

Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan

Review of the implementation of the SDG in the Kyrgyz Republic

BISHKEK, 2020



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Introduction

Kyrgyzstan presented its Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on July 16, 2020. HLPF is the major global platform for reviewing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Civil society organizations were invited to prepare this report and they contributed with their amendments, suggestions, data and recommendations through working groups. Moreover, the official presentation of the VNR was done not only by government representatives, but also by CSO. This is a significant positive factor in the recognition of the role of civil society organizations in the country.

The Voluntary National Report of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN on the implementation of the SDGs reflects the state of affairs on the SDGs in the country, it includes problems and commitments on the next steps for each goal. This is a great achievement.

A big plus of the report is also that it includes specific statistical data (special thanks to the NSC KR), which helps to assess our achievements and gives warning messages in the country for majority of the goals. This assessment is still to be done, it is necessary to concretize plans for each goal in the nearest future. For example, the report contains specific data on the health sector in recent years, which clearly presents a picture of the problems and gaps in this area, the urgent needs of the sector, and the threat to the protection of people's health in the country, which required State and public attention. Current State' attitude to the collected data, in particular from the national Parliament, from Local Authorities, and the government led to heavy consequences from the Covid-19 crisis in the country.

Civil society organizations made a significant contribution to the fairly high level of objectivity of the report. The active participation of various organizations from different sectors (government,



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CSOs and others) made it possible to prepare an objective report of the Kyrgyz Republic on the realization of the 2030 Agenda in the country.

Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan reviewed Kyrgyzstan Voluntary National Report and presents its result to your attention.

The review is comprised of a short general assessment of the implementation status and scoring results. General assessment is based on the taken by the State commitments to the Global Agenda 2030. Scorecard is verified by the data from the VNR, some official data and UN resources.

The Review is short, it didn't cover all aspects of the commitments taken by the Kyrgyzstan state within the framework of the Global 2030 Agenda.

Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan used international scoring method. Each of the SDG goals' progress was reviewed and rated according to the following eight A4SD People's Scorecard 2020 questions:

- Policy or legal framework available: rate 1(no framework)-5(strong framework)
- Plans and strategies: rate 1(no plans & strategies)-5 (strong plans)
- Government agencies: rate commitment 1(no agencies)- 5(clear agency lead)
- Implementation: rate implementation 1(no implementation)-5(strong implementation)
- Capacity building: rate 1(No national capacity building)- 5 (strong national capacity building)
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting: rate 1(no monitoring)-5(regular strong monitoring)
- Transparency and accountability: rate 1(no transparency & accountability)-5 (strong transparency & accountability)
- Overall progress on this goal: rate 1(no progress)-5(strong progress, on target)

Review results were discussed with civil society organizations in Kyrgyzstan.

Part I General assessment of the progress towards SDG in the Kyrgyz Republic

The National Voluntary Report of the Kyrgyz Republic on the SDGs shows that the country is behind in almost all the SDGs. We call to pay attention to the key problems: weak integration and coordination, short-term approaches, insufficient capacity of the public sector, weak accountability from the government, parliament, local self-governance, private sector, donors for the implementation of the SDGs.

The greatest attention is needed to develop qualitative and quantitative indicators for each of the goals, which will strengthen the responsibility and accountability of public authorities.

Weak coordination of development actors and lack of a multi-stakeholder's partnership strategy creates barriers for the SDG implementation. There is very low level of integration of the SDGs into local strategies and plans at the level and lack of adequate accountability mechanisms. This



challenge is backed up by “Low legal and rights awareness among the population, nascent and/or under-resourced independent institutions, and weak results-oriented performance measurement”¹.

SDGs means of implementation/MOI are left in the VNR without serious attention, although precisely MOI make the 2030 Agenda much more serious than previous global development programs.

Goal # 5 of the SDGs on Women’s rights and gender equality needs special attention of the State. We are concerned that major Kyrgyzstan national SDG related strategic documents don’t include this goal, and this leads to lack of adequate financing, which significantly hinders the achievement of gender equality and the realization of women's rights.

1. Overview of climate change

Climate change negatively affects both health and the economy and environment of the country.

Climate change has intensified landslides, mudflows, and floods, which lead to the destruction of roads, bridges and protective dams, irrigation facilities, houses, the destruction of crops and animals, and the death of people. Soil degradation, aggravated by climate change, causes great economic damage to Kyrgyzstan. Different degrees of soil degradation reduce crop yields by 20-60 %².

The impact of climate change on pasture ecosystems, which occupy 89% of all farmland in the republic. can lead to lack of feed, underfeeding and death of livestock³.

Kyrgyzstan is still at the stage of planning and developing national programs, which will be aimed at implementing national policies for the Goal 13⁴. It is urgent to start the implementation of national programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to introduce the environmental statistical data collection and monitoring systems on climate change.

1. Key constituents most marginalised

The VNR identifies the most vulnerable and marginalized constituencies, which include rural children, rural women, the elderly, migrants, people with disabilities, rural youth, and LGBT people. In 2018 “The overwhelming majority of the extremely poor (84.6%) reside in rural areas”⁵.

¹ Report on Kyrgyzstan’s Progress on Sustainable Development Goals. UN. 2019.

