



CSOs SCORING SPOTLIGHT REPORT on the IMPLEMENTATION of the SDGs in MONGOLIA

“For the SDGs” CSOs National Network
Year 2022

ABBREVIATIONS

A4SD	Action for Sustainable Development
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGC	National Gender Committee
GoM	Government of Mongolia
CSO	Civil Society Organization
MN	Mongolia
UN	United Nations
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
CC	Climate Change
SGKh	State Great Khural
VNRR	Voluntary National Review Report
MoH	Ministry of Health

LIST of the CSOs CONDUCTED the SCORING

SDGs	Responsible member organization	Number of consulted CSOs
SDG-1	Global Meridian NGO	15
SDG-2	“People’s Coalition for Food Sovereignty” (Food Coalition)	15
SDG-3	Psychological responsiveness NGO	15
SDG-4	“All for education” National Coalition	17
SDG-5	Liberal Women’s Brain Pool NGO and MONFEMNET National Women NGOs Network	9
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Foreword

Mongolia is one of the very first countries in the world to join the commitments to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and sign the 2030 Agenda and it had presented it's very first Voluntary National Review Report at the United Nations (UN) High Level Political Forum

in 2019. Currently, the country is planning to represent its second Voluntary National Review Report (VNRR) in 2023.

Anticipating a development of the second VNRR, the member organizations of the CSOs National Network “For the SDGs”¹ have started the work of developing the second CSOs joint report on the implementation of the SDGs. In the frame of this work, the implementation of the 16² SDGs is evaluated by scores using the methodology developed by the A4SD (Action for Sustainable Development) - the International Civil Society Organization.

Each of the SDGs was evaluated in accordance with the scoring guidelines provided with the methodology of A4SD from “-5” up to “5” scores in the scope of 10 key areas which include national action plan, SDG strategy and budget; policy and legal framework available; support from Government agencies; implementation at national level; implementation at local level; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; transparency and accountability; public awareness and capacity building; multi-stakeholder partnerships; citizen participation and civil society engagement respectively.

When evaluating the implementation of each of the SDGs within the aforementioned 10 key areas, the scores from “1” to “5” were given if there is a progress, or the scores from “-1” to “-5” were given if there is a setback, and “0” was given if there is no change.

This CSOs Scoring Spotlight Report presents the results on each of the SDGs scores discussed amongst 7-17 civil society organizations.

Introduction

While countries in the Asia-Pacific region are working hard to achieve the SDGs, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in insufficient progress and slowed down the implementations. The region's SDG Progress Report³ stated that countries in the region will not likely achieve their SDGs commitments by 2030. This case will also likely to happen to Mongolia as well.

¹ CSOs National Network “For the SDGs!” was established to contribute in achieving the SDGs through joint civil society activities. The network consists of more than 500 CSOs, community groups and citizens working on human rights, environment and social issues. The network runs FB account: Mongolia CSOs on SDGs.

² The SDG-14 was not included in this scoring assessment.

The VNRR is considered a valuable snapshot of the situation to find solutions to problems and identify the space for further improvement of the diagnostic process rather than showing the progress and success in the implementation of the SDGs.

Since Mongolia's submission of its first VNRR in 2019, there has been no significant process to follow up on the report. For instance, the national SDGs targets and the national SDGs indicators for measuring the progress in implementation of the SDGs developed with participation of the broad civil society have not been approved yet as well as the documents on priorities of the indicators and methodology for calculation.

It is believed that a lot of time could not have been wasted since the impacts of the pandemic was not huge on the work of approving the prepared documents that had already been developed with the participation of many parties, and on the development of the necessary methods and methodologies. Monitoring the planning and implementation of the SDG-2030 program, and especially whether the country's leaders are accountable for their commitments to the world community, should be the responsibility and activity of CSOs. This is a crucial part of the cooperation between the state and civil society.

Objectives of the evaluation

"Evaluation by People's Score" tool for implementation of the SDGs provides many opportunities for joint evaluation of the implementation process, discussion of the results at the national level, development of civil society participation plans, and using it in the official VNRR.

People's monitoring is based on the study of people's perceptions of the implementation of the SDGs on 10 key areas. These 10 key areas issues are aimed at integrating the concept of inclusive implementation of the SDGs, evaluating the progress made in the implementation of each SDG, and evaluating progress mainly from a qualitative perspective.

The main objective of the evaluation is to evaluate the overall implementation of the SDGs, to review implemented policies and strategies, the implementation at the national and local levels, and evaluate whether the mechanisms for participation of civil society, local governments, donors, and other broad stakeholders, which are essential for the implementation of the SDGs, have been established.

³https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP-2022-FG_SDG-Progress-Report.pdf

Evaluation methods

An integrated methodology developed by A4SD, an international platform of CSOs for the SDGs, is an assessment of citizens' perceptions based on the concept of inclusive implementation. The

implementation status of the each SDG was evaluated by scores within the 10 key areas, and the average score of these 10 key areas scores will be considered as the overall score of each SDG.

The concept of inclusive implementation of the SDGs expressed through 10 key areas can be grouped in three parameters. They are:

The state policy parameter:

1. National development strategy, action plan and budget;
2. State policy and legal regulations;

The institutional capacity parameter:

3. Institutional support – to have special agency, who is responsible for implementation, the scope of rights and responsibilities, institutional capacity, and the level of integration of the work of government institutions working on each SDG;
4. Implementation at the national level – General understanding of the implementation of the state policy at the national level and evaluation of implementation criteria;
5. Implementation at local level - General understanding of the implementation of the state policy at local level and evaluation of implementation criteria;

The inclusive governance parameter:

6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting – Review the quality of the state policies, the national criteria for the SDGs and the level of inclusive actions;
7. Transparency and Accountability – Transparency of government information, monitoring of the SDG implementation, and the level of transparency of accountability;
8. Public awareness, understanding and capacity building – Public awareness and understanding of the SDGs;
9. Inclusive/Participatory Multi-stakeholder Partnerships – Quality, level of the participation, equality/inequality of participants, and scope of multi-stakeholder partnerships established to implement the SDGs;
10. Participation of civil society – the level of participation of CSOs, trade unions, local communities and individuals in the development of the state policies, priority setting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the state policies;

Scores for evaluating the progress of SDG implementation:

-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Very significant reduction	significant reduction	Moderate reduction	Limited reduction	Very limited reduction	No progress	Policies/ Plans being discussed	Planning Phase	Planes or actions Initiated	Implementation in progress	Successful Implementation

Procedures of Evaluation

An expert group was established by representatives of the 14 member organizations of the CSO National Network “For the SDGs!”. Each member of the expert group was assigned to score one or two SDG which are relevant to its work in consultation with other 7 to 15 organizations, who work on the issues related to the assigned SDGs, on its state of implementation within the 10 key areas. Each of the scores given and agreed by the consultation

was confirmed with the supporting information was recorded. And then the results have been presented to the expert group and discussed. This means, the scoring assessment of the SDG implementation was validated by at least two discussions. Thus, the implementations of 16 SDGs except for SDG-14 were evaluated by the scores.

Since, the evaluation process had started in April, a regional online conference and a in-person training for experts team were organized and online discussions amongst the expert group had been held twice a week (14 times in total). Also extended online discussions for the SDG-16 and SDG-17 were held twice and almost 200 CSOs participated in duplicated numbers.

The National Consultation was held on August 30, 2022 at the conference hall of Puma Imperial Hotel, in order to present the scoring results carried out by CSOs on the implementations of the SDGs to policy makers, decision makers, government officials, civil society organizations, and citizens' representatives, and to obtain additional information and comments accordingly.

In the consultation, a total of 79 representatives including the advisors to the Parliament Subcommittee on the SDGs, the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government, some ministries, the National Statistics Committee, the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Committee on Gender, Local Governments, representatives of the Citizens' Representative Khural, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNFPA, NGOs and representatives from local communities have participated respectively.

The participants in the consultation asked questions and exchanged their opinions on a wide scale, and representatives of the Ministry of Health and the National Gender Committee expressed their non-acceptance of the evaluation. Also, the head of the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed an opinion that it is better to work together in preparing the government's report and to narrow the gaps in views of the government and CSOs and improve mutual understanding.

It is expected that the comments and recommendations made during the national consultation will be discussed together with the relevant organizations. These follow-up discussions will contribute to the second VNR process and will be reflected in the second VNRR. Most importantly this process will contribute in creating a precedence of a new comprehensive, CSO lead partnership between the government and CSOs.

The scope of the Scoring process

It should be emphasized that the scoring process of the SDGs did not include an individual. The scoring involved only civil society organizations that work in the field of environment and development issues with strong backgrounds in human rights who have strong critics on the implementation of the principle of "Leaving no one behind". On the other hand all the organizations involved in the scoring are very close with citizens on the ground and connected

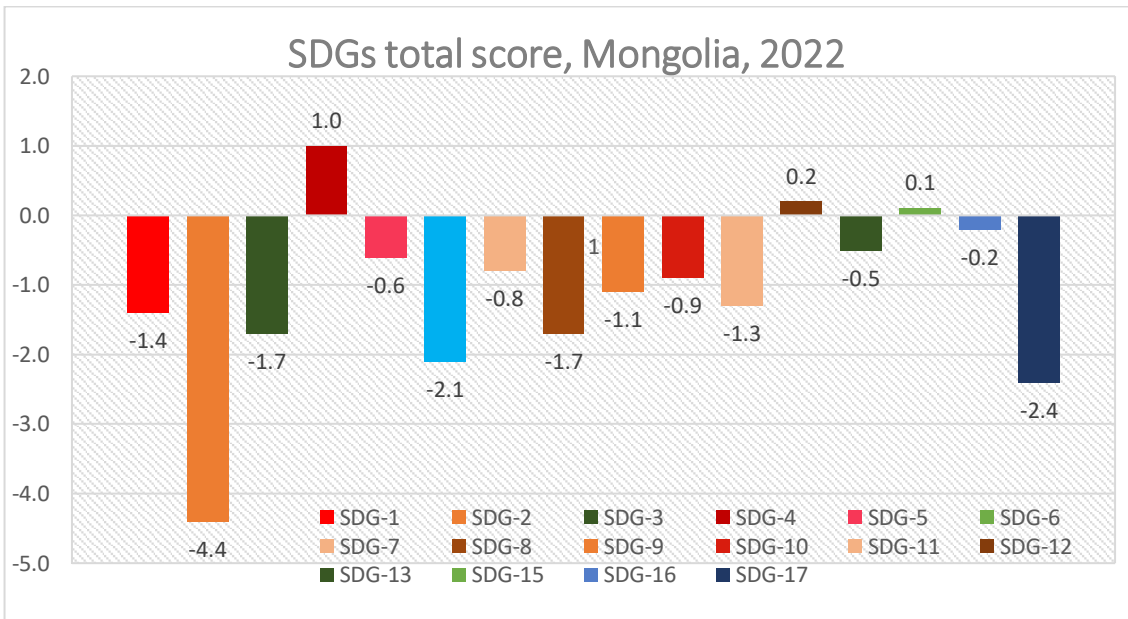
with the communities in depth and know their issues. Therefore they may know well and may express the perception of people. Another point which should be kept in mind is that the scores given for the SDGs are not results of individual perception but collective validated through double discussions.

