



People's Scorecard on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda Kazakhstan

July 2022

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METHODOLOGY

- In Kazakhstan, the “Association for the Development of Civil Society “ARGO” together with the Center for the Study of Public Opinion “CIOM” are conducting a national study of the People's Scorecard (PSC);
- The research methodology was developed by Action for Sustainable Development. The experts of this organization conduct a comparative analysis of progress in the implementation of the SDGs at the national levels using the People's Scorecard (PSC) approach from the point of view of civil society;
- The research methodology is based on a qualitative assessment of the process of implementing each Sustainable Development Goal using a questionnaire with a system of indicators;
- The objects of the study are: civil society organizations, experts, representatives of the academic community, journalists, community leaders and initiative citizens;
- The questionnaire was developed on the www.cognitoforms.com platform, survey participants filled out the questionnaire using the appropriate link.

In total, 61 representatives of different sectors of the country took part in the survey: nongovernmental organizations, public associations, academic and educational organizations, mass media and businesses. The survey sample is gender balanced: among survey participants are 54% of women and 46% of men. The indicators of descriptive statistics of the age of survey participants show that the youngest is 20 years old, the oldest is 81 years old, and the average age is 46 years old. Thus, the sample is representative, i.e. represents various socio-demographic groups of civil society in Kazakhstan.

The data were collected according to the methodology and questionnaire developed by experts of Action for Sustainable Development. The CIOM specialists posted the questionnaire on the www.cognitoforms.com platform. Then a link to the mentioned survey questionnaire was disseminated to all potential participants – these are representatives of various spheres of Kazakhstan community, experts in their fields of activity. The survey was conducted from May 14 to June 27, 2022.

After a sufficient number of questionnaires were evaluated by experts, the survey results were processed according to the methodology provided by Action for Sustainable Development. During the processing, the average values of assessments on each indicator were calculated, then the average value for each individual SDG was calculated, and the results were converted into percentages.

After processing the quantitative survey data, experts were invited to discuss the results obtained. Discussions were held in an online format through meetings on ZOOM platform. At these meetings, experts were invited to discuss the percentages of achievement of each SDG obtained from the survey results. Experts suggested either changing the results or leaving as it is, while all decisions were justified by expert opinions and reflections based on their practical experience. In total, 10 online meetings were held to discuss and validate the survey results on assessment of SDG achievement. All suggestions made by experts are presented in this report.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

TSA – targeted social assistance;
ODIHR – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
GDP – gross domestic product;
HIV – human immunodeficiency virus;
RES – renewable energy sources;
RSER – renewable sources of energy resources;
HEI – higher educational institution;
GMO – genetically modified organisms;
GVFMC – the guaranteed volume of free medical care;
EAEU – Eurasian Economic Union;
UPIS – unified pharmaceutical information system;
HC – housing complexes;
HSU – housing services and utilities;
HLS – healthy lifestyle;
IS – information system;
DPIS - "Drug Provision" information system;
IWRM - integrated water resources management;
CEDW - the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
KTZ – Kazakhstan railways;
LRT – light rail transport;
MOH – Ministry of Health;
MW – minimum wage;
MISD – Ministry of Information and Social Development;
SME – small and medium-sized enterprise;
LSG – local self-government;
NPO – nonprofit organization;
RLA – regulatory legal acts;
NGO – nongovernmental organization;
OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;
UN – United Nations Organization;
SPNR – specially protected natural reservations;
CSHI – compulsory social health insurance;
PF – public fund;

OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;
OGP - Open Government Partnership;
PHC – primary health care;
RAW – radioactive waste;
RoK – Republic of Kazakhstan;
PSS – public services standard;
AIDS – acquired immune deficiency syndrome;
USSR – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
SEI – secondary educational institution (educational institutions providing secondary vocational education);
SVSP – socially vulnerable segments of the population;
USA – United States of America;
SEC – shopping and entertainment centers;
FATF - Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering — an intergovernmental organization that develops world standards to combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
CA – Central Asia;
CISC – Civil Initiatives Support Center;
SDG – sustainable development goals;
SCO – The Shanghai Cooperation Organization;
ERDP – electronic register of dispensary patients;
EE – electrical energy;
RES – renewable energy sources;
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund.

EVALUATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS IN KAZAKHSTAN PEOPLE SCORECARD IN KAZAKHSTAN

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, world leaders achieved a series of agreements aimed at changing essentially the modern non-sustainable and unfair development model to a more equitable and sustainable one, being built upon the Agenda until 2030 and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The knowledge about these obligations assumed by leaders on behalf of the citizens worldwide are ambiguous at best, and the civil society involvement in the implementation of these Goals, as a rule, is still as small as before. Thus, there is a real problem in implementing the changes to achieve the obligations assumed and significant reformatory actions.

Civil society is the most important agent of implementation of the Agenda on sustainable development until 2020 (hereinafter the Agenda). It plays a key role in raising public awareness and consistent highlighting the fulfillment of these obligations. Civil society organizations take an active part in planning, implementing and monitoring the Agenda and, in the first place, in holding leaders accountable for their commitments.

To successfully implement the Agenda, governments committed to determine necessary measures and monitor their implementation that should be “reliable, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and comprehensive.” They promised that monitoring and reporting on the progress achieved will be implemented using “high-quality, updated and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic position and other characteristics in line with the national context.” To achieve these goals, it is extremely important to involve civil society and provide an opportunity for all voices to be heard.

The **People Score Card (PSC) in Kazakhstan** survey on assessment of the SDG implementation process from the perspective of civil society was conducted by ARGO and CIOM as part of the APSD initiative in cooperation with its members such as Asia Center, SAAPE, ADA and Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). **APSD** is a regional (Asia) network and platform of international – regional civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia engaged in the effective implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through collaboration and coordination among various initiatives and programs by member and partner organizations. APSD is a regional partner of [the Action for Sustainable Development \(A4SD\)](#) which is a global CSO umbrella network engaged in advocacy and campaign on SDGs and related issues. <https://apsd2030.org/>

PSC provides an opportunity to civil society organizations (CSOs) in Kazakhstan to keep track of the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation until 2030 in the country, and develop recommendations on inclusive accessible process of CSOs involvement in SDG implementation. Participation of experts and CSO representatives in this survey is aimed at promoting the inclusive SDG process; allows applying a unified approach to assessing the SDG implementation process, using the People Score Card methodology; and use this system of assessment to make necessary changes/improvements of the process. The PSC report represents a review and brief summary of the key aspects of the Agenda, and allows identifying both major achievements and problems of its implementation from the perspective of civil society.

OFFICIAL STRATEGY FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan Geography

<https://www.worldometers.info/geography/largest-countries-in-the-world/>
<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>

- Size : 2,724,900km² (1.8% of the World, 9th / 234)
- Populations: 18,78 million (0.24% of World Population / 173rd/235 countries)
- Capital: Nur-Sultan

Kazakhstan has adopted the national Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 **in 2015** and since then has carried out the stage-by-stage work on the way to sustainable development.

The institutional architecture to contribute to SDG achievement has been introduced and is effectively functioning in Kazakhstan. **The Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Goalsⁱ** led by the First Deputy Prime Minister is working in Kazakhstan. This national platform acts as an open platform to discuss issues with the involvement of all stakeholders. The Council works in five main SDG areas – “People”, “The Planet”, “Prosperity”, “Partnership” and “Peace”. **Since May 2021, the Committee for Monitoring SDG Achievements** is carrying on an activity, too. It is a consultative and advisory body under the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. **JSC Economic Research Institute acts as a Secretariat of the Coordination Council and a working body of the Committee for Monitoring SDG Achievements.**

On July 16, 2019, at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York, Kazakhstan presented **the first Voluntary National Review (VNR)**, thus demonstrating its commitment to achievement of SDGs until 2030. **In July 2022, the country presented the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on priority SDGs recommended by the UN:** SDG 4 “Quality Education”; SDG 5: “Gender Equality”; SDG 14: “Conservation of Marine Ecosystems”; SDG 15: Conservation of Terrestrial Ecosystems”; SDG 17: “Partnership”, the **UN Voluntary National Review (VNR)** <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/kazakhstan/voluntary-national-review-2022>.

Currently, Kazakhstan has approved the national indicators and is developing a comprehensive national mechanism for SDG funding. The sustainability and inclusiveness principles provided the basis for the **National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025**. The national legislation includes the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (2020) <https://kazakhstan.un.org/en/89567-un-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-2021-2025>. The strategic goals will be localized through national projects subject to economic, social and environmental aspects.

With a view to identifying the priority areas of SDG implementation in Kazakhstan, in 2022 the Economic Research Institute held public consultations in 17 regions of the country among CSO representatives, citizens and all stakeholders, which resulted in identification of priority SDGs at the local level: **SDG 1: “No Poverty”, SDG 3: “Good Health and Well-being”, SDG 4: “Quality Education”, SDG 5: “Gender Equality”, SDG 6: “Clean Water and Sanitation”, SDG 8: “Decent Work and Economic Growth.”** During the 2022 VNR preparation, a focus was made on these priority goals.

The Economic Research Institute with the support of the United Nations Development Program in Kazakhstan carried out the analytical work, using such tools as the Assessment of Development Funding and Rapid Comprehensive Assessment, which results were reflected in the Second VNR.

The Rapid Comprehensive Assessment (RCA) allows determining the volumes of funding aimed at development under the budget programs. The UNDP experts **in 2016** **identified a 61% coverage by SDG strategic documents**, in 2019 experts of JSC Economic Research Institute conducted the RCA that demonstrated the results with a **79.9%** coverage by SDG strategic documents. However, these studies made it possible to revise the strategic documents for the availability of SDGs but did not reflect the full picture taking into account development funding.

The Assessment of Development Funding in Kazakhstan allowed assessing both positive aspects and problem areas in the trends of development funding in the country, subject to the current progress in SDG achievement, as well as consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. This assessment showed that the **state budget remains the main source of funding of the country's strategic goals**. The funding aimed at development reached its peak of almost **75% of GDP in 2015, the average amount of 54.9% of GDP was spent for development in 2016-2019**. At the same time, the country has a great potential for financing development from other sources, including private resources.

*“The Assessment of Development Funding demonstrated that the SDG budgeting principles need to be integrated into the system of budgeting process. **In 2022**, the Economic Research Institute conducted the RCA on SDG coverage by budget programs. According to preliminary data, the **SDG coverage by budget programs is 46%**. The research in this area continues today and will be conducted at the sub-national level using the example of three pilot regions”,* states the Secretariat on SDGs of JSC Economic Research Institute.

The UN Development Program has provided support to Kazakhstan in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption in 2015. The UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Yakup Beris notes that *“The country's successes at the national level have allowed moving to a regional scale of work on SDG implementation...”*.

On November 22, 2021, the **Regional Platform for Knowledge Exchange in the area of Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asian countries** was officially launched in hybrid format in the building of the UN Office in Almaty. The main goal of the Platform is interaction with governments and civil society in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan for SDG achievement in the integration of efforts at the country level on a regional scale based on monitoring and the SDG funding process. The Platform for Knowledge Exchange on SDGs in Central Asia will be gathered once in three years with the participation of the region's countries. The Platform will contribute to ongoing training in involvement tools not only for stakeholders but for the society at large and every person on the **“leave no one behind”** principle.

2. PSC KEY AREAS FOR EVALUATION

The Scorecard survey is based on 10 key areas, which together outline the concept of inclusive implementation and thus structure the evaluation of the implementation process for each of the 17 SDGs - mainly from a qualitative perspective. These key areas were considered around three broader areas:

Policy parameters:

These elements seek to gauge the existence and scope of overarching and specific policy tools that provide a normative basis and support to the implementation of each SDG.

- National Action Plans, Strategies and Budgets
- Legal and Policy framework Institutional Capacity: These elements seek to measure the extent of government capacities for SDG implementation, from the perspective of specific institutional arrangements, support, follow-up and review processes, as well as actual results. In the key areas of national and local level implementation, participants in the survey can delve into quantitative assessments, by looking at specific indicators of progress.

Institutional Support – Scope of the institutional arrangements and capacities made available for each goal

- Implementation at National Level – Perception of policy implementation efforts at the national level + assessment of progress indicators
- Implementation at Local Level - Perception of policy implementation at the local level + assessment of progress indicators if available
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Inclusive Governance: Variables related to the concept of inclusive governance, all of which are a category of their own, but also act as cross-cutting enabling elements for inclusive implementation in each of the other key areas.

- Public Awareness and capacity-building
- Transparency and accountability mechanisms
- Inclusive Partnerships – Perceived extent and quality of specific or all-encompassing multistakeholder partnerships
- Citizen Participation and Civil Society Engagement – Extent of formal and informal participation mechanisms across the board

Analysis of the Scorecard Results by Goal Scoring Scale:

-80% to -100% - Very large reduction (Between -4 and -5 points based in the Scorecard Survey's Scale)

-61% to -80% - Large reduction (Between -3 and -4 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

-41% to -60% - Medium Reduction (between -2 and -3 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

-21% to -40% - Small reduction (between -1 and -2 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

0 to -20% - Very Small Reduction (Between 0 and -1 point based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

0% - No progress perceived (0 in the Scorecard survey's scale)

0 to 20% - Very Low progress (Between 0 and 1 point based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

21% to 40% - Low progress (Between 1 and 2 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

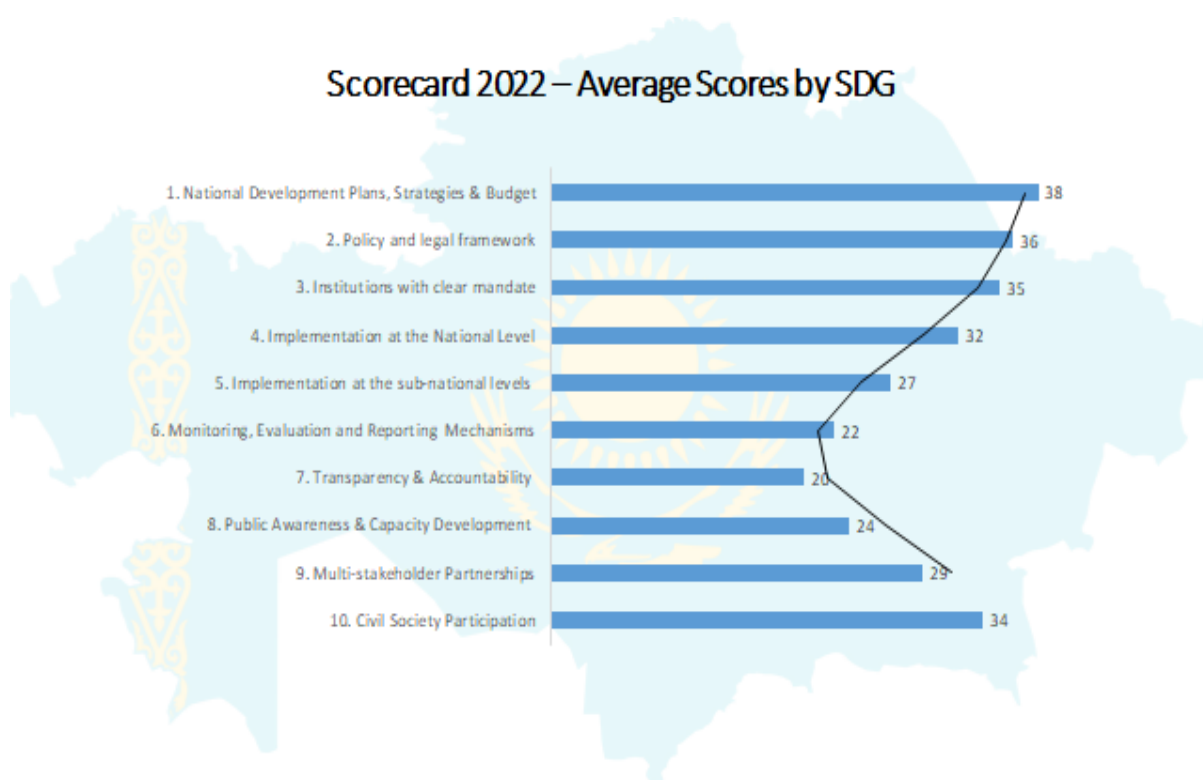
41% to 60% - Medium progress (Between 2 and 3 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

61% to 80% - High progress (Between 3 and 4 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

81% to 100% - Very high progress (Between 4 and 5 points based in the Scorecard Survey's scale)

According to the results of PSC assessment by civil society organizations, the overall implementation of the Agenda on all 10 key indicators is within the range of 20-38%, which corresponds to “Low” progress category.

Below we present the chart of assessment by respondents on each of 10 key indicators of the SDG implementation process in Kazakhstan.



This chart allows us to consider PSC results on three key parameters:

- 1. Policy parameters (indicators 1 and 2):** These elements seek to gauge the existence and scope of overarching and specific policy tools that provide a normative basis and support to the implementation of each SDG.
 - National Action Plans, Strategies and Budgets
 - Legal and Policy framework Institutional Capacity: These elements seek to measure the extent of government capacities for SDG implementation, from the perspective of specific institutional arrangements, support, follow-up and review processes, as well as actual results. In the key areas of national and local level implementation, participants in the survey can delve into quantitative assessments, by looking at specific indicators of progress.

The chart shows that the level of **Policy parameters** that are included in the national plans, strategies and budgets, legal framework, institutes with clear mandates and that lay the foundation and capacities of the Government on SDG implementation in Kazakhstan is considerably higher than the indicators of the other two parameters and is **35 to 38%**.

According to CSO experts and respondents, the political approach of Kazakhstan's Government to implementation of the 2030 Agenda demonstrates the interrelationship of three sustainable development aspects – social, environmental and economic. However, their review by individual 3 pillars does not identify links between them, nor does it demonstrate dependence - a) of the country's economic and social programs upon the role of local communities and the population; b) upon growing problems with the state of natural potential – the basis both for the future development of the country and for achieving climate sustainability and other global goals.

To evaluate and implement the programs on SDGs, experts recommend that a more comprehensive and in-depth analysis of all thematic Goals and programs be applied, based on an **ecosystem approach of planetary significance. Localizing SDGs based on natural ecosystems (for Kazakhstan – based on ecosystems of the water basins)** gives all the Goals more accurate and reasonable quantitative and qualitative values, provides the basis for adjusting the existing management systems and 'business as usual'. A pilot study conducted using the Lake Balkhash basin (the fifth part of the territory of Kazakhstan exceeding the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland combined)¹ as an example, demonstrated new opportunities to give the SDGs a higher status and practical importance, to involve a wide range of people and businesses in development programs. The application of the ecosystem approach in the planning and implementation of economic, social and environmental programs also makes it possible to establish strong logical links between all the SDGs – as in a single living organism that are also important for intersectoral cooperation and cross-border programs with the neighboring countries of Central Asia, Russia and China. In general, the expert assessments showed the need for a comprehensive approach to analyzing the programs on SDG implementation and management systems improvement.

Civil society organizations also highlighted the challenges directly affecting the 2030 Agenda implementation process in Kazakhstan:

- Growth points are outlined at the national level; however, the programs are very poorly implemented at the local level.
- CSO noted on insufficient implementation of state programs in the field of agricultural development, sustainable cities and climate, energy and water policies
- The government does not provide sufficient explanations during the introduction of new policies and currently reforms.
- The state budget, including local budgets, is more often spent inappropriately.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY PARAMETERS (indicators 3, 4, 5):

- a. Institutional Support**
- b. Implementation at National Level**
- c. Implementation at Local Level**

The assessment results show a very low level of "SDG implementation at the local level" which is only 27%. According to CSOs, the government needs to increase the capacity of ministries / departments, as well as local authorities in the implementation of the SDGs, especially in design and implementing effective participatory policies and budgets that take into account the human rights and interests of vulnerable groups.

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE:

- a. Monitoring, evaluation and reports**
- b. Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms**
- c. Public Awareness and Capacity Development**
- d. Inclusive Partnerships**
- e. Participation of civil society**

The results on the graph show that out of 10 indicators of SDG process assessment the low percentage was assigned to 4 indicators from the **INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE DIMENTION:**

- Indicator 7 “**Transparency and Accountability**” – 20%
- Indicator 6 “**Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanisms on SDGs**” – 22%
- Indicator 8 “**Public Awareness and Capacity Development**” – 24%

The very low percentages on inclusion indicate weak points of the SDG implementation process in the country that requires improvement. CSOs noted that the government should **focus on:**

- **Improving the regulatory framework to monitoring, evaluation and reports of state programs, as well as for transparency and accountability mechanisms.**
- **Public awareness and CSO capacity development to independently monitor implementation of government programs such as the SDG spotlight report and people’s scorecard, and others.**
- Over the past few years, the state has intensified an **institutional and practical dialogue with civil society** by creating various dialogue platforms, 5P SDG Working Group, public councils, working groups, etc. In this sense, it can be assessed as progress in the implementation of SDG 16, 17. However, **the progress is small because the outcome of this dialogue and CSO interventions leaves much to be desired.**

It is known that the Government and Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Goalsⁱⁱ are making efforts to improve the current situation, and in 2021 created the Committee for Monitoring the SDG Achievement was set up, which Secretariat is JSC Economic Research Institute. In 2022, field visits to 17 regions of the country to inform about VNR reports, discuss with the public of SDG regional priorities, include these priorities into the second VNR are good examples to ensure transparency and accountability, increase public awareness and involve the community in monitoring and evaluation of the SDG implementation progress at the local level. The regional platform for knowledge exchange in the field of Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asian countries will also contribute to ongoing training in tools for involvement of all stakeholders, participatory involvement of citizens in budget planning and inclusive territorial development.