² <http://climatechange.kg/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/SELHOZ-Programma-IK-12.pdf>

³ <http://climatechange.kg/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/SELHOZ-Programma-IK-12.pdf>

⁴ VNR KR. P. 111.

⁵ VNR KR. P. 37.



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Access of the rural population to adequate sanitary and hygienic conditions is significantly limited, compared to the urban population (in 2017, 66.7% of the urban population had access, while the rural population's access was 12,1%⁶).

Only half of the education institutions of primary vocational education have been renovated taking into account the needs of PWDs⁷.

2. Civil society priorities

Civil society has identified several priorities that require urgent solutions.

Serious attention should be paid to the principle of the SDGs approach “**Leave no one behind**” in Kyrgyzstan.

It is extremely important to solve the problems of **corruption in the country**. The high level of corruption predetermined and led to a significant decrease in the efficiency of the SDGs planning and implementation in the country.

It is required to strengthen the systemic approach to the development of the country, and to increase the level of coordination of all development actors of Kyrgyzstan.

Civil Society organizations are concerned with challenges with **coordination and coherence** of the State actions decision-making on the SDGs at all stages and for all goals. Practical lack of integration of the SDGs into the local level strategies and plans slowed down the involvement of local governance bodies in the implementation of the Goals, negatively affected the localization of the setting of targets and indicators.

CSOs call on the state to increase government accountability, eliminate corruption, strengthen a human rights-based approach, strengthen an enabling environment for CSOs, and introduce a **multistakeholders approach**.

Civil Society Organizations demand to improve the **nationalization of indicators**. For the effective implementation of the SDGs, it is necessary to involve civil society organizations in all processes and bodies for discussion and decision-making that are important for the country.

Development effectiveness: The planning and implementation of the SDGs in Kyrgyzstan suffers from a weak level of partnership among all stakeholders. This resulted in: 1) weak transparency, 2) weak accountability, 3) weak engagement of CSOs, 4) weak State and local governance and local stakeholders' ownership of the SDG, and 5) extremely weak vision and definition of specific development results. CSOs consider it important to strengthen development effectiveness, enhance transparency of all processes and decision-making, strengthen accountability mechanisms, institutionalize the involvement of CSOs in planning and implementing the SDGs at all stages, as well as pay attention to the identification of specific development results in all strategic programs.

⁶ Национальный статистический комитет ... <http://www.stat.kg/media/files/8fef430-8e48-4dfb-8e32-a96055a2266e.pdf>

⁷ VNR KR . P.37.



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3. Civil society engagement

It is important to note that CSOs were strongly involved in the **preparation of the VNR**. To prepare the VNR, 5 working groups were established with broad participation of representatives of civil society. Regular communication provided space for joint data analysis and opportunities to verify the data entered. CSOs made significant contributions to the preparation of VNRs. This is why the report included many real problem areas. The latest draft of the report was posted on the government's website in March for amendments. However, not all CSO recommendations and data were included, for example, for SDG # 5, out of six submitted recommendations of the Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan on the next steps of the Kyrgyz Republic to achieve SDG 5, only one was accepted.

Civil society organizations are **not recognized as an equal partner for the country's development**, despite their significant contribution to the SDGs in Kyrgyzstan, and the state's declared adherence to international conventions and treaties. It is important to note that CSO participation is not institutionalized in decision-making processes and bodies, in the preparation and adaptation of national SDG strategies and strategies for sustainable development. Civil society organizations did not receive timely information on the planned discussions. Various discussions on the 2030 Agenda were held quite often, but without coordination at the state level.

CSOs believe that the national report should have reflected the contribution of CSOs to the SDG processes in our country

