



People's Scorecard summary

September 2020

Action for Sustainable Development works in partnership with national SDG focused civil society coalitions around the world. Since 2016, we have supported 15-20 national SDG CSO coalitions every year to share an independent CSO report alongside the national SDG reporting at the High Level Political Forum. The full reports can be seen [here](#).

In 2020 a new model was employed to enable comparative analysis at the 5th anniversary of the SDGs to provide assessments of progress or *People's Scorecards* on each SDG according to the major civil society coalitions active on the SDG's in each country.

Over 20 national coalitions responded with clear scoring, rating progress on each goal from 1 (no progress) to 5 (implementation on track) for each goal between January and July 2020. This analysis provides the first overview by major CSO coalitions of the progress on delivery of the SDG's in each country to date.

Each review was conducted in country by a national coalition and is based on a shared methodology which was developed in a collaborative way with a range of international experts. You can see the methodology [here](#).

The national review process varied from country to country but in each case the national coalition was able to convene a broad range of stakeholders across the country and involved local consultations with hundreds of community groups. Many examples, such as India and Kenya, included extensive localised dialogues with key communities across the whole country, where others such as Brazil and South Africa worked through key networks that include experts and citizen-led data approaches. You can see all the national coalitions on the country pages [here](#).

This short report provides an overview by civil society coalitions on the progress of SDG delivery in their countries and the overall trends in terms of goal progress at the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the goals.

The report aims to consider where progress has been made, highlight gaps and show where more determination is required.

Key conclusions

- Particular challenges on economic justice

A particular weakness seems to be identified in Goals 8 'Decent work & economic growth', 10 'Reduced inequalities' and 12 'Responsible consumption & production'; none of these goals had any scores above 3. This demonstrates a particular challenge on the issue of economic justice as these goals all focus on different elements of economic opportunity and fairness. It is particularly noticeable that this was already highlighted as an issue at the start of the pandemic and is likely to get even worse in coming months.

- Poverty remains a challenge

While progress had been made in combating absolute poverty in previous years, there are a number of countries where the national CSO coalitions observed a regression in terms of poverty rates (Goal 1). This was particularly noticeable in the responses from Latin America, such as scores of only 1 for both Brazil & Guatemala.

- Education needs improvement!

While not quite as low scores as poverty reduction, education (Goal 4) ratings are also quite limited overall and there was a particular challenge highlighted in Mauritania, with a score of only 1. It is clear that many countries must go much further in providing quality education if we are to leave no one behind.

- Focus on gender equality

One interesting and positive result is that many of the CSO coalitions did see some progress on gender equality (Goal 5). In particular Spain & Mauritania gave a high score of 4 out of 5, which suggests that there is movement in the right direction in this area, although there is still much more work to be done.

- Energy & climate change

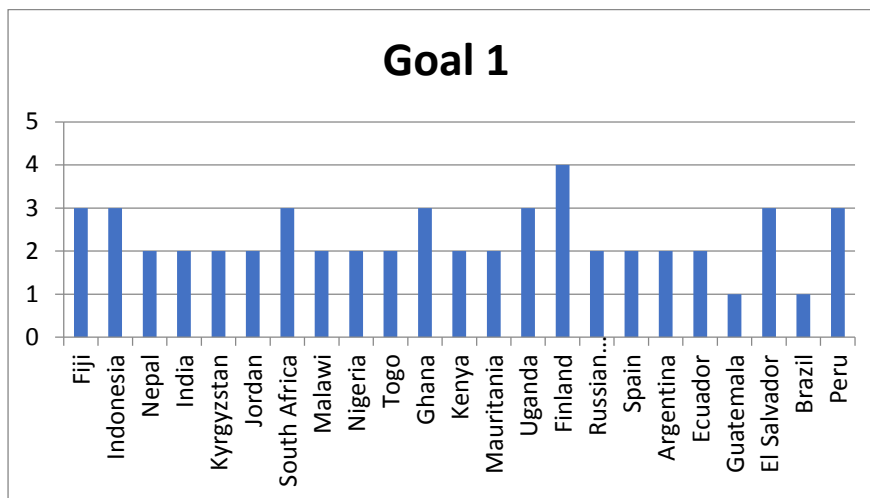
Finally it is useful to compare Goal 7 'Affordable & clean energy' and Goal 13 'Climate action' to see that the critical challenge of stopping climate change hangs in the balance. Goal 13 on climate had the joint highest number of 1 scores, which suggests that there has been limited progress in many countries. At the same time, one of the major levers to tackle climate change is clean energy but again few countries are seen to have made significant progress, Nigeria in particular only received a score of 1, while only Finland secured a score of 4. Energy use and the shift to renewables remains the largest shift that is required for a just and sustainable world.

- Low overall averages

Throughout all the goals, these national scorecards highlight limited progress so far. The majority of scores for each goal were stubbornly stuck at only 2 or 3 out of 5 and even the overall average of progress across all goals per country gave only one country over 60%, which is Finland. Clearly progress is too slow across the board and we are yet to see the full impacts of Covid-19. As we complete the first five years, there is an urgent need for much greater delivery in coming years.

