



**SYSTEM
STRATEGY
AND POLICY
LAB**

NORTHERN NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2045 TARGETS AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS



Background

Northern Nigeria, a region characterized by its vast population, rich cultural heritage, and significant economic potential, faces unique development challenges that require innovative and inclusive strategies. Despite being home to a diverse array of natural resources and human capital, the region continues to grapple with persistent poverty, low educational attainment, weak healthcare systems, and security challenges. These issues have hindered socio-economic progress and demand a long-term, comprehensive approach to transform



the lives of millions living in the region. The Northern Nigeria Development Goals (NNDGs) 2045 represent a bold and forward-thinking initiative to address these challenges and unlock the region's potential through coordinated efforts across critical sectors. Achieving the ambitious targets of the NNDGs 2045 requires a robust framework underpinned by clear Critical Success Factors (CSFs). These include public-private partnerships to mobilize resources for infrastructure development, enforcing policy reforms that prioritize inclusivity and sustainability, and building the institutional capacity needed to deliver results. Equally vital are community participation and targeted interventions that address the unique socio-cultural and economic realities of each state. By focusing on key areas such as education, healthcare, economic growth, youth empowerment, and climate resilience, the NNDGs 2045 aim to create a sustainable and equitable development trajectory for Northern Nigeria. This ambitious vision aligns seamlessly with the System Strategy and Policy Lab's (SSPL) mission of driving evidence-based, tailored, and future-proof solutions for governance and development. SSPL's role as the lead technical partner in designing and implementing the NNDGs emphasizes the importance of people-centered approaches and result-oriented strategies. Through initiatives such as Building Institutions for Results Delivery (BIRD) and the Governance Results Impact Partner (GRIP) program, SSPL leverages cutting-edge research, strategic planning, and capacity building to ensure that these goals translate into tangible improvements for communities across the region. The NNDGs 2045 are not merely a set of targets but a shared vision for transformation. By fostering regional collaboration, leveraging innovative technology, and ensuring accountability at every level, Northern Nigeria can emerge as a beacon of sustainable development. SSPL's commitment to aligning its work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensures that the NNDGs 2045 contribute not only to regional prosperity but also to global progress, creating a legacy of resilience, equity, and opportunity for future generations.

Message from the CEO/Founder of SSPL

Northern Nigeria at the Crossroads: Building a Sustainable Pathway to 2045.



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I am pleased to share that the Northern Nigeria Development Dialogue (NNDD) will serve as the launch platform for the **Northern Nigeria Development Goals (NNDGs) 2045**, a transformative roadmap inspired by the recommendations from the United Nations General Assembly UNGA 79th 2024 Summit of the Future, where regions, countries and states are encouraged to develop a future-proof long-term plans. Therefore, the NNDGs aim to drive sustainable, long-term development across Northern Nigeria by addressing key structural challenges while unlocking the region's immense potential.

Why does the Northern Nigeria Development Goals (NNDGs) 2045 Matter?

Northern Nigeria must take deliberate steps to harness its vast potential and transition from poverty to shared prosperity. **The region is endowed with abundant natural resources, a youthful population, and a rich cultural heritage—assets that, when strategically leveraged, can drive sustainable development.**

Investing in human capital, promoting inclusive economic growth, and leveraging innovations in agriculture, technology, and renewable energy are essential pathways to achieving progress. **This is why the System Strategy & Policy Lab (SSPL) is proud to lead the charge with the inaugural Northern Nigeria Development Dialogue NNDD and the launch of the Northern Nigeria Development Goals. NNDGs**

The NNDGs will serve as a strategic blueprint for

Northern Nigeria's governors, guiding the development of state-specific plans and policies. By inspiring transformative governance, encouraging collaboration, and accelerating the region's transition from poverty to shared prosperity, the NNDGs will lay the foundation for a thriving Northern Nigeria by 2045.

A Strong Regional Focus for Nigeria's Future

The future of Nigeria is increasingly shaped by the success of its regions. While national unity remains important, the future of the country lies in strengthening its regional frameworks, particularly in Northern Nigeria. With 19 states that are rich in untapped potential, it is crucial that these states remain focused on their unique challenges and opportunities. **Regional development will not only contribute to the national agenda but will ensure that the diverse needs of Northern Nigeria are met, creating a more resilient and prosperous future for all.** The NNDGs are designed to address these regional needs, offering a sustainable and collaborative path forward for Northern Nigeria.



