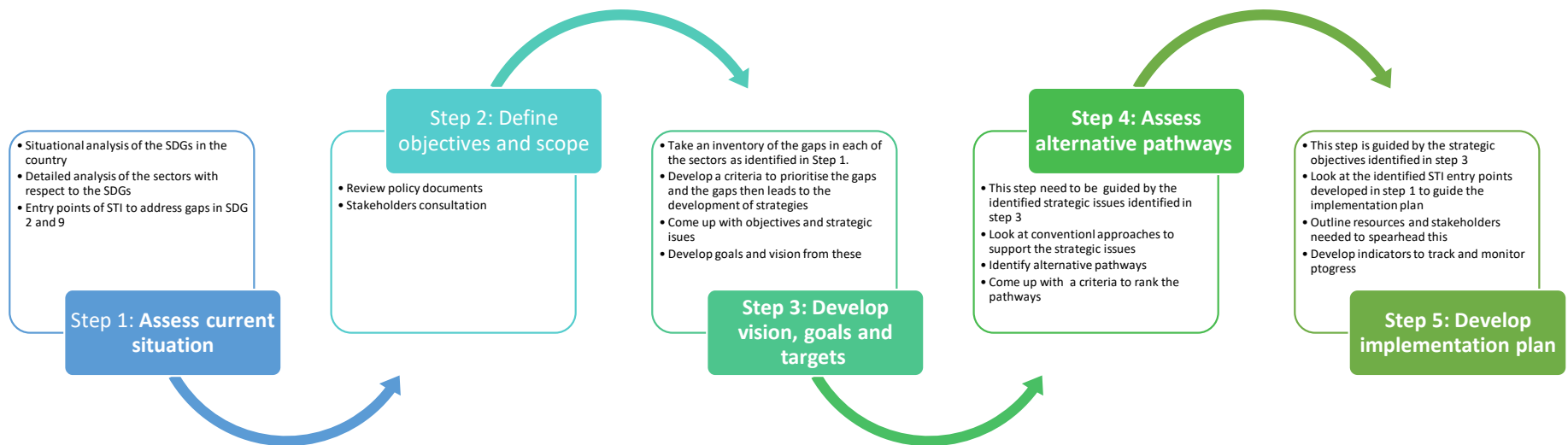
Step 6:
Execute,
monitor,
evaluate and
update plan

- We **learnt** that this step needs to be mapped into the strategic areas and it useful to discuss with wider stakeholder base on the feasibility of implementing proposed pathways with relevant STI identified within the institution and the country's vision.

General Lessons

- We reckon that we couldn't completely stick to the IITA guidelines above. We therefore detailed our own experience and methodology as in the Figure below and is our recommendation for any country developing their roadmaps.
- The guidebook is a suggestion and country's experience will be different depending on the sectors and the stakeholders involved and the country

Kenya's STI for SDG steps for the roadmap: Process



General lessons (2)

- Steps need not to be followed; need to be simple and follow a process
- We brought step 3 to step 2 and had a complete chapter
- We analyzed the SDGs and linked them to our sectors.
- Need to have a small section on methodology and how we approached this work; we did this in our roadmap although the guidebook does not suggest this.
- Do we need to be narrow or broad in the sectors? This is something countries will need to agree on
- We went back and agreed on the outline with the stakeholders.
- We added issues of impact of COVID-19 on the SDG2 selected. Countries may need to assess current challenges and their impacts. E.g. current war between Ukraine and Russia.
- We proposed to benchmark with the various country outlines.
- Step 3 is-we have it as vision and goals (scope and objectives purpose and targets); we deviated from original step