



MONGOLIAN CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT REPORT ON SCORING ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MONGOLIAN CSOs NETWORK on SDGs

Ulaanbaatar
2023



Mongolian CSOs Network on SDGs



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ABBREVIATIONS

A4SD	International CSOs platform for Sustainable Development
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
BD	Biological diversity
MCUD	Ministry of Construction and Urban Development
MD	Ministry of Defense
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SME	Small and medium enterprises
NGC	National Gender Committee
GOM	Government of Mongolia
CSG	Cabinet Secretariat
MRTD	Ministry of Road and Transport Development
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CRM	Citizens' Representative Meeting
MECC	Mongolian Environmental Civic Council
MONFEMNET	MONFEMNET National Network
MGL	Mongolia
UN	United Nations
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
MF	Ministry of Finance
SD	Sustainable Development
PA	Protected Areas
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
CH	Climate Change
SGKH	State Great Khural (Parliament)
MMHI	Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry
VNR	Voluntary National Review
NSO	National Statistical Office
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
AG	Agriculture
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MJHA	Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
MFALI	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry
MDDC	Ministry of Digital Development and Communications
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
CHRD	Center for Human Rights and Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOE	Ministry of Energy

**LIST OF LEAD NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN
THE ASSESSMENT OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION**

SDG	Lead organization for group discussions to assess SDG implementation	Number of organizations involved in group discussions
1	Undsen urtrag NGO	15
2	"Food sovereignty" coalition (Food coalition)	15
3	"Psychological responsiveness" NGO	15
4	"Education for All" National coalition	17
5	Liberal Women's Brain Pool, MONFEMNET	9
6	Undsen urtrag, Food coalition, MECC	11
7	Mongolian Remote Sensing Society	11
8	Expert team	12
9	Human right's center to support citizens NGO	7
10	Expert team	14
11	Human right's center to support citizens NGO	8
12	Consumer foundation NGO, MECC	15
13	Steps without borders NGO	8
15	Steps without borders NGO	8
16	Expert team	16
17	Expert team	17

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FOREWORD

Mongolia is one of the first countries which joined global commitment to implement Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Mongolia presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on SDG implementation in 2019 to the UN High-level Political Forum. In 2023, the Second VNR report will be presented.

Members of the “SDG and CSO”¹ network assessed the implementation of each of 16² SDGs and produced this Second Joint CSO report. The assessment applied a scoring methodology developed by the international civil society organization A4SD (Action for Sustainable Development).

The methodology used scores between -5 to 5 on ten key questions for each SDG, including national strategy, action plan, budget; state policy and regulation; institutional support; implementation at national level; implementation at local level; monitoring, assessment, and reporting; transparency and accountability; public awareness and capacity; multi-stakeholder partnership; civil society participation. CSOs participating in this assessment expressed their common understanding of progress or regress in the SDG implementation based on publicly available information for the period since 2019 when Mongolia presented its first VNR.

The national consultation to present the results of the assessment to all relevant parties was organized with the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office and the Ministry of Economy and Development (MED). Furthermore, when the evaluation results were presented at the launch meeting of the 2nd Voluntary National Review of the SDGs organized by the Ministry of Economy and Development, a proposal was made to jointly evaluate the implementation of the SDGs using the same scoring method, and a joint evaluation was conducted. It is believed that these follow-up measures have contributed to understanding the expectations of the civil society from the SDGs to all parties, and thus to building a common understanding among the parties.

The second CSO report is produced thanks to tireless efforts of many people. I would like to thank the members of the expert team of the “CSOs for SDGs” network for sharing their knowledge and experience in developing the report, and Tserenkhand Bideriya, the deputy coordinator of the network for compiling discussion results and drafting the report.

We are grateful to the staff of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, UNDP, and the Ministry of Economy and Development for providing funding and expert assistance in presenting the assessment results to relevant stakeholders for discussions and including the results of the report in the 2nd VNR report. We are also very thankful to the international civil society organizations: A4SD (Action for Sustainable Development), APSD (Asia Network of International and Regional CSOs for Sustainable Development), FORUM-ASIA (Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development), and ADA (Asia Development Alliance) for their financial, technical, and continuous moral supports for development of the report, discussions, translation, review, and publication.

General Coordinator of the
Network “CSOs for SDGs”



/Urantsooj Gombosuren/

¹ “SDG and CSO” network is the community of non-governmental organizations, citizens’ groups, individuals working for human rights, environment and social matters with an objective to make a tangible contribution in SDG implementation in organized manner. The network includes over 500 members regularly exchanging information through FB page.

² Implementation of SDG-14 is not assessed.

PREFACE

Despite efforts of Asia-Pacific countries to achieve SDGs, consequences of COVID-19 pandemic have slowed the implementation. Further, the SDG Progress Report³ for the Asia Pacific region notes that countries of the region will not achieve SDG commitments by 2030. The Mongolia's status of SDG implementation is similar this regional trend.

The VNR provides a valuable picture of current situations, to see solutions, identify areas for improvement. It offers a self-analysis along with demonstration of achievements, progress, and success in SDG implementation.

However, no notable progress was observed in following up the Mongolia's first VNR presented in 2019. For instance, until today, a policy document that sets the national targets for SDGs, indicators to measure their implementation, the evaluation methodologies, and the priority indicators which were proposed by stakeholders' involving broader public has not been approved. The COVID-19 pandemic had played a little role for a delay with the adoption of this ready-to-use document developed by multi-stakeholders and the development of required tools and methodologies.

CSOs must be proactively engaged in monitoring of the SDG-2030 planning and implementation, particularly in holding accountable the country's leadership for commitments made to the global community. This is an inseparable part of cooperation between the state and civil society.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the "Civic score" assessment of the SDG implementation are the following:

One. Make a citizen scorecard assessment of the SDG implementation.

Two. Create an opportunity for presenting the assessment results to national consultation and for reaching a common understanding and conclusions; develop a joint report of CSOs.

Three. Formulate joint conclusions and recommendations, provide the citizen score assessment to the Second VNR of Mongolia.

Citizen monitoring is based on ten key questions to review citizens' understanding and perceptions about SDG implementation. These ten key questions aim to integrate the core principle of implementation accessibility of the SDGs and allow to qualitatively assess progress for each SDG since 2019.

It also aims to examine the implementation of policies and strategies at national and subnational (local) levels, review the establishment and functioning of a broad mechanism involving civil society, local government, donors, and other multi-stakeholders as their participation is vital for success in national and local level implementation of SDGs.

Assessment methodology

An integrated methodology developed by the A4SD, the international platform for CSOs for SDGs, is the assessment of civic understanding about accessibility of SDG implementation. Each SDG

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

is score-assessed on ten key issues with regards to accessible implementation. An average score of ten questions serves as an overall score for each goal implementation.

SDG accessible implementation concept is demonstrated with ten key questions grouped in three clusters including the following:

State policy parameters:

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

Institutional capacity:

3. Institutional support – to have a special agency in charge of implementation, with defined scope of rights and responsibilities, adequate institutional capacity, good level of work coordination among state institutions working on each SDG.
4. Implementation at national level – overall understanding of state policy implementation at national level, assessment of implementation indicators
5. Implementation at local level - overall understanding of state policy implementation at local level, assessment of implementation indicators

Inclusive governance:

6. Monitoring, evaluation, reporting – review quality of state policy, national indicators for SDGs, level of inclusiveness of process
7. Transparency, accountability – Transparency of state information, monitoring of SDG implementation and level of accountability openness.
8. Public awareness, understanding and capacity development – public awareness and understanding of SDGs.
9. Inclusive / participatory multi-stakeholder partnership – quality of partnership, meaningful participation level, equality/inequality of participants, scope of multi-stakeholder partnership established for SDG implementation.
10. Civil society participation – level/ extent of participation of CSOs, Trade Unions, local citizens in formulating state policy, defining priority directions, in implementing monitoring, evaluating and re-developing policies.

Scores between 1 to 5 are given for progress made since 2019 for 10 key issues on each SDG implementation; scores between -1 to -5 are given for any regress; and 0 score indicates no change.

Score value to assess SDG implementation progress:

-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Immense regress	High regress	Moderate regress	Low regress	Very low regress	No change	Very low progress	Low progress	Moderate progress	High progress	Immense progress

Assessment process

An expert team was formed including representatives of 14 organizations, members of the SDG and CSO Network. Each member of the expert team led group discussions involving 7-17 organizations which work on thematic areas relevant to SDG implementation. The focus of discussions was on ten key questions described in the methodology. Assessment scores are supported with explanation notes. Each goal assessment was also discussed and clarified by the expert team. In other words, each score for SDG implementation was validated by at least two discussions.

The implementation of 16 SDG was score-assessed, except for SDG 14.

A score-assessment project was launched in April 2023 followed by the regional online training and in-person training for the expert team members. Groups to conduct assessment organized online discussions twice a week (14 in total), two expanded online discussions on SDG 16 and SDG 17. Over 200 organizations participated in discussions (multiplicative sum).