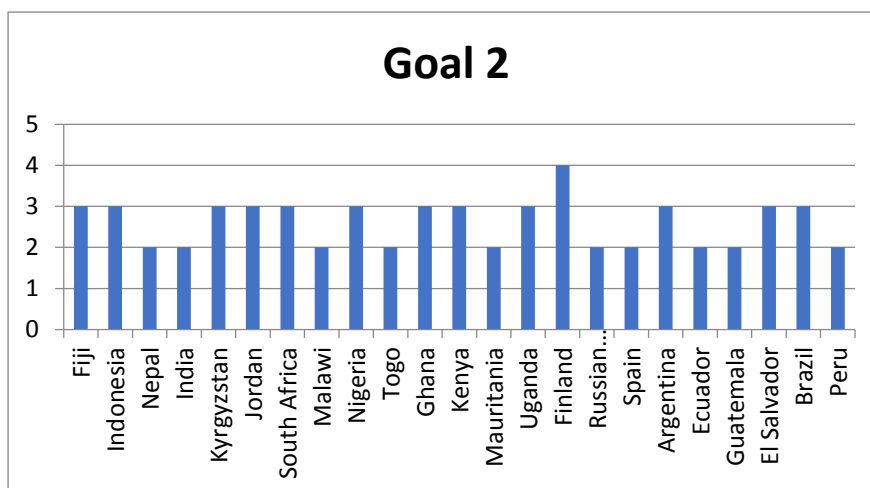
Full Goal analysis

Goal 1



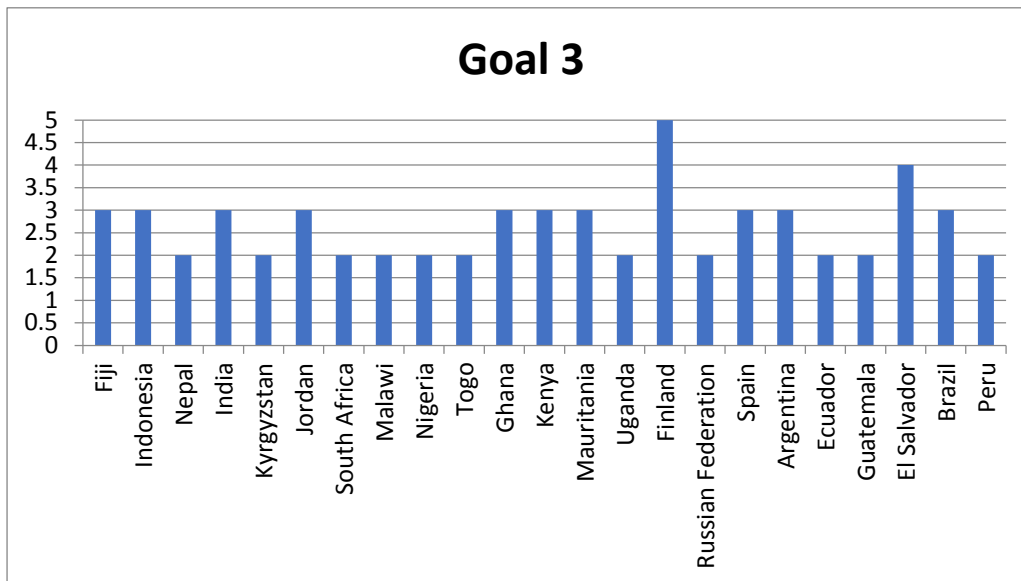
Goal 1 'No Poverty' provides a key snapshot for many CSO coalitions, as the aim of eradicating poverty by 2030 would go a long way to ensuring the core principle of leaving no one behind is achieved. According to the national SDG CSO coalitions involved, it seems that progress is nowhere near fast enough on this goal. Only Finland scored a high of 4, while several countries did rate a reasonable score of 3 out of 5, including Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Indonesia, Fiji and Peru. However the majority of countries included gave a rating of only 2 out of 5 and 2 countries in Latin America gave a rating of only 1, these are Brazil and Guatemala. There are clearly concerns that on this flagship goal, many countries are sliding the wrong way and this is likely to be further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Goal 2



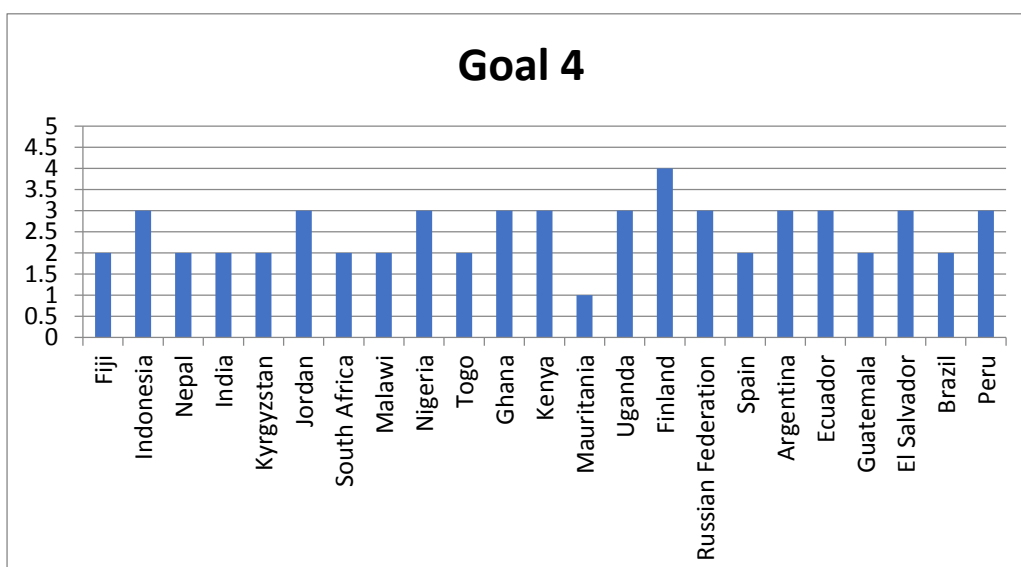
The overall trend for Goal 2 'Zero Hunger' is quite similar to Goal 1, with the majority of countries scoring only 2 or 3 on progress. Once again Finland is an outlier at a rating of 4. On this one, there were no countries with a rating of only 1, however many countries were rated 2, including Nepal, India, Malawi, Togo, Mauritania, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru. Perhaps surprisingly both Russia and Spain only scored 2, suggesting that malnutrition is also an issue in some 'northern' countries.