**Critical Success Factors,
and Major Targets
over the next 20 years
for each goal of the Northern
Nigeria Development Goals (NNDGs).**



Accelerate Inclusive Economic Growth

Goal 1

Critical Success Factors

- ① Adequate funding and public-private partnerships in infrastructure and energy projects.
- ① Policy reforms to support agro-industrialization and market access.
- ① Effective monitoring and evaluation of economic programs to ensure equitable outcomes.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Achieve a 50% reduction in poverty rates across all Northern states, with progress measured against state-specific baselines established in 2025.
- ➔ Ensure that by 2045, 90% of rural households in each Northern state have access to electricity.
- ➔ Establish 20 additional agro-industrial hubs in each state of Northern Nigeria.
- ➔ Double agricultural exports in each state, with progress measured from baseline figures recorded in 2025.

Ensure Quality Education for All

Goal 2

Critical Success Factors

- ① Strong political will to prioritize education spending.
- ① Community involvement to address cultural barriers and ensure girls are enrolled in school.
- ① Partnerships with international organizations to improve infrastructure and teacher capacity.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should target an 90% completion rate for children in primary and secondary education.
- ➔ At the sub-national level, each state in Northern Nigeria should train and deploy 250,000 qualified teachers.
- ➔ To enhance access, each state should establish 400 new smart schools equipped with modern facilities.
- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should attain gender parity in school enrollment, retention, and completion rates.

Empower Youth and Women for Development

Goal 3

Critical Success Factors

- ① Access to vocational training and entrepreneurship programs.
- ① Gender-sensitive financial inclusion policies.
- ① Legislative reforms to address gender discrimination.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Reduce youth unemployment by 70% in each state, based on the baseline established in 2025.
- ➔ Increase female labor force participation to 70% in each state, in line with the baseline figures from 2025.
- ➔ Train an additional 75,000 youth and women in technical and entrepreneurial skills in each state, tailored to the unique needs of the state.
- ➔ Allocate 30% of public procurement opportunities to women-led businesses in each state, based on existing baselines.

Strengthen Governance and Security

Goal 4

Critical Success Factors

- ① Strengthening state institutions for effective service delivery.
- ② Enhanced collaboration between federal and state security agencies.
- ③ Citizen participation in governance and peacebuilding initiatives.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Each state should reduce incidents of banditry and insurgency by 90%.
- ➔ Each state should train 200,000 individuals for neighborhood watch (vigilante) roles.
- ➔ Implement digital governance systems, including citizen engagement portals and feedback platforms, across all 19 Northern states.
- ➔ Achieve a 70% public trust index in state governance as per the baseline established in 2025

Improve Health and Social Well-Being



Critical Success Factors

- ① Robust funding for healthcare infrastructure and services.
- ① Partnerships with international health organizations.
- ① Effective health education campaigns targeting rural areas.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should reduce maternal mortality rates to below 200 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should reduce child malnutrition rates by 50%, based on the baseline established in 2025.
- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should ensure universal health coverage for 80% of the population, in line with the baseline set in 2025.
- ➔ Each state in Northern Nigeria should deploy an additional 50,000 healthcare workers.

Build Resilience to Climate Change

Goal 6

Critical Success Factors

- Policy enforcement on land use and reforestation programs.
- Adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- Each state in Northern Nigeria should restore 50% of degraded land through reforestation.
- Each state in Northern Nigeria should train an additional 750,000 to 1,000,000 farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Each state should establish one early warning system for climate-related disasters per Local Government Area (LGA).
- Each state should achieve 70% coverage of irrigation systems for farming.

Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Partnerships



Critical Success Factors

- ① Strong leadership commitment to regional cooperation.
- ① Creation of institutional frameworks for collaboration.
- ① Engagement of private sector stakeholders in regional projects.



Major Targets (By 2045)

- ➔ Establish the Northern Governors' Development Council.
- ➔ Attract \$50 billion in regional investments through PPPs.
- ➔ Achieve a 50% increase in intra-regional trade volume.
- ➔ Develop 20 major cross-border infrastructure projects.

Tailor-fitted Recommendations for the 19 Northern States of Nigeria

To promote sustainable development and effective governance, the following comprehensive recommendations are proposed for the 19 Northern States:

1

Establish Development Management Boards

Each state should create a **Development Management Board** to enhance coordination among government agencies, private sector stakeholders, development partners, and civil society organizations.