Limitation and Achievement

It should be noted that the assessment process of the SDG implementation did not involve the public. It was carried out by civil society organizations that work on human rights, in particular groups that have a critical standpoint on the implementation of the "Leave no one behind" principle. These organizations closely engage with citizens on social issues; hence they represent the views and opinions of people.

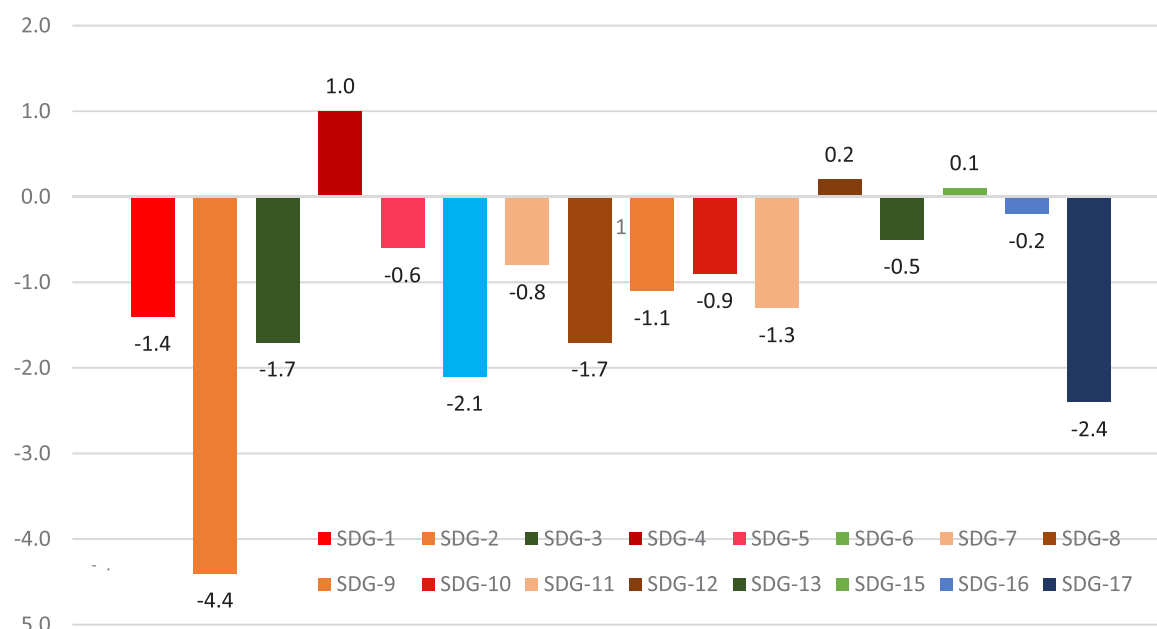
The main principle of SDGs is to ensure human rights for all. Human rights are universal and their necessity for sustainable development must be recognized. For the first time, the assessment of SDGs applied a methodology that is based on the concepts of accessible and inclusive sustainable development. The CSOs developed a common conceptual understanding of accessible, inclusive sustainable development.

CSOs score assessment of SDG implementation

Mongolia's SDG implementation progress is assessed with the overall score of (-1.1). This means that no significant results are achieved in the SDG implementation and there is a regress since 2019 with the civic score method.

Overall positive tendency is observed for three SDGs, including low progress for SDG 4, SDG 12, and SDG 15, however, there is a regress for the remaining goals.

Figure 1. Overall assessment score, for each SDG



The following state policies, laws and regulations were used for assessment of each SDG:

- Vision 2050 Long-term Development Policy of Mongolia.
- Law on Development Policy Planning and Management of Mongolia, 2020.
- Five-year Key Directions for Development of Mongolia for 2021-2025, 2020.
- Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia for 2020-2024, 2020.
- "New Recovery Policy, 2021-2030" to support economic development, 2021, Resolution #106 of the State Great Khural (Parliament).
- Relevant legal documents of sectors.

The establishment of the Ministry of Economy and Development in 2022 was the most significant step. The new Ministry is tasked with overseeing the development of the country and the SDG implementation. Strategic documents on financing national development, including the financing of SDG implementation have been discussed. These advancements demonstrate some progress in reforming the legal environment.

As Mongolia has no national stand-alone SDG strategy, we used the 2021 UNDP study entitled "Review and analysis of coherence between Mongolia's development policy documents and sustainable development goals, results, conclusions, recommendations" UNDP⁴.

This above-mentioned UNDP study selected and analyzed development - related policy documents including the long-term development policy of Mongolia Vision 2050, Five-year Key Directions for national development for 2021-2025, Government Action Plan for 2020-2024 for coherence with SDG targets and indicators. The study concluded that these policy documents have good coherence with the targets of Sustainable Development Goals, however, the coherence of indicators is not satisfactory. Further, only 8 percent or 20 SDG indicators of total 244 are reflected in the above selected policy documents.

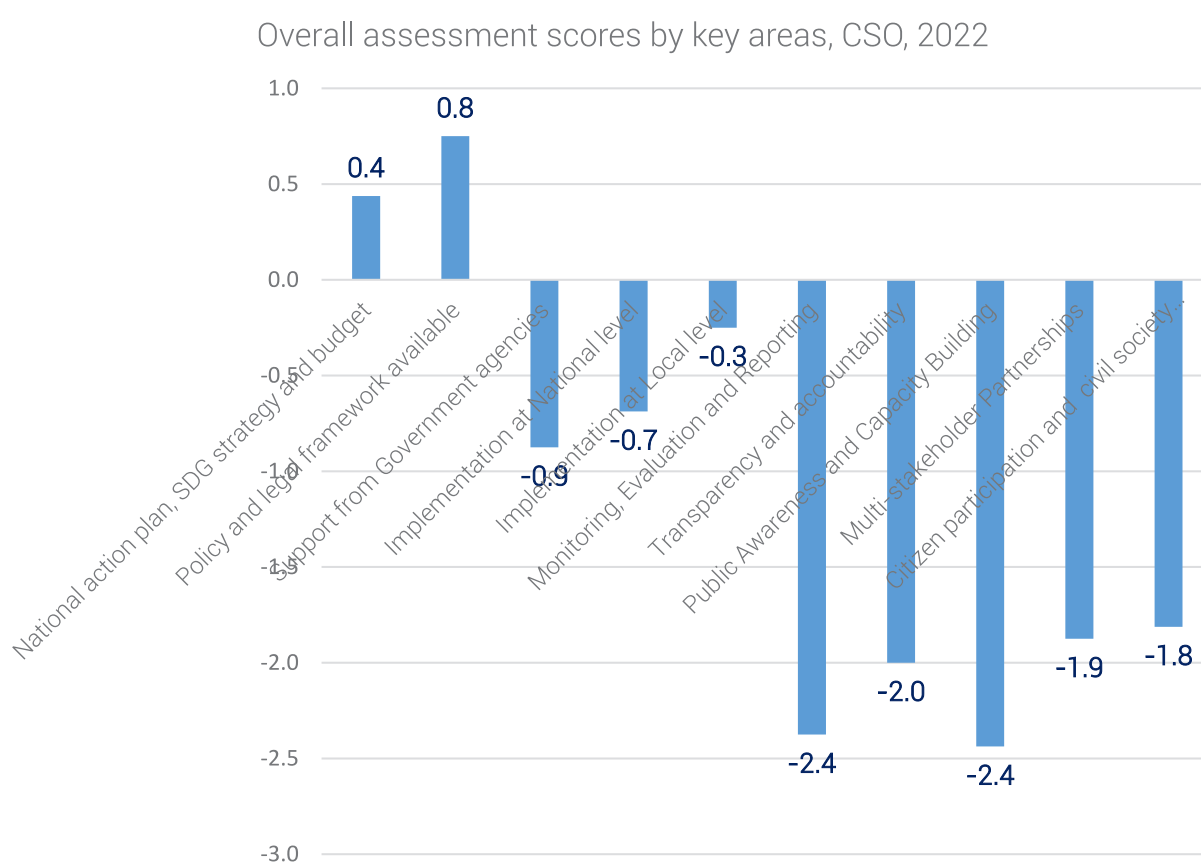
⁴ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mn/undp-mapping-SDGs-2021-mongolian-version.pdf>

Indicators for measurement and evaluation of SDG implementation should ensure correct assessment of the implementation status.

Due to lack of information, no progress can be observed on SDG implementation at national level; local level; monitoring, assessment, and reporting; transparency and accountability; public awareness and capacity; multi-stakeholder partnership and civil society participation.