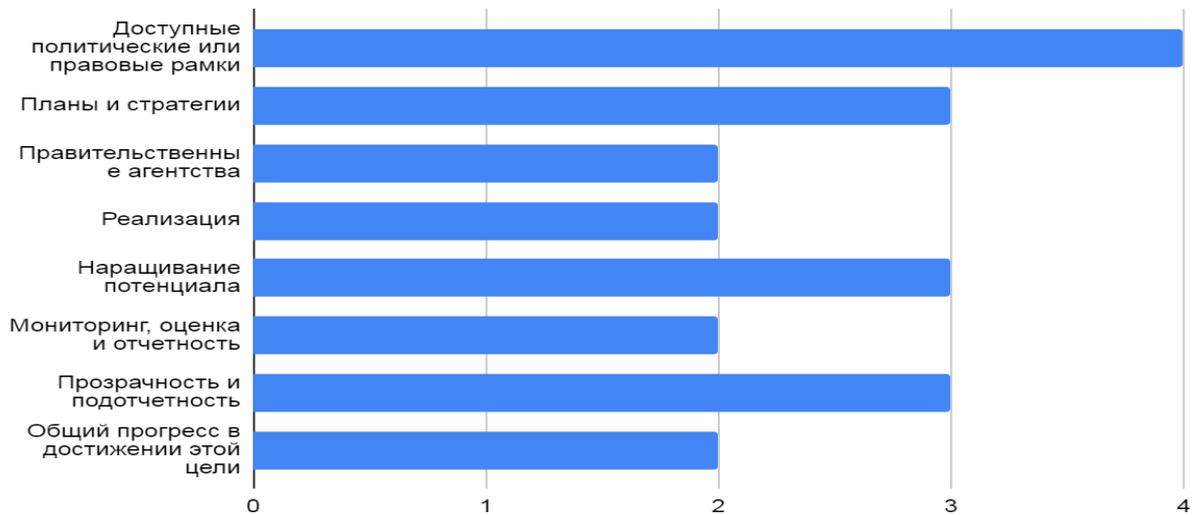
4. Public awareness

The VNR recognizes that there has been no active dissemination of information on the 2030 Agenda across the country for all goals. State strategies for sustainable development are presented in two languages (in Kyrgyz and in Russian, since the country has two working languages). There is very little information and materials on the global agenda in the Kyrgyz language. This had a negative impact on the involvement of local authorities in the SDG processes, which predominantly speak Kyrgyz. LA bodies have practically not integrated the 2030 Agenda into their strategies and development plans. It should be noted that the higher education system was also unable to introduce sustainable development goals into its programs. Academic circles do not research and do not participate in disseminating information on the SDGs. Most CSOs have become active in the SDG processes only in the last two - three years. However, it is CSOs who use the 2030 Agenda more systematically in their work.

PART 2 Goal progress

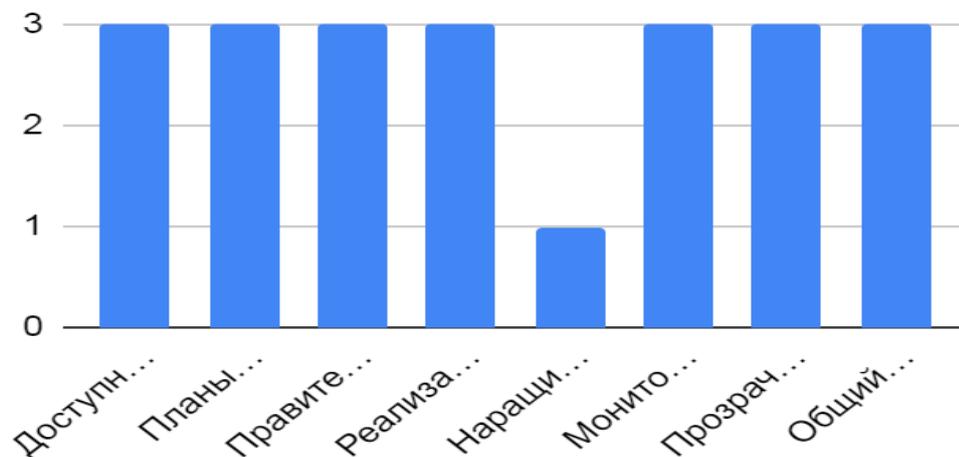
Against the background of the current crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has a negative impact on the macroeconomic level, as well as the extremely dangerous level of economic growth decline in Kyrgyzstan, the planned poverty reduction (5-10%) is under threat.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



The NIR notes that “despite the achievements, the level of national multidimensional poverty is very high and causes great concern. Relatively stable rates of economic growth - on average 5.3% are insufficient to ensure a significant increase in the welfare of the population. " A quarter of the population or 1.6 million people live below the national poverty line (on less than US \$ 1.3 a day) - UN 2019 Sustainable Development Goals report in Kyrgyz Republic.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture





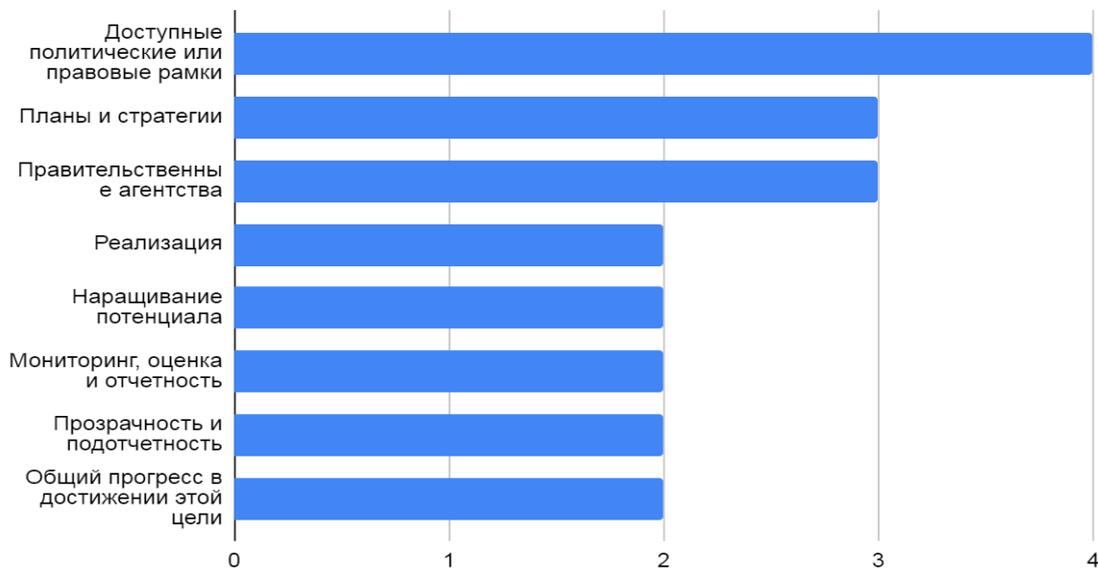
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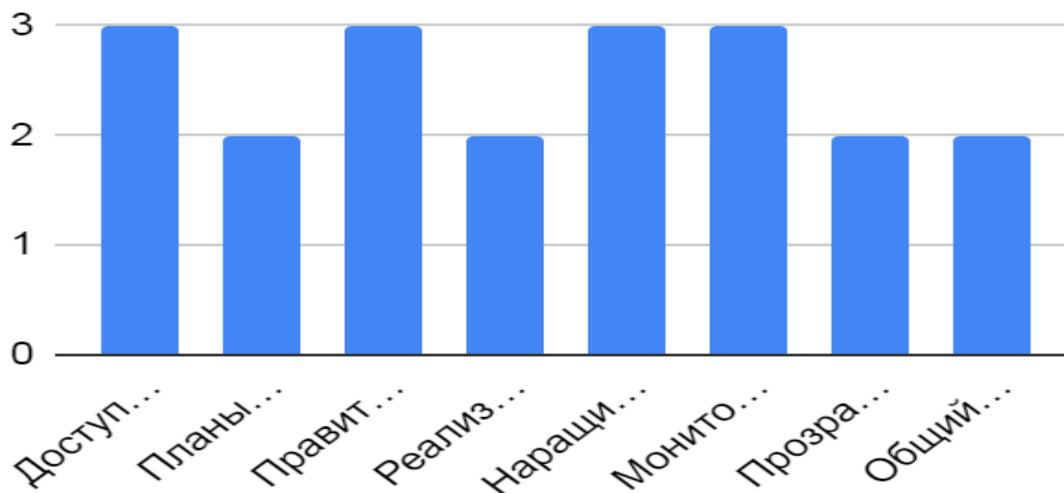
The country does not have a long-term, sustainable strategy for mobilizing resources for nutrition at the national and regional level to finance in-country political strategies and plans, as well as to cover financial gaps - UN 2019 Sustainable Development Goals report in Kyrgyz Republic.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The health care system of Kyrgyzstan has a high turnover of staff and a general shortage of medical workers, which is aggravated by an insufficient inflow of new medical personnel, due, inter alia, to low wages in the health sector.



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



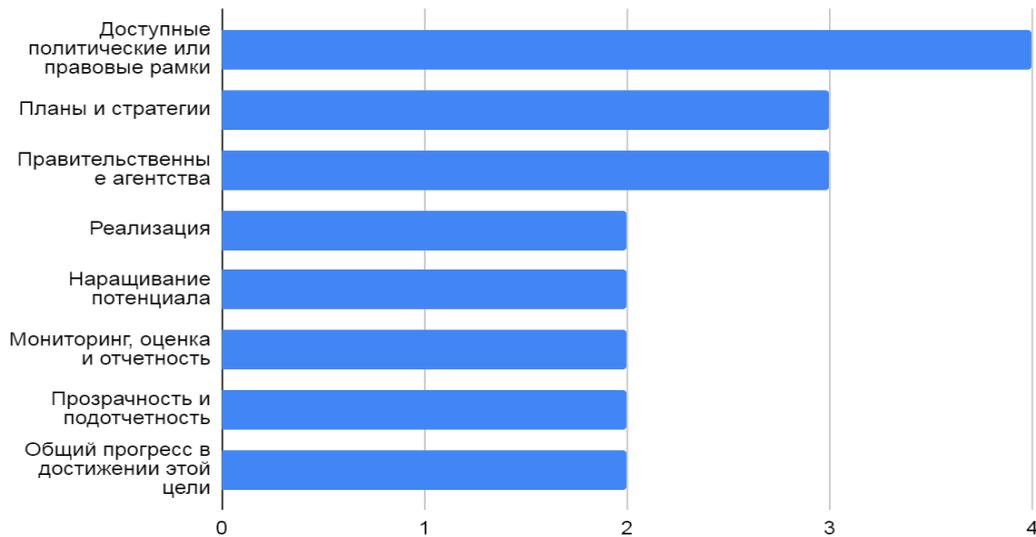


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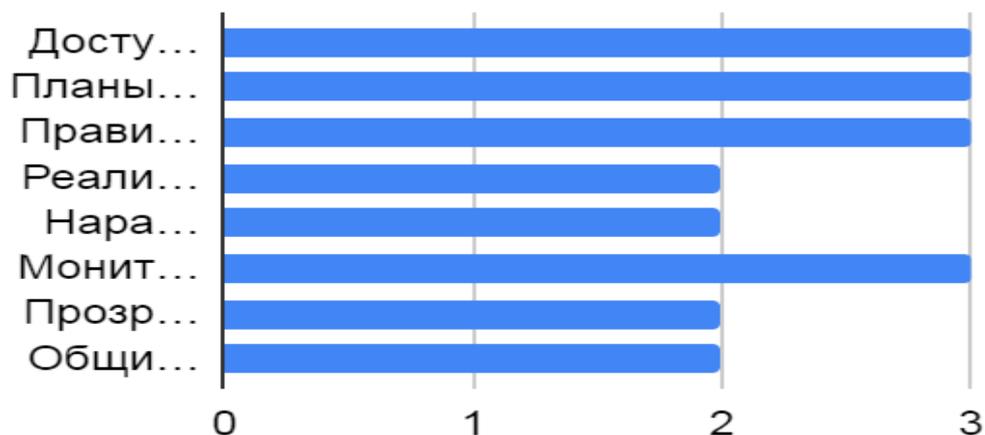
At present, practically no kindergartens are being built in the country, schools are not being repaired and the issue related to coverage (enrollment) of all children in education is not sufficiently addressed. The infrastructure of schools, especially rural ones, does not meet modern requirements. In many schools, the state of infrastructure threatens the life and health of students, as 385 schools in the republic require major repairs; another 242 schools are recognized as under emergency and require new construction