Goal 3



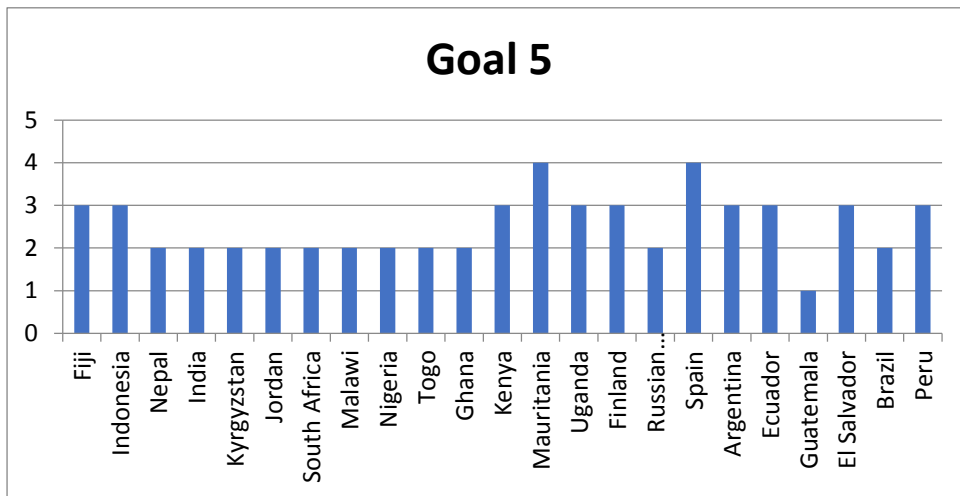
In terms of Goal 3 'Good health & wellbeing', a similar trend emerges with the majority of countries scoring between 2 and 3. Here it is noticeable that alongside Finland at a maximum scoring of 5, the national coalition in El Salvador ranked progress in their country at 4, which suggests that healthcare is one issue that has seen some improvement over recent years. However most of these scores were put together before the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt, so it may be likely that these scores may be reduced in the coming year.

Goal 4



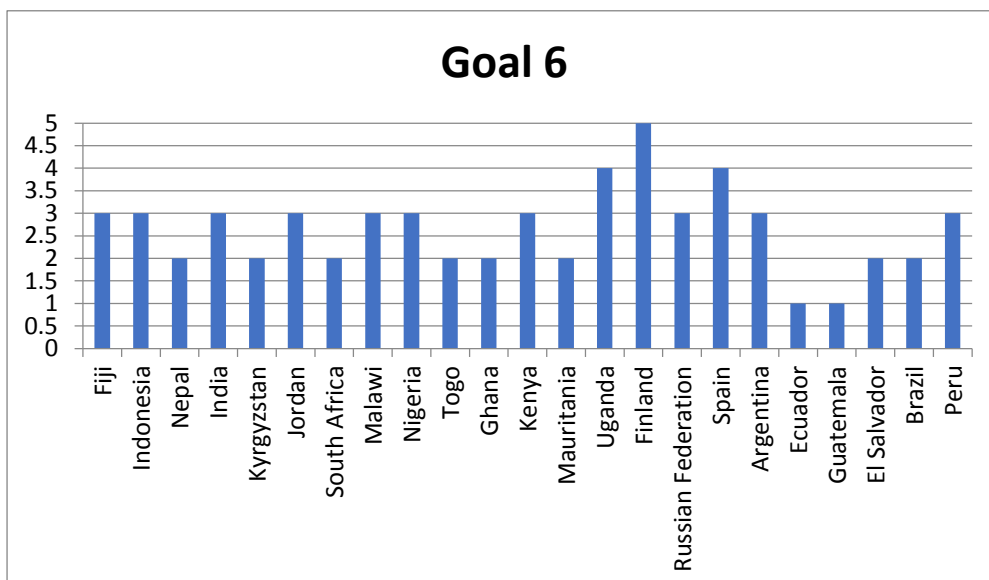
For Goal 4 'Quality education' a similar trend continues with the majority of countries scoring 2 to 3 once more. Finland was again seen to get the highest score at 4, while the only other Western European country included, Spain, was rated at only 2. Mauritania was significantly lower, with a score of only 1, which suggests that education is an area for improvement in this country.