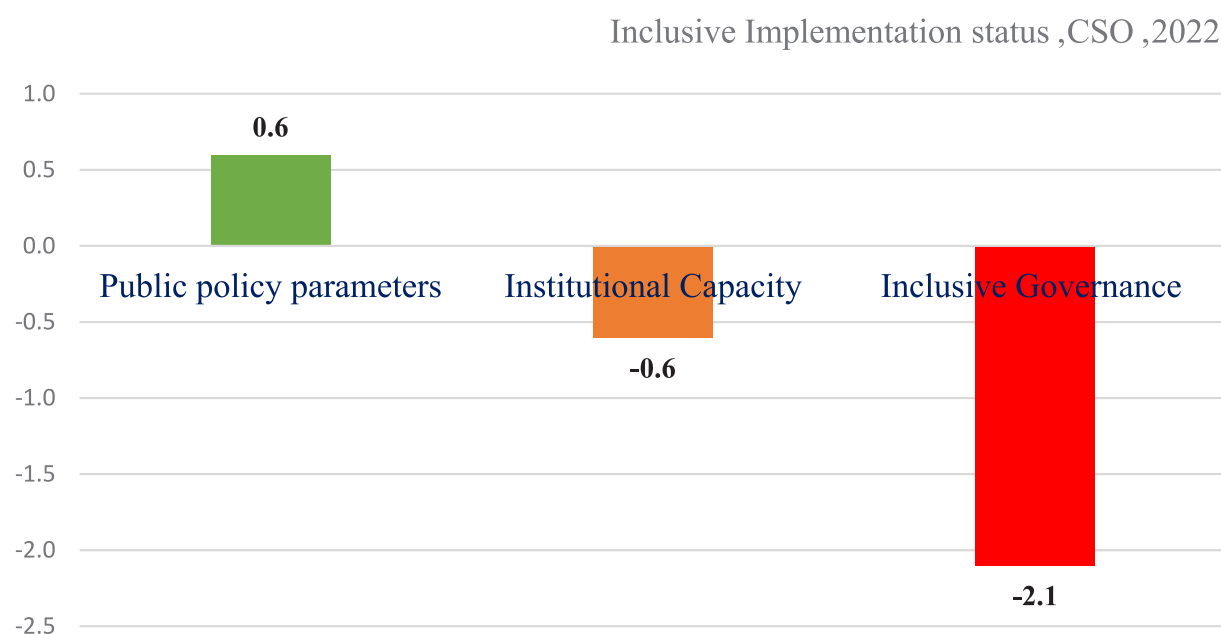
The CSOs concluded that there was progress in national development strategy, planning, state policy and legal regulation among ten key questions of inclusive SDG implementation.

Figure 2. Overall assessment scores by 10 key questions



However, the assessment demonstrated lack of effective implementation of state policies at national and local levels, non-transparent implementation of actions, no civic and CSO monitoring and evaluation, lack of public understanding, knowledge and information on SDGs, absence of a mechanism for multi-stakeholder participation.

Figure 3 demonstrates the overall assessment of inclusive implementation of SDGs in Mongolia in three clusters.

Figure 3. *Inclusive implementation status, 2022*

Progress was observed on state policy indicators. State institution capacity and Inclusive governance indicators did not show progress, particularly in the following areas:

- Whether a sufficient planning and financing was in place that ensures an integrated policy and cooperation between sectors, a feature necessary for coherence between SDGs,
- Whether citizens get support from state institutions in SDG implementation,
- Whether actions towards SDGs are open, transparent, and accountable,
- Whether there is an actual (real) public participation in the SDG implementation processes

Moreover, we assessed that there was a regress in the Inclusive Governance cluster.

1 NO POVERTY



ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR EACH SDG

SDG-1: Overall score **-1.4**

Figure 4. SDG-1 implementation, CSO assessment



Mongolia has no national strategy on poverty reduction. Although the Government Platform includes issues of poverty reduction, they often materialize as welfare measures.

The monitoring and evaluation plan of the Vision 2050 long-term development policy document of Mongolia sets a target to reduce poverty at 15% by 2030 which is far from a zero target. The delay in achieving the target is seen as a setback.

According to the household socio-economic survey of 2020 conducted by the NSO, poverty rate was 27.8%, showing a decrease by 0.6 points from 2018, however, it is statistically insignificant⁵.

COVID-19 pandemic affected the rate of poverty reduction. However, no sustainable comprehensive measures have been taken to reduce poverty but relying mostly on social welfare.

The CSO studies showed no real reduction in child poverty, and often, the child welfare benefits are not spent for children.

⁵ https://1212.mn/BookLibraryDownload.ashx?url=Poverty_report_2020_MGL.pdf&ln=Mn

SDG policies were implemented at the local level. However, these have been invalidated with the ratification of the long-term development policy. Information on local actions is non-transparent and there is no plan to localize SDGs at subnational level. There is a need to improve public awareness and organize events to encourage active participation.

No actions are taken to ensure the “leaving no one behind” principle of Sustainable Development Agenda.

The following groups were named being at risk to be left behind from development efforts:

- Women and girls,
- Children-youth,
- Persons with disabilities,
- Elders,
- Residents of suburban and rural areas,
- Herders with few livestock, vegetable farmers with small land, small scale entrepreneurs with no collateral, people who cannot meet the criteria for support announced by the state,
- LGBTQI, specifically, trans women’s health care service and legal issues are left out,
- intravenous drug users,
- people with mental diseases,
- People with tuberculosis are left out and bear the risks.

For example, the study report “FROM DREAM TO DUST”⁶ produced by the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) documented violations of rights of herders in Dalanjargalan, Ulaanbadrakh, Khatanbulag soums of Dornogobi province with active mining operations. The study provides evidence of violations of the right to healthy, safe environment caused by mining activities in several locations, a negative impact on herders’ livelihoods and on environment, some cases of deadly harm, and increased risk of leaving out from development.

According to the study, pasturelands have been reduced due to mining operations which led to decrease of livestock and had negative impact on herder household incomes and livelihoods. Dust from heavy equipment and trucks deteriorates the quality of wool and cashmere causing price drop. Hence, quality of livestock products falls and does not meet commercial requirements, followed by reduction of income and impoverishment of herder households which cannot meet their food needs.

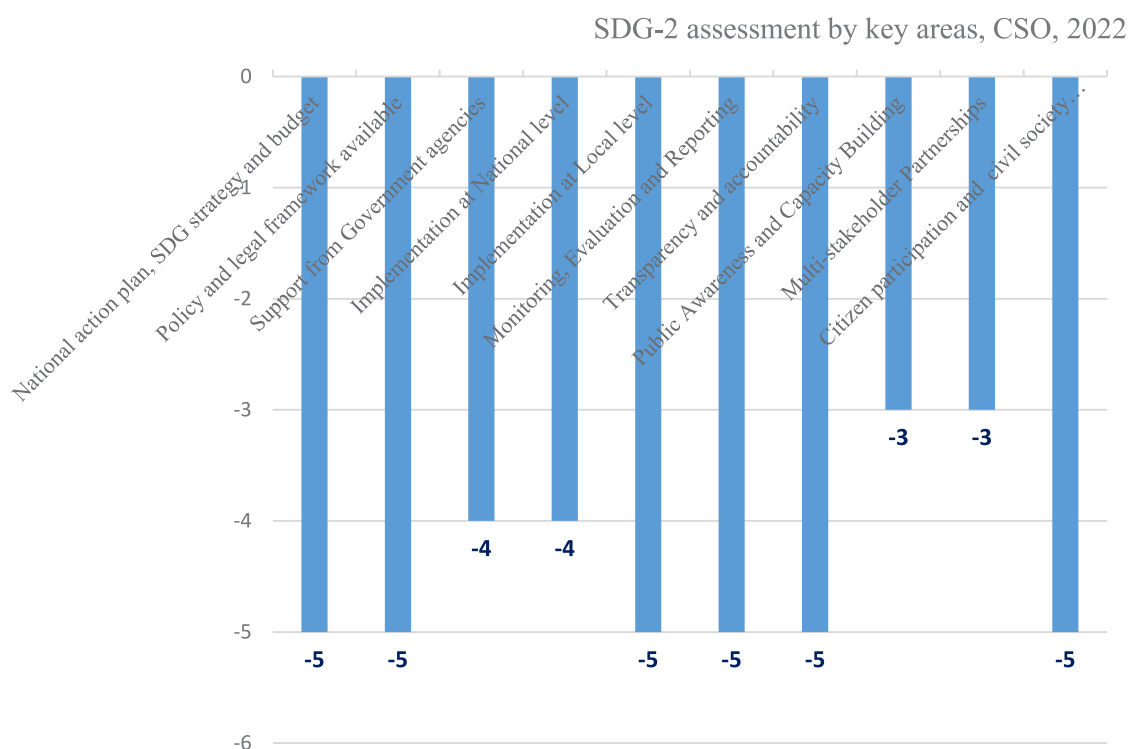


⁶ https://forum-asia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/From-Dreams-to-Dust_compressed.pdf



SDG-2: Overall score -4.4

Figure 5. SDG-2 implementation, CSO assessment



There are plenty of applicable policy documents and programs including Healthy food-Healthy Mongolian National Program approved by the Resolution 52 of 2019 of the Government for 2019-2023. However, the program financing was not sufficient and was not harmonized with other programs. The Program was abandoned after 2 years of implementation. There is no information on the six indicators for SDG-2.