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



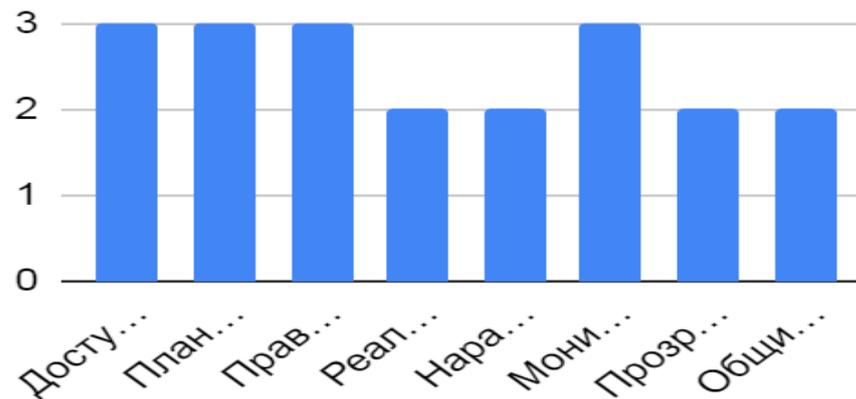
The VNR recognizes that “in general, gender equality and empowerment of women were poorly reflected in the 2040 Strategy in Kyrgyzstan. The NIR does not indicate that the SDGs are not introduced as an independent goal in the main strategic documents of the Kyrgyz Republic on the SDGs.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



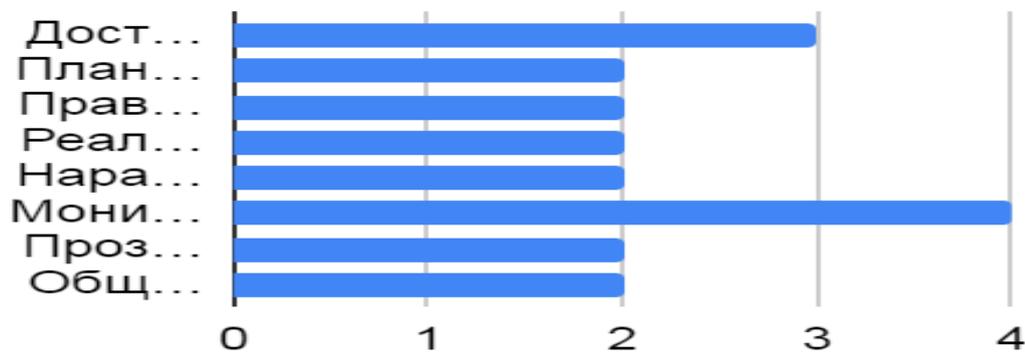
The VNR notes that "Only one third of the villages in the country have round-the-clock access to clean drinking water and 21% of villages and 15% of cities still do not have access." Only 25.8% of the housing stock of the entire Republic is equipped with sewerage, while the village accounts for only 1% of sewerage toilets"

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



A serious problem is the lack of real mechanisms to create incentives, stimulate potential participants in the energy saving process, as well as the investment deficit and weak financial support of the state to implementation of energy saving policy.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



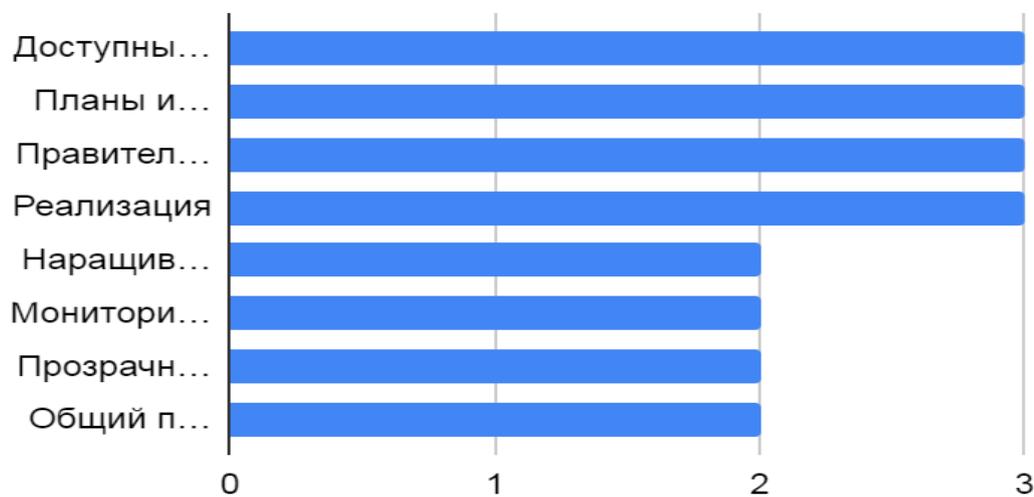
As noted in the VNR, about 860 thousand people are in labor migration. The main reason for labor migration is poor employment opportunities providing decent wages in the country.