The results of assessment by civil society of three key parameters of the SDG implementation process in Kazakhstan are confirmed by the assessment results on each goal individually. Below we present the key findings and recommendations on SDGs.

ASSESSMENT OF GOALS WITH THE HIGHEST SCORES, MORE THAN 40%

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

In general, Kazakhstan has the highest scores, more than 40% - Goals 2 (No Poverty and Improved Nutrition), 3 (Good Health) and 17 (Partnership). The lowest scores, below 30% - Goal 10 (Safe Cities) and 16 (Peace and Justice).

Goal 2.

- Insufficient implementation of state programs in the field of agricultural development. Growth points are outlined at the national level; however, the programs are very poorly implemented at the local level. There are big gaps in transparency and accountability. The adopted plans and decisions are aimed at short-term interests and increasing budget expenditures instead of increasing the productivity of water and land; in reality, everything is oriented for the interests of large businesses.
- *“Based on the monitoring held in 2020, 4.4% of the population in Kazakhstan were undernourished and starved. At the same time, the energy value of the consumed products was higher than the minimum requirements. To ensure sustainability of the food and agricultural sectors, measures are being taken in the country to reduce risks, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Stabilization funds are being created, and peasant farms are being subsidized. However, we are dependent on imports. In general, SDG 2 is implemented through subsidies. There is no hunger in Kazakhstan.”*
- Coordination and interaction at the level of Central Asian countries are important in food security and provision of water resources. In general, an integrated approach is needed, taking into account all factors of food security, re-orientation of certain branches of agriculture and provision of water resources.

Goal 3.

- Wide coverage of the population with health services through the introduction of compulsory social health insurance, the introduction of standardization, unified purchase of medicines and medical devices, and digitalization of healthcare.
- The strategic indicator of the RoK Ministry of Health is patient satisfaction with the quality of medical care: in 2018 – 47.8%, 2019 – 48%, 2020 – 51%, 2021 – 54%.

Goal 17. The Republic of Kazakhstan actively positions itself in the international political and legal space as a democracy-building, developing state that sets goals, in addition to the already existing membership in global and regional organizations (UN, OSCE, SCO, EAEU, etc.), to join a number of other international organizations and groups, including OECD, FATF and, possibly, even the Council of Europe. In addition, Kazakhstan has ratified many international treaties, including in the field of human rights. Despite this, the progress is estimated as small because there are serious problems in the implementation of international obligations under the ratified international treaties in the field of human rights, which are indicated by the treaty bodies and the UN Special Procedures, or OSCE/ODIHR. Besides, Kazakhstan does not comply with the decisions of the treaty bodies on individual complaints against the Republic of Kazakhstan (and there are more than 60 decisions of such kind). Over the past few years, the state has intensified an institutional and practical dialogue with civil society by creating various dialogue platforms, public councils, working groups, etc. In this sense, it can be assessed as progress in the implementation of SDG 17. However, the progress is small because the outcome of this dialogue leaves much to be desired, as follows from numerous reports and analytical notes of independent civil society organizations.

ASSESSMENT OF GOALS WITH THE LOWEST SCORED SDGS, LESS THAN 30%

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal 10.

- There is a systemic problem that has been repeatedly pointed out to Kazakhstan during the review of reports on the implementation of international obligations within the framework of ratified international human rights treaties by the UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, UN Independent Expert on National Minorities who visited the Republic of Kazakhstan, and a number of international human rights organizations and independent experts. This is due to the practical absence of a definition of ‘discrimination’ in Kazakhstan's legislation and law enforcement practice that would meet international standards, absence of anti-discrimination legislation and anti-discrimination institutions and procedures. Achieving equality, including gender equality, is impossible without a systematic approach to this problem. Only in the last year or two have the government bodies at least begun to discuss it.

Goal 11.

- The development strategies of cities, regions, districts and villages are almost lacking an inclusive approach. The population rarely participates in the planning and discussion of budgets. There is no vision of sustainable development of cities and populated areas.
- The infrastructural accessibility of courts currently requires serious improvements. Websites and mobile applications for remote participation in proceedings are not adapted for the convenience of use of blind and visually impaired citizens. Sign language interpreters are not always involved in a proceeding where deaf and hearing-impaired citizens participate.

Goal 16. The Kazakh legislation and law enforcement practice in the field of civil society development, ensuring, respecting and protecting fundamental political rights and civic freedoms, including the rights to freedom of speech and expression, freedom of conscience, religion or belief, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of movement, the right to participate in the governance of own country and to an independent, objective and fair trial largely do not meet the international standards so far. This has been repeatedly pointed out to the Republic of Kazakhstan by the UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, other treaty bodies and the UN Special Procedures. In the recent couple of years, the government bodies have begun to discuss these problems more actively, but so far without visible results.

KEY FUNDINGS ON EACH GOAL

Figure 1 below presents the total results based on survey assessment and the average score (1.8).

Figure 2 also presents the total results based on survey assessment but in %, the average percentage is 35%.

After the survey, the results were discussed at meetings with experts. The experts gave their comments on the goals in which they specialize. As a result, the overall score was lowered for some goals. The overall rate dropped from 35% to 32%. The comparative data are presented in Figure 3.

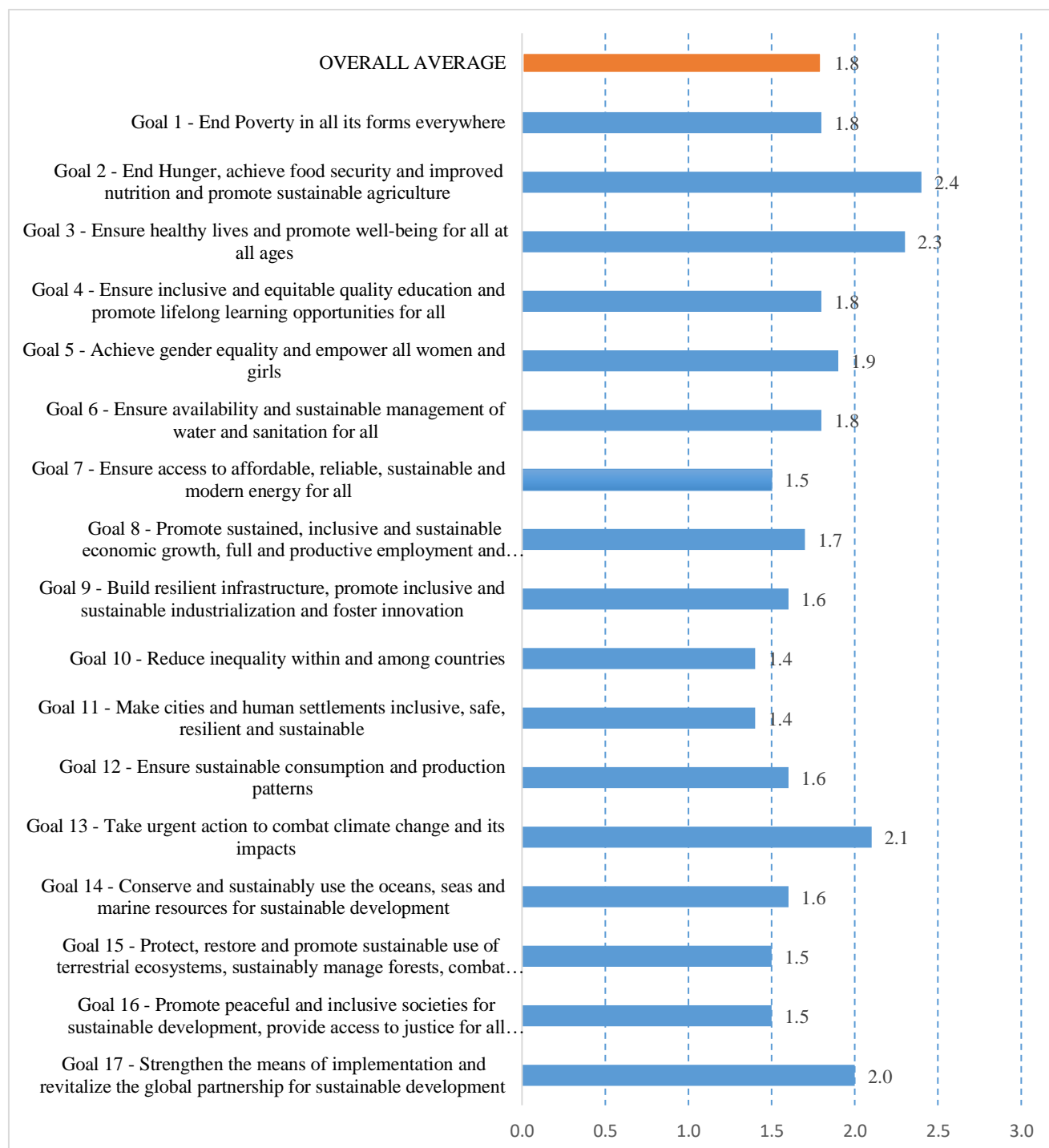


Figure 1. Results based on survey assessment, average scores

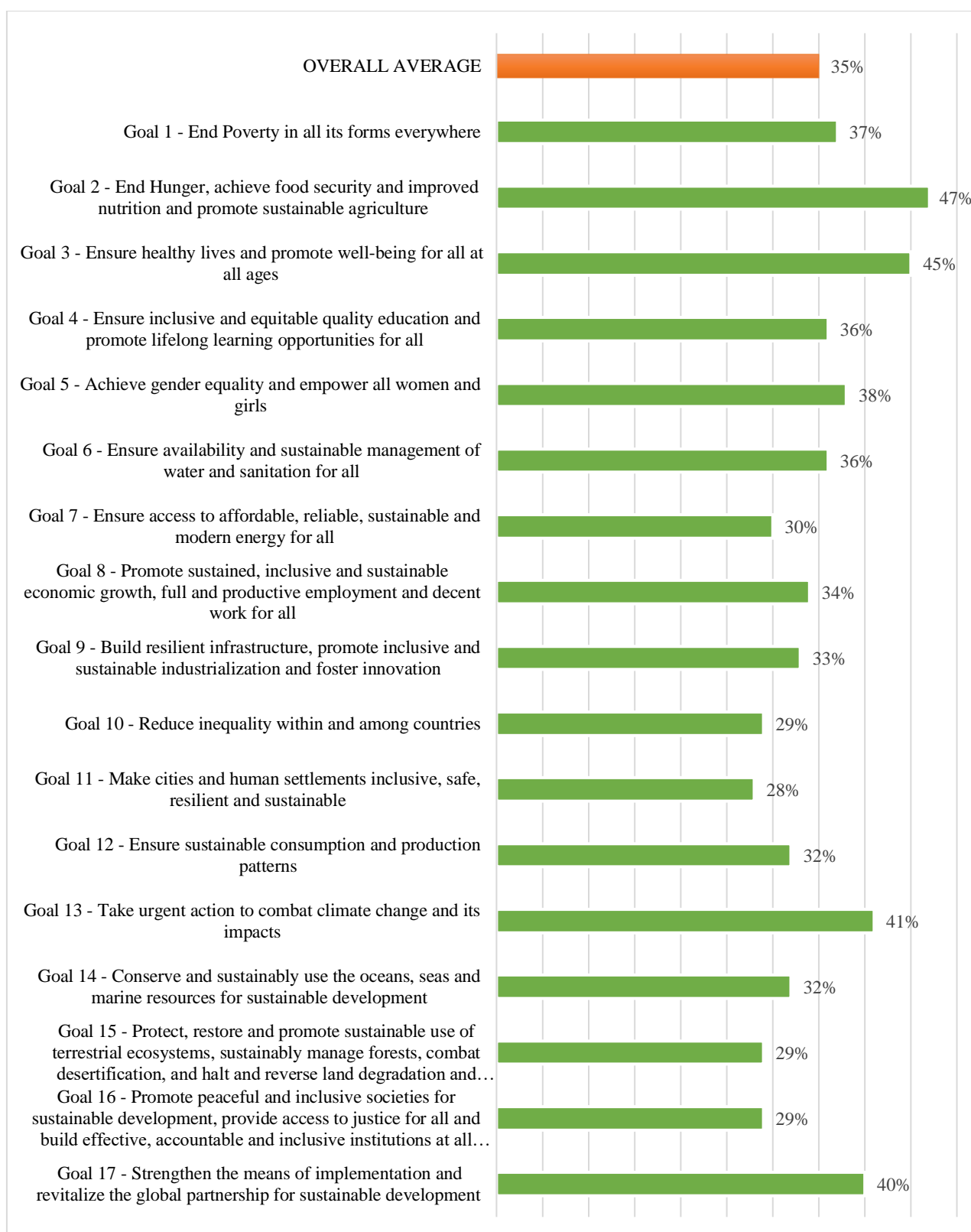


Figure 2. Results based on survey assessment, %

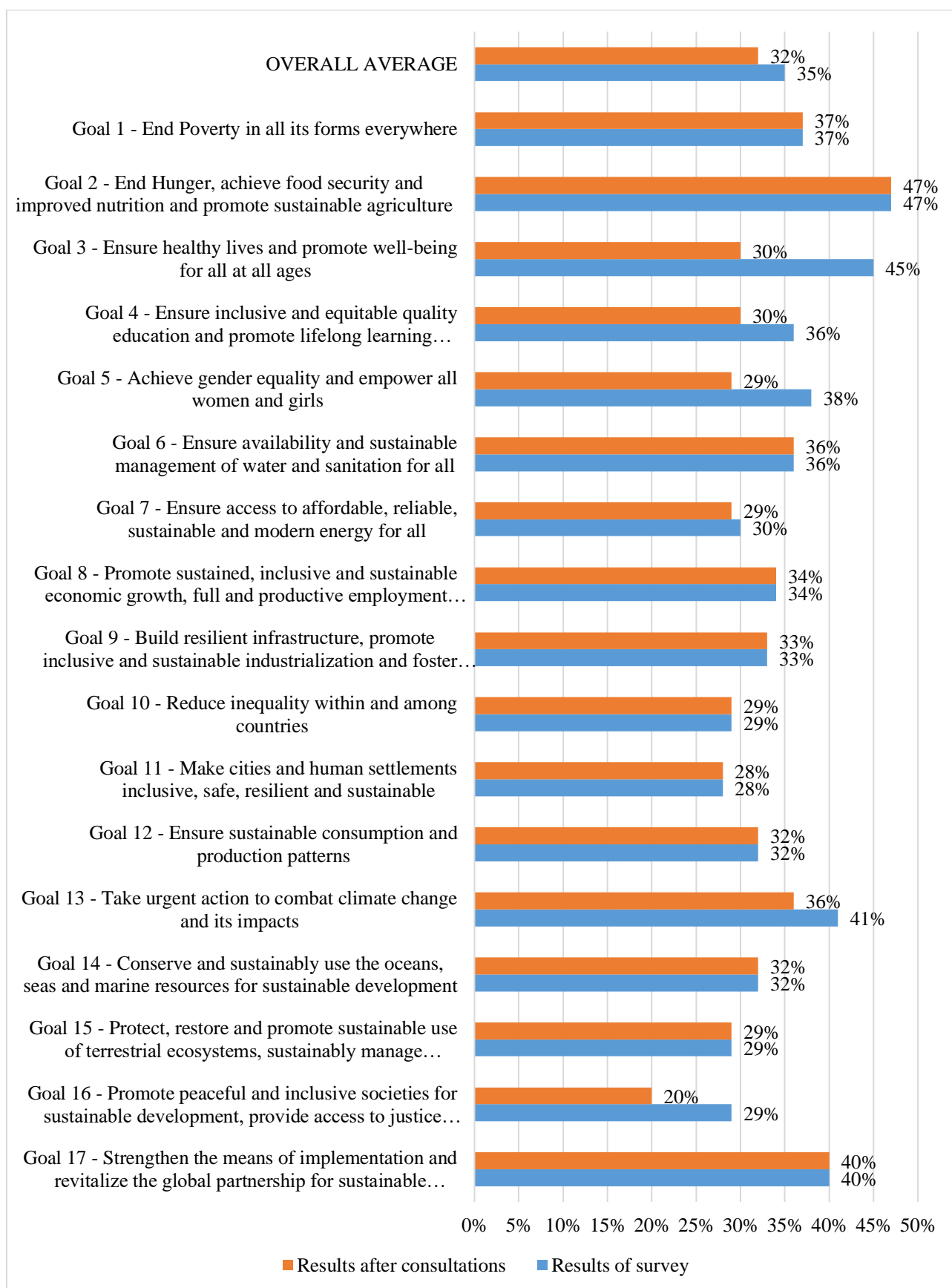
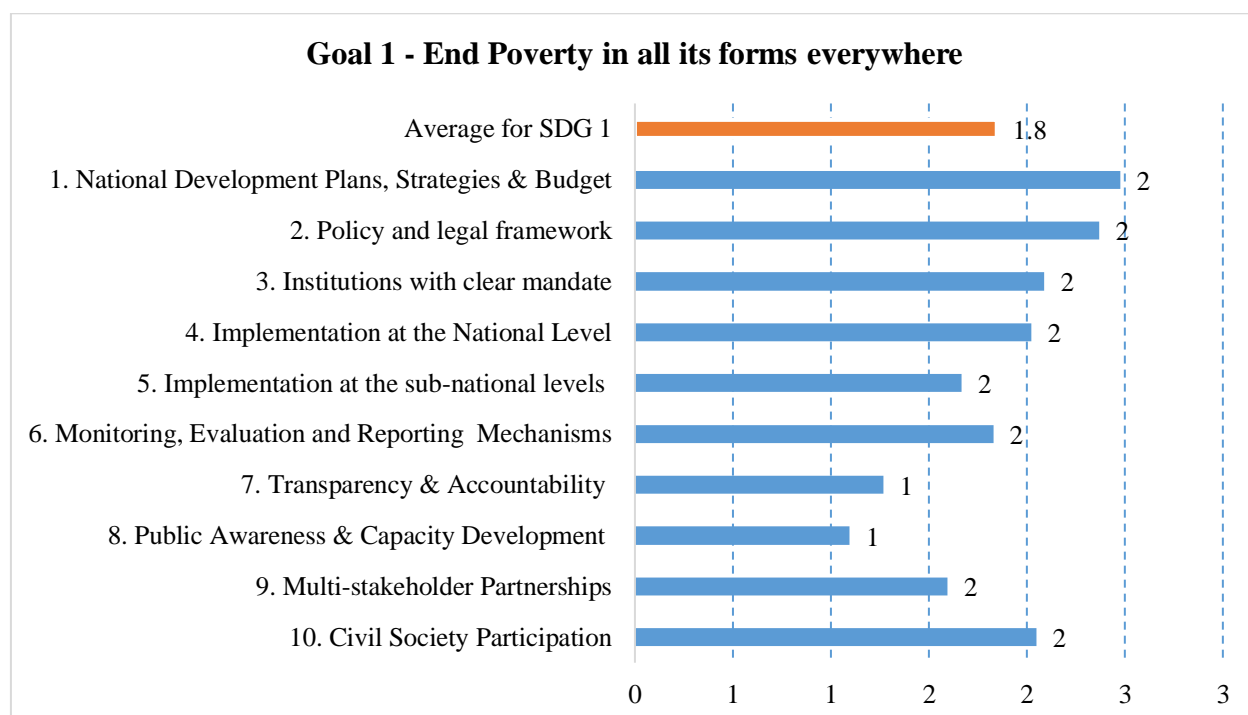


Figure 3. Comparative data of assessment, %

GOAL 1 - END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Average based on survey – 37%;

Average after consultations – 37%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. Insufficiently effective state support for the poor (low benefits, insufficient access to education, lack of barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities, lack of normal housing conditions, high growth of unemployment);
2. A big difference between the national policies and the real situation at the local level, there is no monitoring of state programs implementation;
3. A gap in poverty levels in urban and rural settlements, in central and remote regions;
4. The failure to implement state programs due to the lack of awareness of recipients;
5. Untimely implementation of state programs in healthcare, education and social security;
6. In reality, everything is subordinated to the interests of big business;
7. The methodology and mechanisms for the eradication of poverty in the country are not clear in terms of their structure, lack of a state program with indicators of combating poverty;
8. The requirements for receiving targeted social assistance are overstated. It seems that the state programs are working but not all needy people can use them.

- What are positive results/achievements of the SDG?

In general, in Kazakhstan there are positive results and progress dynamics in achieving Goal 1, and the growth points have been found. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is currently developing the Social Code that will comprise about 16 existing laws of the RoK, where it is necessary to amend the rules for granting benefits and other types of support for SVSP categories of citizens and those in difficult life situation in order to provide them a comprehensive support. Also, there are programs in place to support SVSP, families with many children, on opening and developing SMEs ('Koldau' Program, etc.).