We conclude that the targets for the SDG-2 cannot be achieved by 2030. The ongoing distribution of food stamps means the recognition of hunger existence. Large scale food programs and projects often omit the important issues of food quality and security. The law allowing import of genetically modified food products is in force. Climate change adversely impacts on quality and volumes of meat, dairy products, crops, and vegetables.

"FROM DREAM TO DUST" study report highlights deterioration of livestock health due to mining operations. It threatens existence of herders, their incomes and subsistence of households. During the group discussions, community members revealed about changes to organs of animals such as skin, eyes, lungs, liver which developed sores and turned green; and it made the consumption of traditional nutritional food, animal internal meats, impossible.

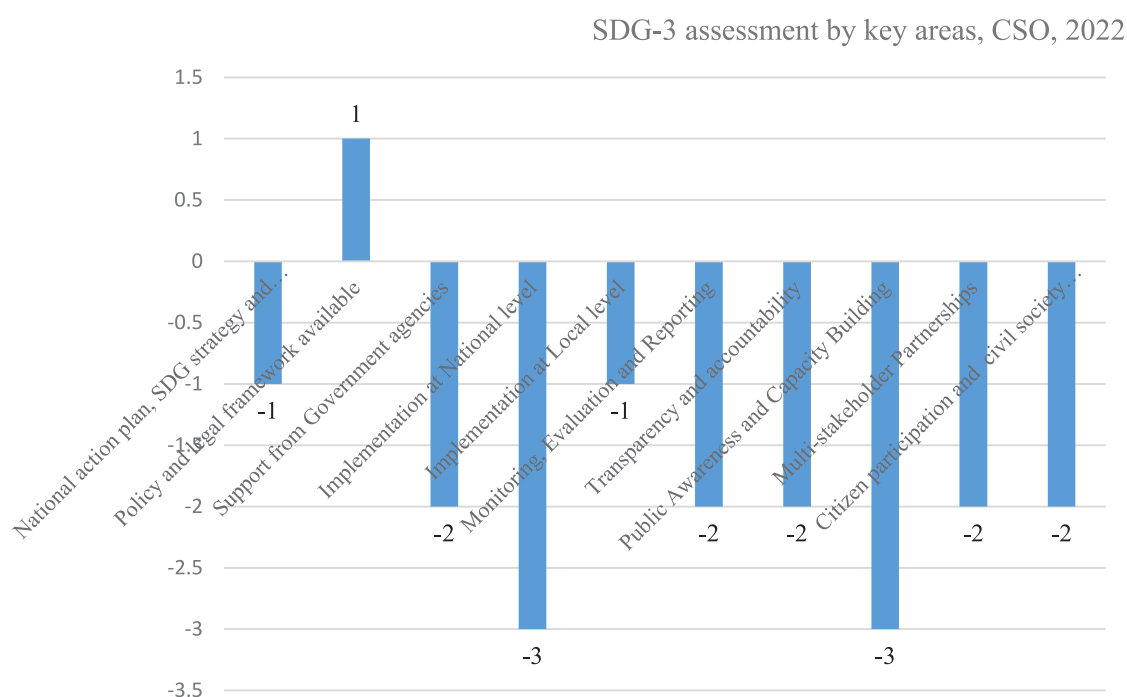
Herders with few livestock, vegetable farmers with small land, households without collateral assets are left out from policies. Food stamps are distributed due to food shortage in poor households, however, this aid often doesn't reach the people in need.

The Food and Agriculture sector allocated funds for supporting SME, however, some corrupt parliament and government members obtained loans to own companies established to abuse this fund. Hence, these funds do not reach actual small and medium entrepreneurs. Without support the traditional food producers, agricultural family businesses, small and medium entities are collapsing.

Incidents of food poisoning are on the increase, and quality inspections of food are not regular, slow, and often with no response to complaints. Systemic corruption is suspected of this situation. All these are inseparable from concern over food security. CSO role and contribution is not considered / recognized in this sector.

SDG-3: Overall score **-1.7**

Figure 6. SDG-3 implementation, CSO assessment



The health sector has a good legal environment and has started to make changes to improve. Measures such as early screening of public health, improvement of health insurance can be mentioned. The Ministry of Health is one of first five ministries that have started alignment of their strategy and plan with SDGs. However, maternal and infant mortality rates tend to increase. In 2020, the maternal mortality rate was 30 for 100 thousand births, spiking to 68 in 2021⁷.

Despite the existing legal environment and allocation of budget to this sector, there are still gaps in coordination of implementation efforts, as the benefits of improvements in health sector have not been distributed equally. There is no financing for HIV infected and high risk people; also, the health issues (treatment and health care services) and legal issues concerning trans women are left out.

According to the study "FROM DREAM TO DUST", health of herders residing around mining

⁷ www.1212.mn.





operations have deteriorated; lung disease has become common among locals, and as the risk of respiratory diseases. Rural herders face difficulties in accessing preventive medical check-ups. There is no policy of regular medical check-ups for mining impact, hence, herders are at high risk of damaging their health and being left out of health care service⁸. The report highlights the evidence of the most serious impact on pregnant women.

The public health sector lacks professional management and methodologies. Infectious and non-infectious diseases are a big concern in local communities. Concern for lack of early detection, and treatment of tuberculosis was raised by the WHO representative.

Assessments of national programs are not carried out. This is worrisome because these programs are often implemented partially, due to little financing.

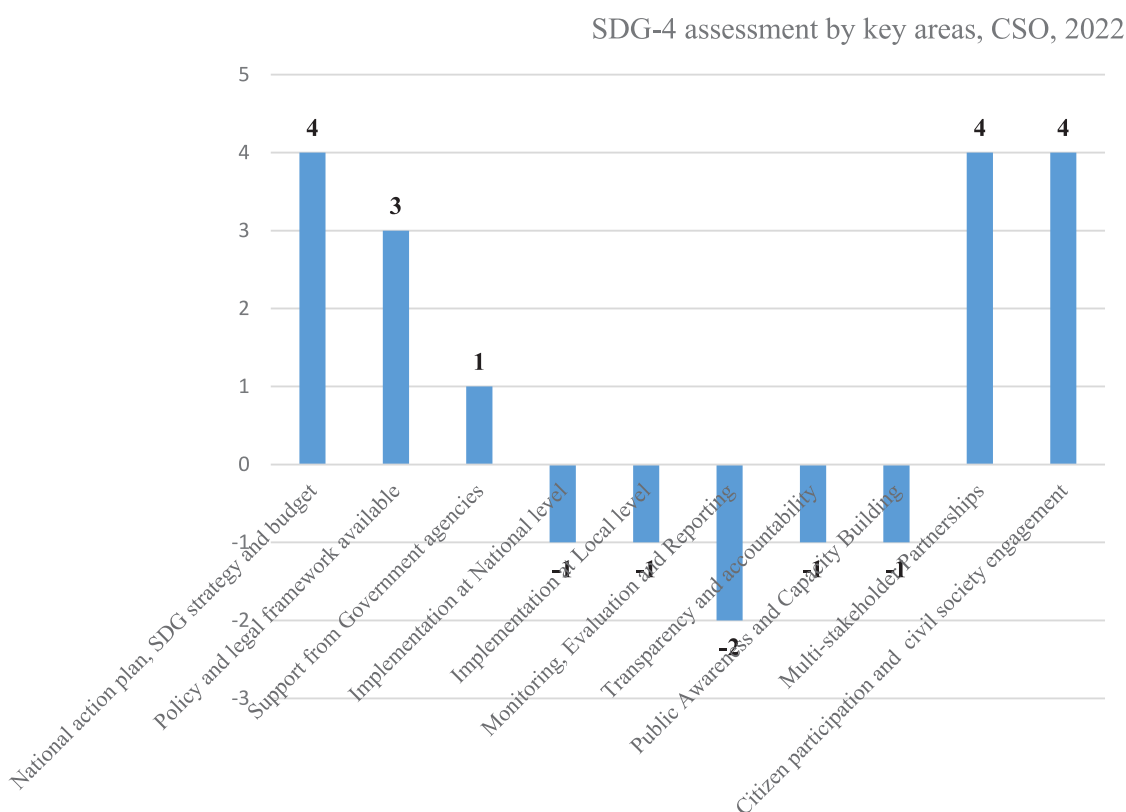
All budget was spent on responding to the COVID 19 pandemic that left out other issues. Many seriously ill patients were denied access to hospitals and the process of getting medical treatment has become very complicated, with many additional steps. There was much confusion about how to receive emergency assistance.

Little attention was paid to transparency and accountability mechanisms.

More evidence of human right violations people of intravenous drug users, LGBT women, particularly, of trans women and people with mental diseases can be found in the report⁹

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

Figure 7. SDG-4 implementation, CSO assessment



⁸ https://forum-asia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/From-Dreams-to-Dust_compressed.pdf

⁹ <https://www.omct.org/site-resources/files/Gender-based-Torture-in-Asia.pdf>

Vision 2050, long term development policy of Mongolia includes fully all education objectives. Mid-term plan of the education sector was approved that links with the SDGs.

A new General Authority for Education was established, with department concerned with student development within its structure.