Goal 5



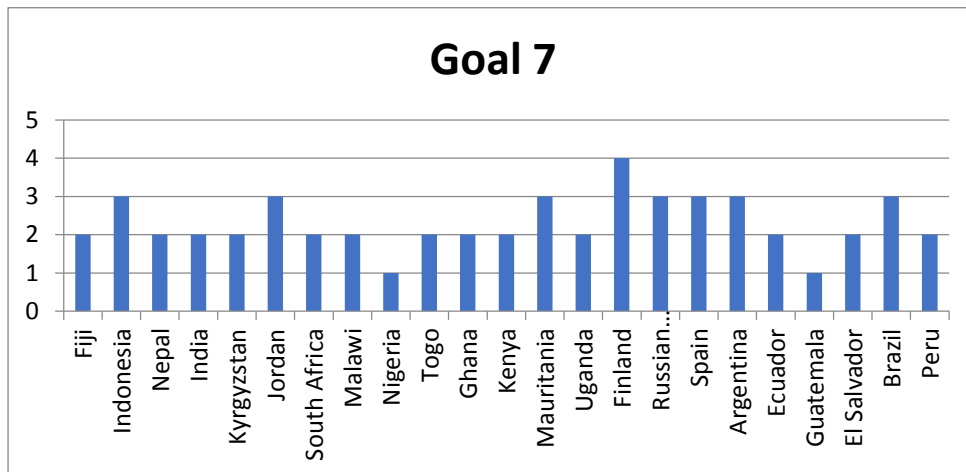
Goal 5 'Gender equality' presents some different results from the first 4. While the majority of national coalitions again scored between 2 and 3, this time Finland did not have the highest score (it only scored 3), instead Spain and Mauritania had the highest scores. It is significant to note that the question is on 'progress' rather than a focus on absolute situations, so although Mauritania may be starting from a different baseline, it is seen to have made progress in this area. On the other hand, Guatemala is seen to have made little progress on gender equality with a score of only 1.

Goal 6



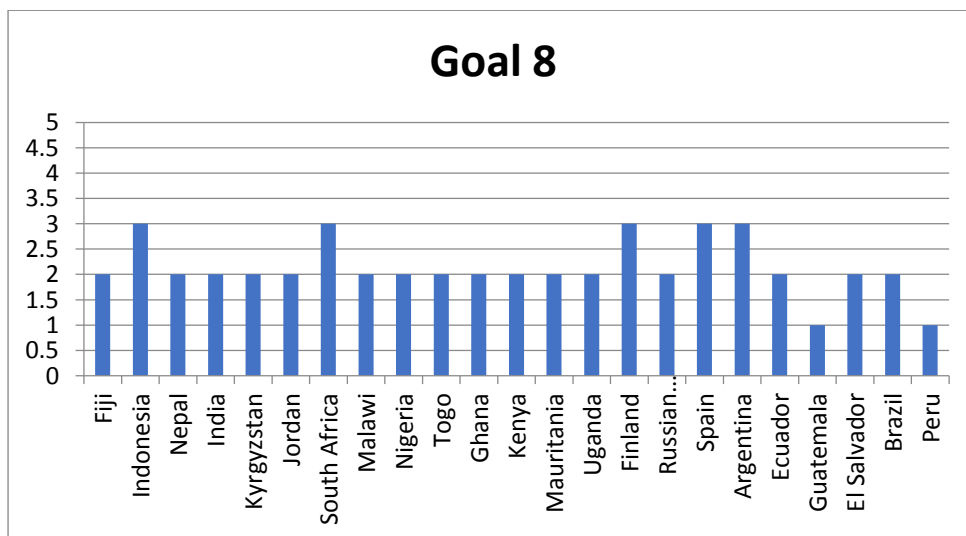
On Goal 6 'Clean water and sanitation', while the majority of responses were again between 2-3, there are some different outliers. This time Finland again tops the scores with 5, but noticeably Spain and Uganda also had a rating of 4, which suggests that this is an area where progress is being made in Uganda. On the other hand, Ecuador and Guatemala only score 1, which suggests that this is an area where more needs to be done in those countries.

Goal 7



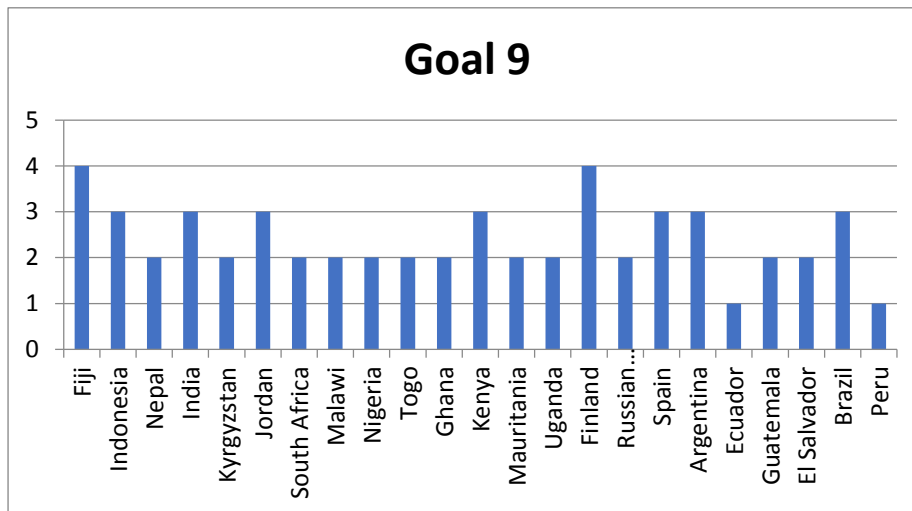
On Goal 7 'Affordable & clean energy' no country scored 5 but Finland once more came top with a score of 4, while the majority of countries scored between 2-3. Noticeably this time, alongside Guatemala, Nigeria only scored 1, which suggests that this is an area where more progress is needed in those countries.

