1. Background

Strategic Development Plan

- The National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2013 includes many important targets for the Social Strategic Sector – short, medium and long-term targets.
- At present, our focus is on the 2017 targets in the current five year plans.
- These are the 2017 targets that can be found in the matrices that have been completed for the Social Strategic Sector as part of the Development Policy Coordination Mechanism (DPCM).
- There are over 120 targets for the sector, covering Education and Training, Health, Social Inclusion, Disaster Management, the Environment, Culture and Heritage, and Youth and Sport.

1. Background

Millennium Development Goals

The Social Strategic Sector is contributing to all eight MDGs:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rates
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

2. Key Progress/Achievements

Health

- 59% of births attended by a health professional (total of 42,114 pregnancies).
- Immunizations: BCG 77.1%, Polio III 82.5%, Measles 73%, DPT-HepB III 82.6% (total of 38,915 children under one year of age).
- 77% of new TB cases detected, and 91% successful treatments.
- 317 HIV+ cases detected by 2012, including 55 new cases identified in 2012.
- 193 health posts functioning (out of 442 planned).
- Incidence rate of malaria reduced to 5/1000.
- 71% of mental health patients receiving routine treatment in health centres and hospitals (total of 1,936 patients).

Social Inclusion

- Database design underway for the transitional civil service pension scheme, and ongoing discussions on the future contributive regime.
- Pensions for the elderly and people with disabilities have been established and are improving the lives of beneficiaries.
- Bolsa da Mae conditional cash transfer program being expanded (this year to 30,103 beneficiary families).
- First draft of the Child Protection Law prepared for discussion.
- More shelters for victims of gender based violence.
- Inter-ministerial coordination process has started to develop an action plan to implement the national policy on inclusion and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities.
- Ongoing validation of the 2009 registration data for National Liberation Combatants and families of martyrs.
2. Key Progress/Achievements

**Disaster Management**
- Development of inter-ministerial coordination, including contingency planning and a multi-sectoral emergency response exercise.
- Emergency and recovery assistance provided to victims of disasters (with many cases of floods).

**Environment**
- Creation of a commission for research and a feasibility study of the potential of carbon credits.
- Implementation of the law on the environment and finalization of the draft biodiversity law.

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**Culture and Heritage**
- Implementation of the government resolution on the protection of cultural heritage.
- Annual support for the rehabilitation of sacred houses (uma lulik).

**Youth and Sport**
- Establishment of the Youth Parliament - rules prepared for the selection process.
- Designs completed for the National Stadium and multipurpose gymnasium.

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3. Key Challenges

*(in operationalising the SDP in the short, medium and long term)*

**Short and medium term**
- An ongoing challenge is to keep improving outreach to the most vulnerable in the community ensuring that they have access to services.
- Infrastructure limitations and systems limitations remain a challenge (e.g., lack of banking facilities in many districts makes payments to beneficiaries very difficult, costly and risky; lack of water and sanitation is still a big problem in relation to health outcomes).
- Coordination and communication need to be improved both within government and between government and other stakeholders.
- Human resources development remains a big challenge – both professional development of staff and the development of robust human resource systems and processes.

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4. The Way Forward

**How will Lead Ministries well-coordinate the members of Strategic Sectors?**
- AusAID will provide technical assistance (a Coordinator) to the Ministry of Social Solidarity as the Secretariat for the Social Strategic Sector. This will greatly assist with Secretariat activities, helping to ensure that the Secretariat functions effectively and that all the coordination processes move forward in a timely way.
- Key contact people (focal points) will be identified in each Ministry/Secretary of State in the Sector to facilitate coordination.
- Membership of Sub-Sector Working Groups will be further discussed and finalised.

**How can the Strategic Sector facilitate policy level discussions with DPs based on matrices prepared?**
- In line with their ToRs, the Working Group and Sub-Sector Working Groups will be organised to meet regularly to discuss substantive issues, and not just for information sharing and reporting.
- In conjunction with development partners, a list of priority areas for policy level discussions will be developed, and agendas for the working group meetings will be developed accordingly.
- Relevant materials will be sent to participants prior to meetings to aid preparation for productive discussions.
4. The Way Forward

How can Line Ministries improve coordination with key stakeholders?

- The Social Strategic Sector Working Group and Sub-Sector Working Groups will provide important opportunities for improved coordination with key stakeholders, especially development partners. For the Health Sub-Sector, the Health Sector Coordination Committee is the main mechanism for coordination.
- Representatives of civil society will be invited to participate in relevant meetings.
- Coordination can also be improved through more joint activities, such as joint evaluations of projects.
- Periodic reflections on the support provided by development partners will include an assessment of coordination, with discussion of any coordination issues that have arisen or which remain unresolved.