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. To eradicate poverty in the country, effective measures are necessary on social protection of the whole population that has a minimum wage at US\$125.75 and below per month, and not only individual target groups.
2. The level of economic development should be measured by the level of the population savings and not by the total GDP.
3. The law on individuals' bankruptcy is needed to tackle the issues of household debt load;
4. It is necessary to cancel the calculation based on the total amount of the family income where due to one teng excess, the family may not fall under the current program.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. Work closer and more with the civil sector in this area, take real steps and demonstrate results.
2. Pay more attention not to quantitative but qualitative indicators.
3. The comprehensive performance of public services is needed in order to lift out of poverty and provide not only material assistance but also tools for further development.
4. Provide jobs with decent pay.
5. It is necessary to stipulate redistribution of state budget funds for economic development, and not social security.
6. Study state budgets allocated for social needs and employment centers – how effectively they work. Budget funds control is required – how accessible social benefits are, how much unemployment is decreasing in our country, why social benefits are reducing, and so on. It is necessary to analyze the above issues, and then the situation with effectiveness of state programs will become clear.
7. State programs should be monitored to understand how effective they are and what kind of revisions of these programs is needed.
8. It is necessary to look at qualitative indicators, not quantitative ones – how effectively the country's government programs are working.
9. We are ashamed of admitting that we have poor population in the country. The worst thing is child poverty. A recommendation is needed to combine all programs, starting from temporary support, TSA, assistance in employment, into a single program, where through social family cards it would be possible to approach it more comprehensively, with the involvement of all government structures and civil society representatives in addressing the issues of economic independence. Such program should be a state program and will need allocation of money from the state budget and at the state level.

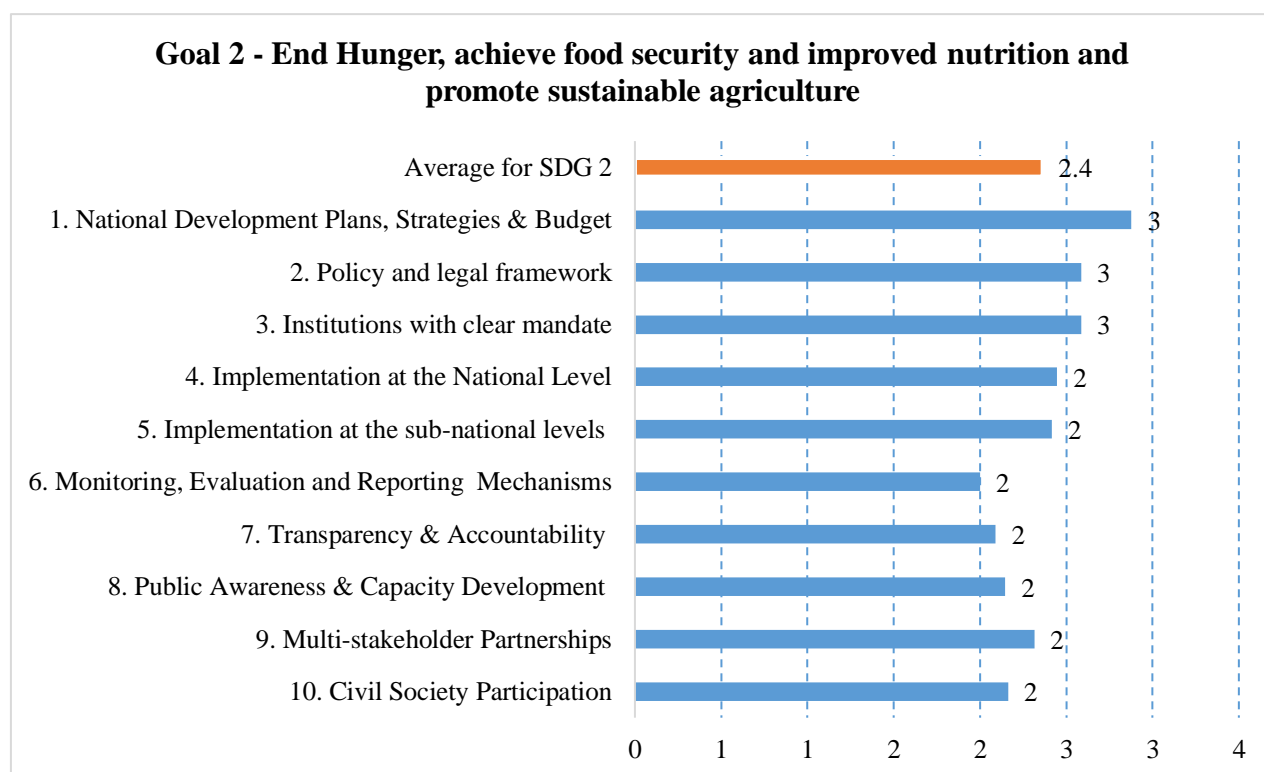
Public awareness and participation issues

1. Country-wide training courses are necessary to improve financial literacy of the population;
2. Open jobs in villages with decent wages;
3. Improve the state communication strategy and management to inform the population about state support measures (material and non-material);
4. Provide employment opportunities and choices for graduates of colleges, secondary educational institutions, higher educational institutions, etc. with various areas of specialization;
5. Provide access to quality education and quality employment for people with disabilities;
6. Eliminate gender stereotypes and stigmas in relation to people with disabilities to gain economic independence and sustainability;

7. To achieve total poverty eradication, it is necessary to provide for jobs expansion, not forgetting about the improvement and development of free secondary education because the community has a great demand for education.

GOAL 2 - END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Average based on survey – 47%;
Average after consultations – 47%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- Insufficient implementation of state programs in the field of agricultural development.** Growth points have been outlined at the national level; however, the programs are very poorly implemented at the local level. There are big gaps in terms of transparency and accountability. The adopted plans and decisions are aimed at short-term interests and increasing budget expenditures instead of increasing the productivity of water and land; in reality, everything is oriented for the interests of large businesses.

We have programs within the country for maintaining agriculture, at the same time we see tension in the supply of daily consumption products. It suggests that these programs do not work fully and properly because the results do not cover the needs of the domestic market in the agricultural sector.

We all know that the situation with agriculture is deplorable. There have been arrests and trials for huge embezzlement in this sector. Although huge funds were allocated to the regions across the country to support agriculture, to subsidize farmers, however thefts took place. It is possible that the loss of livestock that was observed in Kazakhstan last year due to drought was caused by the lack of coordinated work by the authorized bodies in the field of agriculture at all levels – starting from the Ministry down to regional and district executive officials. Disrupted communication among themselves, lack of planning and forecasting led to the fact that a mass death of livestock had happened. This was added by a corruption component and huge embezzlement. A lot of efforts are being taken but it does not always work effectively.

2. **There is no social support for rural residents.** They have no access to medical treatment because they cannot get a quota for treatment, nor are they provided with sanatorium-resort treatment. There is shortage of medical specialists, too. Young people in rural areas receive no support, nor is there continuity among the older and younger generations.
3. **Problems of effectiveness of cross-border and regional cooperation.**
4. **Problems of a technological, industrial nature:**
The programs do not take into account the improvement of products. For example, over 20 years a parent herd has not been created, hence products are becoming more expensive and there is no stability. Imported feed slows production. Subsidizing the production of chemical fertilizers is taking place against the background of the lack of support for the production of organic fertilizers. Degradation of pastures and reduction of humus are occurring. Accumulated waste from the production of phosphorus fertilizers (14 mln. tons) are not used for land improvement. The government does not solve this problem.
5. **State programs should pursue the goal of quality of public health,** therefore, the Ministry of Health should be involved in this issue.

It is necessary to combine not only the improvement of nutrition, but also the formation of a healthy lifestyle through understanding proper nutrition. Invest less in medicines, and invest more in the development of a healthy generation. Hunger and improved nutrition affected life expectancy; pensioners are not involved in mentoring experience practices. We have no food security practices. In respect of agriculture, we need good investments without a corruption component, rural support for all corporations to grow products of higher quality and environmentally friendly products without GMOs. Agricultural programs should include more Kazakh content. We are an agricultural country and we can achieve that the country's population do not suffer from hunger.

6. **Irresponsible attitude of farmers to the registration of livestock.** When farmers appealed to the state for support for the reason of a livestock death in Mangistau region, it was found out that there were a lot of unaccounted cattle. Of course, the state did not compensate for the unaccounted cattle. Thus, it is necessary to work with farmers so that they register cattle. This is due to the fact that people raise more cattle than the area of their pastures allows them. There are certain standards for breeding livestock to reproduce the pasture feed. The bigger is the amount of cattle, the more it eats up the natural pasture feed that does not have time to reproduce. This leads to a shortage of feed resulting in a death of livestock. It means that farmers are behaving irresponsibly, it is necessary to work with them on these issues.

- What are positive results/achievements of the SDG?

Based on the monitoring held in 2020, 4.4% of the Kazakhstan population were undernourished and starved. Despite the disappointing figures, the energy value of the consumed products was higher than the minimum requirements. To ensure sustainability of the food and agricultural sectors, measures are being taken in the country to reduce risks, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Stabilization funds are being created, and peasant farms are being subsidized. Today we are dependent on imports. There is experience in solving the food problem through household farms, country and gardening plots. The main thing is land reclamation. The "Ken Dala" preferential lending to agricultural producers and the forward purchase of Food Contract Corporation were announced. In general, this goal is currently being implemented through subsidies. There is no hunger in Kazakhstan.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. State programs should pursue the goal of the quality of public health. Therefore, the Ministry of Health should be involved in this issue.
2. In addition to agricultural development, it is necessary to increase infrastructure in rural areas, number of schools, and provide more quotas in education and healthcare. Because rural residents have no access to medicine and because of the lack of medical workers, they cannot get a quota for treatment, not to mention the sanatorium-resort treatment.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

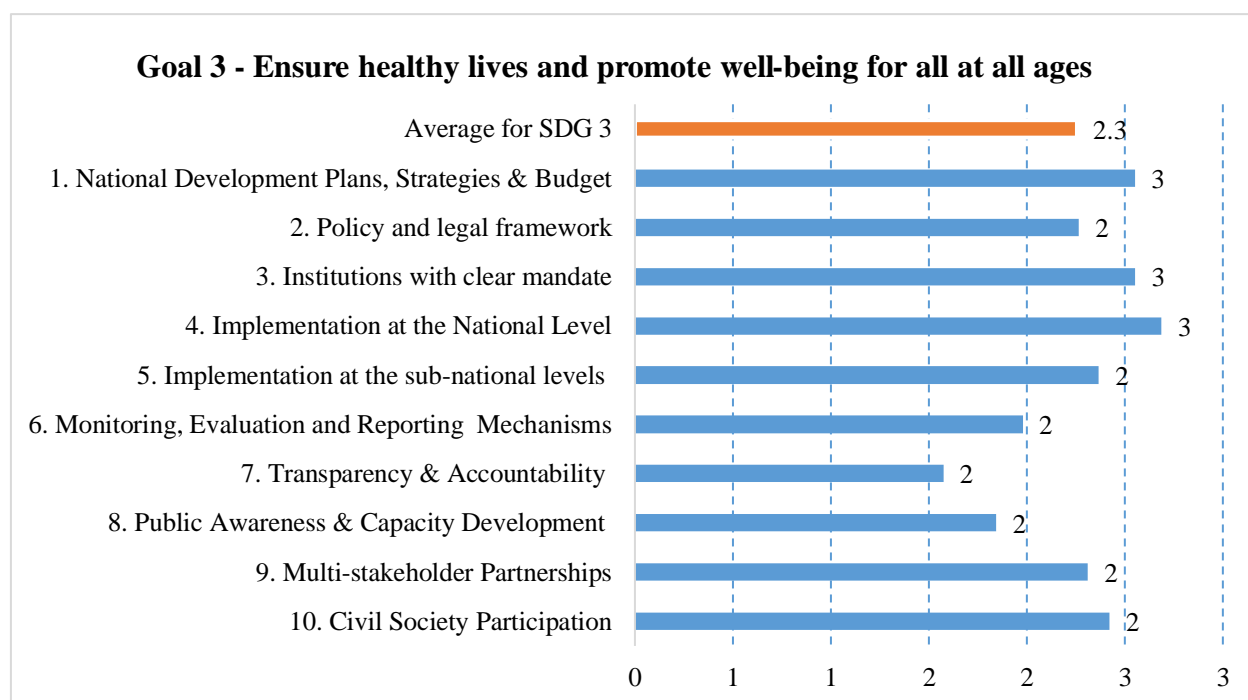
1. It is not financial assistance that is needed, but resource assistance (fertilizers, equipment, feedstuff, franchising, etc.);
2. A help is required to seek for sales markets to reduce the risk of overpricing and a large number of resellers;
3. Carry out systematic external monitoring of the state programs implementation and satisfaction of recipients of programs for agriculture support locally by independent monitoring experts.
4. It is necessary to see how much it was allocated, what has been done and what are the results, i.e. analysis of this area should be conducted.
5. Provide more jobs in villages.
6. With respect to food security, it is required to make risk assessment, planning and forecasting at all levels, locally, and in the relevant ministry to avoid such situations with a death of livestock as the one occurred last year, caused by drought and shortage of feed in Mangistau region. In our climatic conditions, this happens from year to year, so it is not correct to say that the drought happened overnight, but it turned out that no one was ready for the drought and there was no stock of feed. Even if farmers find themselves in such situation, the state should have a stock of feed to provide assistance to farmers for the short haul. Also, there were obstacles at the level of state structures. For example, when in Turkestan region people themselves responded by collecting hay by wagons to send it to Mangistau, KTZ began to hinder them by issuing bills for sending hay. For more than a week the hay could not be sent in spite of the disastrous situation in Mangistau region. This is all the result of the inefficiency of public administration and the lack of interdepartmental interaction, communication and coordination.
7. It is important to remove barriers to the implementation of state programs.
8. It is necessary to create a prompt response system, taking into account the specifics of each region.
9. Coordination and interaction at the level of Central Asian countries on food security and provision with water resources are important, too. In general, an integrated approach is needed, taking into account all factors of food security, re-orientation of certain branches of agriculture, and provision with water resources.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. There is a need in a larger number of awareness-raising programs so that the community is able to work under the existing programs.
2. It is necessary to deal with the rational use of water not only at the level of agriculture and production, but also at the level of individuals because we don't have our own sources of fresh water.
3. The work should be done with farmers on raising their awareness on cattle breeding, livestock registration, reproduction of natural pastures, and a responsible attitude toward agriculture as a whole.

GOAL 3 - ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Average based on survey – 45%;
Average after consultations – 30%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- 1. Lack of real accessible conditions (free sports sections, events, infrastructure for running, walking, going in for sports) to provide the population with a healthy lifestyle at any age.** Free access to sports is limited for people with disabilities, or is completely absent due to the lack of specialists who can work with disabled children and adults. There is no access to a healthy lifestyle in regions, especially in remote areas, and in cities fitness classes are expensive, as no discounts are made for the preferential categories of the population.
- 2. There is a problem of early diagnosis.** Despite the success achieved in healthcare, there are problems of diseases and mortality in the country associated with the circulatory system, cancer/malignant diseases.
- 3. Serious problems with professional medical personnel and medical equipment.** As far as healthcare institutions and organizations are concerned, the shortage of medical staff is 12.3 thous. staff units (as at November 17, 2020). The staffing need has increase by +14.7 % versus the last period (2019). The he MOH as a competent body in the healthcare system does not deal with the issue of attracting young doctors to regions with a shortage of medical staff. Currently, the high tuition fee (medical and pedagogical specialties) for these professions gives rise to an outflow of young people's admission to universities.

The situation is aggravating against the background of the COVID pandemic that caused worsening of the indicators. A shortage of personnel is also observed in narrow specializations of medical workers, for example, pathologists. The training of personnel is insufficient, old personnel retire, and this area of specialization is left exposed. It is

pathologists who deal with conducting pathoanatomic tests of cancer patients. So, we will allocate funds for combating cancer, but it will soon become difficult to get basic tests analyzed. Also, there are problems with forensic medical examination – this specialization was transferred to the Ministry of Justice from the Ministry of Health, and the chain of personnel formation was interrupted. Everything depends on the personnel. We receive new equipment but there is no one to maintain and repair it.

4. **Problems of providing patients with medicines.** Lack of purchase of medicines leads to poor-quality treatment.

Although such indicator as provision of patients with medicines is important, it is not included in the Strategic Plan of the Ministry as an indicator of medical aid accessibility. COVID-19 exposed the problems of provision in the pharmaceutical system, corruption being among them.

The implementation at the national level: for 9 months of 2020, 82,521 patients were not provided with medicines (in 2018 – 435,992, in 2019 году – 515,523) for the amount of approximately 724 mln. KZT (in 2018 – 3,570,227,100, in 2019 – 2,769,384,236). For certain drug items, there is a 100% lack of medicines with a high demand for them. Furthermore, there is no analysis of provision with medicines for 73 nosologies. Accordingly, the problem is much wider. Absence of integration of the UPIS (unified pharmaceutical information system), RDP (register of dispensary patients) and DPIS ("Drug Provision" information system) does not allow obtaining real data.

The unified distribution system of medicines and medical devices displays simultaneously a shortage of necessary drugs and excess of unclaimed medicines in the warehouses of the Unified Distributor (since 2018 – for the amount of 15.7 bln. KZT, since 2019 – 9.5 bln. KZT), and also annual return of unused medication to suppliers. This was due to the lack of regulation of administrative procedures that would regulate deadlines and grounds for decision-making in the process of procurement planning, and absence of the unified methodology for calculation of the need in quantities of medicines.

5. **Insufficient satisfaction of the population with the quality of medical care received.** There is a noticeable decrease in the quality of control powers in the sphere of provision of medical services (medical aid) and public services. Little awareness of treatment under the CSHI and GVPMC.

Medical services have become inaccessible to many people due to the imperfection of the medical insurance system.

Medical organizations do not comply with the requirements of the Rules for fee-based services provision in terms of information openness and accessibility. Internet resources have no information that would allow a patient to determine what services he/she may receive for free, and if they are fee-based – at what price, and other information (payment procedure, data on benefits for certain categories of citizens, etc.).

6. **Problems of approval of legislative acts in the healthcare system.** Due to the prolonged failure to ensure the legal regulation of relations associated with monitoring, approval and control procedures, and submission of reporting information, these functions are implemented improperly in the healthcare sector.

With respect to the legal framework: due to the adoption of new Code of RoK “On the Health of People and Healthcare System” in July 2020, the RLA adopted to implement Code of RoK “On the Health of People and Healthcare System” dated September 18, 2009 have ceased to be in force. About 400 internal acts of the Ministry of Health that in essence have no legal effect have been subject to use for a long time. This category includes acts establishing legal, medical, institutional and financial-material frameworks and requirements. Currently, measures to ensure the rule of law in accordance with Law “On Legal Acts” have not been taken in full by the RoK Ministry of Health.

7. **There is a duplication of functions between the structural divisions of the MOH and structural divisions of the territorial health departments**, between the MOH, its subordinate organizations and at the level of subordinate structures.
8. The Ministry of Health **has not identified the real need in actualization (revision) or development of new clinical treatment protocols**, nor have relevant standards been developed that would allow determining actual costs (time expenditure, financial costs, expenses for staff and administrative resources).
9. There is **inadequate control and coordination of the development of electronic information resources of the RoK Ministry of Health**. The development of the Platform of Healthcare Information Systems Informatization and Interoperability had delayed for 5 years (since December 2015). These works cost 17.8 mln. USD to the state. The Platform completion was extended three times.
10. **Transparency and accountability**: Medical institutions and organizations systemically violate the norms on access to information, including in the provision of public services (subparagraph 3) of paragraph 1 of Article 23; paragraph 2 of Article 23 of Law “On Public Services”, subparagraphs 3), 5), 10), 12), 13) of paragraph 2 of Article 9; subparagraph 1) of paragraph 3 of Article 16 of Law “On Access to Information”).

Our state assumes international obligations but in fact the execution at the local level is different from what the country declares when assuming obligations.

11. **Insufficient coverage of the population of reproductive age with modern contraception**. Considering that the average age of sexual debut in Kazakhstan (according to UNFPA data obtained in 2018) is 16.5 years old, and the average age at first childbirth is 25 years old, at least during 9 years there exists a need in contraceptive methods. Besides, to preserve the reproductive potential, it is necessary to observe a two-year interval between childbirths. Contraceptive methods are not included in the GVPMC and are not covered by CSHI. The vast majority of abortions are the result of unplanned pregnancy, which occurs due to the low availability of modern methods of contraception, or their incorrect use. According to the official data of the MOH, the coverage by modern contraception of all women of reproductive age is low in the Republic of Kazakhstan (31%) and has been almost at one and the same level for the past decades. The MOH data for 2017-2019 also demonstrate an extremely low use by adolescents of modern contraceptive means both in the country at large and by region, with the maximum values not exceeding 20%.

Based on the results of studies conducted in recent years, the regulatory mechanisms providing people with disabilities access to good-quality services, information and family planning means that guarantee exercising their reproductive rights are not sufficiently developed in Kazakhstan. People with various disabilities have unmet contraceptive needs,

and are exposed to the incidence of abortions, the spread of sexually transmitted infections much higher than the country's population as a whole. Among people with disabilities, the abortion rate is 8 times higher, and unmet needs in contraception is 4 times higher (41.5%) as compared with women of fertile age in the country.