Goal 8



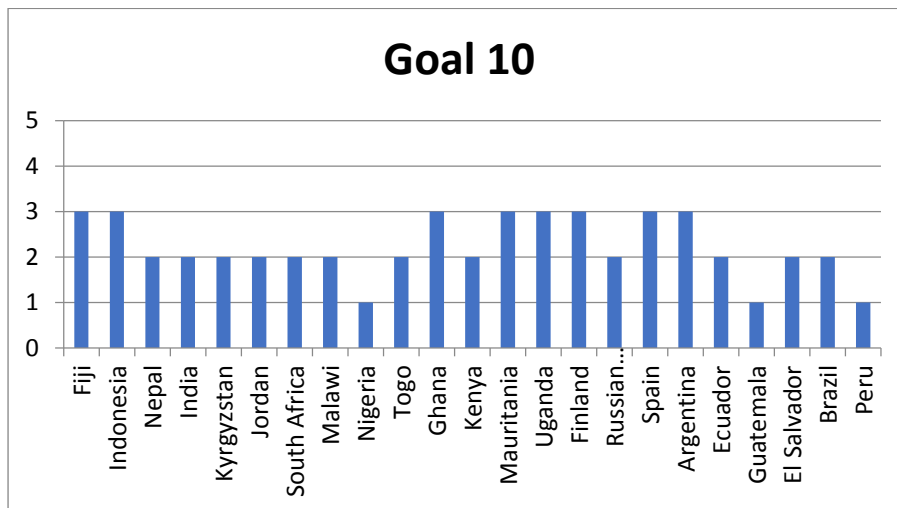
In terms of Goal 8 'Decent work & economic growth', it is significant that no country scored over 3 and once again the vast majority scored 2-3, it appears that prolonged economic challenges combined with the impact of Covid have led to a limited sense of progress according to national CSO SDG coalitions. This time the two countries with noticeably lower scores were Guatemala and Peru, which suggests that this is an area where more progress is needed in those countries.

Goal 9



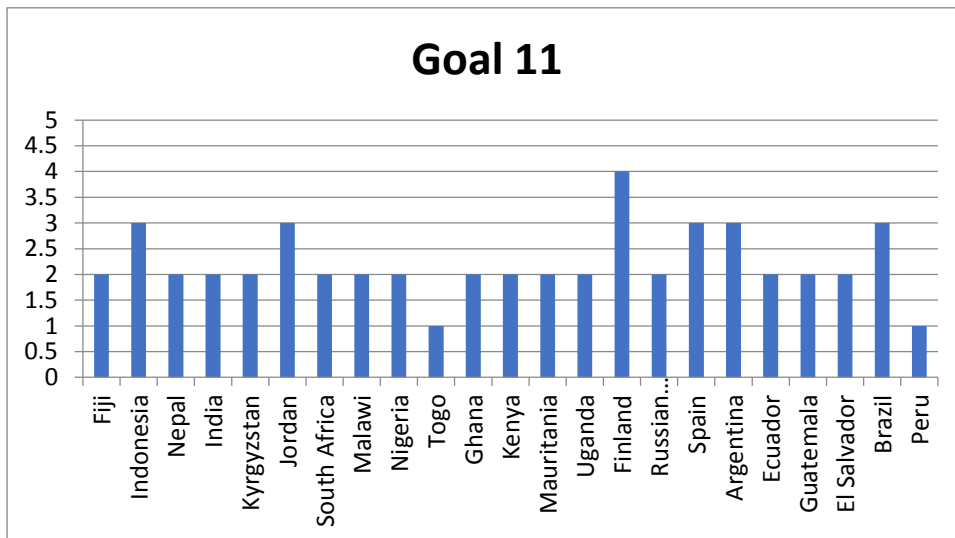
On Goal 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure', the majority of scores were once more between 2-3. This time alongside Finland, there was also a high score of 4 for Fiji, which suggests that some progress is being made in this area. At the lower end, Ecuador and Peru only scored 1, which suggests that more progress is needed according to the national CSO SDG coalitions.

Goal 10



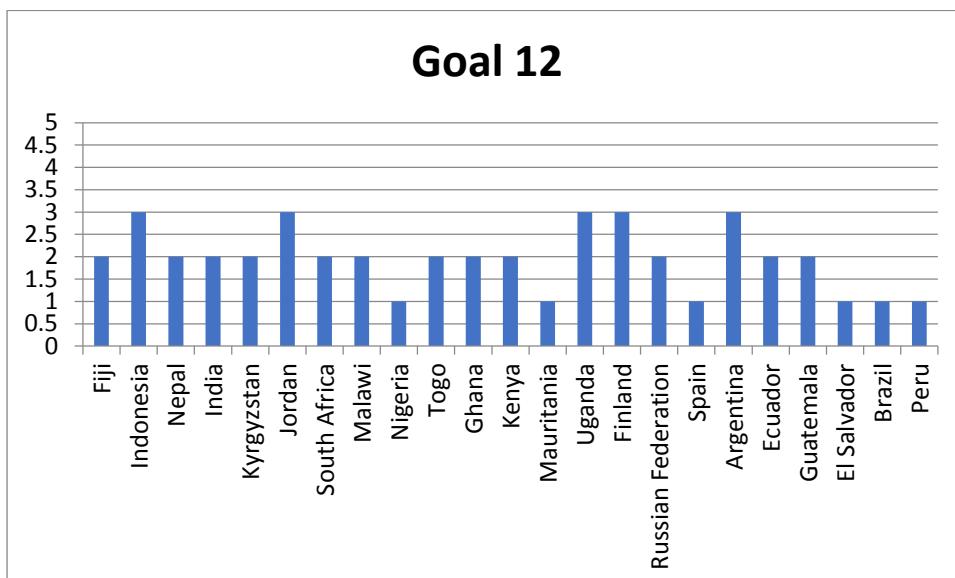
In terms of Goal 10 'Reduced inequalities' it is concerning that, like Goal 8, no country scored more than 3, which suggests that there has been very limited progress in reducing inequalities anywhere in the world. The vast majority again scored 2-3 but this time three countries only scored 1, these were: Nigeria, Guatemala and Peru. This suggests that inequality is growing significantly in those countries and it suggests that in a country like Nigeria, which has significant resources, that one of the major challenges remains on wealth distribution.