An integrated approach on child development and education was launched and started implementation. A legal reform concerning children with disabilities has been developed that gives start to cross-sectoral collaboration. Similarly, legal reform is underway for ensuring cross sectoral approach for early childhood education, development, and care.

General education schools created a position of psychologist; however, these positions are not filled in all schools due to the shortage of trained professionals. Admission to public kindergartens is often through lottery as well as bribery.

Statistical data¹⁰ demonstrate little progress on several indicators. We explain this lack of progress by impact of Covid-19 restrictions when schools were closed. Several indicators are at risk of reversal due to disrupted learning and behavioral changes in students.

A plan to localize SDG was developed in Ulaanbaatar and several provinces with the support of UNDP. However, this issue has not been raised in other provinces.

Monitoring, assessment, and reporting issues have been discussed; however, no mechanism was established. The Coalition “All for Education” participated in preparing a national report submitted to UNESCO on mid-term implementation assessment of SDG 4.

Failure to set national targets and indicators for SDG-4 means lack of a functioning accountability mechanism that would allow monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Activities to improve public awareness, and capacities are irregular have weak coordination. Training and awareness campaigns organized by state organizations among the public are not effective in terms of outcomes.

Due to the high turnover of civil servants, there is no succession of knowledge and capacities.

There is lack of common or shared understanding of equal access, equal and life-long education among education policy makers. Some of them have the wrong understanding of these issues.

Partnership in education involves only state agencies, international and inter-governmental organizations and CSOs. Other parties are inactive and do not participate in the process.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



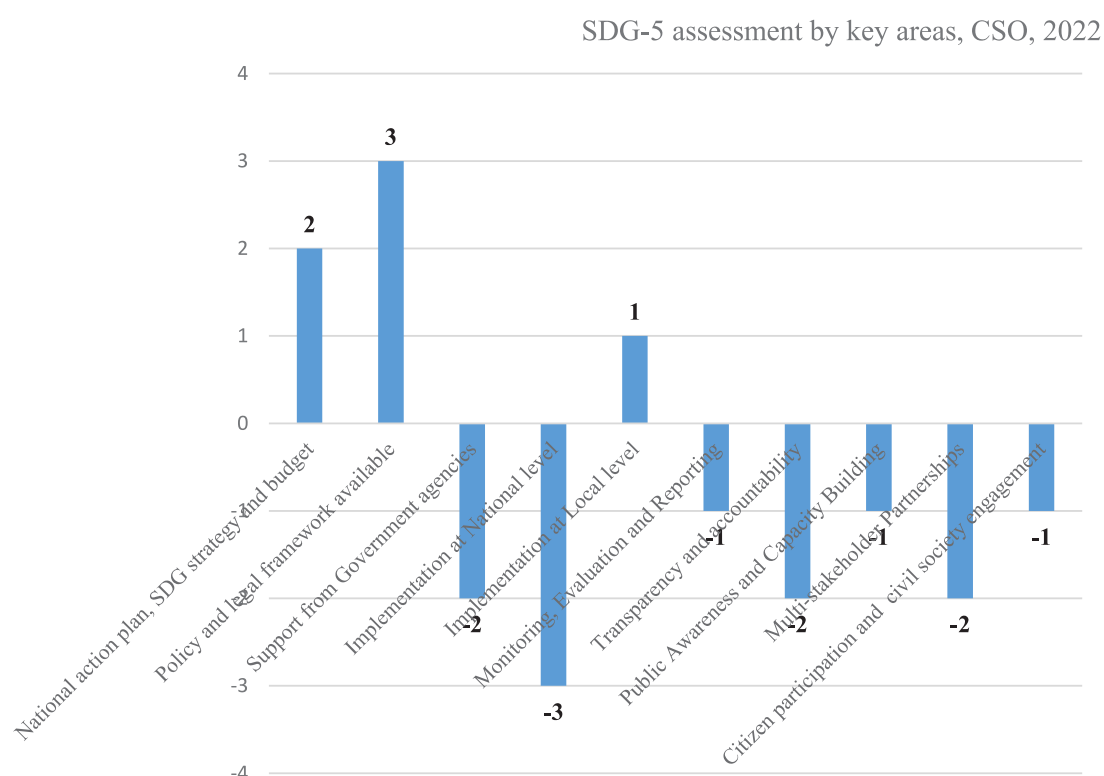
¹⁰ www.1212.mn



SDG-5: Overall score **-0.6**

Progress is seen in launching of the Inter-sectoral Strategic plan on gender equality (2022-2031), piloting of gender responsive budgeting (2021). The National Committee on Gender Equality has a structure in provinces, however, no dedicated staff member in provincial administration works on gender issues.

Figure 8. SDG-5 implementation, CSO assessment



No special measures have been taken to ensure gender balance in political and leadership roles, with except of a clause in the 2019 Law on Parliamentary Elections requiring at least 20 percent quota for any gender among candidates appointed by political parties and coalitions.

Equal pay for equal work level reduced by 8.0 points from 81.0 to 73.0, average income decreased by 20.5 points from 87.0 to 66.5, and the gender balance of lawmakers and leadership positions went down from 90.0 to 64.0¹¹.

Despite the Order by the Ministry of Education and Science not conduct gynecological inspections of girls in schools, but due to lack of knowledge and attitudes, violations of the Order are still observed.

Official sources informed about increase of violence against women and children during Covid 19 pandemic.

Objectives were set to ensure gender sensitiveness in sectoral and local policies and

¹¹ Assessment of the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in Mongolia. Summary report. p. 4. 2021

planning processes, to introduce gender analysis, however, such activities have not been reflected in the sectoral and local plans.

The National Committee on Gender Equality produced Report on results of gender equality policy and actions however, it is not publicly accessible, it is not possible to track progress in this area.

SDG-6: Overall score **-2.1**

State policy, legal regulation

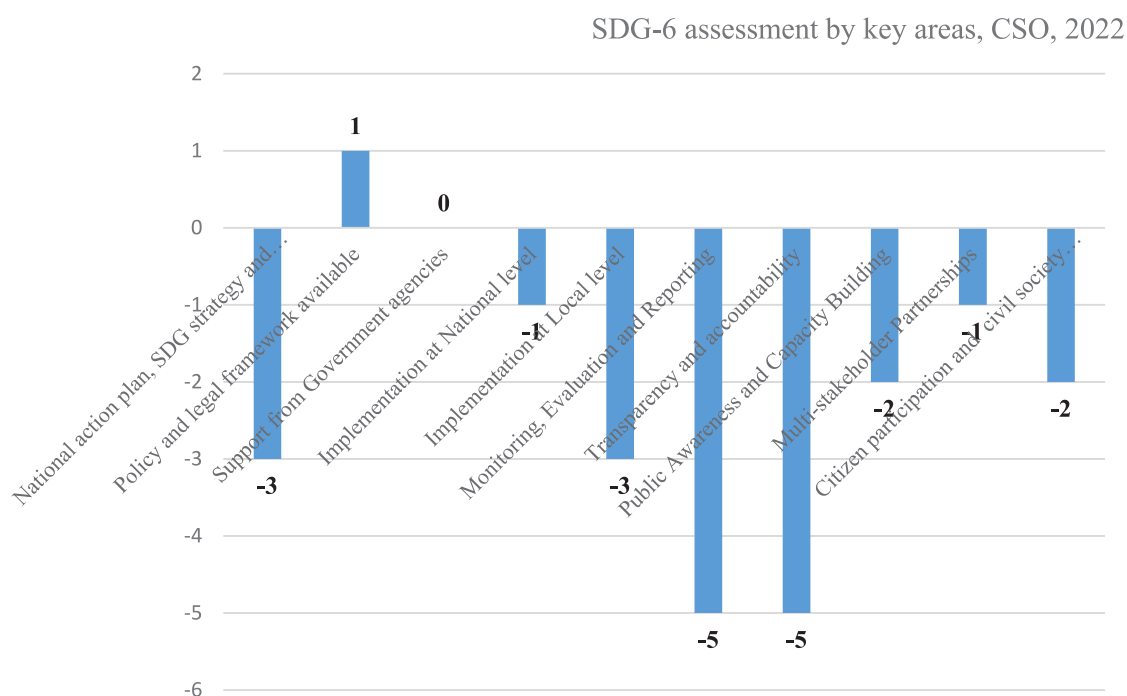
- Water Law
- Law on Water contamination fees
- Law on Natural resource usage fees
- Law on utilization of urban settlements water supply and sewage
- "Water" national program, action plan to implement "Water" program

Government resolutions, decisions, resolution of the Minister of Environment and Tourism, joint resolutions:

- Revision of water ecology and economic assessment /271/
- Measures on water basin administration /277/.

Significant changes to impact the SDG implementation are ongoing in terms of legal environment, however, planning and financing mechanisms are weak.

Figure 9. SDG-6 implementation, CSO assessment



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION

The existing Policy on water lacks actual implementation. A Water authority was established, but no concrete progress is seen to date. Drying up of many rivers and springs is seen as regress.