The main principle of the SDGs is to ensure human rights. It must be recognized that human rights are universal and necessary for sustainable development. This report is the first evaluation report of the CSOs perspectives using the tool based on the concept of inclusive implementation.

The Overall Score and Conclusion

In accordance with the overall evaluation results, the implementation progress of Mongolia's SDGs was evaluated with a score of -1.1. This means that there are no results in the implementation of the SDGs. In fact, there are regressions. There is overall positive score for the progress in SDG-4, and no progress or at least no regress is happening in SDG-12 and SDG-15, and other goals are evaluated as regressive.

Figure 1.Overall scores, by each SDG.



The following government policy and regulatory documents were used as supporting documents in evaluating each SDG. It includes:

- Mongolia's Long-term Development Policy Vision-2050;
- Mongolian Law on Development Policy Planning and Management, 2020;
- Main directions for 2021-2025 Five-year development of Mongolia, 2020;
- Government of Mongolia's 2020-2024 Action Program, 2020;
- "New Revival Policy, 2021-2030" to support economic development, 2021, Resolution No. 106 from the State Great Khural.

Since Mongolia does not have an independent national strategy for the SDGs, the results of the "Review and Relation between Mongolia's development document and the SDGs, 2021, UNDP"⁵ study was used.

The study had chosen development programs of Mongolia in particularly Mongolia's Long-term Development Policy Vision-2050, Mongolian Law on Development Policy Planning and Management, 2020 and Main directions for 2021-2025 Five-year development of Mongolia, 2020 and made correlation analysis on consistency with the SDGs and associated criteria indicators respectively.

Regarding the selected development documents of Mongolia, it was concluded that the development documents were well coherent in terms of the SDGs, however associated criteria indicators were insufficiently coherent. Hence, only 8 percent or 20 indicators of the 244 indicators of the SDGs were in consistent with the selected development documents.

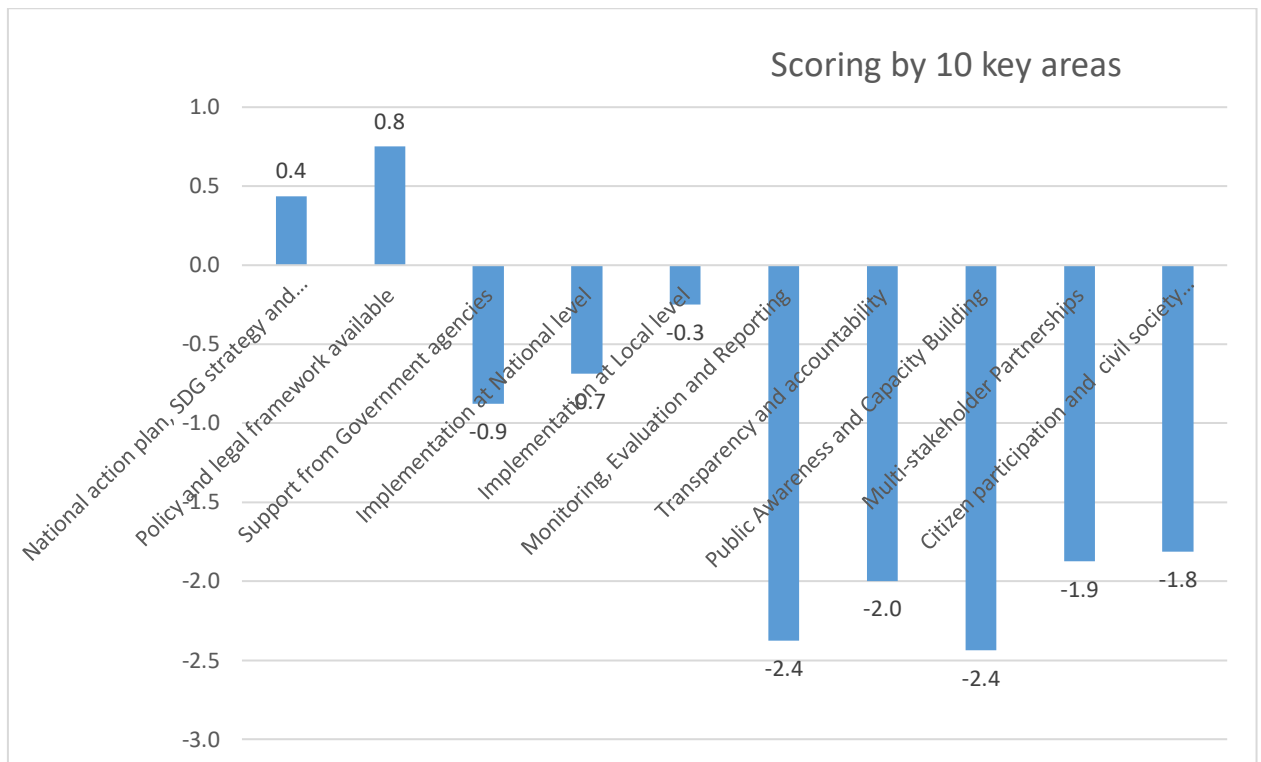
Indicators for measuring and evaluating the implementation of the SDGs should create a real opportunity to evaluate and monitor the implementation status.

Due to lack of information, it does not appear to have a progress regarding the participation of CSOs in the implementation of the SDGs at the national level, or at local level in particularly monitoring, evaluation and reporting, transparency and accountability, community knowledge nor capacity, multi-stakeholders' partnerships.

⁵<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mn/undp-mapping-SDGs-2021-mongolian-version.pdf>

CSOs believe that progress is being made in the National Development Strategy, Planning, Government Policy, and Legal Regulation when evaluating the 10 key issues of inclusive implementation.

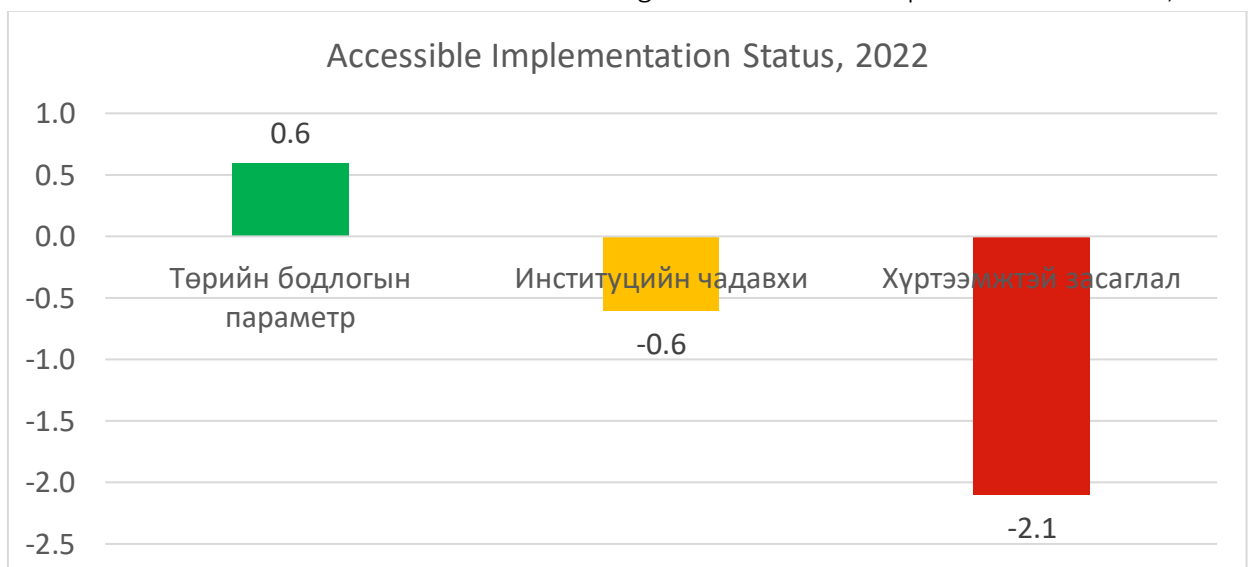
Figure 2. Total scores by 10 key issues.



However, the evaluation results show that the implementation of the state policies is not effectively implemented at the national or local levels, the implementation of activities is not transparent, there is no monitoring nor evaluation by citizens and CSOs, there is no public awareness, knowledge, and information about the SDGs, and there is no multilateral participation mechanism in place.

The conclusion of the evaluation is shown in the Figure-3, which shows the status of accessible implementation status.

Figure 3. Accessible Implementation Status, 2022.

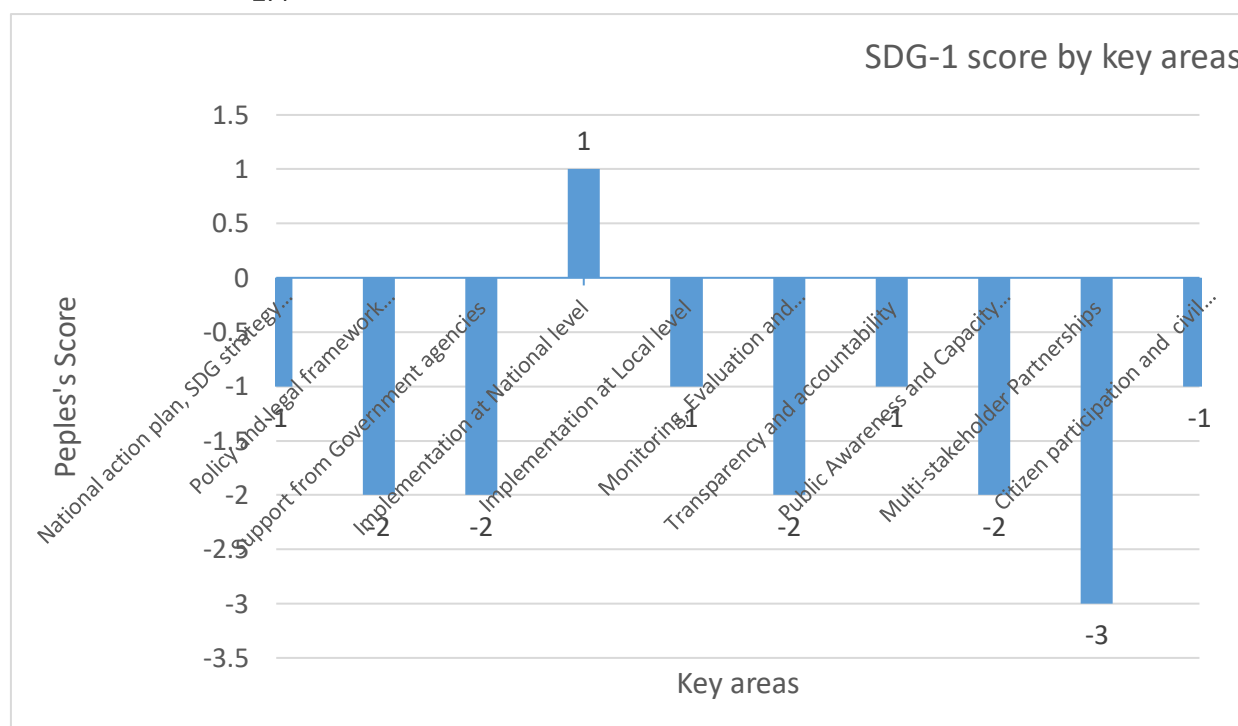


It is believed that there is progress being made in the parameters of the state policy. Regarding the capacity of public institutions and Inclusive Governance indicators:

- If there is a sufficient planning and funding to ensure coordination of the SDGs, which require multi-sector integrated policies and cooperation;
 - If citizens are able to receive the support of government institutions during the implementation of the SDGs;
 - If actions to ensure the SDGs implementations are open, transparent or accountable;
 - If actions to ensure the SDGs implementation provide effective public participation;
- However, these questions were evaluated as there was no progress.