12. **There is a problem in the formation of statistics, taking records of initial indicators.** Government officials want to receive some new figures, the system becomes more complicated, and some indicators change or become lost. There are international statistical data, but we have nothing to compare with because our data in Kazakhstan are very old, and we cannot keep track of the dynamics. Having no statistics at hand, we cannot analyze and move on.
13. **The Ministry of Health does not conduct key research in the field of nutrition:** what is the percentage of obesity or malnutrition among the population. There exist the problems of the lack of a healthy lifestyle culture and proper nutrition in the population caused by the absence of these areas in the educational system. Prevention as such is lacking, everything is done fictitiously, and children with certain diseases are not identified and are not sent for treatment in a timely manner.
14. The problem is that **political decisions are lagging behind the international scientific base.**
15. The COVID-19 showed that **reduction in the number of in-patient facilities was the wrong decision**, and with the onset of the pandemic, we frantically began to build hospitals. If we had had in-patient facilities as earlier, we wouldn't have to launch any new hospitals during the COVID pandemic.
16. Today **there are state programs in place but we do not see the effectiveness of these programs.** For example, screening of the population does not give us a picture of the morbidity as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the medical checkup programs, or incentives should be provided for human resources so that new medical workers are willing to work in medical organizations instead of working as waiters or sellers after having studied for eight years at a medical university. The financial component is one of the most important because medical workers should have a good pay. Accordingly, they can be held accountable later. What we have now is that medical workers' wages are leveled by the current state in the foreign exchange market and in the economy.
17. **The load on the PHC service is not correctly estimated.** Let us assume that the doctor has 4,500 patients in his/her circumscription area. With such a load, the doctor should conduct an appointment not 2 hours a day but at least conduct an 8-hour appointment a day. Also, the doctor's appointment schedule of 15 minutes demonstrates that it does not work effectively because the doctor cannot both capture a medical record and conduct proper examination of the patient. Accordingly, this affects the health of Kazakhstan population as a whole.
18. There is a **problem of a corruption component and falsifications.** We all are aware of the Damumed application, and you can only get to the doctor by way of using this application. But it is not quite clear how it works. I have children, and using the Damumed application I can see that my children undergo regularly medical checkups and physical therapy, while they haven't been to a doctor for several years. As far as I understand,

hospitals receive budgets at the expense of the services provided, number of patients, and that's the reason for why falsified data appear.

- 19. Health insurance is not currently working**, because we don't know how to allocate these resources. We have guaranteed state-funded assistance but here all the collisions begin.

Unprotected and vulnerable segments of the population have dropped out of the medical insurance system. Consequently, this system needs to be improved. If a person not covered by compulsory health insurance becomes ill, in future such person will have the acute phase of the disease, which falls under guaranteed emergency medical care, and in this case costs of the state will be even greater.

- What are positive results/achievements of the SDG?

In general, health management programs are in place in clinics, or are being introduced gradually. The healthcare system has been very well-developed at the countrywide level. The population is widely covered with health services (introduction of the CSHI), standardization has been introduced, as well as the unified purchase of medicines / medical devices and healthcare digitalization. At the national level, policies are in place, resources are allocated, there exist programs at the level of cities, districts, etc. The work is underway in the field of HIV infection prevention and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

7. The issue of revising the strategic indicators of the healthcare system towards orientation for development remains relevant. It is also important to exclude motivations for hiding data.
8. The revision of the functionality of the MOH's central office, territorial health departments, structural and subordinate divisions of MOH and health departments is being updated. .
9. Reducing the retirement age for women.
10. Training in medical and pedagogical specialties should be free of charge. These professions are a vocation and should mean more than a job or a business. It is necessary to pay attention to the training of personnel in narrow specializations in healthcare, as problems are already brewing here.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

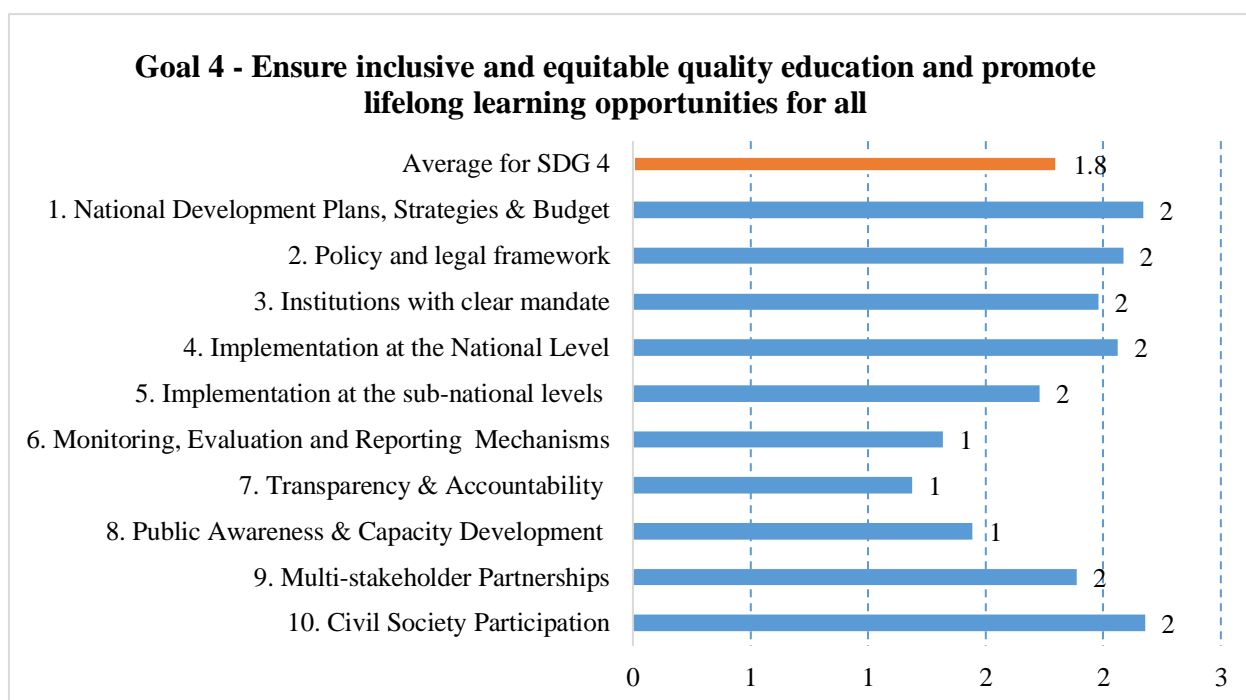
1. The Ministry of Health should conduct key research in the sphere of population nutrition: to what extent is the nutrition complete, to what extent the population is provided with high-quality water.
2. It is necessary to restore order in the financing of medical care – both public and insurance – so that it works fully for the benefit of direct beneficiaries. For example, when registering, a pregnant woman is forced to pay the CSHI for a year if she did not have any job. Accordingly, such patients drop out of the medical services coverage. Consequently, maternal and infant mortality is growing in our country. It happens because mechanisms for allocating financial resources in healthcare have been developed improperly.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. A healthy lifestyle is not possible without proper nutrition that includes vitamins, macro- and microelements. It is necessary to focus on increasing the level of income of the population and providing more effective and sufficient funding of healthcare systems.
2. Promotion of HLS, and it should start from a birth, mothers and children should be trained in HLS. After all, a healthy and educated nation is the key to the success of our country.
3. The healthy lifestyle issues need to be included in education not only as physical culture within the education system but it must serve as an additional resource.

GOAL 4 - ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Average based on survey – 36%;
Average after consultations – 30%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. Education begins at preschool age. However, **in Kazakhstan there are not enough kindergartens** where children aged 3+ could have access to good-quality education.
2. **Problem with inclusive education.** The issues of inclusion of children with special needs require a lot of attention. HEIs are not oriented for education and encouragement of inclusive education.

The norms of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified in 2015 are not observed across the country, including with regard to access to inclusive education. The former Soviet ideology of isolation and segregation of children with disabilities and special needs is still kept. The infrastructure is not developed, there is no access to many services, nor is there comprehensive and systemic support and protection of the rights of people with disabilities. There is a lack of interdepartmental interaction between central and local executive bodies on the implementation of the norms of existing laws.

There are still problems with the introduction of inclusive education: it is mainly developed in the capital and large cities, but is challenging in small towns and villages for many reasons, including lack of additional funding, teachers, methodologies/technologies, infrastructure, etc. Home education is offered as an alternative but it is of low quality and does not provide an opportunity for development and career growth.

In addition, there exists a great rejection by parents of healthy children from co-education of children with special educational needs. Thus, the fight against stereotypes and myths is not conducted properly to enable developing inclusive education.

Coordination mechanisms for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have not yet been created in compliance with this Convention. Also, there are difficulties with the conceptual apparatus of the laws that do not correspond to the definitions specified in the Convention.

3. **The pandemic consequences have also had a negative impact on education.** The quality of distance learning is not good enough. Many students did not have full access to online education, and it's hard to fill gaps in knowledge.
4. Until now, **there is a low level of quality of education in suburbs and villages.** The infrastructure even in public schools of major cities does not meet the basic comfortable conditions for training. However, private free schools are opened, for example, The BINOM School of BI Group Holding, providing a comfortable environment and high-quality knowledge. It is necessary to make assessment of all schools across the country, as no statistical data of such kind were found in public domain.
5. **Kazakhstan has no national program on gender education.** Insufficient access to reliable information on safe sexual behavior against the background of access to Internet and different sorts of information, including pornographic, lead to unwanted pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted infections, which ultimately determine the population's reproductive health, the level of maternal mortality and poverty of any state. According to the official data of the MOH information system, there are around 3 registered pregnancies for every 100 girls aged 15-19 (16,229 in 2017, 15,757 in 2018 and 15,479 in 2019). 15% of all adolescent pregnancies end in abortion (2,524 in 2017, 2,510 in 2018 and 2,346 in 2019).
6. The quality of education leaves much to be desired, with many gaps that need to be addressed. **There are a lot of programs being launched, but not all of them work well.** Good and interesting programs are implemented, but you have to write reports all the time on these programs. Document turnover and a lot of reporting affect the creative potential of educators, resulting in stigmas and limitations, thus, leading to a decline in efficiency. There are many inconsistencies between what is happening at the bottom of the educational system and at the top, in the Ministry. And the leadership system itself in educational organizations functions in reverse order, and we are switching to a traditional management format. At the same time, our goal is to implement all innovative educational programs in secondary education.
7. **Programs are launched without any funding.** The state should understand that it's necessary to allocate money for any program. It's not just about translating educational materials from English to Russian and cascading down to schools. Unfortunately, there is also an inconsistency in translation from Russian to Kazakh, which is a frequently case. In addition, the material and technical base is very poor. While schools in major cities or downtowns are funded, schools located in the suburbs or in towns have no equipment available, do not undergo maintenance, nor have they other opportunities. The same goes for rural schools.
8. **No continuity in the Ministry of Education.** In Kazakhstan, 12 or 13 ministers have been replaced in 30 years. Every newly appointed minister cancels everything that has been done before, and every year something new is invented. Even we as parents feel discomfort from constant changes, and it's a pity for teachers who have to introduce new things, write reports and so on.

9. **There is a problem of teacher training in higher education institutions.** Teachers start to educate without understanding the educational system. They possess theoretical information without the practical one because they have no practical skills at all.
10. We are always taking programs with the experience in Western countries, snatching something from another country's experience. Such programs are not in line with the mentality of our society, and ultimately, we have **fragmentation and various risks** instead of efficiency.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Kazakhstan is distinguished by a sufficient level of both formal and non-formal education for children and youth, access to free school education, which is compulsory. Lifelong adult education is also developing successfully, where NPOs make a significant contribution. Measures have been developed to provide targeted social support. A draft law to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities have been adopted. The nationalized SDG indicators are in effect. An excellent program for teacher status enhancement is in place.

Access to continuous education, including additional, has been provided in Kazakhstan. In recent years, opportunities have been provided for inclusive education of children and youth. Along with that, for adults with disabilities, there are more opportunities for retraining in qualifications that are in demand and their subsequent employment. Some HEIs provide them more help and support, etc. The mechanisms have been developed and are being implemented, but there are still a lot of gaps.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. A long-term plan of programs must be in place, as well as the consistent introduction of programs comprehensible for both students and teachers.
2. The level of education should be measured by the number of patents for copyrights registered in the country.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. Enhance the work and control of government authorities, civil society, NGOs in terms of accessibility of the educational environment and provision with educational materials of various categories of persons with disabilities.
2. Programs need to be revised and implemented on the ground. Also, reduction of control and accountability of teachers in secondary education will produce a greater effect than an endless request for some papers.
3. Improve the level of general education and work over improving the level of inclusive education – where there's a lot to be done.

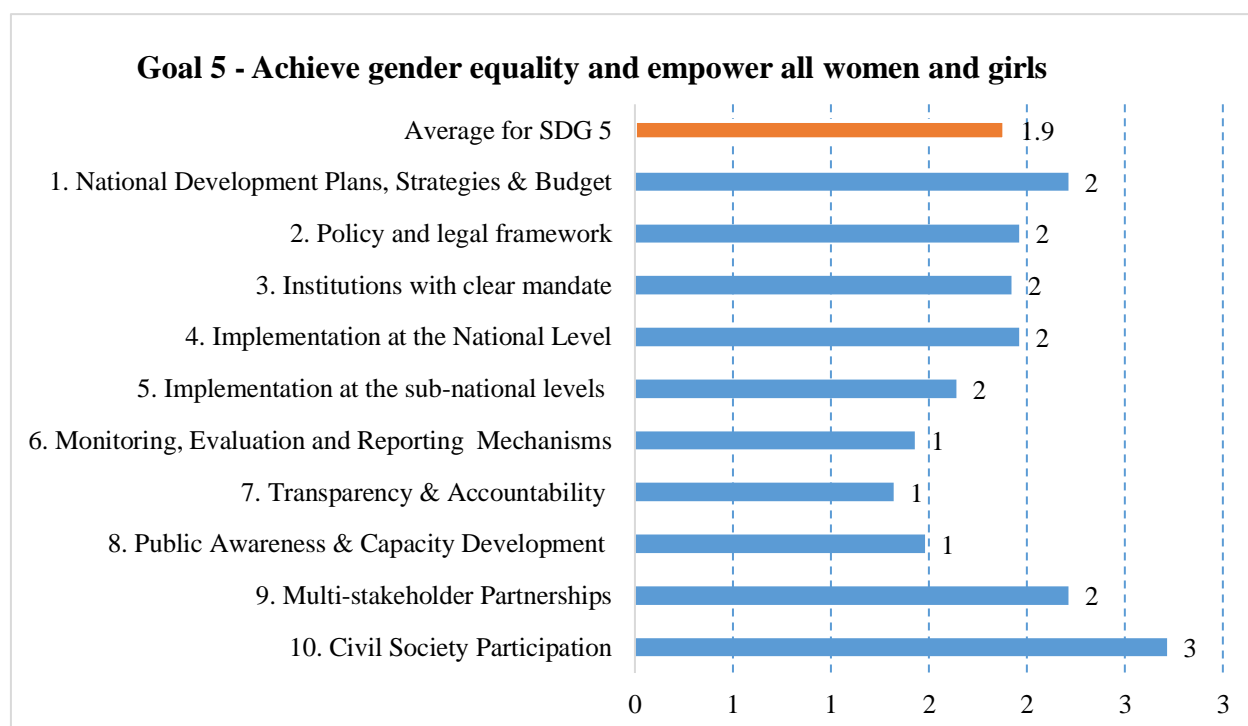
Public awareness and participation issues

1. Active support and inclusive participation of civil society is needed.
2. Create an accessible environment for inclusive education. It is necessary to start working in rural regions on this issue.
3. Work should be done to remove stigmas in the society in relation to disabled people in education.
4. Create a positive attitude in inclusive education, support any projects of the state structures of both formal and non-formal educational institutions.

GOAL 5 - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Average based on survey – 38%;

Average after consultations – 29% it is average of supported scores (25%; 33%; 30%)



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **The issue of domestic violence has become very acute**, especially during the pandemic. The problem of increased domestic violence, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown, requires that approaches, methodologies and regulatory standards for protection of women and children from violence be revised. As for domestic violence, its growth during the COVID lockdown became visible, when many cases lost a latent character and started to be highlighted by mass media.

The problem of a growth of domestic violence is constantly observed, and it is caused by a reduction of the role of women and the gender equality situation that is becoming worse. The amendments to the law on domestic violence proposed by civil society organizations dealing with this problem are not addressed at the legislative level.

2. **Gender empowerment discrimination against women and girls is still prevalent.** There is a gap between opportunities and the capacity to exercise own rights between urban and rural women, women from remote regions. Kazakhstan faces a challenging issue of women's participation in decision-making: there are practically no women among akims of regions and districts, maslikhat secretaries, ministers and vice ministers. The country has certain achievements; however, women are underrepresented in power, and a share of women among decision makers is very small. Second, we should understand that currently there are no programs for rural women and girls. This group drops out of all the processes in our country. Gender activities are carried out at the regional level and in cities of the republican significance, while rural communities are always overboard.

3. **The Kazakh legislation and law enforcement practice are lacking the definition of ‘discrimination’ that would meet the international standards, nor does the country have an anti-discrimination legislation, anti-discrimination institutions and procedures.** There is a systemic problem that has been repeatedly pointed out to Kazakhstan during the review of reports on the implementation of international obligations within the framework of ratified international human rights treaties by the UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, UN Independent Expert on National Minorities who visited the Republic of Kazakhstan, and a number of international human rights organizations and independent experts. Achieving equality, including gender equality, is impossible without a systematic approach to this problem. Only in the last year or two have the government bodies at least begun to discuss it.
4. **Artificial alignment of objective gender differences leads to tragic consequences in the preservation of family and upbringing of children.** We should not be copying Western countries in this issue. That sort of policy there has led to the undermining of centuries-old foundations in the relationship between men and women. Kazakhstan has its own national traditions, and it is these traditions that we should be built upon.
5. **There are no indications of the fulfillment by the state of the obligations in relation to vulnerable categories of women and girls,** including women with disabilities, women and girls from ethnic minority groups, migrant women, women who are in conflict with the law, women with HIV/AIDS, mothers with many children, women raising children with disabilities, etc.
6. **At the political level, we have a confusion of concepts and no understanding of what gender equality means,** starting from the body under the President for family and women’s affairs and demographic policy, which should be appropriately represented by its composition (almost all women), because their understanding of gender equality raises more questions on how ready they are to formulate the gender equality agenda in Kazakhstan, how they understand gender approaches. If we go down to the level of the Ministry of Information and Social Development, CISC, as an example, there is a serious value rollback on the principles of gender equality there. Speaking of the representation of women at the level of executive authorities – akims, ministries, etc. – the percentage of women is very low there. The only positive change can be seen in some regions in terms of the representation of women in maslikhats. But this is not particularly critical and does not have a big impact, since they do not have a special fullness of power and influence. The decision-making is concentrated at the level of akimats, that’s why we have such a low result.