Goal 11



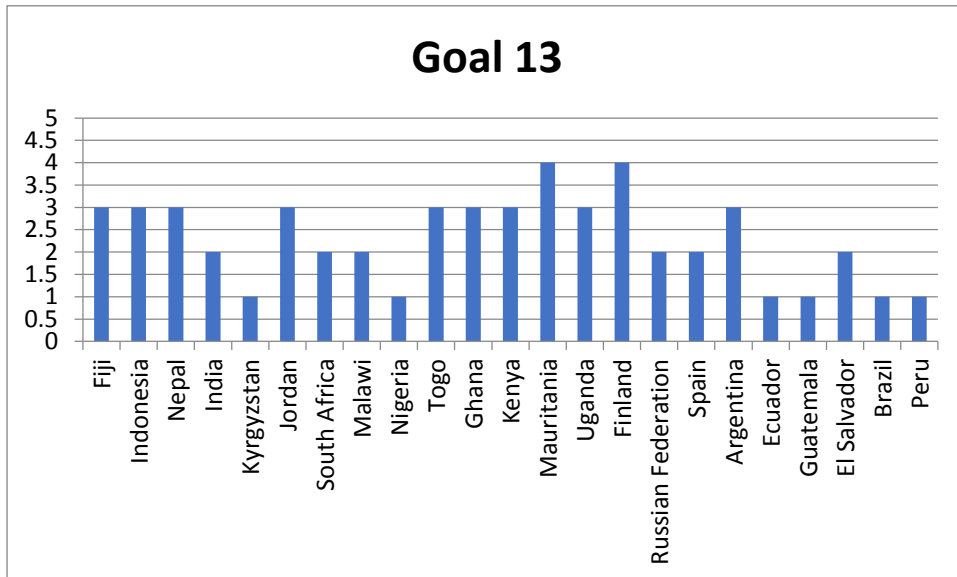
Once again on Goal 11 ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ the vast majority of country scores were between 2 and 3. Finland was once more the top score with 4, while this time Peru and Togo were the lowest on 1. This suggests that there are particular challenges for sustainable cities in Peru and Togo.

Goal 12



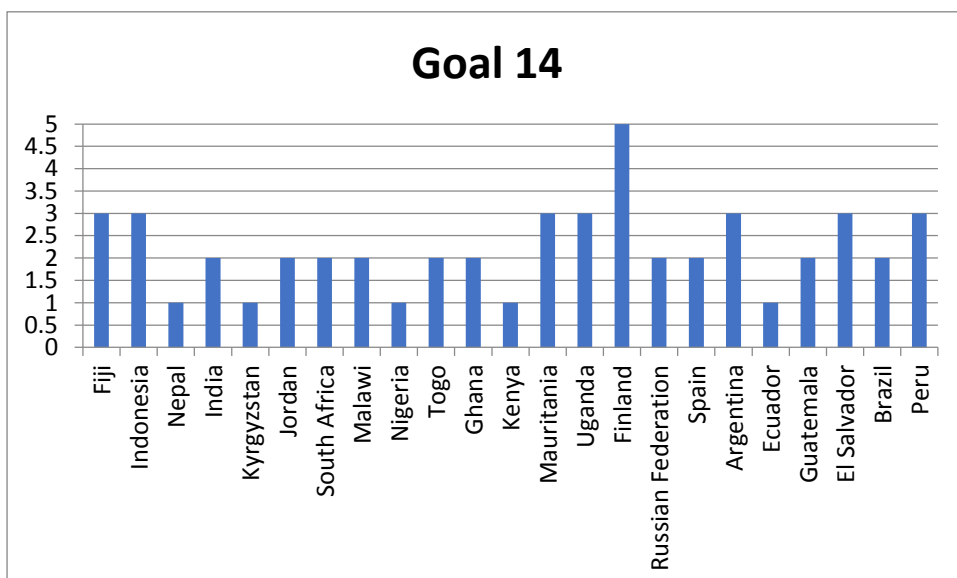
Regarding Goal 12 ‘Responsible consumption and production’ the majority of countries scored 2 or 3, however this time no country scored over 3 (like Goals 8 & 10). This goal also received the joint highest number of countries scored at only 1, for Nigeria, Mauritania, Spain, El Salvador, Brazil and Peru. The overall low average combined with the diversity of the countries with low scores suggests that the question of lack of responsible consumption is a major concern for civil society groups.