Scores by Each Sustainable Development Goals

SDG-1: Total score -1.4



Although poverty reduction is included in the government's agenda, welfare policy seems to be the only measure. The government's goal to reduce poverty to 15% by 2030 in accordance with monitoring plan of Mongolia's long-term development document "Vision-2050", does not seem to fulfill the goal to make the poverty to zero. In fact, the delay in achieving the target is evaluated as regressive.

According to the 2020 Household Socio-Economic Survey of the national statistic committee, poverty was 27.8%, which was 0.6% lower than in 2018, however the results are not statistically significant⁴.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has definitely slowed down the poverty reduction rate, there were not much sustainable or comprehensive measures taken to reduce poverty except for distributing some social welfares. According to the results of the research conducted by the CSO, child poverty was not decreased, and children's money was not being allocated to the children in reality.

⁴https://1212.mn/BookLibraryDownload.ashx?url=Poverty_report_2020_MGL.pdf&ln=Mn

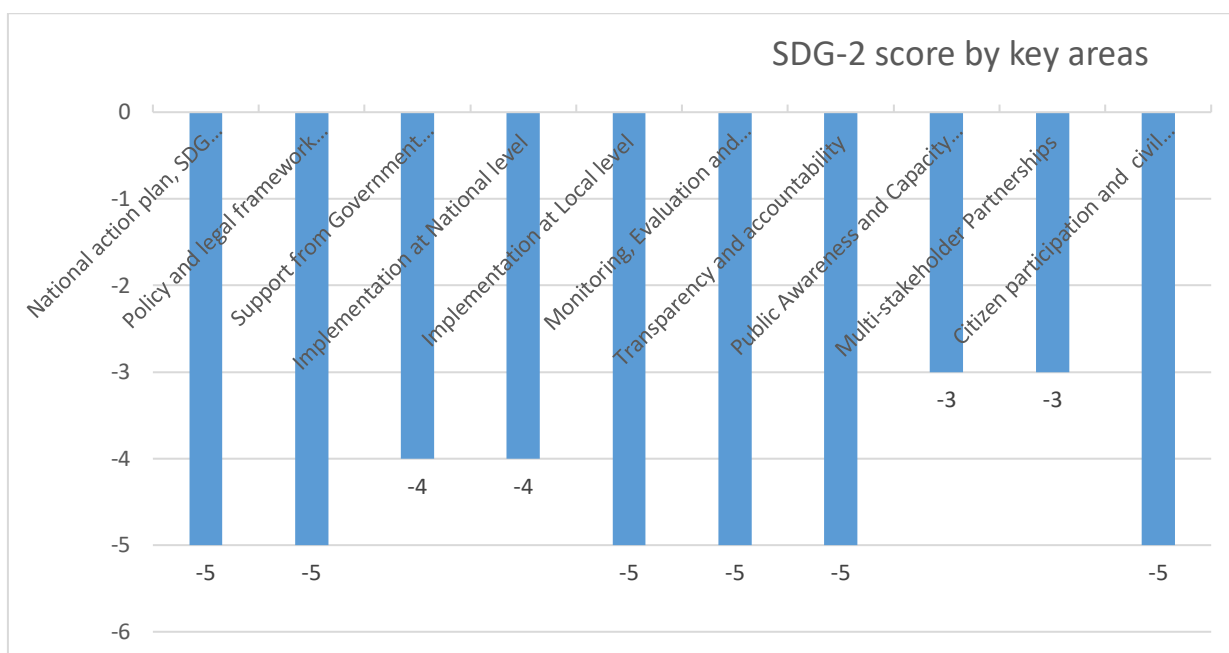
Although the SDGs policies were implemented in the local area, they were revoked when the long-term development policy was approved. The information on the work done in the local area is not transparent, and there is no plan to naturalize the SDGs. Therefore, it is vital to organize works in order to raise public awareness and active participation.

The SDGs' "Leaving no one behind" principle based measurement has not been carried out.

Even though the SDGs are committed to "Leave no one behind", however:

- Women and girls;
- Children-youths;
- People with disabilities;
- Elders;
- Marginalized suburban and rural communities;
- Herders with few livestock, farmers with small land, business owners without collateral, and people who do not meet the requirements to receive benefits from the government,
- LGBTQI people, especially treatment, services, and legal issues for trans women are omitted.
- Intravenous drug users;
- Mentally ill people;
- People infected with tuberculosis infection remain omitted and at risk.

SDG-2: Total score 4.4



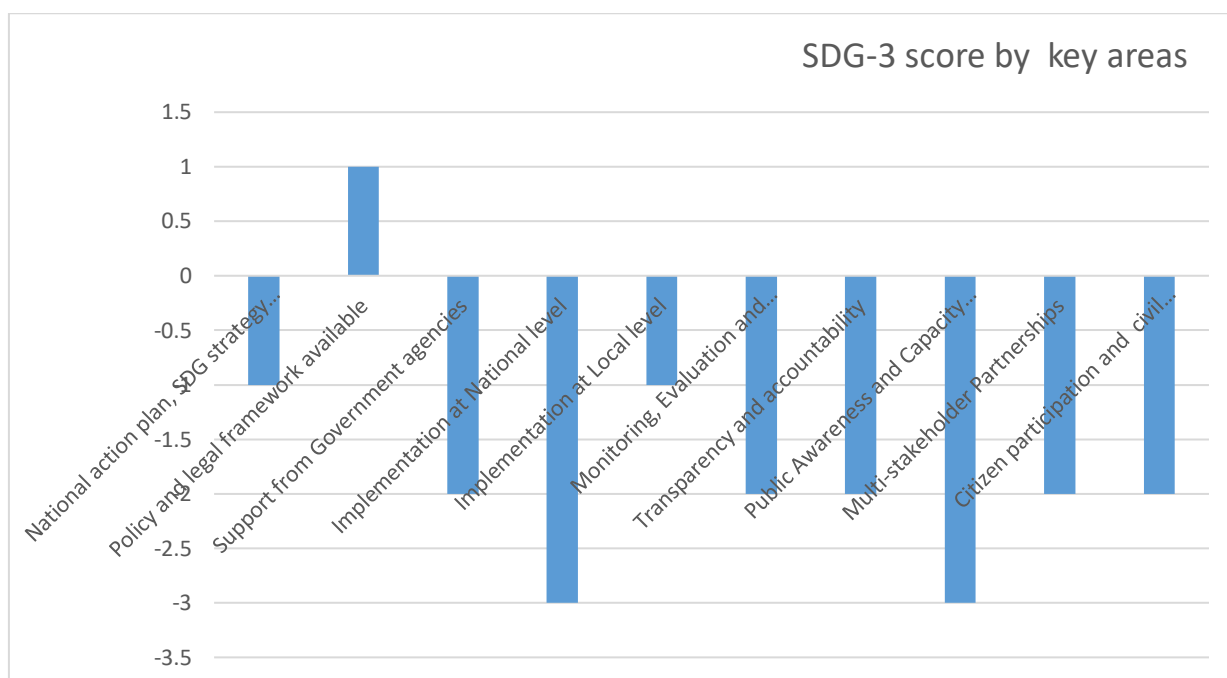
There are many relevant policy documents and laws existed. For instance, the Healthy Food-Healthy Mongolian National Program, which has been implemented since 2019 until 2023, was approved by Government Resolution No. 52 of 2019. The program was abandoned after 2 years due to lack of funding and insufficient coordination in between. There is no information on 6 indicators of SDG-2.

SDG-2 cannot be implemented in 2030. Issuing food stamps is recognition of hunger existence actually. When implementing large food programs, food quality or safety are not taken into account, Mongolia has a law that allows genetically engineered food products to be imported, and climate change has a negative impacts on the quality and quantity of livestock, milk and dairy products, crops and vegetables.

Herdsman with few animals and farmers with small lands and small business owners without collateral are left out of the policy. When there is a shortage of food, food stamps are distributed, however they do not reach the targeted beneficiaries.

The investigation of information on public food poisoning and poor quality food is slow with no response, and it is in a corrupt state. All this is inextricably linked with food security and availability of the population. The CSOs contributions are not taken into account.

SDG-3: Total score -1.7



The health sector has a good legal framework and has started to make improvements. It is one of the first 5 ministries to start aligning their strategies and plans with the SDGs. Maternal and infant mortality tends to increase. Maternal mortality increased from 30 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020 to 68 in 2021. See www.1212.mn.

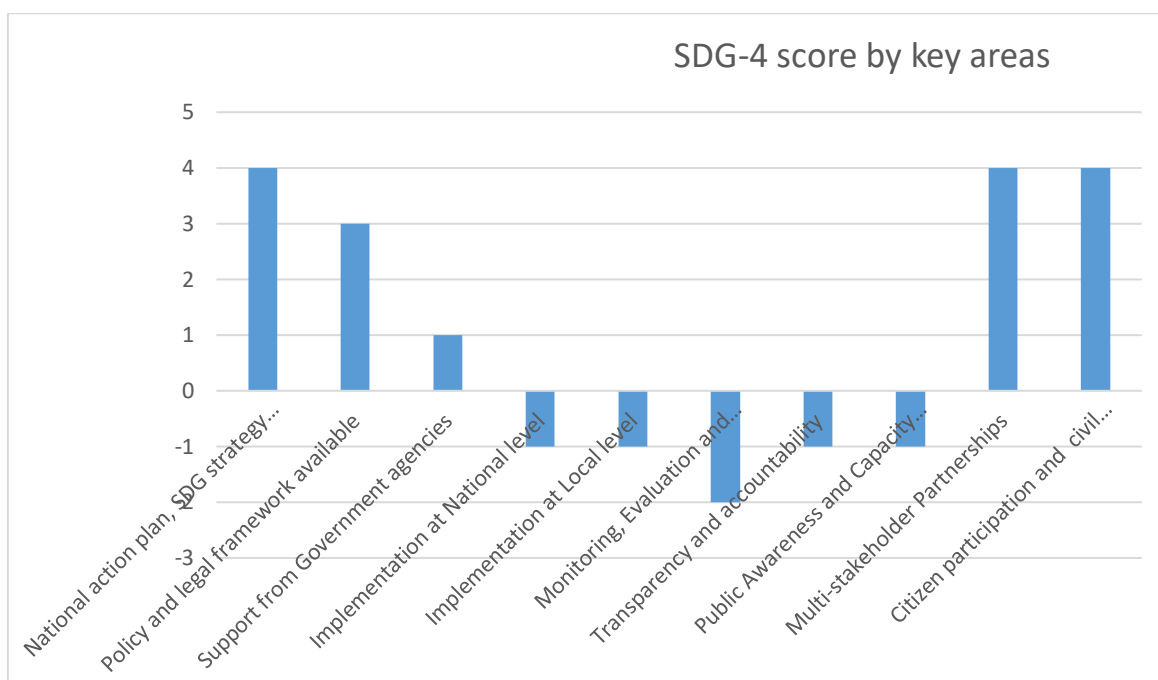
Despite the good legal framework and sufficient funding in the health sector, there is still a lack of organization at implementation level, and the impacts are not equally accessed. Health treatment, services, and legal issues for trans women are omitted and no specific funding for people living with HIV or at high risk.