Today, in this area, legislative issues have relegated into the background, becoming secondary and the main obstacles are non-compliance with laws, failure to implement the laws, lack of justice and a functioning judicial system.

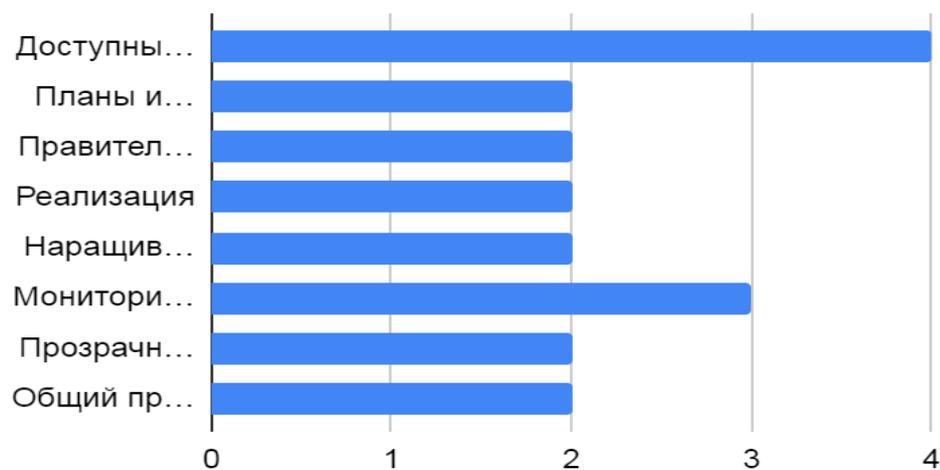
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

“Infrastructure that improves the quality of life (sewerage, hot water supply, etc.) is developed only in large cities; in villages and small towns the infrastructure is insufficiently developed - electrical networks have been built and issues with drinking water supply have been resolved.

State budget expenditures for the development of science are under 1% and this situation persists for a long time”.



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

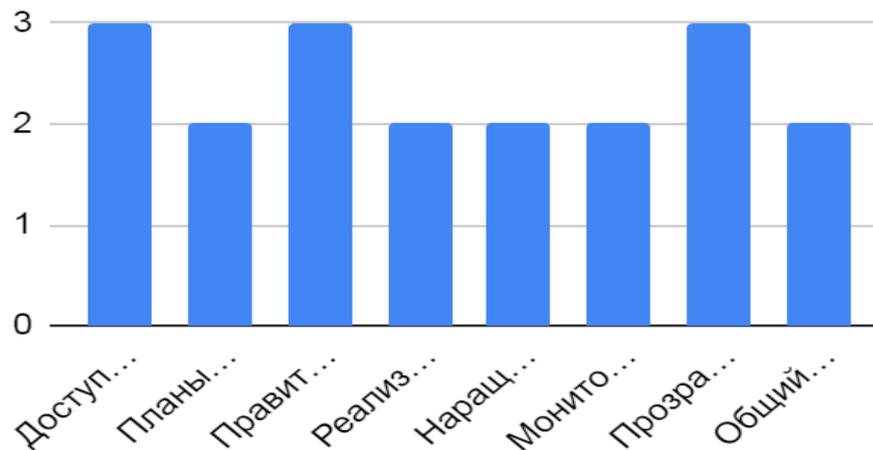


Inequality in age and work ability remains an acute problem, so “despite the annual decline, the level of poverty among children aged 0-17 years was 28.3%, among young people aged 14-28 years - 21%, among the population of working age - 19%, among the population over the working

age - 15%”[1]. “In 2018, the **expenses** of 20% of the wealthiest strata of the population exceeded the expenses of 20% of the poorest strata of the population by 4.3 times