Potable water is getting scarce due to the following reasons:

- The mining sector inefficiently consumes and pollutes water.
- No common standard on sewage facilities of ger districts of the capital city which lead to water pollution.
- No monitoring and census of rural area waters
- No partnership to protect water.

The report “FROM DREAM TO DUST” mentioned pollution of surface and underground water due to uranium mining activities in Ulaanbadrakh soum of Dornogovi province which leads to lack of water for herders and livestock. Citizens of Dalanjargalan soum complained that mining affiliated entrepreneurs have privileged consumption of surface and underground water which deteriorates livelihoods of herders. Due to depletion of pasturelands, water shortage is observed not only for livestock but also shortage of drinking water for herders¹².

Protection of drinking water sources of Ulaanbaatar, water pipes of residential complexes, safety of potable water consumed by ger district residents are areas of concern.

Several unresolved problems are a challenge for the achievement of SDG 6. Despite of many year discussions and budgets spent, the issue of pit latrines, the construction of water treatment facilities in urban areas continues being a priority challenge for country.

Institutional structure consists of:

- Government implementation agency – Water Authority established in 2020.
- Water basin administration – in 21 provinces
- Water issue is under jurisdiction of several ministries:
 - Water supply of cities and urban area – Ministry of Construction
 - Mineral water, water quality – Ministry of Health
 - Hydropower – Ministry of Energy
 - Water supply for industry and mining – Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry
 - Water supply of pastures and agricultural land – Ministry of Agriculture
 - Water/natural resource – Ministry of Nature Environment and Tourism

Inter-sectoral policy alignment is unsatisfactory. CSOs have been raising this issue, however, no change can be seen.

¹² https://forum-asia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/From-Dreams-to-Dust_compressed.pdf

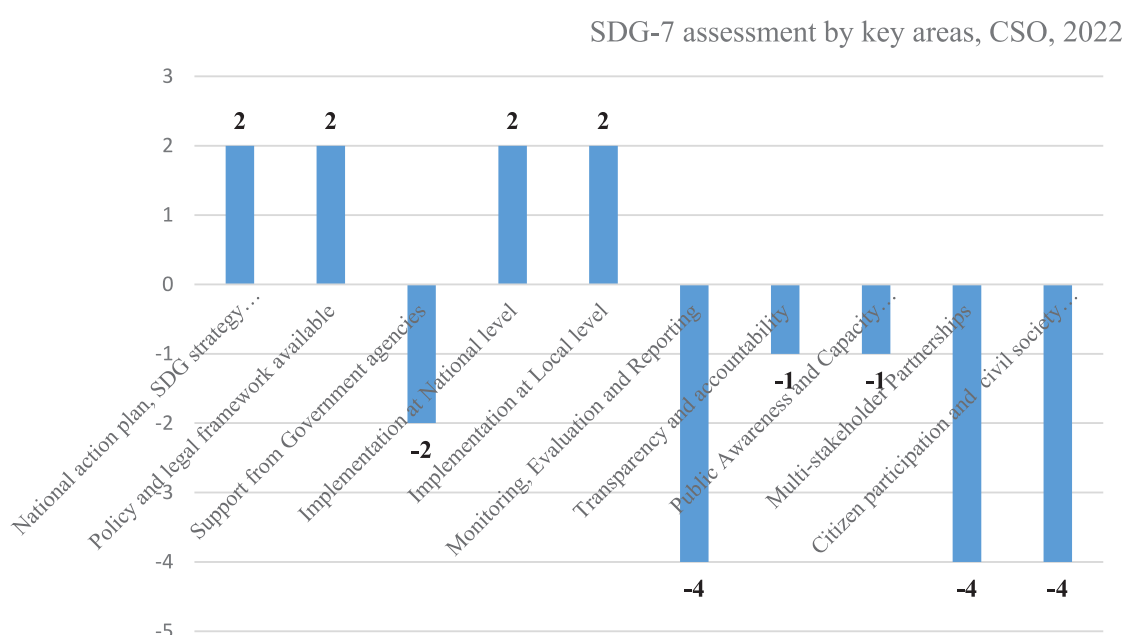
SDG-7: Overall score **-0.8**

State policy, legal regulation:

- Law on Renewable energy
- Law on Energy conservation
- Sustainable energy development strategy of Mongolia
- Integrated energy grid of Mongolia
- National green development policy
- National program on energy conservation

Mongolia supplied 80.7% of total energy consumption from internal sources in 2020 and imported 19.3% from Russia and China through 14 substations. 56,1 thousand energy consumers or 7.8% out of total consumers are entities, 662.6 thousand or 92.2% are households. 13,681 households in ger areas of 7 districts of Ulaanbaatar are not connected to the energy grid that meets standards. No data is available for the public on the implementation of SDG 7 related to energy efficiency except for data on renewable energy.

Figure 10. SDG-7 implementation, CSO assessment



Legal environment is in place and activities have been implemented. Many projects are under implementation to ensure reliable energy consumption, however, with poor management on planning and financing.

The State fails to ensure open participation of CSOs and cooperates only with NGOs who signed “non-disclosure” agreements. Poor policy coherence among sectors.

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

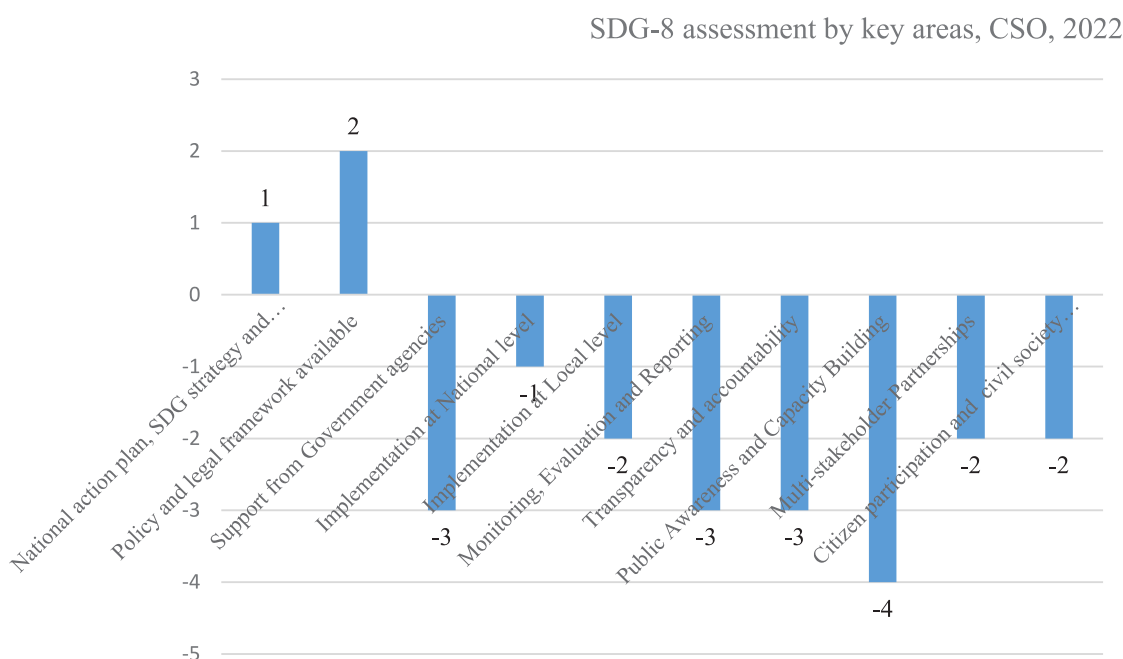


8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG-8: Overall score **-1.7**

Figure 11. SDG-8 implementation, CSO assessment



Vision 2050 long term development policy included some relevant objectives; however, no specific policies, legal environment, budget, and planning exist to implement the SDG 8. For example, there is no policy to provide scholarships to students of tertiary and vocational education institutions and universities nor specific policy for supporting students studying in fields for priority economic sectors such as processing industries, transport, and logistics. Specifically, there is no effective policy to support training of girls and women to work in value added fields of mining, transport and logistics, technologies; also, in those economic sectors that need of labor force.

Labor law requires the integration of decent employment in policy, however, the jobs created do not meet the criteria for being decent due to low wages, low labor tariffs and poor occupational safety. Employment in the mining sector is not sustainable.

Financial services have expanded, providing a wide range of products. However, too high criteria make the service inaccessible to many. A policy is developed to convert informal sector into formal, however, health and social insurance fees and income tax prove to be very harsh and people in informal sector prefer to receive wages without tax deduction.

Although salaries and incomes are not enough to meet living costs, the social welfare allowances exceed average salary. This discrepancy does not motivate vulnerable groups to seek employment. Employment support programs for youth, elders, herders, and people with disabilities have been initiated and financed from the state budget. However, these programs do not meet the demand, the selection process is not transparent; training and loans are one-time, hence, they do not provide sustainable support. Specifically, programs

aim to support employment and creation of jobs, but most funds are spent on low quality training and temporary jobs.