National programs are not evaluated, partially implemented, and funds are insufficiently allocated. The most of the budget was spent on the Covid-19 and therefore other issues were on hold. People who were seriously ill were unable to obtain medical treatments nor hospital services, thus they were left with no solutions. The number of steps to obtain medical treatments has increased and it made difficult for ill people to get help but still left with many unsolvable problems.

Transparency and accountability mechanisms were largely omitted and simplified. From the following report, the human rights issues of people who inject drugs, LGBTI women, in particularly trans women, and people with mental illness were omitted can be clearly seen.

<https://www.omct.org/site-resources/files/Gender-based-Torture-in-Asia.pdf>

SDG-4: Total score **+1**



Educational goals are fully reflected in the Vision 2050, Mongolia's the long-term development policy. It is one of the Ministries whose mid-term plan for the education sector has been approved and planned in line with the SDGs. The General Authority of Education was newly established along with "Student Development Department" within the structure.

A systematic approach to children's development and children's education has started. The beginning of foundation of the legal reform to solve problems of children with disabilities, and development and care of young children in the educational sector has been established.

There are new positions for psychologists in secondary schools, however, they are not available at every school. Having children to get into kindergarten through lottery or by paying bribes still common. The issues of universities are controversial.

According to the statistical information website www.1212.mn, the statistics show that progress in some indicators is low. Due to the Covid-19 situation, there is a possibility that some indicators will be decreased due to classes being shut for many days, problems with academic delays and changes in the behavior of students.

A plan to naturalize the SDGs was made in Ulaanbaatar and some provinces with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program. There are no negotiations in other provinces. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting were discussed but no system was established. A mid-term evaluation of SDG-4 implementation was carried out and submitted relevant report to UNESCO. The Education Coalition participated.

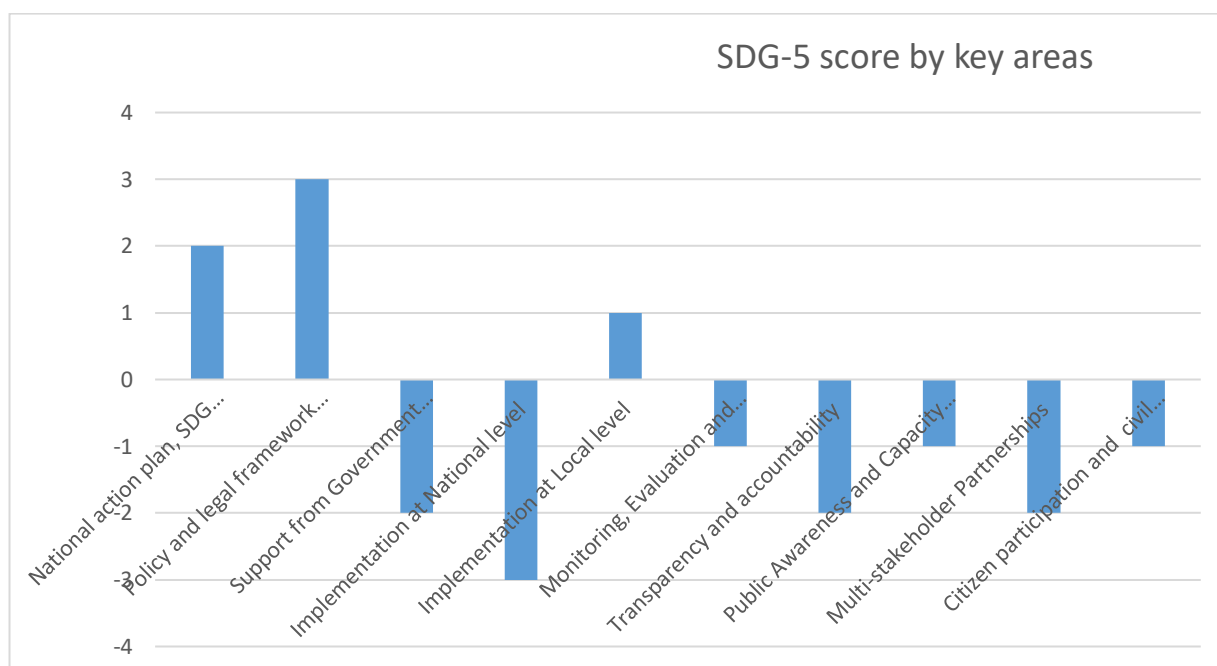
Failure to approve and implement national indicators and achievement levels for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs means that mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, reporting and transparent accountability are not functioning. Public awareness and capacity building activities are irregular with no consistency nor any correlations, and do not have a common theme. Training and advertising programs from the state organizations towards public are not effective.

Employees of government organizations are constantly being replaced by new ones, thus knowledge and skills are not inherited. There is a lack of consensus and some misconceptions among education policy makers on inclusiveness, equitable education, and lifelong learning.

Other parties are inactive and not involved except for the government organizations, international organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and CSOs work together in the partnership.

SDG-5: Total score -0.6

There are cross-sectoral strategic plan /2022-2031/ for ensuring gender equality and the work on testing gender-sensitive budgeting /2021/ have started and progress is being made. The National Committee on Gender works with a local-oriented structure.



There are no cases of implementations nor achievements for a special method of implementing quotas to reserve seats in order to ensure a balanced representation of men and women in political and leadership positions, except for including a clause, which stipulates that at least 20% of party and coalition candidates must be of one or other gender, in the Law adopted in 2019 on Parliamentary Elections.

Equal pay for equal work decreased by 8.0 points from 81.0 to 73.0, average income by 20.5 points from 87.0 to 66.5, and the gender ratio of legislators and executives decreased from 90.0 to 64.0. Despite the directive from the Ministry of Education and Culture not to organize examination of girls in the school environment, there are still violations due to lack of knowledge.

Although the goal of making sectoral and local policy planning gender sensitive and introducing gender methodology has been established, it has not yet begun to be reflected in sectoral and local policies.

The "Report on the Results of Policies and Activities to Ensure Gender Equality" of the Ministry of Education and Culture is not transparent to the public, and the result is not visible to the public either.

SDG-6:Total score-2.1

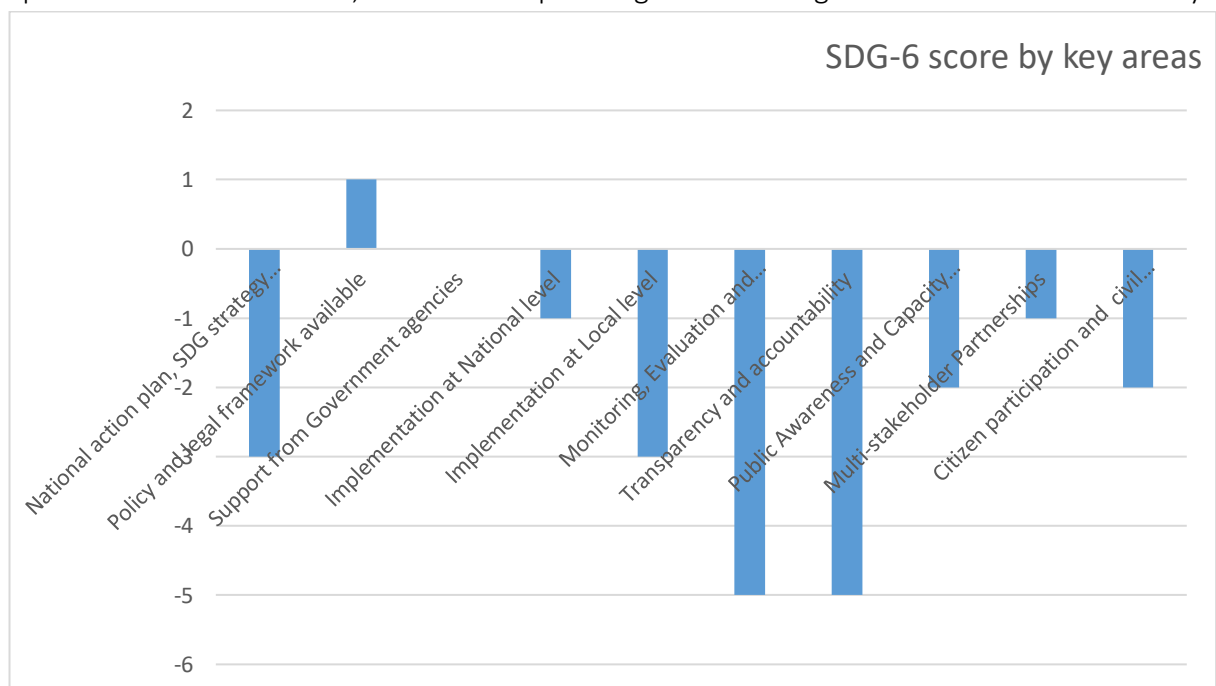
Government policy and legal regulations

- Law on water;
- Law on water pollution tariffs;
- Law on Royalties for Using Natural Resources;
- Law on water supply and sewerage in cities and towns;
- "Water" national program and action plan for implementation of the "Water" program.

Resolutions and decisions of the Government, resolutions and joint resolutions by the Ministry of Education and Culture:

- On the reconfirmation of water ecology and economic assessment/271/
- Measures to be taken regarding the administration of the water basin /277/.

Relevant changes are being made in terms of the legal environment, that will affect the implementation of the SDGs, however the planning and financing mechanisms are not stable yet.



A water policy exists but is not implemented. Despite the establishment of the Water Department, there is no visual progress. The fact that many rivers are drying up every year is a regressive.