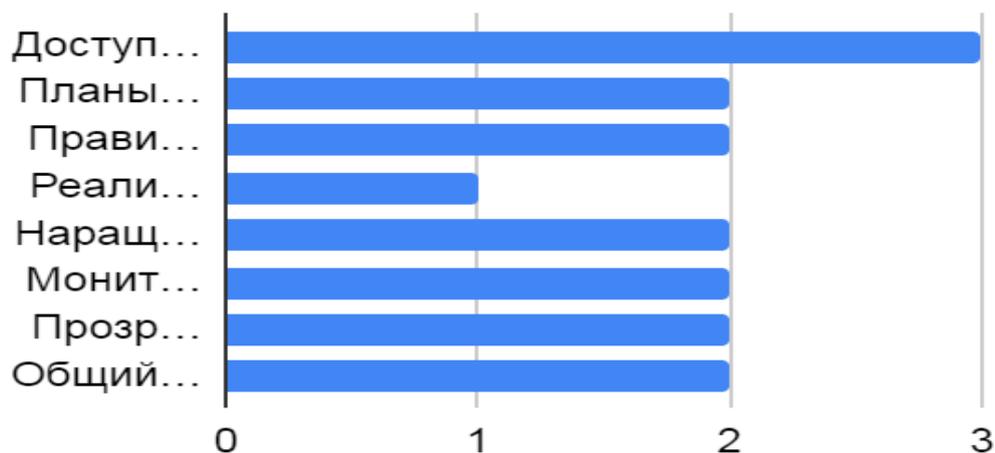
[1] VNR KR. P. 87

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



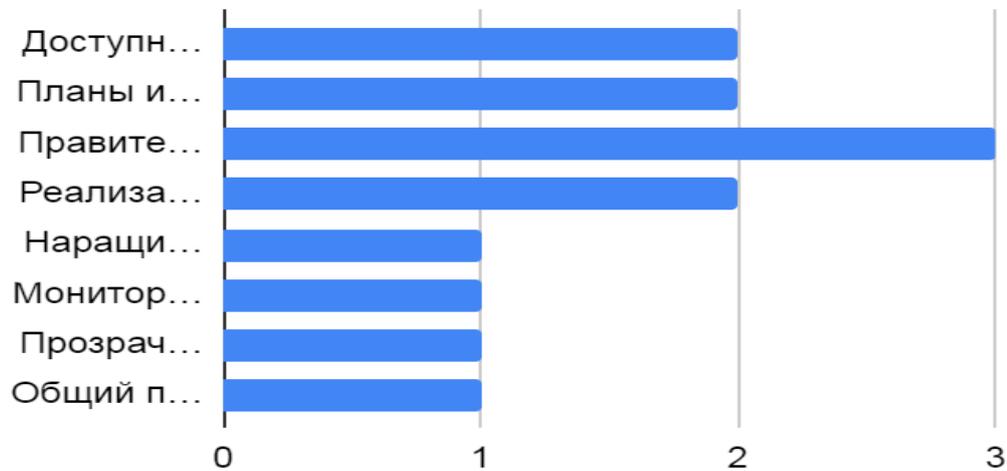
“Electricity is the only type of utility available and covering the entire Republic. Ensuring universal access to other utilities due to limited financial resources is still impossible”.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



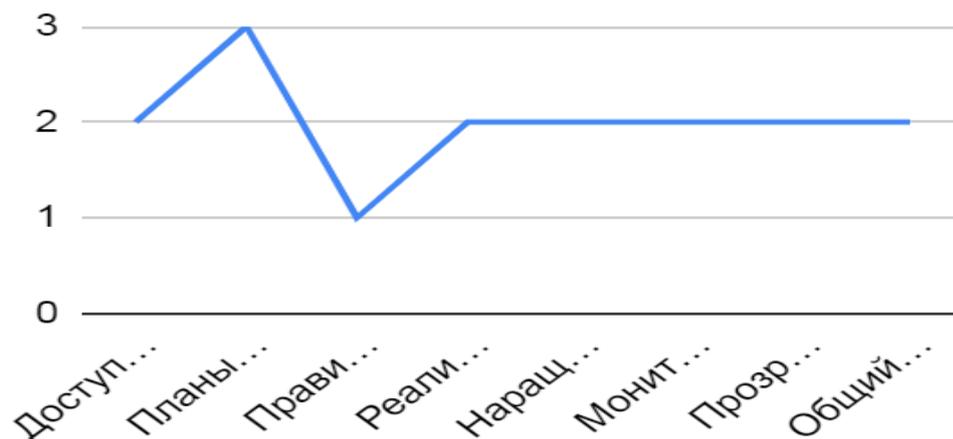
“Chemicals, including pesticides, industrial and consumer substances are increasingly used in the industrial, agricultural and consumer sectors of society. The current situation directly affects the health of the population and the environment. The use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides contributes to the pollution of land and water resources ”

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



The VNR notes that “despite the strategic goals defined in the Nationally Determined Contribution, the country has no opportunity to abandon the mining and use of coal and lignite.” Thus, the production of coal and lignites increased from 1,851.3 thousand tons in 2016 to 2,395.2 thousand tons in 2018, of which most (1,459 thousand tons) was consumed for household needs”.

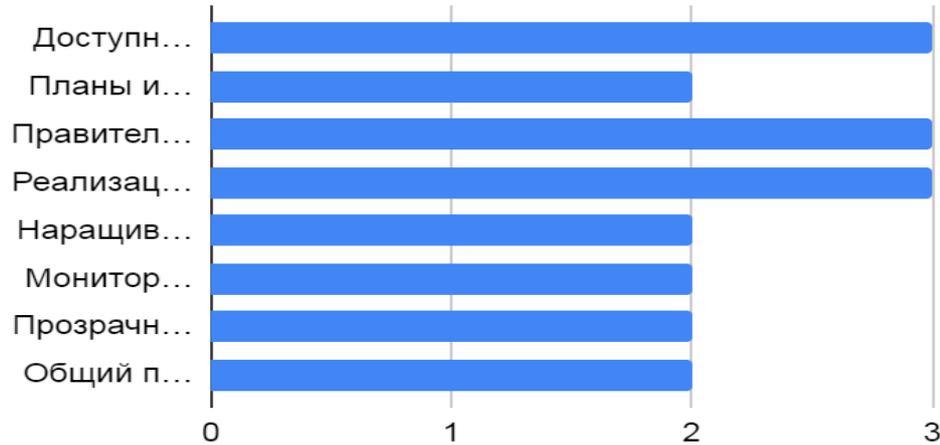
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



"Despite the fact that the strategic documents of the country indicate the importance of preserving the environment and biodiversity, expenditures on them allocated from the state budget make up only 1% of the total."