Goal 13



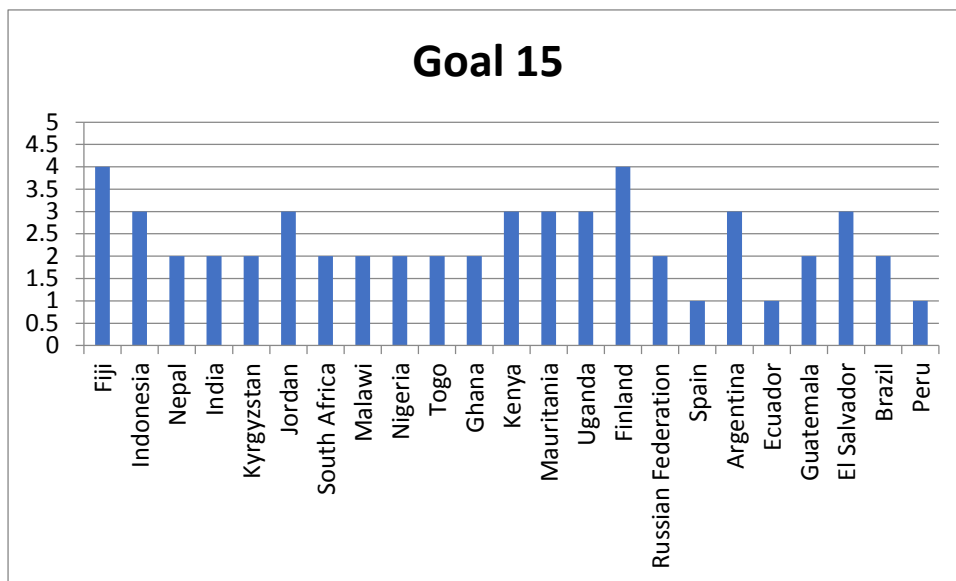
On Goal 13 'Climate action', while the majority of scores were once more 2 or 3, this time there were two countries with a score of 4- Mauritania and Finland. On the other hand, this goal also received the joint highest number of countries scored at only 1, for Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Ecuador, Guatemala, Brazil and Peru. It is worth noting that the majority of CSOs filling in the scorecard work in social justice and where possible they are collaborating with organisations more directly focused on climate change.

Goal 14



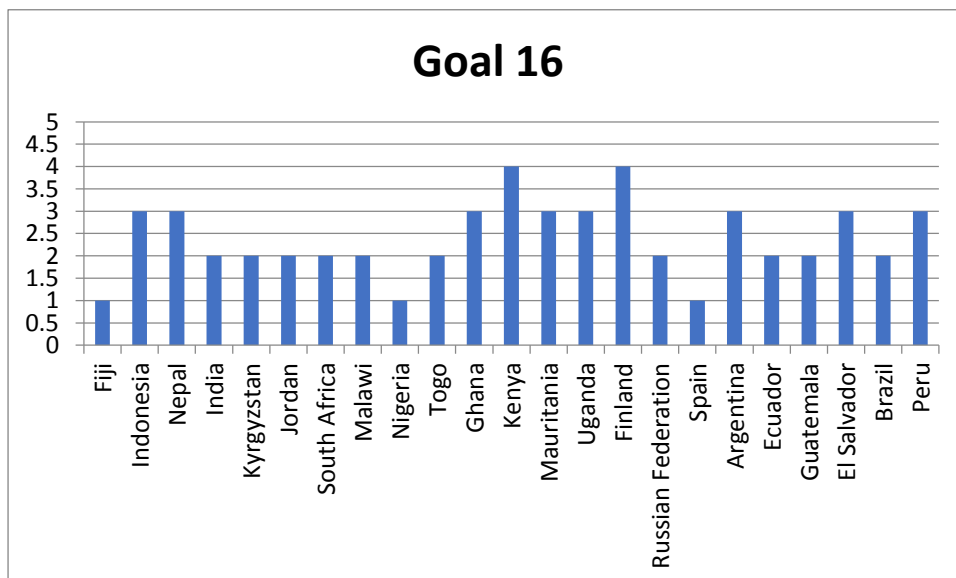
On Goal 14 'Life below water' once again many of the responses were a scoring of 2 or 3, with Finland at the top with a score of 5. On this goal there were also a relatively high number of countries with a score of only 1: Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Kenya and Ecuador.

Goal 15



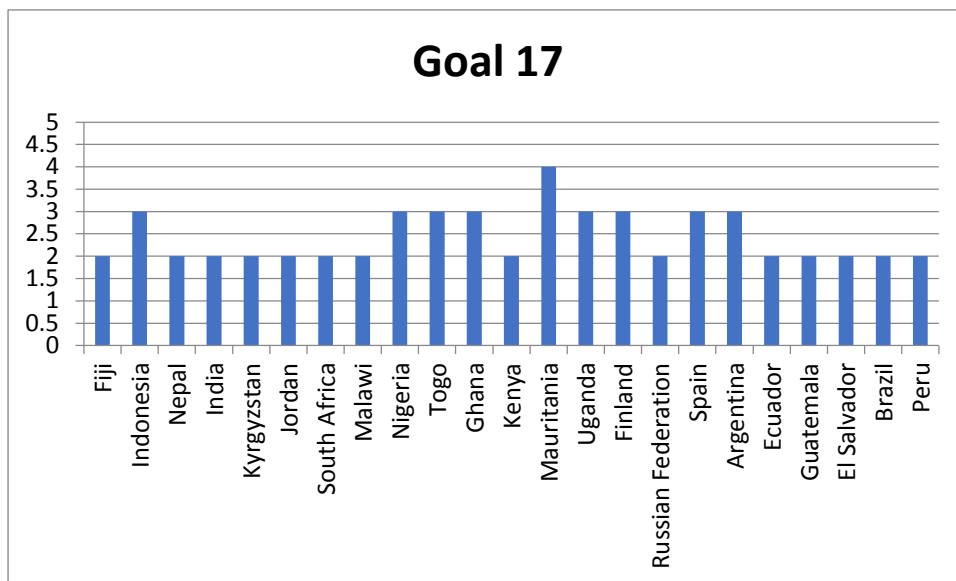
The scoring for Goal 15 'Life on land' was somewhat better than Goal 14 overall, suggesting that in the view of national CSO coalitions the situation of land-based biodiversity is slightly better in these countries than water based biodiversity. The majority again scored 2 or 3 but this time Fiji had an equal high score with Finland of 4. At the lower end, Spain and Peru both scored only 1, suggesting that this is an area for urgent improvement in those countries.