There is a shortage of drinking water due to:

- Mining uses a lot of water, pollutes and disrupts flow;
 - The fact that the lack of systematic policy or standards for sewage facilities in Ger District in the city's residential areas increases water pollution;
 - The destruction of water in the countryside is not monitored or counted;
 - Lack of water conservation partnership;
- Considering the structure of the institution:
- Government implementing agency - Water Department was established in 2020. /Water Basin Administration-21/
 - Water issues belong to several ministries including:

- ✓ Urban Water Supply – The Ministry of Construction;

- ✓ Spring and water quality issues –The Ministry of Health;
- ✓ Hydropower/HPP/ - The Ministry of Energy;
- ✓ Industrial and Mining Water Supply – The Ministry of Mining;
- ✓ Water supply for agriculture and pastures – The Ministry of Agriculture;
- ✓ Water/natural resources - The Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

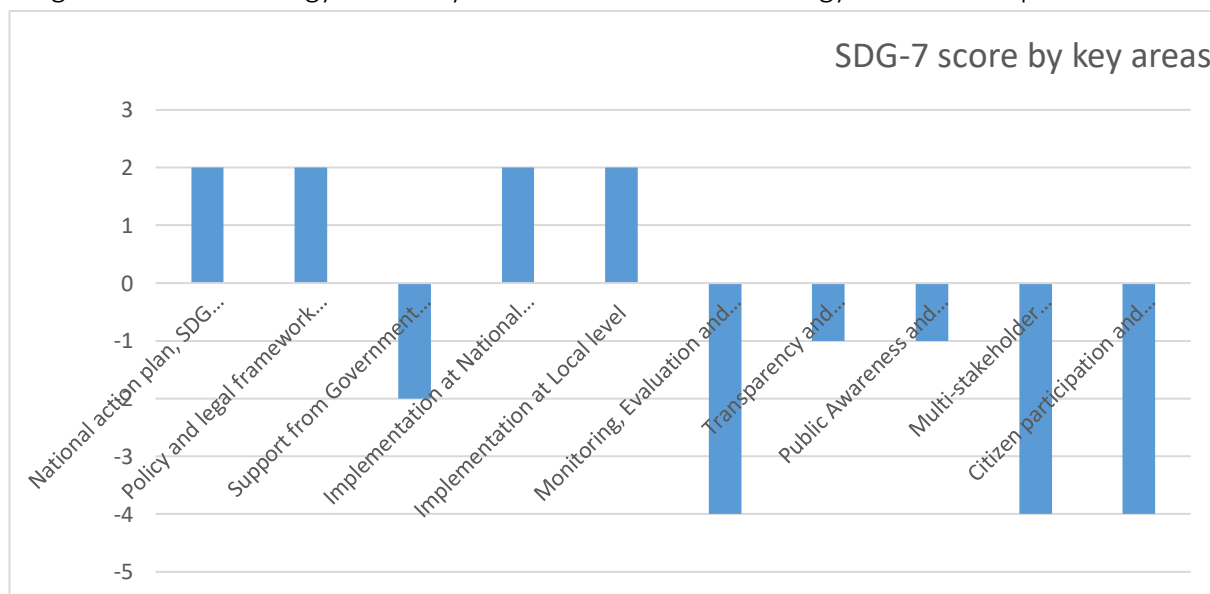
Cross-sectoral policy coordinations are inadequate. CSOs talk, however they are not being able to bring changes.

SDG-7: Total score -0.8

Government policy and legal regulations

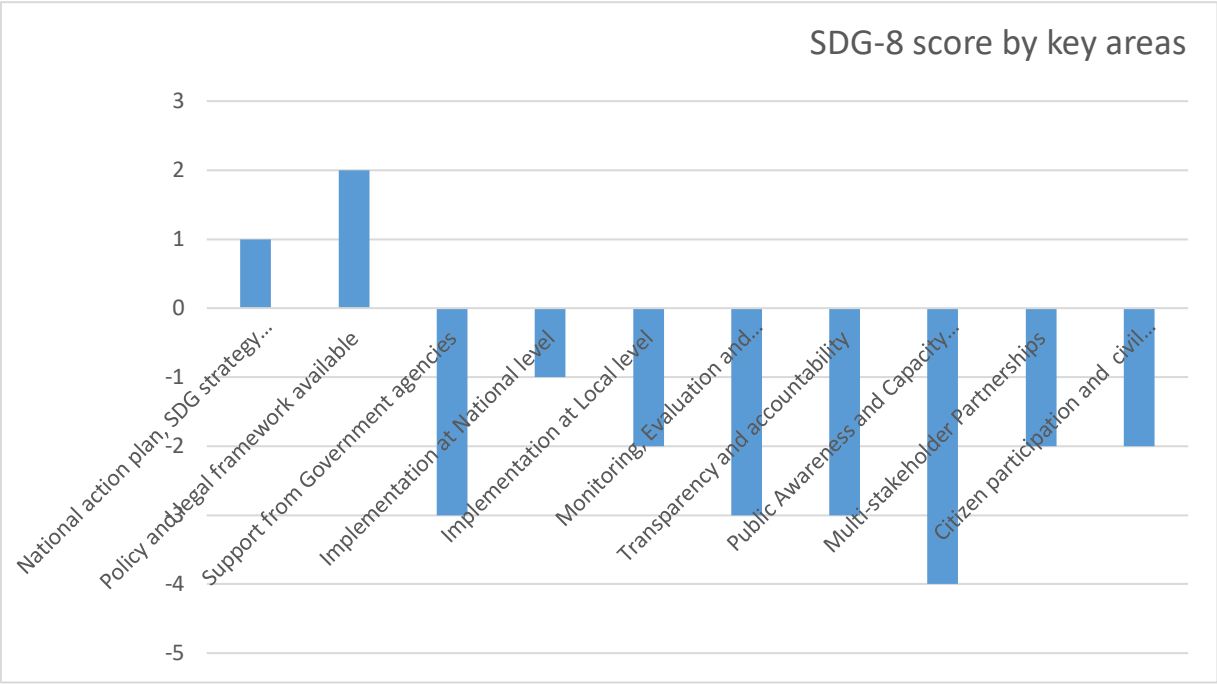
- Law on Renewable Energy;
- Law on energy conservation;
- "Sustainable Energy Development Strategy of Mongolia";
- "Integrated Energy System of Mongolia";
- National Green Development Policy;
- Energy Conservation National Program

In 2020, Mongolia supplied 80.7% of its total energy consumption from domestic production and imported 19.3% from Russia and China through 14 substations. From total electricity consumers 56.1 thousand - 7.8% are business enterprises meanwhile 662.6 thousand - 92.2% are households. 13,681 households in the Ger District could not connect to electricity that meets the standard requirements in 7 districts of Ulaanbaatar city. Data on the implementation of SDG-7 targets related to energy efficiency other than renewable energy are not transparent.



Legal and legal framework is in place and activities are being implemented. Even though, many projects are being implemented to ensure reliable energy resources, however there is a poor management in planning and financing mechanisms.

CSOs' participations are not guaranteed and only those NGOs that have closure agreements can have partnerships. Inter sectoral policy coordination is in very poor level.



The Vision-2050 policy has set some specific goals. However, there is no real policy, legal framework and budget planning. For instance, there are no policies to provide scholarships to students at Vocational Training Centers and universities, or to specifically support students in the fields of processing industry and transport logistics, which are priority areas of the economy. In particular, there is no effective policy to support the education of girls and women in mining, transportation, logistics, and technology, which have high economic value, and develop industries that require a lot of labor.

Decent employment is made at the policy level and legalized by the Labor Law, yet the jobs created are not decent jobs. Labor wages, labor tariffs and labor protection are still poor. The mining industry is not a sustainable workplace.

Even though, there are many types of financial services, however the criteria for receiving them are not accessible. Also, there is a policy to transfer micro-medium businesses to the official sector, the health, social insurance contributions as well as income tax is very strict and does not encourage tax payers. Therefore, workers in the non-business sector still receive tax-free wages.

The target group has a weak desire or necessity to work due to not getting paid with enough wage to support basic needs, because they can obtain higher amount of social benefits than the minimum wage. Employment support programs for youth, elders, herdsmen, and people with disabilities are created and financed with the state budget, however demands and supplies do not match, selection process is not transparent, and training and loans are one-time only. Therefore, these cannot be sustainable support, in particular, most of the funds spent on the claim that employment will support jobs are in fact spent on low-quality trainings and non-permanent jobs.

Although a program to support women's employment has been launched from 2022, however associated budget is still insufficient.

The legal framework for the prohibition of work place harassment and sexual

harassment and the responsibility of creating a favorable environment for employers has been established within the framework of the policy. However, the issues of women being subjected to indirect discrimination in the labor market, not being able to practice their rights protected by law, or not being able to file a complaint when their rights are violated still exist with deep-roots.

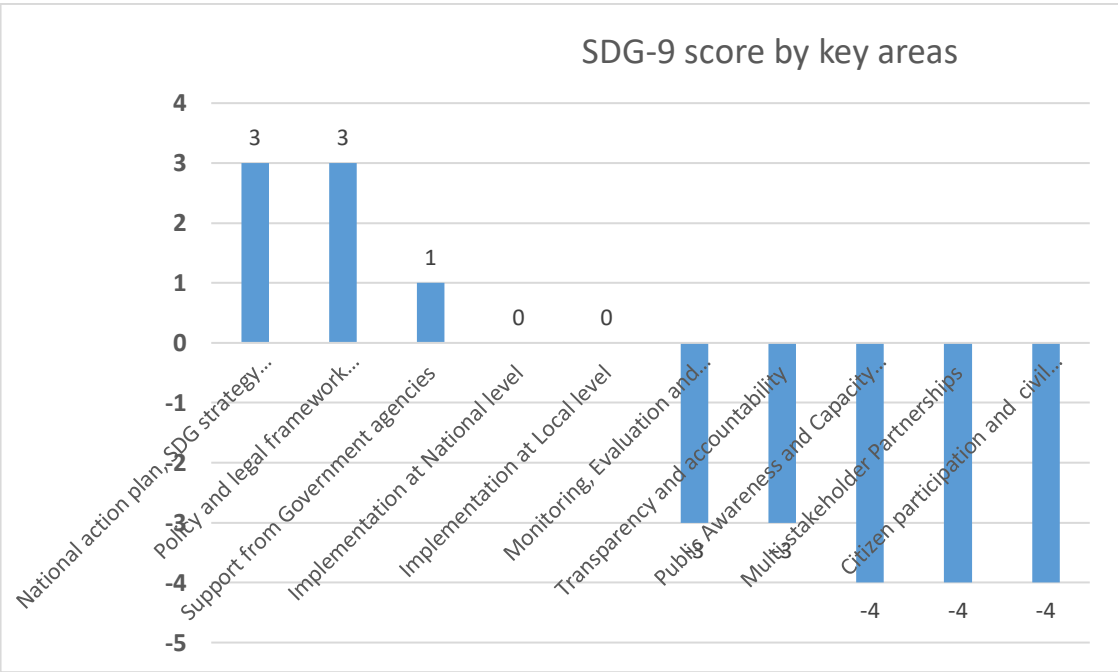
There are not enough civil servants who support employment services, and only one civil servant is responsible for both welfare and employment support at khoroo level. Also using different methods for monitoring and evaluating reduce the results. The government does not support youth initiatives by its policies. The government plans public participation yet the participation is insignificant.

SDG-9: Total score -1.1

Key policy documents:

- Green Development Policy;
- Law on Innovations, 2012/2019;
- Law on Science and Technology 2006/2021;
- The government's policy on science and technology;
- Priorities of innovation activities;
- National innovation system development program

Associated budget, strategy, and action plan related to the long-term development Vision-2050 policy and national programs of Mongolia were approved. There are agencies with specific functions.



Results in terms of accessible and sustainable industrialization are uncertain. It was revealed that companies with political affiliations received loans for national industry and technology support projects from the Development Bank of Mongolia in 2020-2022 due to corruption and bribery.

In addition, it has become public knowledge that loans to support Small and medium enterprises have also been granted to companies, who were affiliated with the ruling party from time to time. For this reason, these types of loans were temporarily suspended.