Women employment support program was launched in 2022, however, financing and budget is in shortage.

Legal environment for banning workplace abuse, harassment, and sexual harassment and for creating favorable work environment is progressing at policy level. Yet, there are many remaining issues such as women often experience indirect discrimination on labor market, and not able to enjoy their legal rights to file complaints and seek redress.

There is shortage of government staff to provide employment support to job seekers; there only one staff in charge of social work and employment at primary administrative units.

Incoherent methodologies for monitoring and evaluation reduce the results of such reviews.

Initiatives of youth are not supported by state policies.

The state has a commitment to ensure public participation, but the participation is not meaningful and does not influence policy effectively.

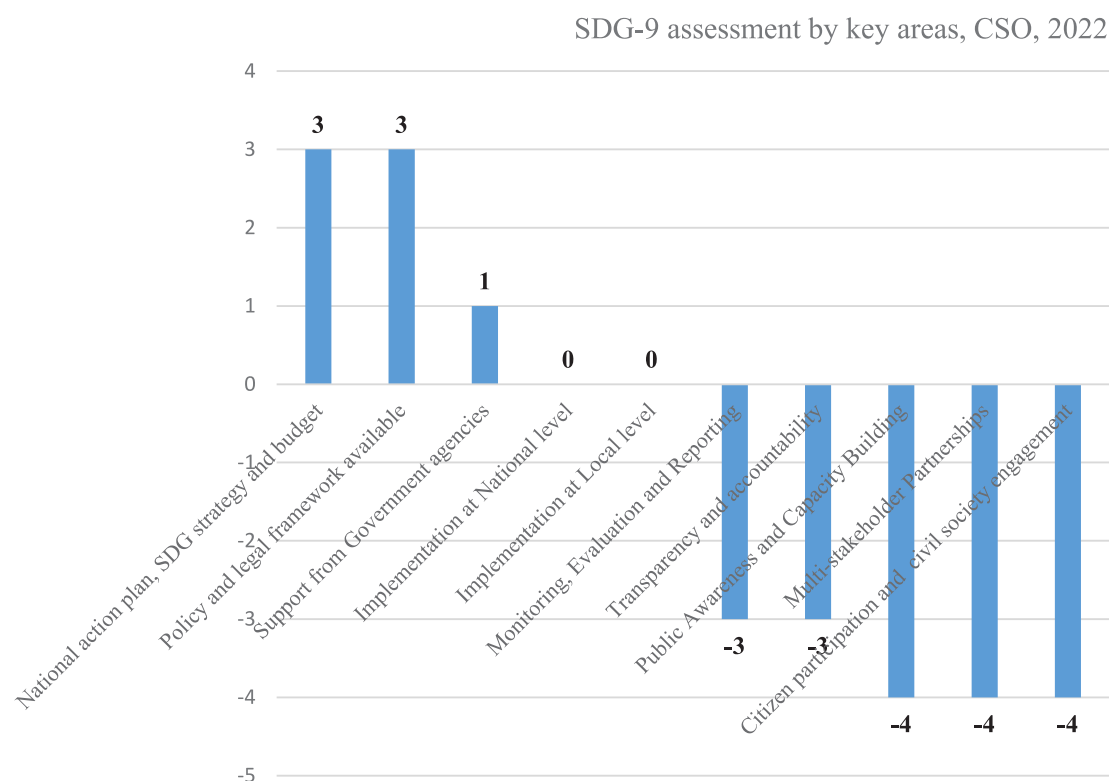
SDG-9: Overall score **-1.1**

Key policy documents:

- Green Development Policy,
- Law on Innovation, 2012/2019,
- Law on Science and Technology, 2006/2021,
- State policy on science and technology
- Priorities on innovation activities
- Program to develop national innovation scheme.

Vision 2050 long-term development policy of Mongolia and relevant national programs, strategy, and action plan for implementation, with allocated budgets have been approved and Specialized agencies were assigned to implement these policies.



**Figure 12. SDG-9 implementation, CSO assessment**

Despite these advancements, the results of inclusive and sustainable industrialization are not clear. The Development bank of Mongolia granted soft loans in 2020-2022, however, most of the loans were received by companies that have clear political affiliations through bribery and corruption which was disclosed to the public. Further, soft loans to support SMEs were found to be provided to people affiliated to the ruling party. For these reasons, the SME loans were suspended. Despite media and CSOs demands for accountability for such illegal actions, no actual results are observed. Information about innovations remains divergent and awareness raising campaigns are ongoing.

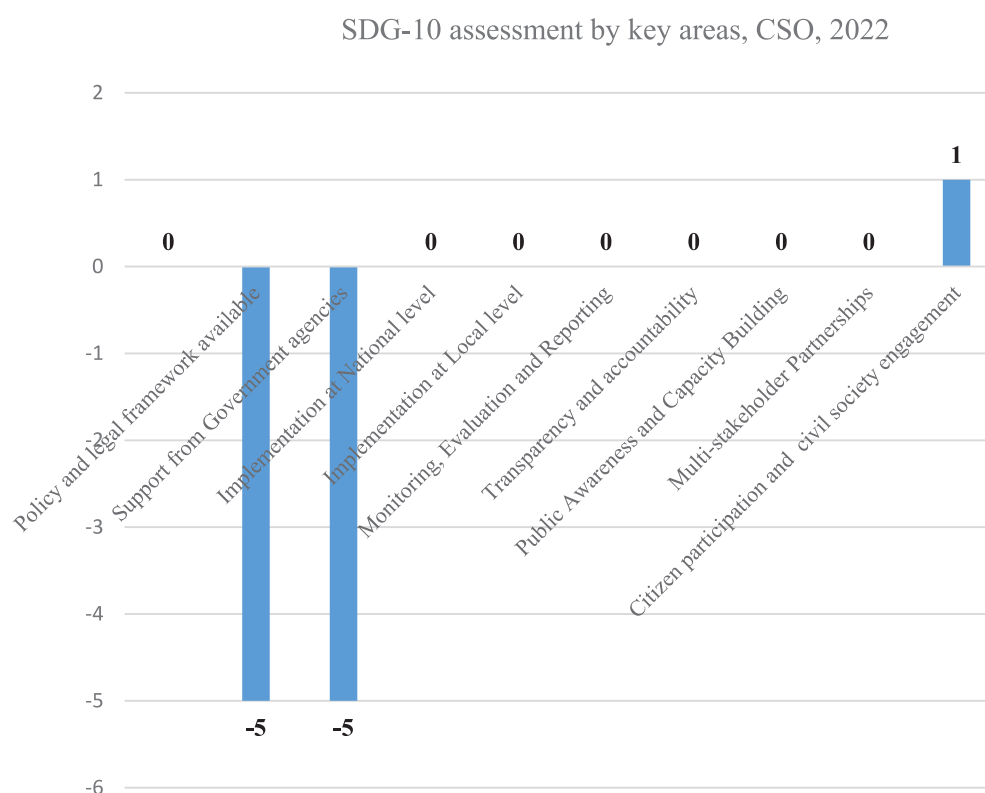
Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting were reduced. Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been simplified and thus have become insignificant. Civil society organizations work towards public education and capacity building. However, resources to reach out to wider audiences are limited. The State pays little attention on this work.

Policy slogans call for digital governance and digital citizens, however, no information there is available to the public to promote smart consumption.

CSOs demand the participation in planning of development policies, however, the information about planning processes is often unavailable. This leads to a lack of CSO participation in policy consultations. Even when CSO participates, the state is reluctant to respond and to incorporate the civil society recommendations.

SDG-10: Overall score **-0.9**

Figure 13. *SDG-10 implementation, CSO assessment*



No specific policy or legal regulation exists targeting to reduce “inequality” to meet the true meaning of this SDG.

Documents defining national indicators of the SDG, setting the targets and priorities have not been approved, there are no steps / phases for achieving targets and no guidance on calculation methodology and information sources. All of these facts show a lack of state support to the implementation of this SDG. This situation leads to a regress in key actions to conduct monitoring and evaluation of implementation, establish accountability mechanism for transparency of sectoral policies and programs in relation to this SDG.

There is lack of formal translation of the SDGs, relevant guidelines and recommendations, thus, there is no common understanding about the meaning of this Goal. No correct translation and definitions are available for policy makers in state agencies.

The activities of the National Committee and Multi-stakeholder Council on the SDGs have no tangible results. There are no multi-stakeholder partnership actions focusing on SDG-10.

It can be concluded from the review of past operations that the lack of plan, budget and irregular operations of the National Committee led to its closure. Instead, the Multi-stakeholder council was formed, however, the operations and activities are currently at initial stage, suffering from lack of policy and financing support.