If you look at the information field, statements of political figures regarding women and polygamy, you will see one of the arguments that the situation with gender equality is getting worse. There is no systemic support for organizations that are involved in gender equality, domestic violence prevention, and other women’s issues. This testifies to the fact that we have very few achievements in gender equality. There is a stagnation, we can even say regression. The latest programs do not contain empowerment of women at all. The issues of empowerment of women are just declared, without articulating specific indicators and measures, and how these measures will be implemented. And in fact, today we have discrimination against women and girls that does exist in the country.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

There is significant progress, and it is necessary to further develop the potential based on the principles of openness and transparency. The issues of women empowerment are included in many national programs. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are cross-cutting and priority items in planning and implementation of the national, local and sectoral programs. Over the years of independence, Kazakhstan has achieved significant progress in the implementation of gender policy. The National Commission for Women's Affairs was established. The gender policy components have been included in the agenda in various areas of socially significant initiatives. Today the proportion of women deputies in the Majilis of the RoK Parliament is at least 30%. The region's civil society is strong enough and continues to unite to promote common values and actions.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. The legal framework, strategies and budgeting need further improvement. In particular, we should fill in gaps in the laws of the region that are supportive of patriarchal attitudes and patterns. The practice should be more sensitive to the status and needs of women and girls. The provisions set out in the national plans and strategies should be supported by funds allocated from the state budget for their effective implementation jointly with civil society and all stakeholders.
2. Introduce a compulsory subject on human rights and gender equality in schools starting from grade 1, where children will study the fundamental rights of inviolability of honor and dignity.
3. All forms of violence against women and girls should be criminalized, and relevant criminal and civil legislations must take into consideration gender aspects.
4. A 30% quota arrangement at the decision-making level, without considering youth, should be enforced legally. Another thing is that the legislation should take into account characteristics of the female body – this refers to the law on domestic violence as a percentage of women experiencing violence is growing due to women physiological features.
5. The introduction into the legislation of concept 'discrimination' conforming to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDW), implementation of the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women following the results of review of the Republic of Kazakhstan reports on the implementation of CEDW, adoption of an anti-discrimination legislation, creation of anti-discrimination institutions and procedures, amending the policy on defining a gender identity and its protection.
6. Establish criminal responsibility for domestic violence crimes against women and children, which will improve the situation and will allow to bring rapists to fair responsibility. Until this happens, we will never solve the issue of domestic violence. A serious work is needed, as well as condemnations at the state political level of discriminatory statements against women and girls. The small business and micro businesses need to be comprehensively supported, as the latter is mainly a women's business that needs specialized lending and dedicated support to ensure economic independence.
7. The gender policy strategy should be revised subject to the achievements in new challenges of the contemporary world. If Kazakhstan has assumed the obligations on elimination of all forms of violence, then it must sign a number of international documents, including the Istanbul Protocol, to fully comply with all the accepted standards.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

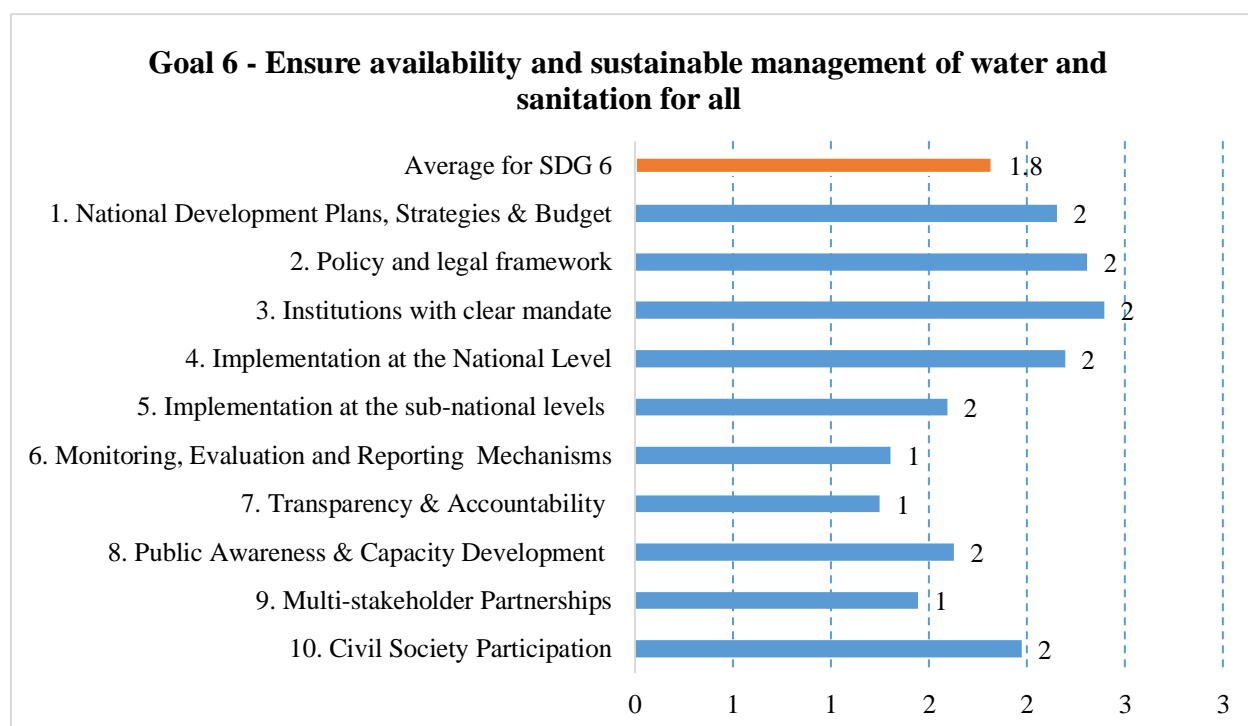
1. The state should provide financial support of the services for victims of violence against women and girls, which should cover not only public centers but also nongovernmental women's centers.
2. Keep track of the situation and hold regular monitoring: take measurements and conduct research on gender equality and gender violence against women and girls.
3. Conduct a targeted analysis of economic costs of violence against women and girls. Such research projects should include sharing experiences in using the analysis deliverables for lobbying adequate funding for violence prevention and provision of services to victims.
4. It is necessary to develop a unified methodology for collecting data on violence against women and girls in order to assess its scope and trends. Additionally, to improve the quality of administrative data collection, standardized indicators need to be implemented. At the national level, the data should be combined into unified databases in compliance with the standards for data protection and confidentiality. Also, such data should be analyzed on a regular basis.
5. We need equal development of the regions. Almaty and Nur-Sultan are experiencing a heavy load, while other regions are lagging far behind, starting from the comfort of living and living conditions. Therefore, the regional development program should be in place, and there is a need in correct funding, regardless of the status of subsidization. The percentage ratio of the invested money to the number of residing people should be taken into account.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. Carry out an awareness-raising activity in mass media and highlight the domestic violence problem, focusing on intolerance to violence, and avoid victim blaming. Conduct trainings and workshops for journalists to train them in the ethics of publishing materials on violence in mass media, including language recognition of victim blaming (shifting responsibility to the victim).
2. Work with young people to influence deep-rooted gender stereotypes, inherent in a significant part of society that prevent survivors of violence from ever seeking help or justice (for example, the widespread belief that domestic violence is just a 'family affair').
3. It is necessary to provide support aimed at strengthening women's nongovernmental organizations and women's activist movements, working with the problem of violence against women and girls, in order to ensure the continuation of their activities for further reforms. Share best practices with other countries.
4. It is necessary to start working in villages. Statistics show that today the rural population prevails over the urban one. In practice, we see that what is being developed at the countrywide level does not always work in rural areas.

GOAL 6 - ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Average based on survey – 36%;
Average after consultations – 36%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- 1. The legislation is partially regulated, but requires significant changes.** A complete failure in the field of water management, there is no state agency and state program (only the program combined with garbage problems, geology, etc. is in place). There are plans, but they are being implemented very slowly and ineffectively.

Addressing urgent problems and tasks requires a systematic approach as the basis for solving the problems of the present and the challenges of the future. At the national legislative level, no legal document prescribes the right to access to quality potable water and sanitation. The current sanitary norms and rules of the Ministry of Health contain materials on water quality, but they are not included at the legislative level – so, it is necessary to pay attention to this. It is related to the fact that the situation with water is changing for the worse every year. Also, for many years there has been a problem with access to quality potable water for some population, meaning that not everyone has access to high-quality potable water.

- 2. Information available to the public is not included in available sources.**
- 3. The problem of rural population's access to high-quality drinking water is still relevant.**

As an example - the 'Aksu' state program was completed in 2020, but the problem of providing people with clean water has not been solved. Among the reasons is corruption, embezzlement, irresponsibility of state officials. But it must be solved!

4. **Populated areas are covered with a continuous network of toilets with cesspools.** The tourist infrastructure is not properly monitored for sewage and waste pollution.

There is still a gap in access to water and sanitation between the country's rural and urban settlements. There are issues of wastewater, sewage and sanitation. In rural regions, soils are polluted by sewage because of improper sanitation and sewage systems. In villages, there are usually no sewage systems, and people use cesspools. Due to this, soil pollution occurs, through the soil in fruit and vegetable gardens - back to the table, causing diseases, and so on.

The problem in rural schools is that cesspools are still used there. This problem was raised two years ago. The MOH made a decision to address this problem urgently and to install composting toilets. This was due to criminal cases in toilets rather than sanitation issues. Villages are still not covered by sewage systems.

5. **Integrated water resources management requires study and improvement in terms of implementation within the context of climate change.** The principle of integrated water resources management was adopted more than 15 years ago. The Water Code does exist, and amendments to the Water Code are being introduced today.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

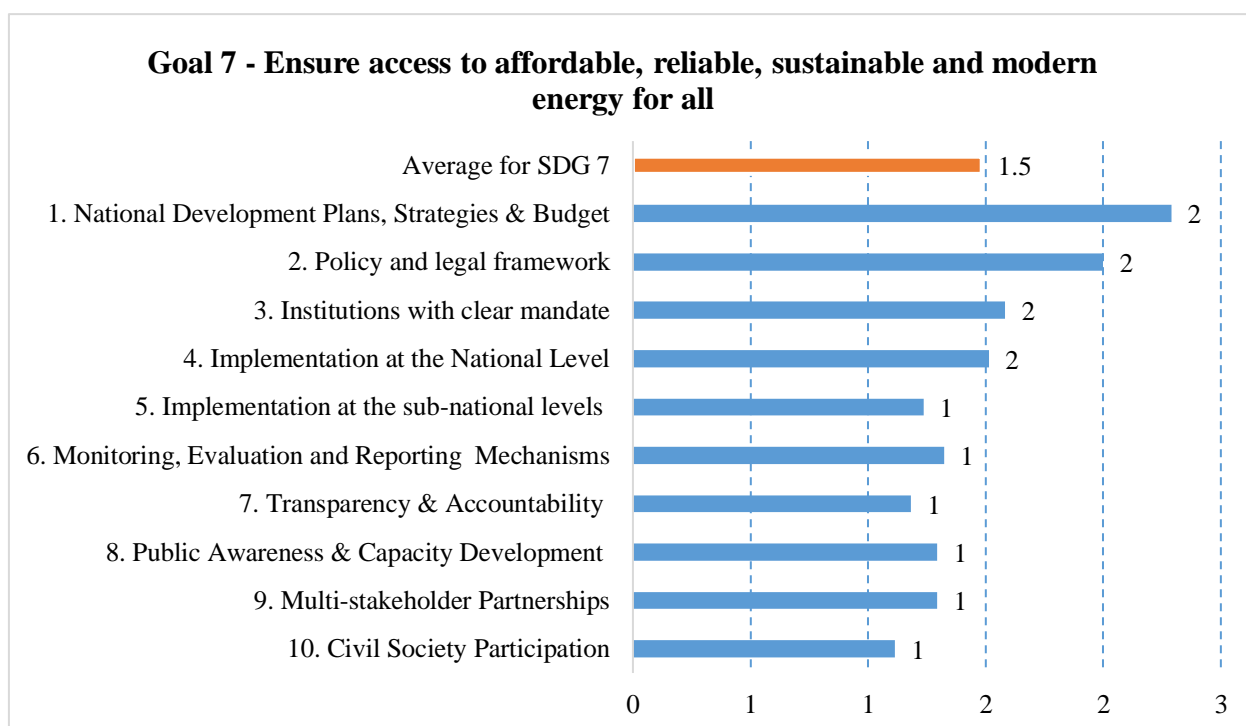
Civil society participates in working groups and committees on water resources at the national and local levels. The current water resources management system in the country made it possible to integrate the basic international principles of water resources management, and regulate water supply and demand during 30 years of independence. The basin principle of water management was introduced, opportunities for the public and water users to participate in the decision-making process were expanded, the main agreements on water allocation and water use were concluded with neighboring states. There is water in Kazakhstan, but locally there are areas without access to fresh water.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

1. This is one of the priority tasks for Kazakhstan that requires improvement of the assessment methodology, monitoring mechanism, as well as active participation of the country's citizens.
2. Goal 6 requires priority attention and a radical change in policy, with a focus on restoration of water resources.
3. It is necessary to introduce a system of rational and efficient use of water. Increase public and all entities' awareness in this issue.
4. Enhance cross-border interaction on water issues.
5. Improve the effectiveness of basin councils.

GOAL 7 - ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Average based on survey – 30%;
Average after consultations – 29%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- The public and businesses are not fully aware of the new mechanisms of clean development** and have no necessary capacity (in a broad sense) and resources that would stimulate the introduction of modern energy sources.
- The goals on renewable energy sources and electrical energy do not take into account the interests of people but only of large businesses and the coal and petroleum sectors.** In reality, our society will be ripe for achieving this goal in 20 years. Our poverty is expensive. RES is our problem.
- This goal is not fully achieved due to corruption risks.**
- No actions are taken at the subnational level.**
- Solar and wind energy are developing, while **biogas technology is not supported.**

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

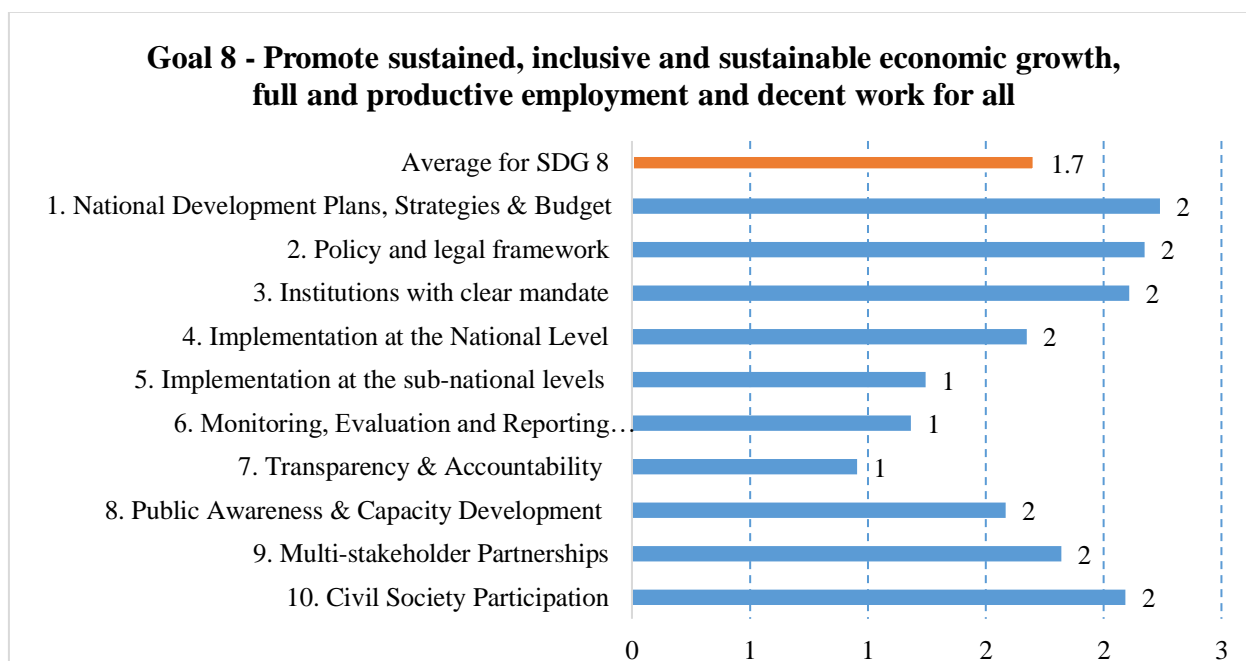
The climate agenda is becoming one of the most important challenges for the energy industry worldwide. Kazakhstan did not stand aside and has set its targets for achieving carbon neutrality, which in turn ensured the development of 'green' energy in the country. Kazakhstan has unique opportunities for the development of RES and hydrogen energy. The development of the latter is one of the priorities of the Competence Center for New Technologies. The roadmaps on environmental issues in the regions provide for a number of activities on transition to environmentally friendly fuels (gas and electricity), as well as the development of LRT, subway in Almaty, trolley-buses, expansion of the infrastructure for alternative forms of transport – bike lanes as in the case of Almaty.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue/advocacy?

1. Large-scale and widespread use of renewable energy sources is required. The capacity and social responsibility of business structures and citizens of the country should be increased.
2. Reduction of energy intensity in GDP, improvement of energy efficiency in the manufacturing and housing sector, and introduction of RES require increasingly more efforts on the part of the state, business and the population.
3. Provide infrastructure for the erection of electric filling stations in the areas of SECs, business centers and housing complexes.
4. Program for the introduction of RES in construction of buildings.

GOAL 8 - PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Average based on survey – 34%;
Average after consultations – 34%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- No access to decent work.** Traditionally, the work of medical workers and teachers is low paid. There is no work in rural areas. The retirement age is very high. The unemployment rate is high.
- The creation of new industries and jobs adds to a sustainable economic growth. Currently, against the background of the past COVID-19 pandemic, **there is a decrease in economic growth and, consequently, productive employment and decent work.**
- In practice, people with special needs are insufficiently involved in labor activity, and their potential is not used in a proper manner.** The rights of persons with disabilities to a decent life are violated.
- Problems with transparency and accountability, program monitoring and evaluation.** Programs and mechanisms are in place but are not implemented in full. Too many factors are not implemented at the local level.
- I was involved in state grant programs for families with many children, self-employed, etc. The initiative itself is very good, and it provides excellent opportunities for starting a small business, but it has no specific indicators. The effectiveness of these programs leaves much to be desired because it's just giving money to certain social categories and vulnerable groups. Monitoring is held afterwards, but its results are not transparent. It is not clear how many businesses were launched in the end. The business areas are inadequate and are disconnected from reality. For example, the opening of numerous bakeries, tailor's shops, etc. was announced under these programs in Mangistau. In fact, there are not so many of these businesses operating now.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

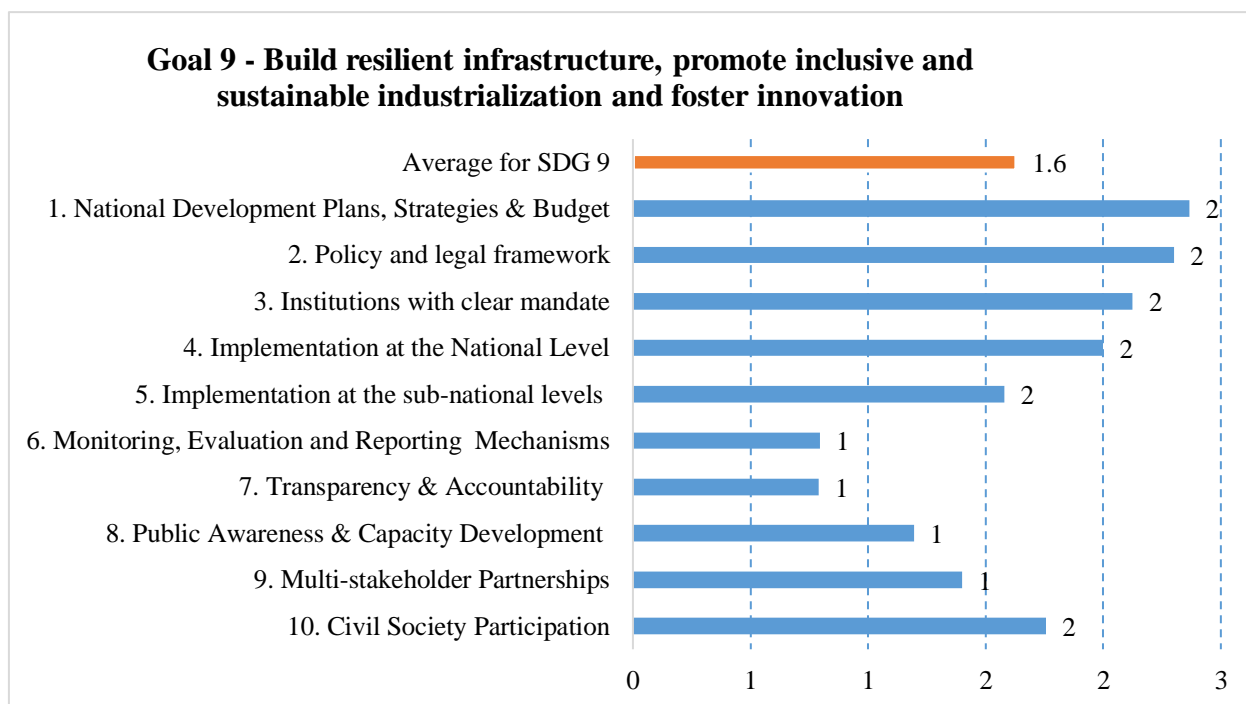
Employment of socially vulnerable segments of the population have become well promoted in the country's plans, policies and budgets. There are institutions on support and promotion of employment. NGOs are actively involved in this process.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

1. It is necessary to ensure the implementation of state programs to achieve a sustainable economic growth, transparency, public awareness, production stimulation and creation of jobs.
2. Provide jobs with full training and social package.
3. Improve the quality of programs in this direction, their purpose and orientation, monitoring of program implementation. These programs should be assigned to economic sectors in every region, subject to the specifics of every region.

GOAL 9 - BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Average based on survey – 33%;
Average after consultations – 33%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- 1. The creation of infrastructure does not correspond to real needs.** There are projects that are innovative but have no promotion and relevance among the population. There are examples of projects that are called innovative but at the same time they do not have an applied character.

The infrastructure development issues along with the development of transport and logistics systems for links between regions, and growing cross-border needs remain as important priorities for the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

The income of the current business is based mainly on the material base of the former USSR. This base suits businesses for two main reasons: greed and lack of funds for innovation.

- 2. Very low indicators of the achievement of this goal at the local level.** No progress is seen. The implementation of plans and measures has lagged. There are many useless projects existing here.
- 3. There are no comprehensive programs to promote an inclusive environment.**
- 4. Corruption** in the sphere of grant support for innovations.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

The country has an excellent scientific and industrial base, a powerful educational potential.