Goal 16



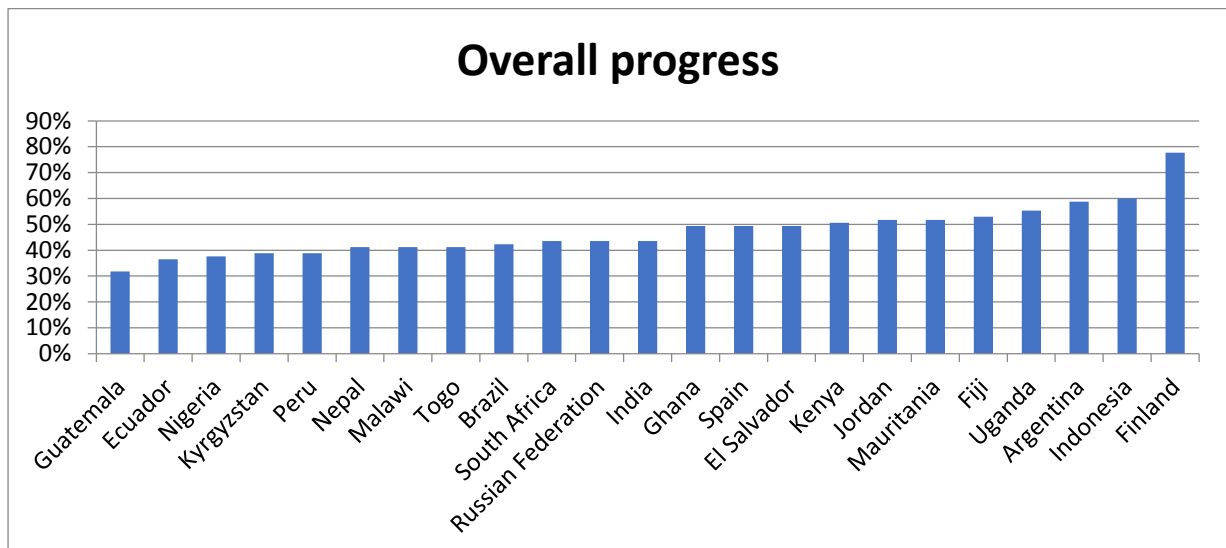
On Goal 16 'Peace, justice & strong institutions', the majority of countries again scored 2 or 3. In this case Kenya stood alongside Finland with a higher score of 4, suggesting that some progress has been made on this goal in those countries. On the other hand Fiji, Nigeria and Spain all scored only 1, which suggests that in these countries, there have been significant reductions in core rights and fundamental freedoms.

Goal 17



Finally on Goal 17 'Partnerships for the goals' it seems that in the view of the national SDG CSO coalitions most countries have made modest progress on this goal. The vast majority scored 2 or 3, only the CSO coalition in Mauritania gave a higher rating of 4, which suggests that there may be useful models to explore further in this country.

Overall progress on average across all Goals



The average scores for progress on all SDGs were brought out to give a picture of overall progress on all goals in their country. This average score confirms the exceptional result of Finland, with the highest perceived progress according to CSO coalitions. There were a further 7 countries with an average score over 50%: Indonesia, Argentina, Uganda, Fiji, Mauritania, Jordan and Kenya. At the other end, there were 5 countries with an average score under 40%: Guatemala, Ecuador, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Peru, it is perhaps significant that 3 out of 5 of these countries are in Latin America.

Full list of national civil society coalitions

Country	Name of national coalition
Fiji	Fiji Council of Social Services
Indonesia	International NGOs Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)
Nepal	Nepal SDGs Forum /NGO Federation of Nepal
India	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
Kyrgyzstan	Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
Jordan	Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
South Africa	South African working Group on SDGs
Malawi	Council for NGOs in Malawi - CONGOMA / GCAP Malawi
Nigeria	Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development
Togo	CNJC - Jeunes Verts Togo
Ghana	Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs
Kenya	SDG Kenya Forum
Mauritania	Réseau Mauritanien pour l'Action social
Uganda	Uganda National NGO Forum
Finland	Agenda 2030 working group
Russian Federation	Country's Coalition for Sustainable Development (Коалиция за устойчивое развитие страны)
Spain	Futuro en Común
Argentina	PAMPA 2030 Plataforma Argentina de Monitoreo Para la Agenda 2030
Ecuador	Sociedad civil y ODS: acciones para no dejar a nadie atrás
Guatemala	Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas
El Salvador	Movimiento de ONG de Desarrollo de El Salvador
Brazil	GT Agenda 2030 (Civil society working group for the 2030 Agenda)
Peru	Asociación Nacional de Centros de Investigación Promoción Social y Desarrollo / Grupo Agenda 2030