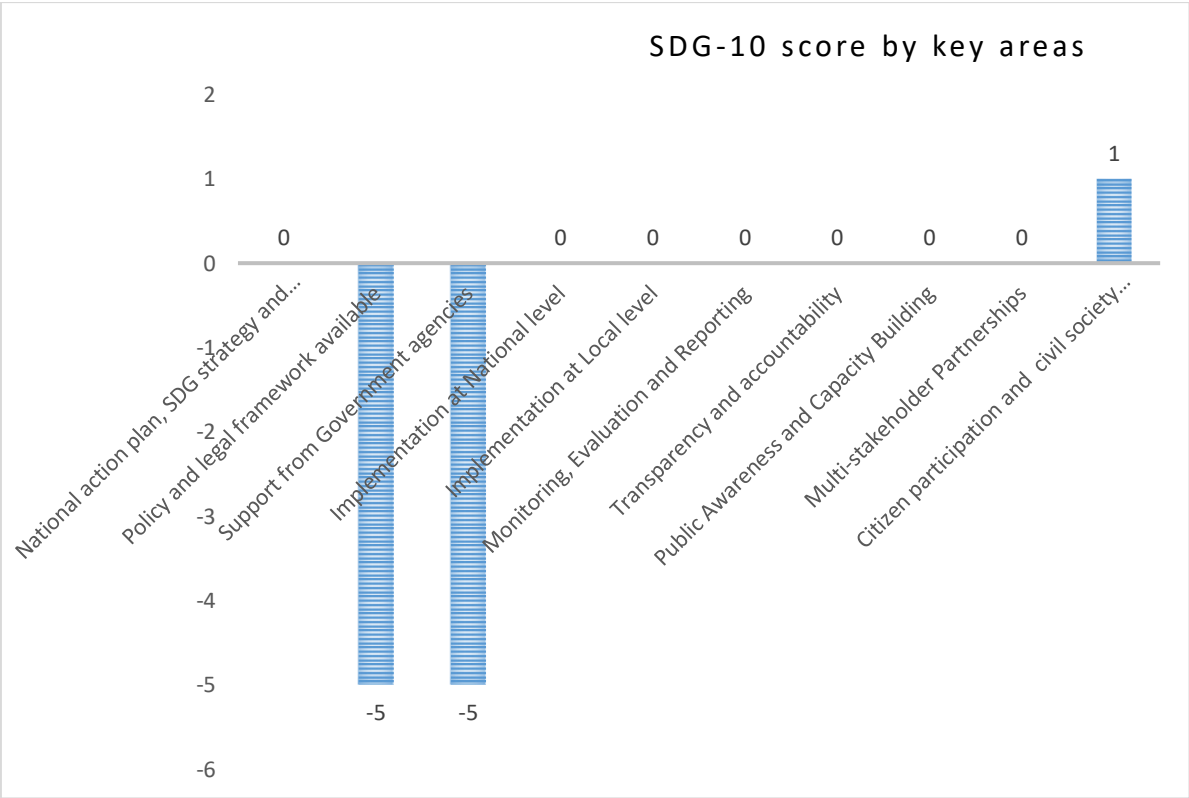
Although, medias and CSOs are taking initiatives to bring legal responsibility for the above illegal acts, however, no results have been clear. In the field of innovation, the situation of mutual information gap has not disappeared, and the basis for gaining knowledge and understanding continues.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting are reduced yet transparency and accountability mechanism has been simplified and reduced to a mere name.

Civil society expresses the position that the public should have knowledge and capacity, and acts accordingly. But there is a lack of resources to cover a wide range of fields and unfortunately the government does not pay attention to it. E-governance and e-citizenship sloganeering policies have gone, and there is currently no public information about creating smart applications.

CSOs demand participation in development policy and planning activities, and if CSOs do not get information, they are left out, and even if they participate, the government still has an interest in not receiving suggestions or recommendations from CSOs.

SDG-10:Total score-0.9



There is no specific policy or legal regulation aimed at reducing "inequality" in the meaning of the goal. There is no document defining the SDG's national criteria, level of achievement, and priorities has been approved, the target level has not been defined, and the methodology for calculation or the guidelines for the creation of data sources have not been provided either.

And there is no government support. This situation leads to a setback in the main activities of establishing the responsibility mechanism for sector policies and programs to be based on the SDGs, monitoring and evaluation of implementation, and transparency.

There is no official translation for the SDGs or associated guidelines nor recommendations, and no common understanding amongst stakeholders either. Even at the state level, accurate translation and understanding have not been created yet.

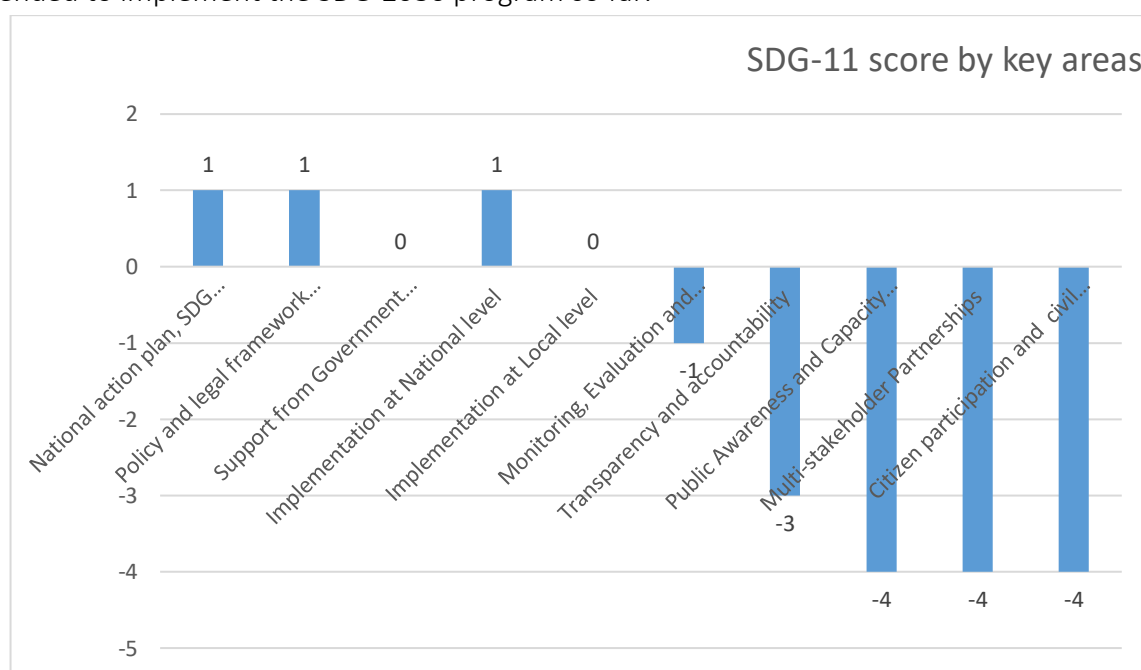
The activities of the National Committee and Multilateral Council are not effective and in name only. There is no multi-stakeholder partnership activity towards implementing the SDG-10.

Judging from the activities of the National Committee, there is no planning or budget nor regular activities. The multilateral council has just been established, its activities are in the beginning stage, and there is no policy or financial support yet.

SDG-11: Total score -1.28

Currently, there are 9 national development policy and planning documents along with their respective annexes that are in force, while 3 documents for cities, towns and each province have issued their own policy plans.

In terms of laws and regulations, there are no laws or regulations that have been amended to implement the SDG-2030 program so far.



Many organizations are responsible at policy level:

1. Ministry of Labor and Social Security;
2. Ministry of Road and Transport Development;
3. Ministry of Environment and Tourism;
4. Ministry of Construction and Urban Development;
5. Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports;
6. Ministry of Finance;
7. Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs;
8. General Department of Emergency Situations.

Although SDG-11 has 10 goals, 15 indicators, and 5 indicators are available, this information has not been updated yet.

Decentralization of urban areas by ensuring equal regional development

- 58.3% of the total population lives in Ulaanbaatar. People migrate to Ulaanbaatar and other urban areas looking for better living conditions and work opportunities, but there have been no significant changes.
- 65% of the total production industries is concentrated in Ulaanbaatar. They include:
 - a. Up to 60 percent of total production of processing industry;
 - b. Up to 90 percent of the construction industry;
 - c. Up to 85% of the wholesale and retail sector;
 - d. Up to 98 percent of the information and communication industry; and
 - e. 75% of all enterprises.

Urban planning-Urban infrastructure load

- Public roads and parks near residential areas for comfortable resting and traveling /The capital city has more than 1100 playgrounds and more than 600 of them are not met by relevant standards, 470 of which are dangerous and should be repaired immediately/;
- The city's environment /Air, soil, water and waste/ is polluted, healthy and safe living conditions are insufficient, and the difference between the populations' standards of living is enormous/;
- Urban infrastructure/public transport, road/load is too high;
- Municipal energy, heat, water and food supply;
- Quality of construction /by 2030, the number of old buildings will increase by 3.5 times/, and major challenges have arisen related to safety.

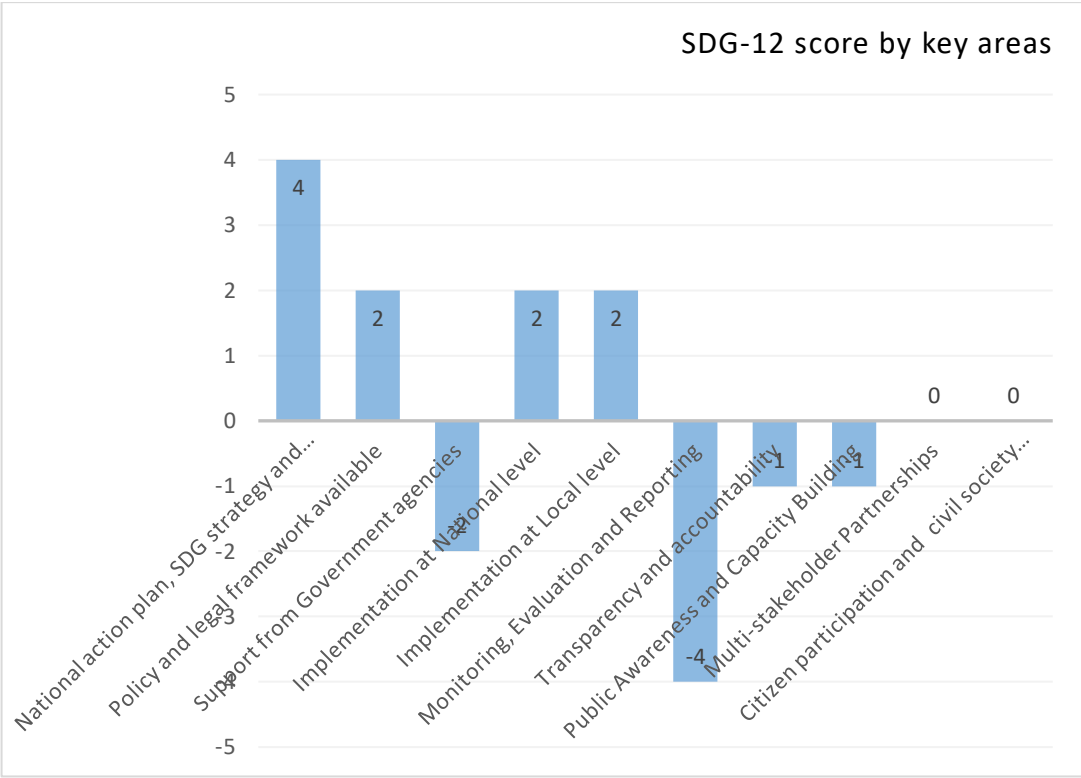
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting are reduced. Previously, the monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism was implemented as mentioned in the development policy and planning, but the Law on Development Policy Planning and its Management, approved in 2020, narrowed this framework down. Although the law demands transparency, the process is not clear, also the law regulates that only analysis made on the results of policy document and its implementation to be public.