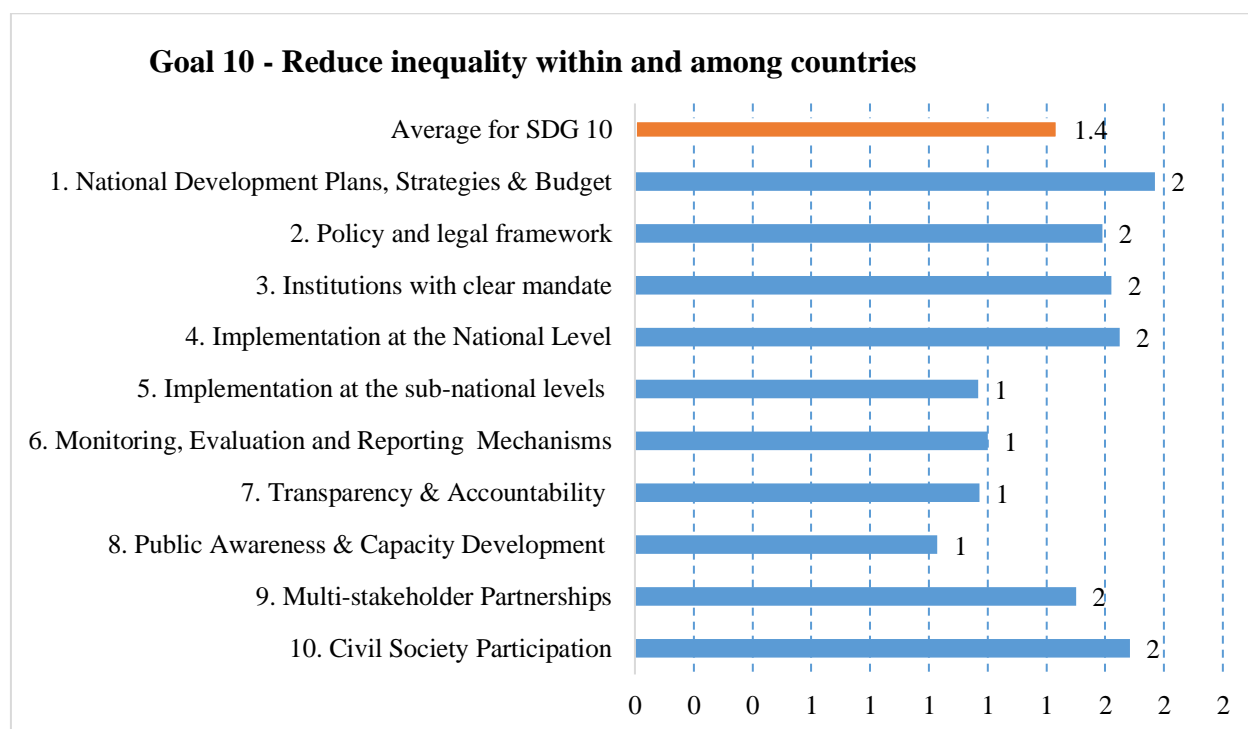
- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

1. Modernization of the industrial sector, ensuring close collaboration of science, industry, business; support for innovative projects and scientific research.
2. Government support is needed in key sectors of the economy. This will accelerate the development of the manufacturing sector.
3. It is necessary to create Hubs and implement real projects with community involvement, as well as improve the work with civil society. The country has many talents, and their full support is necessary, as well as their development. Industrial Hubs should be established, with the development of cooperation between them in order to combine business ideas. Provide resource support and share experiences with novice businessmen.
4. Analytics on business projects of the previous years in order to train novice businessmen and explain to them which niches are saturated, which are in demand, where there is an opportunity to realize their potential to a greater extent. This will help provide grants not only for sewing workshops and confectionery production, with which the labor market is oversaturated.

GOAL 10 – REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Average based on survey – 29%;

Average after consultations – 29%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

- Direct dependence of the income of the population on the slowdown in economic growth**, especially during the COVID-19, on unstable state of the raw materials market, and on the growth of inflation of the national currency create serious problems in achieving equality between rural and urban populations. There is a gap in the wage between men and women, adequacy of social packages and services for vulnerable groups of the population.
- The level of socio-economic development within the country is different, there are differences between large cities, towns and villages, and this gap is increasing.** Despite certain positive signs of reduction in equality on some aspects, inequality still exists. The stratification of society is present as a result of the market economy. The income gap is getting worse, a considerable part of the wealth belongs to a handful of people.

At the international level, the Republic of Kazakhstan cooperates with other states, which reduces the inequality between them through participation in international organizations and international treaties. At the domestic level, the gap between the poor and the rich is significant, considering that the former have no opportunities to get to the level of at least average earnings: the problem may also lie in the absence of accessible and widespread education, sexual education (when poor people, despite the lack of prosperity, want to bring children into the world children and have no money to raise them). Also, the reason may be hidden in inefficient labor legislation that encourages discrimination against employees.

Differences in state support in the regions for SVSP (payment for public transport, free meals at school for grades 1-4, housing provision as in the case of Almaty, etc.) adds to

making a decision on internal migration. The lack of jobs in some regions contributes to the decision to move to large cities.

There is one more serious problem that goes back to the Soviet era and that I did not mention. It is a household registration, or dependence of a whole number of social and economic rights from registration at the place of residence. This requires a radical change in the policy because affects many people, especially young people, coming from the regions to large cities in search of work.

Strong social stratification and decile index were not mentioned, the latter arousing a big concern. Large inequality between the regions, and large inequality in access to services in subsidized regions.

Property stratification is increasing under the influence of the economic crisis and COVID-19, as well as military conflicts. We have no actual data on unemployment, the country's unemployment is at 40%, the level of wages is very low. Therefore, there is a situation that we are returning to the gray shadow market. The main blow falls on women, as they are fired first of all. It is difficult for women to find a job, so there is a big percentage of unemployed women aged 45 and up; the pension amount is low, too. If we talk about the city and the village, the economic gap is only intensified by internal migration when young people tend to megacities and cannot find a job. Thus, centers of social protests emerge, which is confirmed by January events in the country, where the main driver was unemployed youth. There are no signs of reduction in inequality because systemic measures are not taken, nor are they planned or proposed. As an example: analysis of emergent entrepreneurs was conducted, and experts' data were summarized following the analysis results. It was discovered that a large amount of money, we call it 'helicopter money', is allocated inconsistently, without monitoring of who receives money, and the results are not evaluated. The efficiency of allocating these funds is catastrophically low as they will dissolve without any result or effect for business.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Kazakhstan has policies and strategies in place that are aimed at regional development among Central Asian countries. The government and civil society tend to regional initiatives by developing projects for the Central Asian region.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. Protection in the field of human rights, combating stigma and discrimination.
2. Promote orderly, safe, legal and responsible migration of people (internal and external), including through pursuing a planned and well-developed migration policy.
3. Reduce migration intentions and unify state programs on support of the SVSP category.
4. Common standardization of diplomas on secondary and higher education between countries.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. Improve monitoring mechanisms, evaluation criteria, the principles of fairness and openness, strict accountability, active community engagement.
2. Job creation through increasing industrial enterprises (support in providing franchises, preferential loans to open such enterprises).

3. Improve effectiveness of state programs development and adopt them only after long systemic and comprehensive discussions with the involvement of experts. Exercise ongoing control and assessment of the efficiency of money invested. Evaluate state programs on support of this or another area of economic development without basing on the amount of money allocated but on quantitative and qualitative indicators of the results achieved.
4. Increase access to higher education for all as one of the measures to reduce inequality between people.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. Conduct advocacy campaigns and information campaigns on reduction of income inequality between men and women.
2. Provide children with disabilities, including from rural areas, access to education in common schools by creating the appropriate conditions.

GOAL 11 – MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Average based on survey – 28%;
Average after consultations – 28%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **The development strategies of regions, cities, districts and villages practically do not have an inclusive approach.** Lack of the vision for sustainable development of cities and populated areas. No access is provided for persons with disabilities. No policies were determined. There is no inclusive environment. Formal participation of representatives of the Society of Disabled People in the commissioning committee.
2. **The population participate in budget planning and discussion in very rare cases.** There is no public awareness and explanatory work. The issues of regional, infrastructure and urban development that are addresses under the national development plans are still pressing in the country. Today urban residents are not involved in the city planning and development process, and urban community's needs are not assessed. Now our cities are not intended for people, ordinary residents, but for businesses, vehicles (judging upon road junctions erected). There is no long-term planning subject to modern urbanization. Participatory budgets are of formal character, no community is involved in budget development.
3. **Low-quality housing construction.**
4. **Corruption.**
5. **Reduction of green spaces and felling of trees.** Spontaneous urban development is underway for the sake of short-term economic benefits, possibly under corruption schemes, where green spaces are provided for construction. Thus, the appearance of cities changes

not for the best, and city residents' rights are violated. The development of public transport requires systemic additional measures, resources, and the impact. Felling of trees, the condition of air and water, the environmental situation are deteriorating in Kazakhstan cities. Housing is not affordable, and there are no any positive trends of how to address this.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Slight positive dynamics is observed. NPOs contribute through the training of government agencies and local communities in approaches to participatory planning and territorial development, participatory budgeting, new approaches to LSG and rural territorial development. The situation is much better in Nur-Sultan and Almaty than in other regions, and the further away from the center, the worse. So far, this goal is acceptable for the cities of republican and regional significance. There are programs for urban development, single-industry town development, and rural territorial development programs in place, etc.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

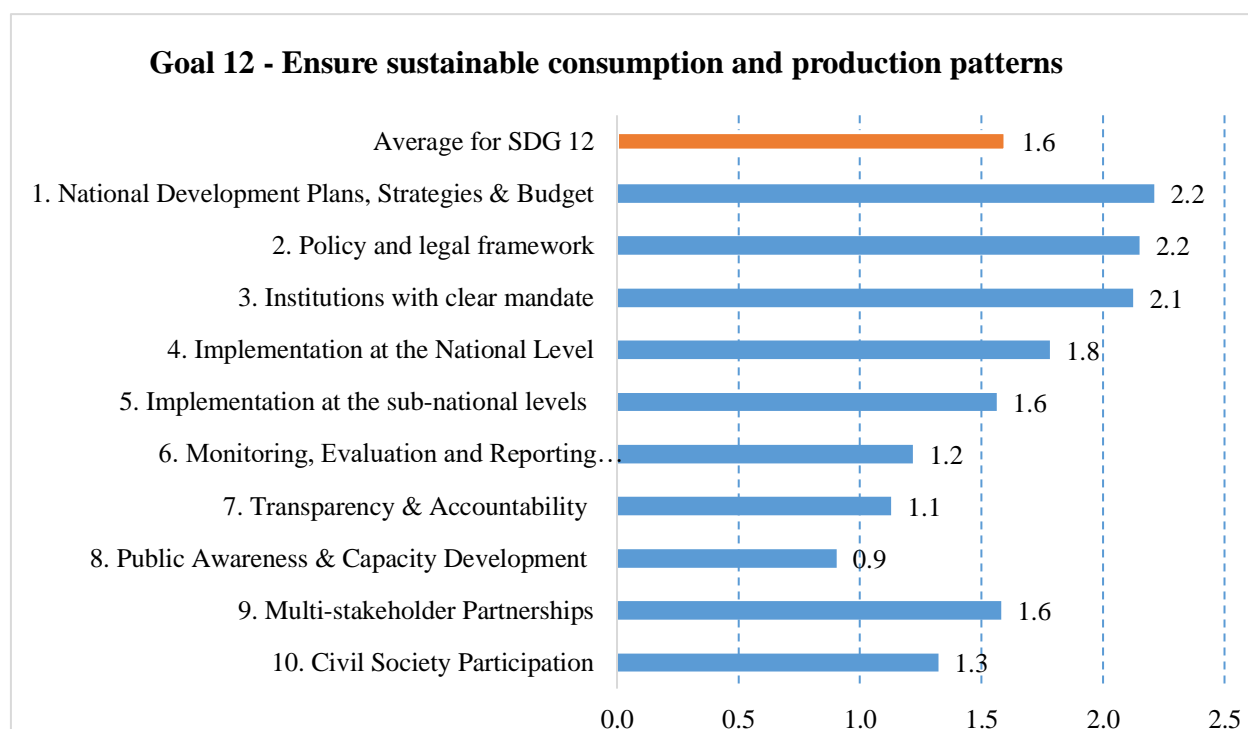
1. Integrate sources, policy priorities and areas of detailization into documents on SDG monitoring and implementation.
2. A comprehensive program for the development of the suburbs is required.
3. Install video surveillance cameras against pillage, provide 24-hour access and security.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. Compulsory participation of the Society of Disabled People representatives in the commissioning committee to make assessment of accessibility of a building being commissioned and other facilities of public space (crossings, playgrounds, parks and aboveground and underground passages, public toilets, etc.). A serious problem is non-working lifts in aboveground and underground passages in cities.
2. Transfer to a competitive environment and identify a company that will be responsible for all facilities of such designation in every city.
3. Bring public toilets in line with the standard of public services in major cities and make them available for citizens. Connect light and water, and make connection to the sewage system. It is necessary to provide free access for people with disabilities, install ramps according to building regulations so that inside it is possible to turn around in a wheelchair, for people who are blind and hearing impaired to be able to take use of public services.
4. Increase public control over the strategic planning of cities, construction, road building, etc.

GOAL 12 – ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Average based on survey – 32%;
Average after consultations – 32%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **Steps toward achieving this goal are not well implemented locally. No policies were determined.** The goal is too generic and vague.
2. **Resources on Earth are decreasing.** The state of the environment is deteriorating, thus, threatening the development of sustainable consumption patterns, which our future depends upon.
3. **The country had and still have the problems of historical and modern production waste** (including radioactive waste, toxic and hazardous waste), including of the HSU sector, medical waste, etc.
4. The legislation outlines targets in terms of waste well enough. However, **there is a problem with waste disposal now. And this is one of the largest challenges.** The resources and funds that were collected for disposal of vehicles were distributed incorrectly. This is wrong from the perspective of a state decision. All charges and payments to the state budget on environmental issues should be planned for environmental programs. One more problem is that very few resources allocated for environmental issues at the regional level. The environmental aspects are not included in regional development programs. This is due to an omission of the public and experts in environmental departments in regions.
5. This year, the Ministry of Environmental Protection did not defend its budget for addressing environmental issues, only 60% were provided for instead of a required 100% budget. This means that 40% of environmental issues will remain outstanding. In regional environmental protection departments, there was one budget requested, and quite another budget approved. Also, state money is allocated for addressing environmental issues, but

later the budget is re-allocated, and eventually **the environmental issues do not receive sufficient funding. This is the main problem for today.**

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Correlation of measurable global indicators with the national indicators. With the enactment of the new Environmental Code in Kazakhstan, the development of the circular economy has begun. It is aimed at isolation of economic growth from the use of primary raw materials by creating a circular system of production and consumption with minimum losses.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. The development of low-waste economy and an effective production waste management system are the strategic priorities.
2. To achieve competitiveness and sustainable economic growth, it is important to switch to a resource-efficient circular economy.
3. Waste recycling and waste sorting by people are required, as well as careful attitude to non-renewable resources.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

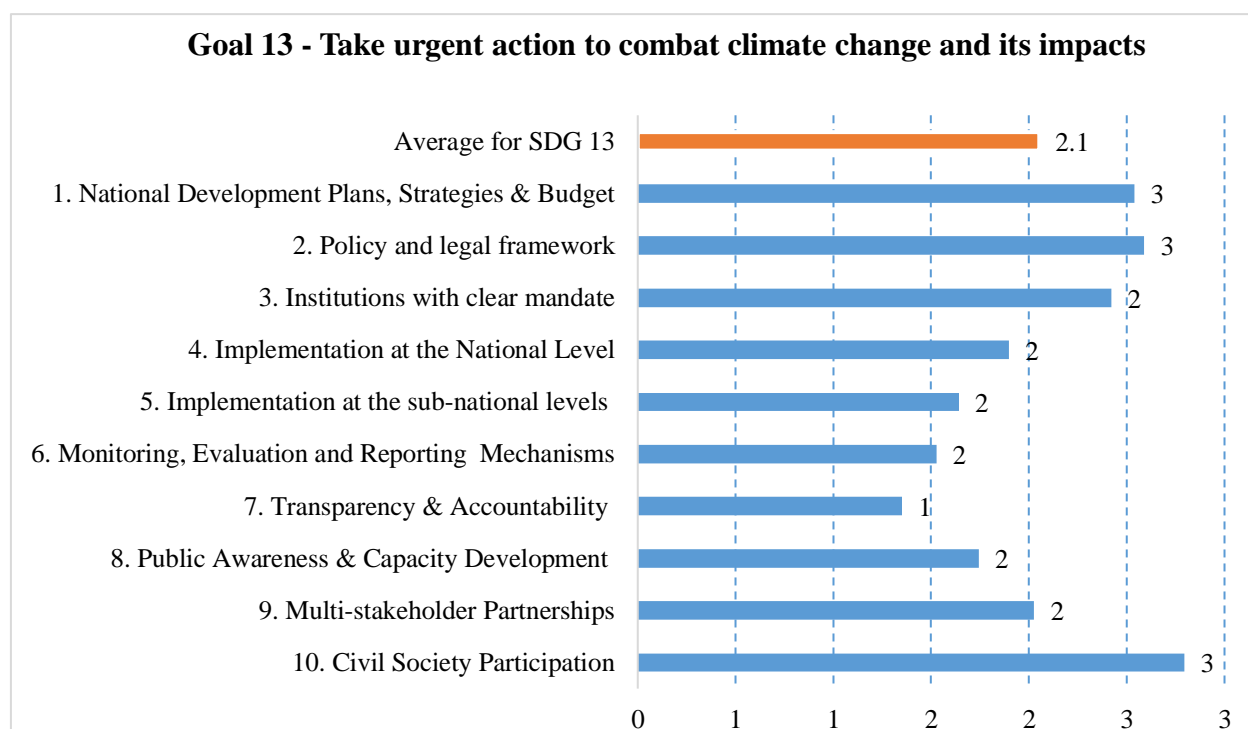
It is necessary to provide technical support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection so that they correctly defend their budgets, providing proper justifications of why a certain amount of funds is required. Budgets to address environmental issues should not be cut down.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. Civil society and specialists in the regions should be involved in the environmental protection processes. The regional development programs are to include environmental issues.
2. It is necessary to develop the production of agricultural products and household management (e.g., country farms, private farms, etc.).
3. Small and medium-sized businesses are developing mainly with a focus on distribution instead of focusing on production.

GOAL 13 – TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Average based on survey – 41%;
Average after consultations – 36%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **No progress and localization.** Almost no work is carried out at the local level. Civil society is involved in climate change issues only at the expert level. We do not understand the reasons for climate change.
2. **The national policy is declarative,** the objectives are weak, protecting the interests of businesses and shifting all the problems and consequences to people and the next governments. The active work began to achieve this goal, but there was no practical application. Very few activities are now conducted with respect to this goal.
3. When natural resource users provide their reporting, they do not show a real situation of how many emissions take place. This year's Ekibastuz case shows that the Ministry of Environmental Protection took tough measures against the dishonest nature user and fined them a lot of money. This nature user filed a lawsuit but lost the court of first instance.
4. There is a lot of work to be done in this area in our country. The Ministry of Environmental Protection has a separate structure that deals with these issues but their work is not always effective.
5. **Insufficient measures on reducing water consumption in HSU and in agriculture.**
6. **Only isolated examples of the use of biogas technologies.** Despite the successful use of biogas technologies, no measures are taken to spread it.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Climate change has an impact on all countries and on Kazakhstan. The government is developing policies, participates in global initiatives, spends much time and makes lots of efforts to develop plans on the creation of safer and sustainable future. There are 'green economy' initiatives in place

at the national level. As for the current situation with greenhouse gases, natural resource users start to think and take actions because they understand that otherwise their enterprises will be exposed to heavy fines, which they will, possibly, not be able to pay. Fines and penalties will make an impact on nature users.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

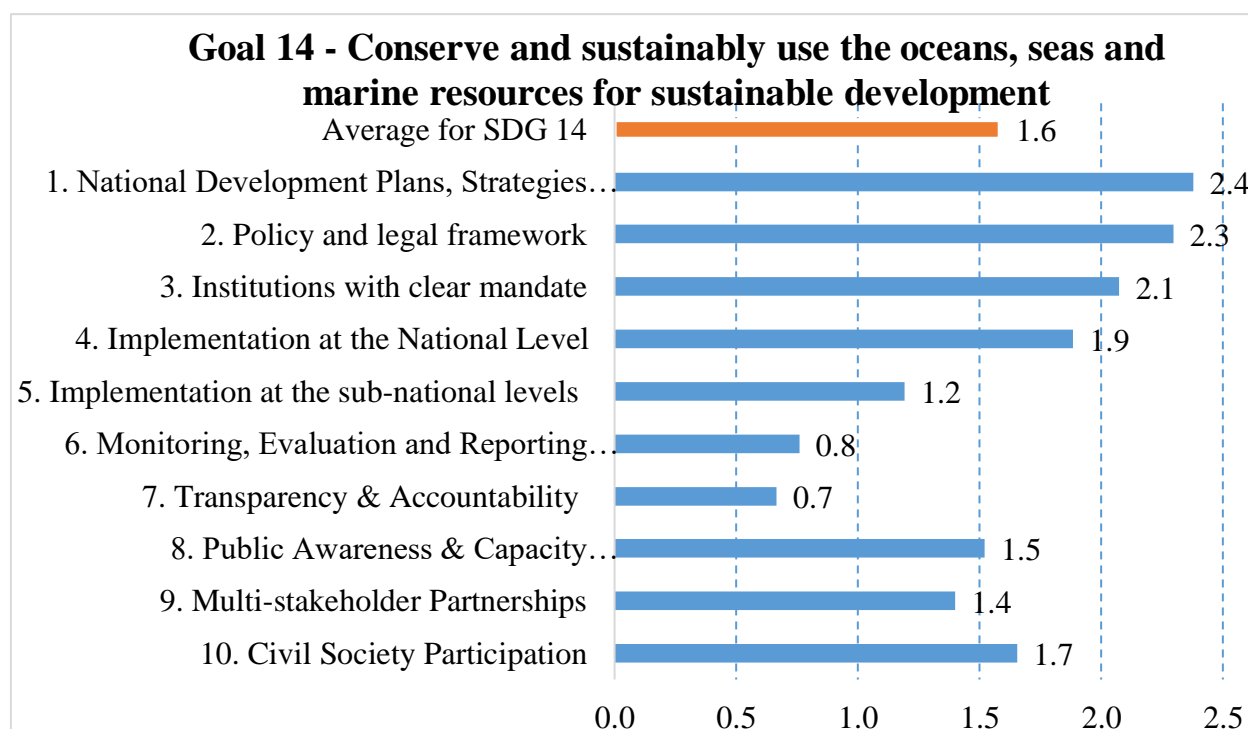
Improvement of the legislation

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. The issues of climate change and, especially adaptation to climate change at the level of local communities, farmers and urban population, require new knowledge and skills in applying simple and affordable technologies, developing alternative adaptation plans and strategies for business development, especially in agriculture.
2. Special attention should be paid to water conservation issues.
3. IWRM is needed within the cross-border context of the ecosystem approach to natural resources management, considering that the country is entering a ten-year cycle of water balance decline (according to water experts) and, consequently, the period of droughts. The relevance of water security and food security will increase.
4. To develop the state policy on adaptation to climate change consequences, it is necessary to have access to the results of modeling climate change scenarios in the country's territory. Today Kazakhstan does not have own climate model but has access to the results of open global climate models. It is preferable to have own climate model.
5. Achieving this goal promotes innovation, the development of modern economy and social infrastructure.