- The board will serve as a strategic hub for planning, coordinating, and monitoring development activities, ensuring alignment with state, regional, and national priorities.
- The Board will strengthen inter-agency collaboration.
- The board will eliminate duplication of efforts and drive impactful outcomes across sectors.

2

Develop 20-Year Long-Term Development Plans

States must formulate **20-year long-term development plans** tailored to their unique socio-economic contexts. These plans should align with Nigeria's **Agenda 2050** and the African Union's **Agenda 2063**, focusing on key areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, industrialization, and climate resilience.

- The plans should include measurable milestones and indicators to monitor progress.
- They should incorporate innovative approaches, such as digital transformation and sustainable resource management.
- Community participation should be prioritized to ensure inclusivity and shared ownership of development goals.

3

Create Short-Term 4-Year Youth and Gender-Responsive Strategic Plans

Each state should develop **short-term 4-year strategic plans** that are youth- and gender-focused, addressing critical issues such as unemployment, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion.

- These plans must reflect the specific needs and challenges of the state's population, particularly marginalized groups.
- Initiatives under the plans should include skill acquisition programs, financial inclusion schemes, and support for women-led businesses.
- Partnerships with international organizations and local NGOs should be leveraged to maximize impact.

4

Establish Governance and Development Delivery Units

To enhance efficiency and accountability, states should establish **Governance and Development Delivery Units** tasked with overseeing the implementation of key projects and policies.

- These units should be staffed with the best talents, including professionals with expertise in governance, project management, and result-based delivery.
- They will act as a bridge between policymakers and the public, ensuring timely delivery of programs and addressing bottlenecks in implementation.
- Technology-driven monitoring systems should be incorporated for real-time tracking of progress.

5

Appoint Technical Experts as Commissioners for Key Ministries

At least **50% of state commissioners** appointed to lead key ministries (such as health, education, agriculture, and economic planning) should be technical experts with relevant qualifications and experience.

- This approach ensures evidence-based decision-making and professional management of critical sectors.
- It fosters innovation and improves the credibility of government actions among stakeholders and the public.

6

Develop State Development Financing Frameworks

States should create a **State Development Financing Framework** to mobilize and manage financial resources effectively.

- Strategies should include enhancing internally generated revenue (IGR), establishing public-private partnerships (PPPs), and attracting investments.
- The framework should include clear guidelines for accessing international development funds and grants.
- Strong financial accountability measures must be integrated to prevent misuse of resources.

7

Publish Annual Governance and Development Performance Reports

States should adopt the practice of producing **Annual Governance and Development Performance Reports**, which will serve as a transparent record of achievements and challenges.

- These reports should include updates on key performance indicators (KPIs), budget utilization, and progress on development goals.
- They should be widely disseminated to the public, development partners, and stakeholders through accessible channels such as town hall meetings, state websites, and media outlets.
- Feedback mechanisms should be incorporated to foster citizen engagement and improve governance outcomes.

Implementation Strategy



Capacity Building: Strengthen the skills and knowledge of state officials to ensure effective implementation of these recommendations.



Stakeholder Collaboration: Partner with traditional rulers, religious leaders, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to ensure community buy-in and shared ownership.



Technology Adoption: Leverage digital tools for data collection, analysis, and monitoring of development initiatives.



Performance Accountability: Establish robust mechanisms for tracking progress and addressing implementation gaps.



About System Strategy and Policy Lab

System Strategy and Policy Lab is a private-led policy, governance and development think tank with the primary goal of offering evidence-based, tailored, results-driven, people-centered, and future-proof technical support and advisory services to both state and non-state institutions and organizations.

SSPL is dedicated to empowering our partners to navigate and overcome complex governance and development challenges. Our approach is built on people-centered policy design, ensuring that the needs and voices of communities guide every solution we create. We offer comprehensive support across key areas, including policy implementation, system and capacity strengthening, research, and advocacy.


Our technical expertise includes Building Institutions for Results Delivery (BIRD), where we help states, national, and international NGOs transform policies into tangible, impactful outcomes. We prioritize the establishment of robust systems for monitoring and evaluating results, ensuring that each initiative is both effective and sustainable.

Guided by a strong commitment to excellence, SSPL aligns its work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscoring our dedication to sustainability and climate action. More than just advisors, we are partners in progress, driving meaningful change and promoting development that benefits all.



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