The law also stated that the integrated database of development policy and planning includes information on national and local development policy documents of Mongolia. However, there is no clause in the law to keep this data base open to the public or on how to present it to the public. Thus, simplifying transparency and accountability mechanism reduced to a mere name.

Civil society constantly expresses the position that the public should have knowledge and capacity, and acts accordingly. But there is a lack of resources to cover a wide area.

The transition to a democratic society and the development of civil society organizations are steadily developing, but the state does not actually recognize civil society as a participant in development.

SDG-12:Total score-0.18



There are relevant policies and programs exist, however governance policies are not followed. Likewise, there are many affiliated institutions, again no integrated management.

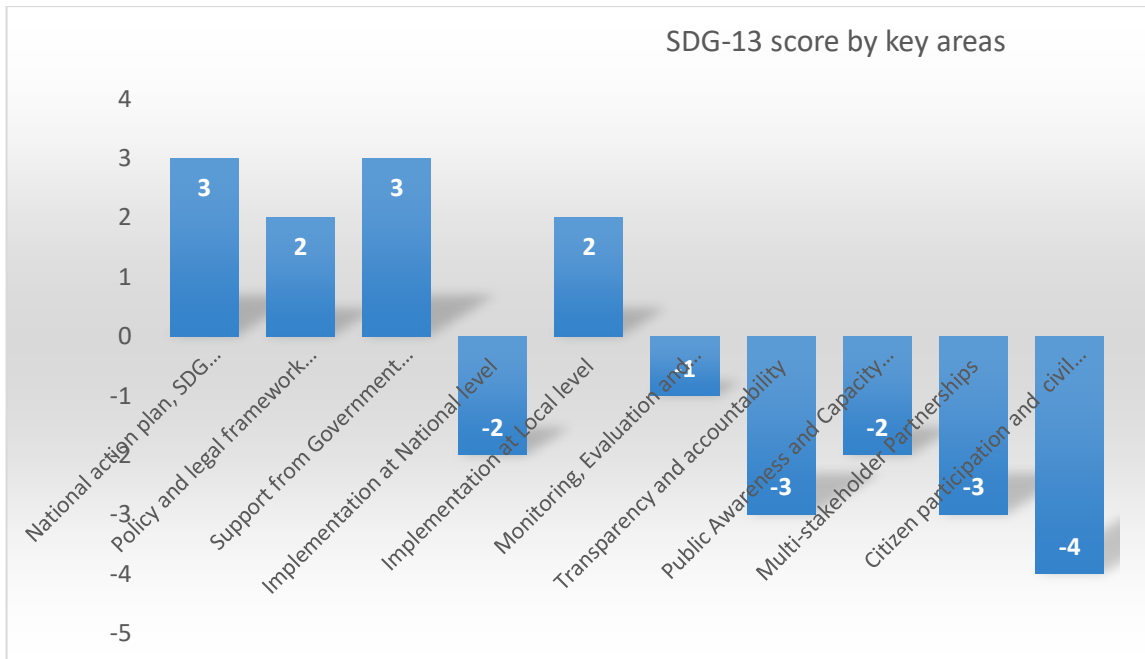
Socially responsible environmental performance is almost non-existent. Minimum works performed within the framework of some project tends to act like major achievements. Only few enterprises such as Oyutolgoi, Erdenet Copper Mine SOE, MCS Coca-Cola, Future Holding, etc. are recycling their water.

There is an urgent need to improve the quality of life of the population, but the results are insufficient.

The techniques and technology of the factories established in the rural area are poor. Direct investment in order to strengthen the economy is still not available when needed. No cluster was created. There is no good practice of socially responsible performance. Knowledge of sustainable consumption is very little. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms are not systematic nor consistent. Environmental Audits are carried out, however they are ineffective. Capacity building is vital due to lack of personnel who are capable of conducting monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Although information is generally transparent, but there is no social responsibility system to solve the accumulated problems.

SDG-13:Total score-0.5



Technical guidelines for the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change, a strategic map for the participation of the stakeholders, and a nationally determined contribution target for the implementation of the Paris Declaration were approved. In the past, about 20 projects from the "Green Climate Fund" have been implemented in Mongolia with total of 400 million dollar fundings.

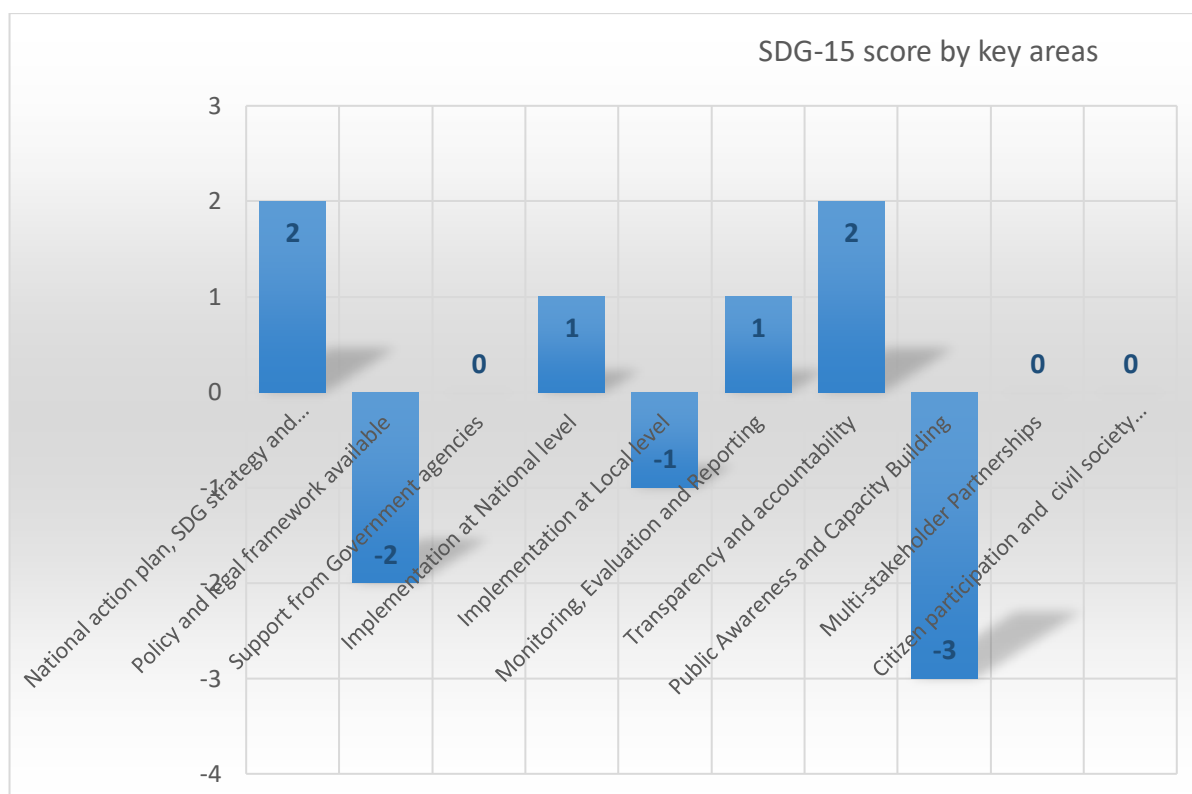
As the administrative units go down, the problems of climate change and environmental issues per person becomes more and more. Therefore, such situation requires relevant human resources, time and knowledge, however there is no policy to increase the capacity or support the personnel.

Since it is not considered as inter sectoral problem, policy coordination is not satisfied, which has a negative impacts on implementation. Due to lack of policy to detect and overcome climate change based on geographical differences, regional characteristics, or ecological potential, no research and evaluation have been conducted, and the implementation of overly general policies is ineffective.

There is a lack of information on strengthening organizational, systematic, or individual capacities in the areas of climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, and development activities.

There are few trainings that are initiated by CSOs on building participation through public awareness.

SDG-15:Total score0.1



Within the framework of the long-term development policy of Mongolia "Vision-2050" "Activities to be implemented in 2021-2030, monitoring - analysis, indicators of evaluation, and achievement levels" were determined, and the "National Biodiversity Program" was newly approved and are being implemented in 3 stages until 2025. In 2018, the 6th report on the program implementation was issued.

The main responsible institutions are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Management and the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. There is no inter sectoral working group was established. Also, no structure or mechanism involving the participation of non-governmental organizations and other parties was formed.

The State Great Khural approves the policy however they do not follow up on the implementation, hence there was no evidence of hearing any report by the State Great Khural.

The policy of protection, restoration and appropriate use of terrestrial ecosystems, increase of forest resources, combating desertification, protection of endangered animals and plants is left uncoordinated with the economic policy. Attentions are not being paid to integrate Gold-2, Three-Pillar Economic Policy, Economic Revival Policy and coordination of SDGs.

There is no action defining inter sectoral structure, functions or liability system in the context of protecting terrestrial ecosystems. There is actually regressive in terms of creating a favorable environment for the restoration of biological species' habitats, providing stable and specialized personnel, and creating a system with the participation of local people.

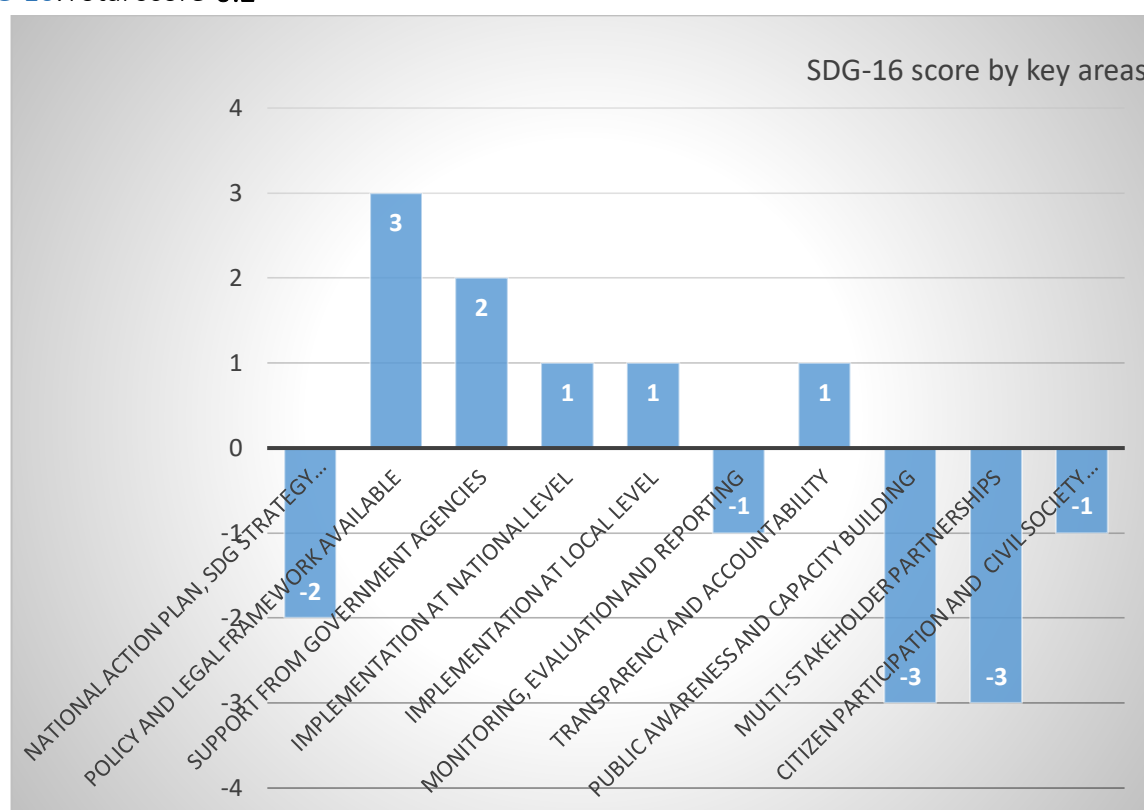
At the local level, the local administration still lacks knowledge and does not realize its responsibilities.