GOAL 14 – CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Average based on survey – 32%;
Average after consultations – 32%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **Kazakhstan does not have access to the ocean and has limited access to the sea.** The country has no access to the sea, hence there is low applicability of the indicators. We have to solve problems that are more important for us. Very weak actions to achieve this goal. No clear algorithm of actions.

Water, weather, climate, food and the air are regulated by the sea. There is a constant degradation of the seas and oceans in the world. It has a negative impact on underdeveloped fisheries in Kazakhstan, too.

2. **Continued decline in sturgeon reproduction in the Caspian Sea.**

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. A new legislation is required, as well as the introduction of updated approach to this limited resource.

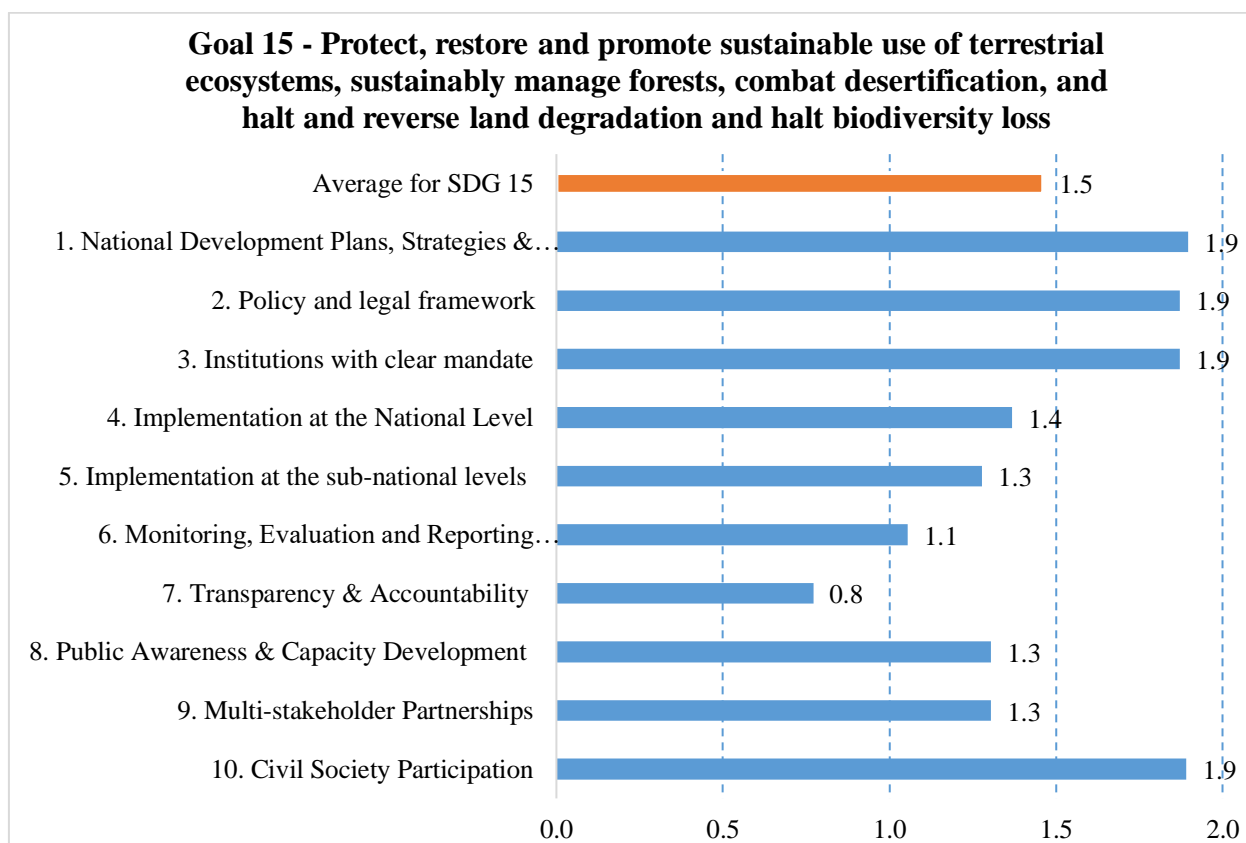
Public awareness and participation issues

1. It is important to address conservation of the Caspian Sea ecosystem through multilateral international cooperation within the framework of the Tehran Convention.

2. The problem of rehabilitation of the territories of the former Aral Sea remains on the agenda.
3. Address at the individual level because everyone should save water.
4. To preserve water resources, the early childhood educational program should be introduced. Early prevention leads to the formation of habits, and the man will take care not only of water resources, but also of nature at large.
5. It is necessary to follow the recommended indicators in the report.
6. Protection of seals in the Caspian Sea.

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

Average based on survey – 29%;
Average after consultations – 29%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **There is practically no scientific school in this direction.**
2. **Civil society is involved only at the level of expert review of individual projects.**
3. **Kazakhstan's biodiversity suffers from chemicals used when cultivating the soil from locusts.**
4. **There is no a single strategic document in the Republic of Kazakhstan that would expressly provide for the implementation of the Strategic Plan in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity based on global targets.** Kazakhstan is a party to five priority international treaties, directly relating to the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

There is a failure in respect of this goal. Despite the example of the Aral ecosystem catastrophe, there are no any practical mechanisms in place such as economic standards, monitoring, etc. Last year, the objectives on the Aral Sea and Balkhash Lake were outlined but lacked real and reasonable measures, especially in terms of transboundary runoff.

Very weak actions on the achievement of this goal. No clear action plan.

We have been working with the problem of the Aral Sea for a long time. The practice shows that the situation is improving but not to a full extent. A lot of multi-level events were held on

this issue. As for land degradation, it's a big issue for our country because we know about raising of virgin land from our history. As a result, after 1990s, we lost a lot of fertile land due to mindless ploughing of land. And now we have encountered the problem of land degradation. It is becoming worse, and planted green spaces are drying up.

The issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity are kept purely nominally, on paper. For example, saker falcons are bred as part of the funding from the Arab Emirates, i.e. these birds are specially raised for the Arabs who come to our country and kill them. To date, not a single ministry has given a correct answer on survival of these species that were artificially released into nature. There are programs and funding, including international, but there were no studies conducted in respect of survival. There is an acute problem with saiga, too. Saigas are abundant, so we open the hunting season for this animal. But there should be regulation in this issue, i.e. it should be a permanent shooting, but regulated by law.

The problems of conservation of biodiversity in SPNRs and national parks are growing due to the development of inefficient, non-transparent tourism development programs with the facts of violations of the environmental protection legislation.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

N/A

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environmental Protection should work jointly, take joint measures so that these measures can work locally. Unfortunately, at present, there is no cross-sector interaction among the key ministries that are decision-makers in this area.

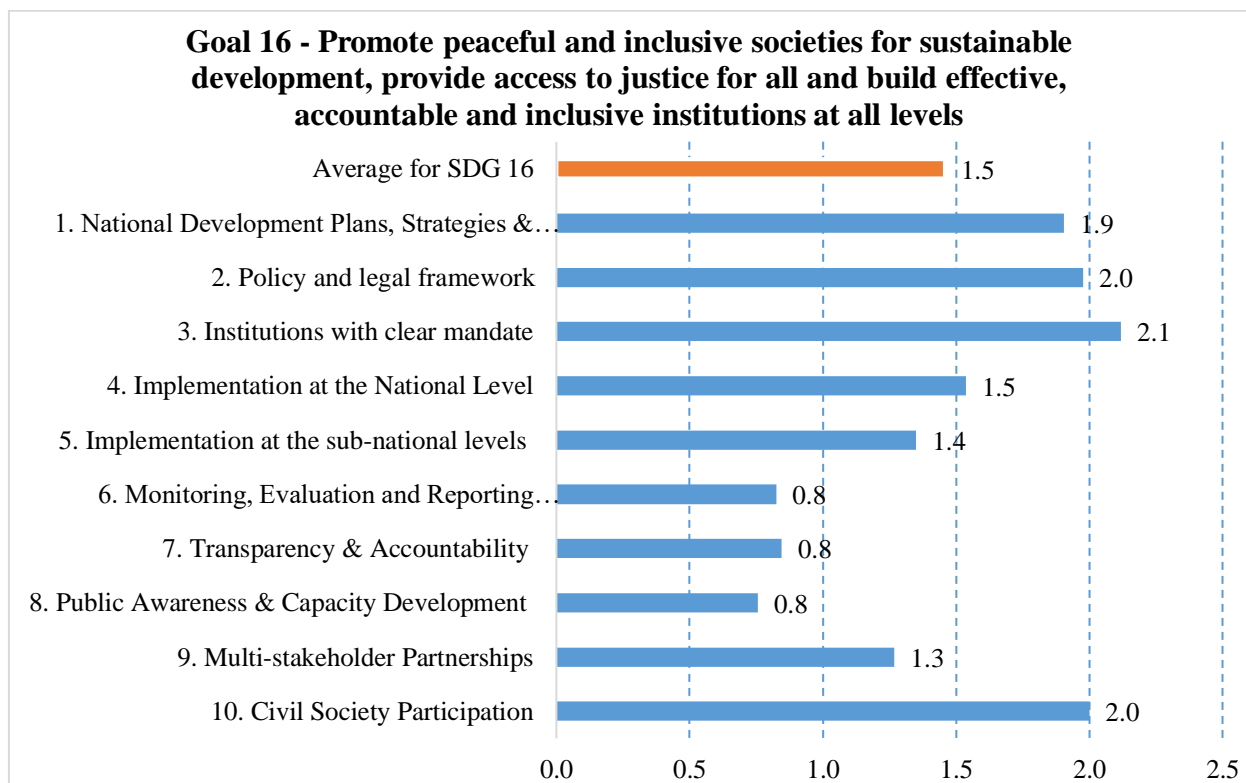
In terms of the conservation of natural genetic resources, we have a lot of endemic, rare, endangered species, and in this context, the work under the Convention on Biological Diversity remains important. It is necessary to monitor the compliance with a number of Conventions. These include the Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity, Convention to Combat Desertification, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, documents on violation of trade in rare species. Kazakhstan signed these documents but the implementation issues remain outstanding.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. In Kazakhstan, more than 80% of pasture lands are degraded. The desertification issues are especially pressing not only for Kazakhstan but for the entire Central Asian region.
2. It is necessary to develop biological products that spare the natural reservation.
3. This direction requires a priority solution and detailed work on the recommended indicators.
4. Forest fires caused by tourism – the work with the civil sector is required.

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

Average based on survey – 29%;
Average after consultations – 20%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. **There are problems in Kazakhstan with the implementation of human rights, freedom of speech, peaceful assembly.** The concept of the “Hearing State” is not implemented in full. As a result of this situation, we have witnessed this year’s January events.

The Kazakh legislation and law enforcement practice in the field of civil society development, ensuring, respecting and protecting the fundamental rights and civic freedoms, including freedom of speech and expression, right to freedom of conscience, religion and belief, right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, right to movement, right to take part in government and right to an independent, objective and fair trial largely do not meet the international standards. This has been repeatedly pointed out to Kazakhstan by the UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, other treaty bodies and UN Special Procedures. In the last year or two, the government bodies have begun to actively discuss these problems but so far without visible results.

It is enough to have a look at Kazakhstan’s ratings: While according to the rule of law index of the World Justice Project, we are ranked 62 out of 128 countries (for the year of 2020), according to the 2021 Global Rights Index of the International Trade Union Confederation, Kazakhstan is ranked 5th, i.e. one of the worst under the title “No Guarantee of Rights”, where the best ranking is 1 and the worst 5+. According to the 2021 World Press

Freedom Index, the country is scored 50.28, i.e. ranked 155 out of 180 countries. According to The Economist Company's 2020 Democracy Development Index, the *Economist* magazine, it ranked 127 out of 167 countries, where the catastrophic situation with electoral processes and political pluralism and problems with civic freedoms were noted. And finally, Kazakhstan continues to belong to non-free countries.

There are serious problems with exercising human rights, freedom of speech, peaceful assembly. The adopted law on peaceful assembly does not meet the international standards and continues to have not a notification but a permissive nature. The civic space for the development of civil society is significantly narrowing. Currently, there are absolutely discriminatory norms regarding the creation of non-profit organizations. They include fee-based registration, difficult liquidation process, funding and taxation issues, additional reporting on foreign funding, which is incorrect, unfair and creates barriers for civil society development, as well as charity issues.

Speaking of independence of courts, it is a mythical concept in Kazakhstan. The country's environment on ensuring the rights to public oversight has narrowed in recent years. The amendments to the legislation being adopted are of decorative nature and have no impact on systemic problem solving. The monitoring of international initiatives shows that the legislation and interaction, and the practice of working with civil society do not comply with the international standards. The consultative and advisory body and a dialogue platform on the human dimension are functioning, and a dialogue is underway there. This is good but today its influence has seriously decreased, and decisions under this advisory body have almost no impact on the decision-making process. The same can be referred to public councils. They are a structure created to ensure interaction with the public and public impact on the decision-making process at the regional and national levels. All this is crossed out by the fact that the procedure for forming councils is absolutely affiliated. The working group is created by the government agency, and then this working group selects the public council members. Therefore, public councils are largely an imitation consultative and advisory body under the government authorities. PCs do not fulfill their goal of promoting the interests of the public. So, all this needs to be radically changed.

2. **The infrastructural accessibility of courts currently requires serious improvements. Access to courts for disabled people is difficult.** Websites and mobile applications for remote participation in proceedings are not adapted for the convenience of use of blind and visually impaired citizens. Sign language interpreters are not always involved in a proceeding where deaf and hearing-impaired citizens participate.

It is necessary to provide access to justice. An incorrectly passed judgement leads to a series of complaints, and discontent of the population at large.

It is necessary to consider issues on a participatory basis for comprehensive study of the case, but in reality, one judge decides a person's whole life.

There is still no inclusive education in schools, nor do they have psychological and pedagogical support. The educational system lacks the important component – a social educator whose functions are now performed by untrained staff or subject teachers. Also, there is an obvious bias in the state's encouragement of paid educational services.

3. **The judicial system continues to be highly corrupt.**
4. **No public awareness of the availability of free legal advice.** We often receive requests for elementary writing an application for alimony. We give a sample application and

petition for a free lawyer. We had a case of eviction from the only housing of a disabled person of group 2. The first and second court instances passed a judgement on eviction, and the person addressed us. We consulted him and helped file a petition to the Supreme Court on providing a free lawyer. As a result, the court ruling was cancelled, and the person kept his apartment, and at the end the bank wrote off all debts of the wheelchair user. The question arises as to why courts and other law enforcement organizations do not inform of the availability of free consultations - not everyone has the money to hire a lawyer. But legal assistance can be provided in the procedure established by law.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

1. Human rights put people in the spotlight. Human rights are becoming more acute on the agenda, especially after the 2022 January events in Kazakhstan. Issues with detainees held in custody without sentencing remain relevant and unresolved. For a multilateral dialogue there exists a dialogue platform of the consultative and advisory body “Dialogue Platform on Human Dimension”. Its purpose is the interaction between the government, parliament and civil society, and it is moderated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RoK.
2. Civil society holds ongoing monitoring of human rights in Kazakhstan, prepares materials for the Universal Periodic Review, and conducts regular studies, drafts analytical reports and speeches on different national and international platforms, including the UN.
3. Kazakhstan NGOs are actively working in different international coalitions and on different platforms. The today’s reforms and adoption of the amendment to the Constitution give hopes for good changes. There are new changes and a step forward, although we are taking small steps to achieve the goal. Also, we have developed a provision on the child rights the juvenile court.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. Migration issues are pressing for Kazakhstan, especially after the situation in Afghanistan and the Russia-Ukraine special operation.
2. An anti-discrimination law is needed, as well as implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by creating an institution that will monitor the execution of decisions of the Human Rights Committee.

Monitoring of state programs and transparency of the state budget

1. The 2022 constitutional reform will facilitate access to justice for all and will tackle other targets of this goal.
2. Not only access to justice is important, but also fair and socially responsible work of the courts – without bribe takers and amateurs.
3. Simplify reporting procedures and the operating conditions for civil society organizations.
4. Provide conditions for preferential functioning to SMEs during the first three years to develop competition and their sustainability.

Compliance with Kazakhstan’s RLA, which provides access to justice, creation of accountable institutions, etc. Monitor the compliance with RLA in this area, identify weak points, and it will become clear where we have a problem or shortcoming.

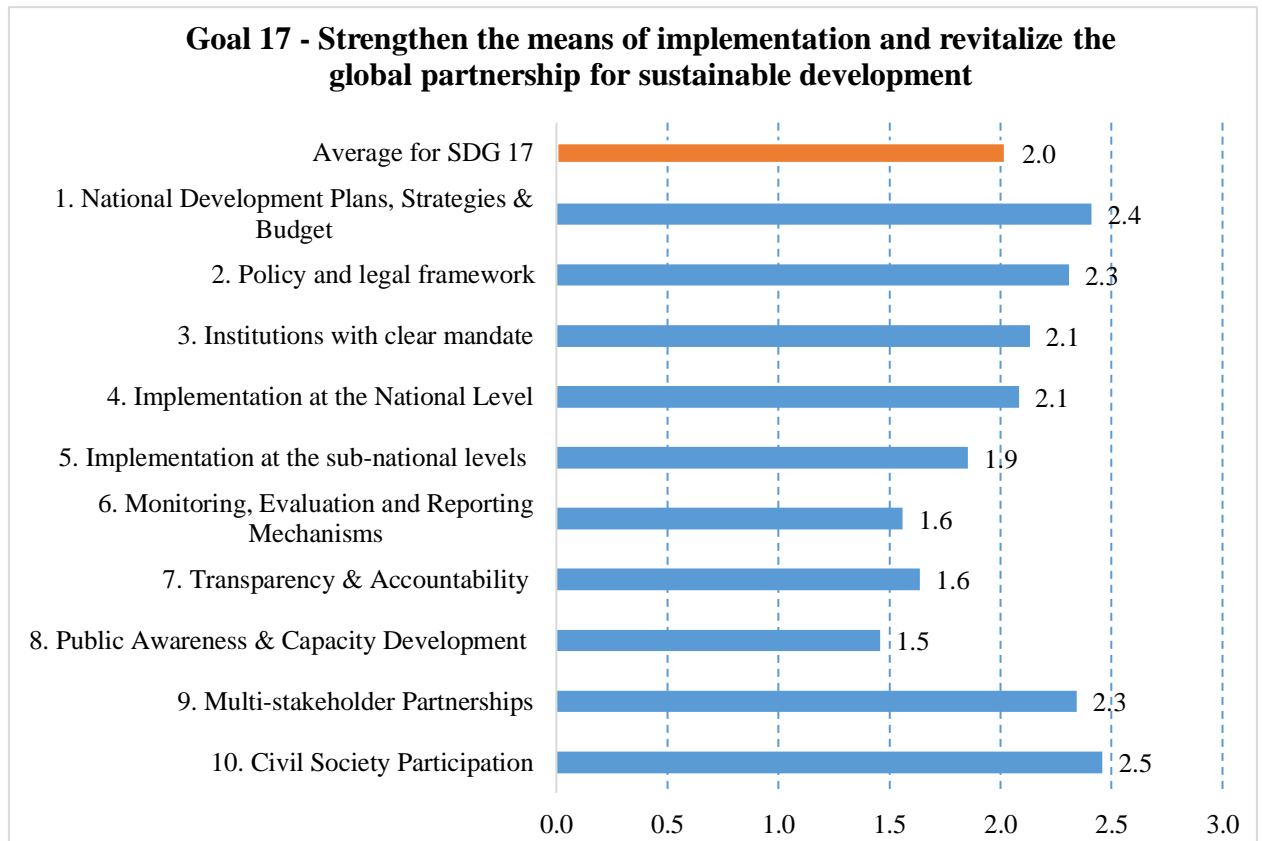
5. Compliance with international treaties on migration processes, educational processes and other, since many of them do not work. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of such treaties should be conducted.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. Continuous systematic improvement of legal literacy of the population – this issue to be included in the priority tasks of the state. Increase public responsibility.
2. Enhance the implementation of the concept of the “Hearing State” capable of responding to the needs of ordinary citizens.
3. Ensure the digital accessibility of the work of all state institutions so that citizens have a choice and the opportunity to participate remotely.
4. Eliminate digital illiteracy through training among people with disabilities in order to expand their opportunities.

GOAL 17 – STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Average based on survey – 40%;
Average after consultations – 40%;



- What are the challenges in implementing this SDG?

1. Although Kazakhstan has ratified many international treaties, the progress is estimated as small because **there are serious problems in the implementation of international obligations under the ratified international treaties in the field of human rights**, which are indicated by the treaty bodies and the UN Special Procedures, or OSCE/ODIHR. Besides, Kazakhstan does not comply with the decisions of the treaty bodies on individual complaints against the Republic of Kazakhstan (and there are more than 60 decisions of such kind).