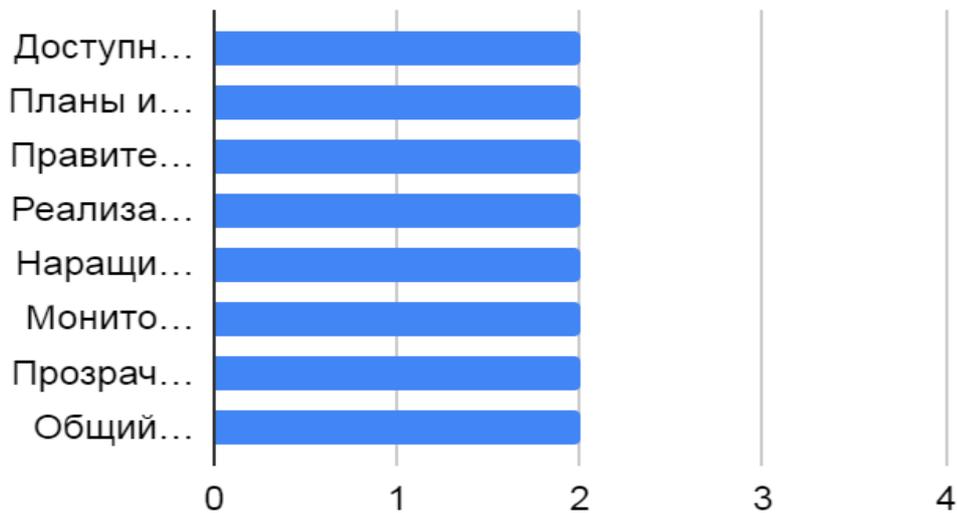


Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



VNR KR: On many tasks, the development of specific programs, mechanisms is only at the stage is in the follow-up steps phase.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Means of implementation and partnerships are directly related to the country, but there is little information and plans on NR.



CONCLUSION

In the review of the Voluntary National Report many goals are rated below average in terms of achievement. Figures and data from the VNR of the Kyrgyz Republic indicate many problems and gaps. It's time to radically change the approach to achieving the goals. The methods and approaches that are currently practiced in the country are not effective.

The Voluntary National Report of the Kyrgyz Republic did not reflect the state of affairs on integration of three indicators of sustainable development in the implementation of each goal: economic, environmental and social.

Almost all goals emphasize the role of the level of coordination of different development actors, but there is no relevant strategy to address this issue. In view of this, we propose to introduce multilateral partnership at all levels

When adjusting the country's development programs, it is necessary to consider the impact of Covid-19, as an increase in the national poverty level by 10.5 percentage points can have serious consequences for the prospects of the Kyrgyz Republic to achieve the SDGs.

The Forum of Women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan urges to start taking concrete measures to improve the implementation of sustainable development goals. The State has already prepared a report describing the problems and next steps. Now is the time to move on to solving these problems. For example, had we responded in a timely and responsible manner to the problems in the health care system we would not have had such a crisis related to Covid-19 this year. But this applies not only to the health sector; the situation is the same in almost all sectors. Figures, data specified in the VNR of the Kyrgyz Republic speak of many problems.

The Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan also calls for paying special attention to the problems of implementation of SDG 5, which shows a weak commitment of the state to fulfill its international obligations and to continue the policy of isolating the problems of women's rights and gender equality from the group of problems that are considered to be of strategic importance for sustainable development of the country. The introduction of global SDG 5 into the list of state-recognized national development goals will solve the problem related to underfunding of the goal on the rights of women and girls, gender equality and stop the existing practice of ignoring the funding needs for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Recommendations

1. Develop a plan to address the problems related to the implementation of the SDGs in Kyrgyzstan with annual operational reporting.
2. Ensure reporting on the implementation of Next Steps for each goal in the VNR.
3. Ensure the institutionalized participation of civil society organizations in further planning, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs in our country.



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4. Strengthen the processes of comprehensive coordination of the implementation of the SDGs in the Kyrgyz Republic under the leadership of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.
5. Introduce multi-stakeholder partnership as a mandatory approach to achieve all goals.
6. Raise the level of the accountability mechanism.
7. Develop mechanisms for increasing capacity to implement the SDGs at all levels and across all goals.
8. Develop mechanisms for introducing the necessary means of implementation for each goal, including increasing the level of funding.
9. Introduce a mechanism for integrating national goals and objectives into local development strategies and plans.
10. Improve the quality of indicators for each goal and introduce specific indicators of success.
11. Develop specific, measurable indicators of success over five years for each task
12. Integrate SDG 5 "Ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls" into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic.
13. Introduce a cross-cutting indicator on women's rights and gender equality in each sustainable development goal.
14. Integrate the issues of women's rights and gender equality (SDG 5) into the work, strategies, plans and accountability of all LSG bodies.
15. Improve coordination of activities through strengthening and creating multi-stakeholder partnership for planning, implementation and monitoring of SDG 5.
16. Introduce as a compulsory subject a course on women's rights and gender equality in training of civil servants.