The Cabinet Secretariat of Government does not provide or advise on coherent and integrated management of development policy and planning, when making laws, methods, monitoring and evaluation, and when evaluating work performance with results agreements. Also the cabinet is not trained in the method of developing a coherent regional policy.

In terms of good examples and lessons learned from local monitoring, there are works initiated by CSOs, but a lot of time is spent on influence work. Savings group from the Center for Human Rights and Developments evaluated the SDGs. Steps without Border NGO analyzed the compliance of SDG-13 and 15 objectives in the local policy plans of 4 provinces of Govi region, etc.

Civil society's responsibility, effective role and contribution in implementing the SDGs is still not recognized, thus there is a tendency to setback is observed. The main challenge faced by CSOs is the lack of a system for regular consultation and partnership between NGOs - private sector – donors - government organizations to produce actual results.

SDG-16: Total score -0.2



Mongolia adopted the Sustainable Development Concept 2030 document in 2016 in order to naturalize the SDGs in the country, developed the SDGs planning regulation, institutional framework and developed the SDG-based budgeting methodology. However the Sustainable Development Concept 2030 document was revoked in 2020 after the "Vision-2050" long-term development policy document of Mongolia for 2020-2050 was approved by the State Great Khural with the Resolution No. 52 within the framework of activities to ensure the coordination of development policy and planning.

Such change to the basic document will not achieve the original goals of the SDGs by eradicating poverty completely and saving the planet by 2030.

Since the "Vision-2050" policy document does not cover all SDG criteria, this means that there is no SDG strategy document in Mongolia.

The structure of the governance mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs: the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals is working under the State Great Khural. The National Sustainable Development Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, and sub-committees chaired by the State Secretary in the ministries and the Governors in the provinces have been organized. Also, the National Statistics Committee was structured to approve the methodology for calculating SDG indicators, to compile numerical data, and the National Development Department to ensure inter-sectoral coordination of the SDGs and to naturalize them through systematic development policies and planning processes.

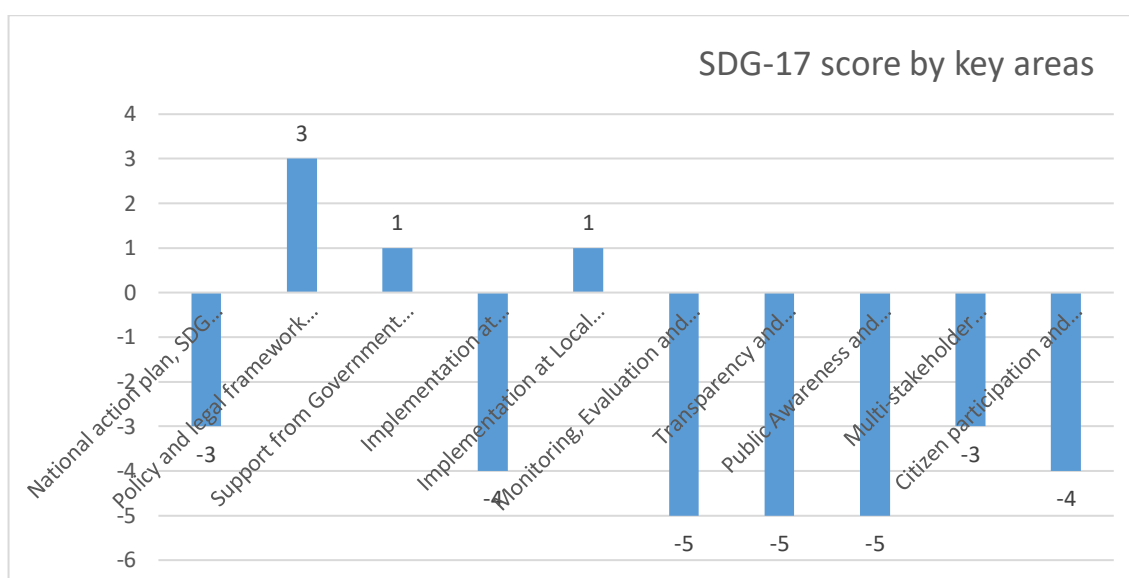
Having representatives of CSOs in the National Committee for Sustainable Development is appreciated as a manifestation of multi stakeholder cooperation.

The Multi Stakeholder Council for Sustainable Development was established in May 2022 with the responsibility of strengthening the planning, financing and the implementations of the sustainable development goals, and monitoring-analyzing and evaluating mechanism. The Council's responsibility continues with supporting the work of the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals of the State Great Khural, providing professional advisories for decision-making aimed at the goals of sustainable law, strengthening the cooperations between the State Great Khural, the Government, development partners, private sectors, civil society organizations and academics, and ensure public awareness of the goals of sustainable development, associated implementations and as well as facing challenges respectively.

This Council has NGO representatives, but not representatives from SDG nor CSO network.

However, there were many examples being seen of the mechanism for achieving common goals not being working or poor inter-sectoral coordination. For example, during preparation of the first NVS the SDG naturalization, national criteria and defining the level of achievement, and defining the priority of the criteria have not been approved nor implemented. This definitely slows down the implementation of the SDG. And also, the government's support has not been in consistence with its agencies at local level.

SDG-17:Total score **-2.4**



Progress during 2016-2017, which was seen as one of the first countries to make progress towards SDG naturalization, is slowing down. Although the relevant laws and legal frameworks have been created and many policy programs have been implemented, the actual results to meet the SDGs are still not visible. In most cases, the participation of CSOs is limited to the level of consultation, and it is more likely that the proposed proposals and recommendations do not reach results.

The government of Mongolia presented its first NVS on the SDGs implementation to the HLPF in 2019. The preparation of the first NVS was organized by the Department of National Development, presented in cooperation with the United Nations in Mongolia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission to Mongolia's government officials on September 7, 2018. Associated seminars to the NVS were held and various parties participated on a wide scale.

However, the energy of activities during the preparation of the first NVS has decreased, and national indicators for measuring the implementation of the SDGs developed in a multi-stakeholder manner have not been adopted yet. This undermines the integrated opportunity to naturalize the SDGs, set priorities for indicators followed by creating a permanent monitoring and evaluation system.

The status of the Department of National Development has been promoted to the Ministry of Economy and Development in 2022 in order to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. However CSOs are worried that the work has not been accelerated intensively, yet there is a bigger budget allocated, more money spent and expanded structure being approved. Now, the issue of sustainable development is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy and Development.

Increasing public knowledge, awareness and developing capacities have been carried out only within the framework of voluntary initiatives and projects of CSOs and international organizations. Welfare policies prevailed over capacity building targeting specific groups. And policies and programs on public awareness, education, and capacity building do not reach enough results.

Few policies and programs do not facilitate actual participation from public. Often, the knowledge and understanding that is delivered to the public is passed through social media and tabloids in a specific situation with a warning manner. Such situations cannot have a positive impacts on the public and every citizen to have accurate information about the SDGs, to develop themselves, and to support the implementation of the SDGs.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

1. Long and medium term national development policy goals can be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it is impossible to align them with the SDG targets and indicators for measuring the SDGs implementation.
2. Information related to the sectoral SDGs and relevant monitoring and evaluation reports with actual results expressed in numerical values are not transparent. Therefore, there is not any opportunity to obtain actual information about the implementation of the SDGs.
3. There is a lack of inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination, and there is a large gap in knowledge and awareness of the inclusion of the SDGs in development policies and planning of the sectors.
4. Public awareness of the SDGs is very low. CSOs can contribute in increasing the public awareness, however projects and programs by donor organizations are insufficient on top of no government support.
5. Citizens' participation and support in the implementation of the SDGs is not being achieved due to lack of multi stakeholder partnership mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs at the national, local, or sectoral levels, and as well as lack of multi-stakeholder participation for monitoring and evaluation of development policies planning, and implementation.

Recommendations

- Adopt the draft national SDG targets and the draft national SDG indicators and the priority indicators for evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs, develop the methods for calculation, and enforce them in the process of development policy and planning;

- Implement systematic measures to raise awareness and knowledge of citizens who will contribute in and benefit from the implementation of Mongolia's commitments to meet the SDGs;
- Relevant ministry for each SGD must produce its annual plan and implementation report for public discussion;
- Activate independent monitoring of CSOs and citizens to increase their participation through building their technical capacity and allocating budget for funding;

When the state monitors and evaluates its own activities:

- Make transparent it's performance evaluation reports;
- Facilitate public discussions on development policy, planning and implementation at the national, local and sector levels with multi-stakeholders participation; Establish versatile mechanism in order to ensure coordination of development policy and planning between relevant regions, sectors, and sectors, and regularize its activities;
- **Create a multi-stakeholders mechanism to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development in policy planning, evaluating implementation between sectors, regions, national and local levels.**

APPENDIX Total Scores of Evaluation by 10 Key Issues, by each Sustainable Development Goals

No.	10 Key Issues	SDG-1	SDG-2	SDG-3	SDG-4	SDG-5	SDG-6	SDG-7	SDG-8	SDG-9	SDG-10	SDG-11	SDG-12	SDG-13	SDG-15	SDG-16	SDG-17	
1	National action plan, SDG strategy and budget	-1	-5	-1	4	2	-3	2	1	3	0	1	4	3	2	-2	-3	0.4
2	Policy and legal framework available	-2	-5	1	3	3	1	2	2	3	-5	1	2	2	-2	3	3	0.8
3	Support from Government agencies	-2	-4	-2	1	-2	0	-2	-3	1	-5	0	-2	3	0	2	1	-0.9
4	Implementation at National level	1	-4	-3	-1	-3	-1	2	-1	0	0	1	2	-2	1	1	-4	-0.7
5	Implementation at Local level	-1	-5	-1	-1	1	-3	2	-2	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	-0.3
6	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	-2	-5	-2	-2	-1	-5	-4	-3	-3	0	-1	-4	-1	1	-1	-5	-2.4
7	Transparency and accountability	-1	-5	-2	-1	-2	-5	-1	-3	-3	0	-3	-1	-3	2	1	-5	-2.0
8	Public Awareness and Capacity Building	-2	-3	-3	-1	-1	-2	-1	-4	-4	0	-4	-1	-2	-3	-3	-5	-2.4
9	Multi-stakeholder Partnerships	-3	-3	-2	4	-2	-1	-4	-2	-4	0	-4	0	-3	0	-3	-3	-1.9
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	-1	-5	-2	4	-1	-2	-4	-2	-4	1	-4	0	-4	0	-1	-4	-1.8
	TOTAL SCORES	-1.4	-4.4	-1.7	1	-0.6	-2.1	-0.8	-1.7	-1.1	-0.9	-1.3	0.2	-0.5	0.1	-0.2	-2.4	-1.1