The progress is small because the outcome of this dialogue leaves much to be desired, as follows from numerous reports and analytical notes of independent civil society organizations.

2. **The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative – we may be excluded from this initiative at the next validation because Kazakhstan stopped working and complying with it. There is still no national annual report produced on this initiative.** Within the framework of this initiative, serious attention is paid to the interaction of state bodies, extractive companies and public organizations. The national stakeholder council that was established, a really long-working body, has gathered only twice until now, and practically takes no decisions. The work has stopped and does not meet the standards.

Three years have already passed since Kazakhstan declared that it wants to join OGP, the Open Government Partnership initiative. But there's no way we can join it because we do not have civic participation and conditions for civic participation, and we cannot make changes. For the last three years, we have dealt with the issues of countering the financing of terrorism, war and money laundering. They include the component related to nonprofit organizations, stating that you cannot control all NPOs but identify only risky areas, and attempt at creating such conditions that would enable organizations understand their vulnerability and independence, and be able counter such vulnerability. All these measures have not been provided. The issues of foreign funding were adopted within the incorrect understanding of FATF. Under the banking legislation, all NPOs' banking operations were recognized as potentially dangerous, which is a discriminatory factor. Thus, it's hard to make progress in this direction.

- What are positive results / achievements of the SDG?

Kazakhstan seeks for the development of international partnerships. Kazakhstan begins to fulfill its obligations as a country for providing official development assistance. After a relevant law was adopted, and the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development "KazAID" was established, Kazakhstan is developing relations with other countries on development issues. The civil society is also striving to develop a multilateral partnership both in the country and outside. In the recent few years, the state has intensified an institutional and practical dialogue with civil society by creating different dialogue platforms, public councils, working groups, etc. In this sense, it can be assessed as progress in the implementation of SDG 17. Besides, Kazakhstan has ratified many international treaties, including in the field of human rights. The Republic of Kazakhstan actively positions itself in the international political and legal space as a democracy-building, developing state that sets goals, in addition to the already existing membership in global and regional organizations (UN, OSCE, SCO, EAEU, etc.), to join a number of other international organizations and groups, including OECD, FATF and, possibly, even the Council of Europe.

- What are recommendations for policy changes / policy dialogue / advocacy?

Improvement of the legislation:

1. Kazakhstan needs to strengthen global partnership.
2. Develop only sustainable and international projects.
3. With regard to elimination of gender and sexual violence, join the European Convention on Human Rights to adopt best practices and make further progress.
4. Join those international treaties that we have not yet joined, having once again outlined its course for international cooperation and harmonious peaceful development.

Public awareness and participation issues

1. It is necessary to expand the work and provide proper explanations to the civil sector.
2. Take seriously civil society institutions (keep up with current developments to prevent social tension). Cooperate actively with civil society in the implementation of international treaties.
3. Invite international special speakers on various human rights issues for expert assessments and recommendations for implementation.
4. At least at the Asian countries' level develop international relations that should be regulated by international treaties.
5. In terms of international participation of Kazakhstan and its positioning, things are looking good. However, all the agreements and promises should be further implemented so that

they do not merely improve the image and positioning in the external environment but also produce results for us and for our country.

ADDITIONAL CROSS-CUTTING QUESTIONS:

1. PROGRESS SINCE LAST VNR

Kazakhstan presented the first VNR in July 2019 and second VNR in July 2022.

According to the SDG Dashboards And Trends (Attachment), in 2020, Kazakhstan Country **Ranking was 65/163; Country Score – 71, 1**. On track or maintaining SDG achievement - only Goals 1, 10 and 11; Stagnating is Goals 2,4,5,7,11,15,16 and 17. Major challenges recognized for Goals 2, 7,13,15,16 and 17.

On June 14, 2021, members of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network announced the results of the sixth edition of the Sustainable Development **Report 2021**, under the auspices of the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals. According to the survey data, **Kazakhstan ranked 59 with 71.6 points, improving its position by 6 points (in 2020 - 65th)**. **According to the Report, in Kazakhstan one of the 17 goals has been achieved – goal 1 “No Poverty”**. For two goals (goal 3 “Good Health and Well-Being”, and Goal 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”) **the support for SDGs is noted**. For five goals (goal 7, “Affordable and Clean Energy”, goal 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, goal 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”, goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements”, and goal 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”) **the moderate improvement is noted**. For six goals (goal 2 “No Poverty”, goal 5 “Gender Equality”, goal 13 “Climate Action”, goal 15 “Life on Land”, and goal 17 “Partnerships for the Goals”) **there is stagnation**.

Despite the overall positive trend of Kazakhstan in the SDGs Index 2021, there are indicators with negative shifts. These indicators mainly relate to goal 5 “Gender Equality” and goal 15 “Life on Land” (Table 1).

Table 1. Indicators where Kazakhstan’s position has worsened

Name of Indicator	Value in Index 2021	Value in Index 2020
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-Being		
Under-Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	10.5 (2019)	9.9 (2018)
Goal 5. Gender Equality		
The demand for family planning is met by modern methods (% of women aged 15-49 married or in relationship)	73.2 (2018)	79.4 (2018)
Ratio of average years of education between women and men (%)	91.6 (2019)	101.7 (2018)
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth		
Unemployment rate (% of the total labor force)	6.1 (2020)	4.6 (2019)
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production		
Electronic waste (kg per capita)	9.2 (2019)	8.2 (2016)
Goal 13. Climate Action		
CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production (tCO2/per capita)	16.9 (2019)	14.9 (2017)

Goal 15. Life on Land		
Average area of protected land areas important for biodiversity (%)	11.1 (2019)	15.7 (2018)
Average area of protected freshwater areas important for biodiversity (%)	10.1 (2019)	17.0 (2018)
Goal 16. Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions		
Press Freedom Index (best 0 - 100 worst)	54.1 (2020)	52.8 (2019)
Goal 17. Partnership for Sustainable Development		
Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	4.4 (2018)	5.1 (2016)

Note: the years taken as the basis of the calculation are shown in brackets

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021

At the same time, the improvement of Kazakhstan's position in the SDGs Index 2021 was mainly due to the improvement of goal 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” and goal 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”. The positive trend is associated with an improvement in life expectancy and Internet accessibility (Table 2).

Table 2. Indicators where Kazakhstan’s position has improved

Name of Indicator	Value in Index 2021	Value in Index 2020
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-Being		
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	4.7 (2019)	5.6 (2018)
Traffic accident deaths (per 100,000 population)	12.7 (2019)	17.6 (2016)
Life expectancy at birth (years)	74.0 (2019)	71.1 (2016)
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19)	29.4 (2018)	29.8 (2017)
Goal 4. Quality Education		
Net primary school enrolment ratio (%)	90.4 (2020)	86.9 (2019)
Percentage of incomplete secondary school graduates (%)	117.9 (2019)	113.6 (2018)
Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy		
CO2 emissions from the combustion of fuel for electricity and heating for total electricity generation (MtCO2/TWh)	2.1 (2018)	2.6 (2017)
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth		
Import-related fatal industrial accidents (per 100,000 population)	0.2 (2015)	0.3 (2010)
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure		
Population using the Internet (%)	81.9 (2019)	78.9 (2018)
Mobile broadband subscribers (per 100 people of the population)	90.3 (2019)	77.6 (2018)

The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking: average score of the Top 3 universities (worst 0 - 100 best)	17.7 (2021)	16.4 (2020)
Goal 11. Sustainable cities and settlements		
The average annual concentration of solid particles is less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2. 5) (µg / m ³)	13.6 (2019)	13.8 (2017)
Goal 16. Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions		
Corruption Perceptions Index (worst 0 - 100 best)	38 (2020)	34 (2019)

Note: the years taken as the basis of the calculation are shown in brackets

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021

In general, despite the existing goals that still require commitment, Kazakhstan's position in the **SDGs Index 2021 has improved.**

Since 2019, the UN House has been established in Almaty, which aims to implement the SDGs in the countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan in a wider context through increased coordination and synergy of all UN regional and sub-regional offices located in it. Since the transition from the category of a recipient country to the donor countries, Kazakhstan has provided assistance to developing countries in the amount of about 540 million US dollars for more than 20 years. Since December 2020, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kazakhstan International Development Agency "KazAID" has been established to provide development assistance to Central Asia countries, Afghanistan, and beyond.

During 2021-2022, civil society organizations and local communities were more actively involved in engagement since the previous VNR. The Economic Research Institute conducted public consultations in 17 regions of the country among representatives of CSOs, citizens and all stakeholders. The public consultation identified the priority SDGs and community needs at the local level: SDG 1: "Eradication of poverty", SDG 3: "Good health and well-being", SDG 4: "Quality education", SDG 5: "Gender equality", SDG 6: "Clean water and sanitation", SDG 8: "Decent work and economic growth". In preparation for the second VNR 2022, an emphasis was placed on these priority goals.

2. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

- **In your experience, how far have the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind, been a focus for the national strategy of the 2030 Agenda or of the national development plan?**
- **How would you assess the opportunities for these marginalised groups to engage in setting the national priorities, in policy-making, and in review processes?**

According to the existing legislation, the Government of Kazakhstan puts the focus of the national Agenda until 2030 on the most vulnerable / poor segments of the population, including marginalized groups and communities of remote rural areas through relevant SDGs. These groups of the population are also beneficiaries of the national and local budget programs, on which relevant statistics are kept and progress of indicators is taken into account. **The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of RoK has developed the draft Social Code.** The goal of the draft Code is to improve and develop the existing legislation in the field of social protection,

in particular, to bring the norms in line with international standards and recommendations. **The Code reflects the following main areas:**

- priority of maternity and childhood support as a factor of the national demographic policy;
- development of the labor market and new approaches to organizing employment promotion;
- assistance to low-income families in improving material well-being;
- improving the system of special social services;
- social protection of persons with disabilities;
- further improvement of pension support;
- social support for people who have lost a breadwinner (survivors);
- bringing individual social security standards to the level of international standards;
- digital family social card;
- improving the professionalism and status of a social worker.

- Has the government formulated an overarching approach to incorporate the Leave No One Behind principle into institutional guidance for policy-making processes, and/or target and indicator-setting processes?

The *sustainability and inclusiveness* principles provided the basis for the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, the Concept for Civil Society Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025. Law “**On Public Control**” (1 January 2022) regulates public relations related to the organization and implementation of public control in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since 2006, there is an open access of the population to public services in Kazakhstan through the **Electronic Government** Portal, <https://egov.kz/cms/ru/information/about/help-elektronnoe-pravitelstvo>.

Public participation in decision-making is provided by draft electronic government – “**Open Government**” (since 2013) <https://egov.kz/cms/ru/information/about/projects>. Currently, the Open Government continues to develop as part of implementation of the Fifth Institutional Reform on the formation of an accountable state. Laws of the RoK “**On Access to Information**” dated 15 November 2015, “On Informatization” dated 24 November 2015 were enacted. The Open Government consists of such components as: *Open Data and Open Regulatory Legal Acts (since 2014), Open Dialogue and Open Budgets (2015), and Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Activities of State Bodies (2017)*.

However, CSO experts note that the Government of the country does not clearly formulates and implements approaches and mechanisms for including the Leave No One Behind principle in the institutional guidance for policy development processes and the processes of identifying SDGs and their indicators, in the evaluation of VNR. In general, Kazakhstan refers to Leaving No One Behind but actual targeted actions and support are still insufficient. We expect that a newly established Regional SDG Knowledge Sharing Platform will contribute to the development of effective approaches and mechanisms for including the Leave No One Behind principle in the institutional guidance of Kazakhstan and CA countries.

- We are interested in learning more about groups that are marginalised in your country context, by which we mean groups of people that are more likely than others to experience poverty, exclusion, discrimination, lack of participation, or violence- Which groups of people do you understand to be the most marginalised in the country where you work? (You may choose more than one and add more if relevant in your country)

Women & Girls	+
Children & young people	+
Indigenous peoples	
Older persons	
Persons with disabilities	+
People discriminated by caste, work and descent	
People discriminated by geographic area: eg. urban slums/rural area	+
People from the LGBTQI community	+
Small scale farmers	+
Ethnic & Religious minority groups	
Migrants or undocumented persons	+

3. PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

CSO noted the key challenges and recommendations that are given below:

- To evaluate and implement the programs on SDGs, it is necessary to conduct comprehensive and in-depth analysis of all thematic Goals and programs based on an **ecosystem approach of planetary significance. Localizing SDGs based on natural ecosystems (for Kazakhstan – based on ecosystems of the water basins). The ecosystem approach** gives all the Goals more accurate and reasonable quantitative and qualitative values and provides the basis for adjusting the existing management systems and ‘business as usual’.
- Despite the lessons of the ecological catastrophe of the Aral Sea ecosystem, Kazakhstan and neighboring CA countries have no conceptual framework and implementation of the ecosystem approach in the mechanisms of planning, management and decision-making affecting environmental management. For example, in 2021, the Goals on the Aral Sea and Balkhash Lake were outlined but lacked real and reasonable measures, especially in terms of conservation of transboundary runoff.
- Kazakhstan is a party to five priority international treaties directly applicable in the field of **conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**. However, the Republic of Kazakhstan does not have a single strategic document that would expressly provide for the implementation of the strategic plan in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity based on the global targets. The problems of conservation of biodiversity in SPNRs and national parks are growing due to the development of inefficient, non-transparent tourism development programs with the facts of violations of the environmental protection legislation.

Are there policies in place to protect the environment? In particular, does the plan include sustainable management of resources (eg. water, soil, air) or Sustainable Consumption and Production? Is agricultural production carried out in a sustainable way (considering eg. organic farming, non-GMO, animal welfare)?

- In Kazakhstan, more than 80% of pasture lands are degraded. The desertification issues are especially pressing not only for Kazakhstan but for the entire Central Asian region. The scientific school in this direction is poorly developed. The civil society is involved only at the level of expert review of individual projects.
- The country had and still has the problems of historical and modern production waste (including radioactive waste, toxic and hazardous waste), including of the HSU sector, medical waste, etc. The development of low-waste economy and an effective production waste management system must become the strategic priorities.
- There is a problem of malnutrition and nutrition quality in Kazakhstan, especially in poor segments of the population, including children. The food security issues remain relevant within the context of **climate change and water security, and require urgent decisions in the agricultural sector**. *A significant part of these problems depends on the effectiveness of cross-border and regional cooperation.*

Are investments made towards sustainable and public transport?

Are there clear national commitments to cut CO₂-emissions and move towards a just transition of energy? Is there a supra-ministerial coordination or specific ministry charged with coordination and oversight of the implementation? If not, how does the coordination and oversight work?

Kazakhstan was one of the first to ratify the Paris Agreement (6 December 2016). As part of the implementation of this document, **by 2030 the Republic of Kazakhstan intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15%**. To achieve this goal, Kazakhstan has updated the nationally determined contribution (NDC) and adopted the new **Environmental Code**. Kazakhstan demonstrates the ambitious goals and indicators: to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources by 5 times - from 3% to 15%, energy production from environmentally friendly sources by 2 times - from 20% to 38%. The carbon uptake potential will be increased due to planting of more than 2 billion trees by 2025. It is planned that the share of energy produced from coal will decrease from 70% to 40%. Within the framework of the **Carbon Neutrality Doctrine of Kazakhstan**, significant reforms are stipulated in all sectors of the economy with a focus on power engineering, processing industry, agriculture and forestry, transport, HSU, and waste utilization. The carbon neutrality of Kazakhstan will be reached by increasing the sustainability of land use and water use, energy efficiency of the economy, electrification and large-scale use of environmentally friendly, including renewable, energy sources. When implementing plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the potential of market mechanisms and private investments will be used to the maximum. Kazakhstan's climate agenda is relevant in terms of the preservation of water and food security and provision. Kazakhstan is among the top ten producers of food wheat and flour, exporting **up to 7 million tons of wheat per year**. However, in case of a negative scenario, already by 2030 год the wheat yield may decrease by almost 40%. Considering that Kazakhstan is the only exporting country in Central Asia, this will inevitably pose a threat to the food security of the entire region. This is a simple practical example of the fact that combating climate change is our common cause.

According to CSO estimates, the Government of Kazakhstan is actively developing policies, participates in the global initiatives on the Paris Agreement, and spends much money and efforts for the development of plans on creation of the safer and more sustainable future. The Government's initiatives on "Green Economy" and "The Doctrine of Low-Carbon Development" are implemented more at the national level, while at the local level the practical work which is underway is not sufficient. Civil society organizations, including local communities, are involved in the climate change issues more at the expert level rather than as implementers.

Is the country reliant on extractive industries? How are those industries behaving towards their workers and the environment? Where are the profits of those industries going?

Kazakhstan is rich in natural resources and is a leading producer of oil. The country also produces gas, coal and metal ores. The extractive sector plays an important role in the country's economy, accounting for nearly 46% of total tax payments. Oil and gas accounted for 21.3% of the country's GDP in 2019. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and oil price fluctuations has had a significant impact on the country's economy.

Extractive projects have been a trigger for social and environmental debates, especially in communities hosting extractive activities. Kazakhstan uses the EITI platform to support debate on extractive issues and strengthen systematic disclosure of extractive data through [government systems](#). It has also used its EITI reporting in response to public demands for transparency on the issues related to local content, state-owned enterprises, social investments and transportation of oil, gas and minerals. The EITI reporting https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/attachments/kazakhstan_2019_eiti_report.pdf contains a full list of state-owned enterprises related to the extractive sector. All state-owned companies publish openly their audited statements. According to the Report, revenues the oil sector producing companies go mainly to the National Fund of RoK, partially to the state and local budgets. Revenues from mining companies go mainly to the state and local budgets, depending on the type of a tax or payment. In 2019, a guaranteed transfer to the state budget from the National Fund of RoK was 2.7 trillion KZT, designed to replenish the total budget revenues and to fund the current budget programs. In addition, the amount of 370 billion KZT was transferred from the National Fund – a target transfer to create a direct investment fund.

According to the reporting on the fulfillment of license/contractual conditions by subsoil users, in 2019 **the costs for the social sphere and local infrastructure amounted to 89.99 billion KZT**. The costs **for the social sphere and local infrastructure** of oil companies were **79.3 billion KZT (78% of the total amount)**, of mining companies **10.7 billion KZT**. For example, according to Tengizchevroil's 2019 annual statement, more than 300 million USD were invested as part of the "Igilik" program, where 96 projects were implemented, and more than 1,000 new jobs were created. In 2019, TCO allocated additional 25 million USD under the "Igilik" program for the construction of schools, kindergartens and other social facilities in Atyrau region. Every year, the projects that the Company implements to develop the social infrastructure in West Kazakhstan region include the construction and maintenance of roads, streets, bridges, as well as healthcare, educational, cultural and sports facilities. Only Kazakhstani contractors are engaged in works. In 2019, **Karachagank Petroleum Operating (KPO)** completed three socio-infrastructure projects and started implementing 12 new projects in West Kazakhstan region. Over the period of 2018–2022, additional **50 million USD** have been allocated for the region's socio-infrastructure projects, and a new list of social and infrastructure projects for the amount of 15.3 million USD at the expense of previously unspent funds was approved. As at the end of 2019, **total KPO's investments in social infrastructure** reached **400 million USD**. KPO strives to provide necessary assistance to the local community both through implementing charity projects and supporting the local production capacity. Throughout the year, together with the local authorities, KPO held 10 public hearings on environmental impact assessment in connecting wells and implementing construction projects. As part of the charity program, there were purchased 200 sanatorium vouchers for pensioners and 78 vouchers for schoolchildren to the summer camp of Uralsk. During 2019, the Company continued monitoring the residents of former Berezovka and Bestau villages relocated to Aksai. KPO specialists held six Consultative Board meetings in six villages bordering on the Karachaganak field, including Priuralniy, Uspenovka, Zhanatalap, Zharsuat, Karachaganak,

Dimitrovo. **Among the issues discussed at the meetings – social support, the environment, emergency response.**

4. DELIVERY BY CSOS

- How far are CSOs developing their own plans on raising awareness about; and implementation of; the agenda
- Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?
- Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country? If YES please describe them

Kazakhstan's Government is now providing space for CSO and stakeholder engagement, but the quality and depth of engagement is lacking - especially for SDG- localisation strategy formulation, policy review and civil society engagement. At the same time, CSOs poorly understand their role and place in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it can be said that they are still at the initiation stage. The activities of CSOs at the national level have so far been limited by expert participation in the SDG Coordination Council's Working Groups, where offline and online discussions of the SDG implementation process, SDG indicators and localization are conducted on a regular basis. Also, CSOs discuss the national 2030 Agenda at the Civil Forum of Kazakhstan, public councils under the state bodies and on other national platforms. In 2022, Kazakhstani CSOs for the first time produced a PSC report, highlighting the progress and challenges regarding the SDG national implementation process, the extent of civil society engagement and presenting the voices from CSOs, vulnerable groups and local communities.

It is obvious that the civil society of Kazakhstan is in need of targeted programs and projects on awareness-raising, financial support of pilot projects for SDG implementation at the local level, and study of the best international practices and their adaptation in the country.

ⁱ Decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 13 November 2018, No. 143-r On the Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Goals <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/R1800000143> (Kazakh)

ⁱⁱ Decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 13 November 2018, No. 143-r On the Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Goals <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/R1800000143> (Kazakh)