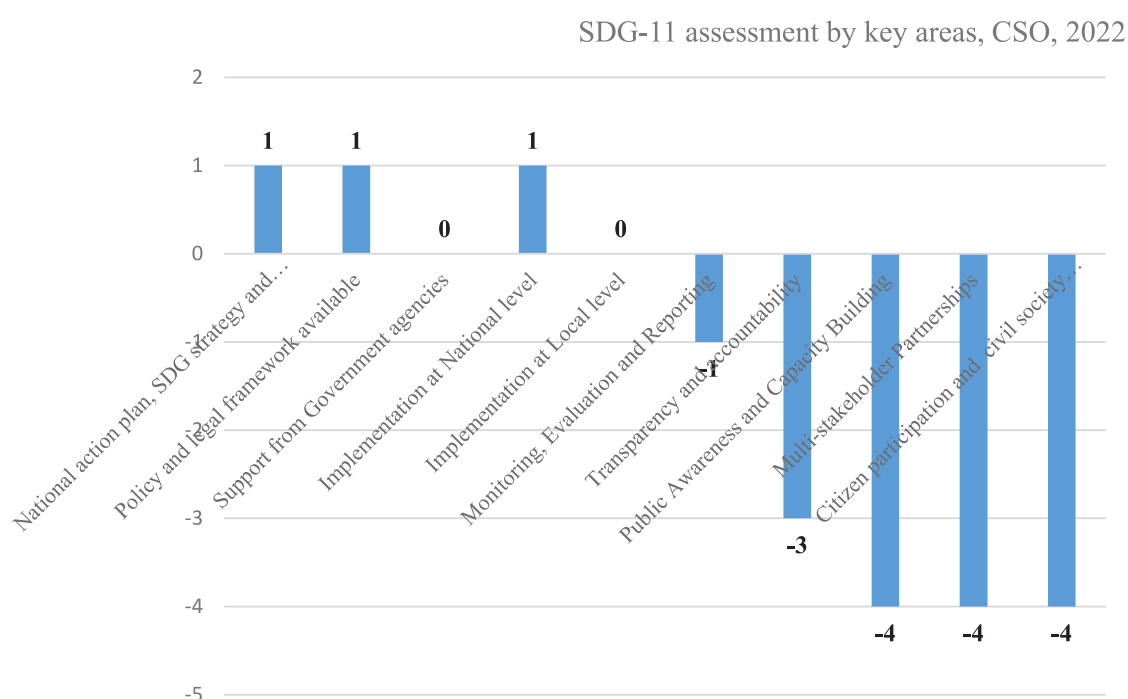


SDG-11: Overall score **-1.28**

There are nine national development policies, plans and supporting documents and three municipal policies and plans for cities and urban settlements. Also, each province has adopted its own policy and plan for development.

There are no specific legal documents dedicated to the implementation of SDGs, nor amendments were made to adjust the existing legislation towards the implementation of the SDGs.

Figure 14. SDG-11 implementation, CSO assessment



At policy making level, there are many organizations in charge of SDG 11, as follows:

1. Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
2. Ministry of Road and Transport Development
3. Ministry of Environment and Tourism
4. Ministry of Construction and Urban Development
5. Ministry of Education, Science and Sports
6. Ministry of Finance
7. Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
8. National Emergency Management Agency

The SDG-11 has 10 targets, 15 indicators. Five indicators can be produced in Mongolia, however, there is no updated information.

Reducing influx of migrants to cities and urban settlements through regional development

- 58.3% of the total population resides in Ulaanbaatar. Rural people migrate to Ulaanbaatar and other urban areas in search of more favorable living conditions and employment, however, no significant change in rural areas is made to decrease rural to urban migration.
- About 65% of total production/manufacturing is centralized in Ulaanbaatar including:
 - a. Up to 60% of total processing industries,
 - b. Up to 90% of construction sector,
 - c. Up to 85% of wholesale and retail sector
 - d. Up to 98% of communication sector
 - e. 75% of total business entities

Urban planning – Ulaanbaatar city's infrastructure capacity

Significant challenges are as follows:

Lack of recreational spaces in apartment residential districts /over 1100 playgrounds in the capital city, over 600 of them do not meet standard requirements, 470 are dangerous, require immediate repair /.

- Heavy environmental pollution in the city (*air, soil, water, waste*), poor environmental conditions threatening health and safety of residents, large disparities in livelihoods of population.
- Overloaded roads and public transport infrastructure
- New concerns over city's heating, water and food supply; declining quality and safety of buildings (*number of buildings exceeding aging limit will be increased 3.5 times by 2030*).

The monitoring, evaluation and reporting has decreased. Previous mechanisms on monitoring, evaluation and reporting were enforced as directed in the development policy and plans, however, the adoption of the Law on Development Policy Planning and Management in 2020 has led to shrinking scope of monitoring. Despite of the law provision enhance transparency, the process is vague, and limits the public disclosure of results of evaluation only to policy documents and their implementation.

The development policy and planning database is said in the same law to include national and local development policy documents of Mongolia; however, no regulation exists to ensure public access and ways of informing the public with these documents. The transparency and accountability mechanisms have been simplified and reduced the true meaning of these concepts.

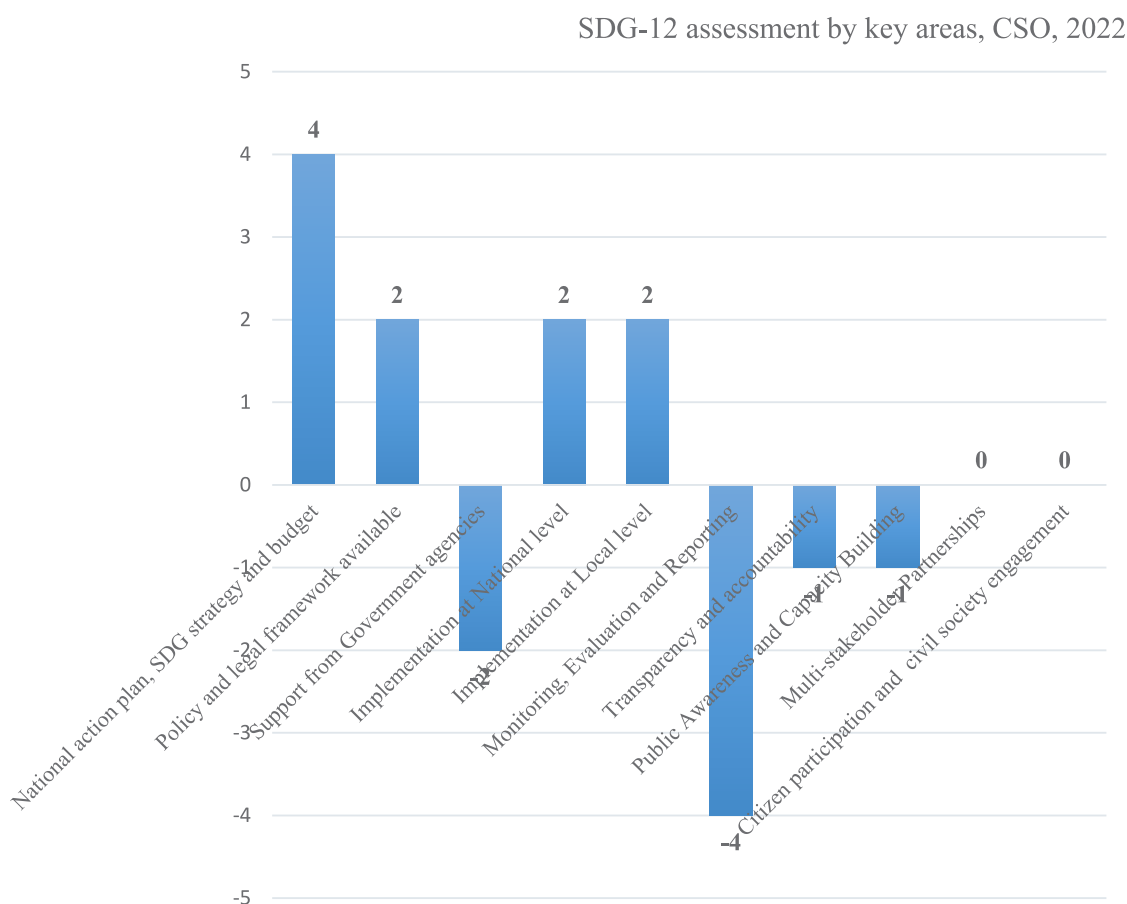
The civil society has continuously expressed their position regarding the need for public education, enhance the knowledge and capacities among citizens. CSOs have carried out various activities to achieve this goal. However, there is a shortage of resources to cover wider audience.

Despite the growth of civil society in democratic transition, the state still does not recognize the civil society as a development stakeholder.



SDG-12: Overall score **-0.18**

Figure 15. *SDG-12 implementation, CSO assessment*



The implementation of existing relevant policies and programs has been constrained by the lack of governance policy. There are many affiliated institutions that suffer from the lack of integrated management.

There is almost no execution of environmental social responsibility.

A tendency is observed to claim advancement in this SDG from small scale activities within projects. For example, only a few plants treat and purify water such as Oyu Tolgoi, Erdenet, Coca Cola, Futur holding.

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

The techniques and technology of the factories established in the local areas are poor. Direct investments to build the economy are still not available at the right time. No cluster was created. There is no good practice or lessons for socially responsible performance.

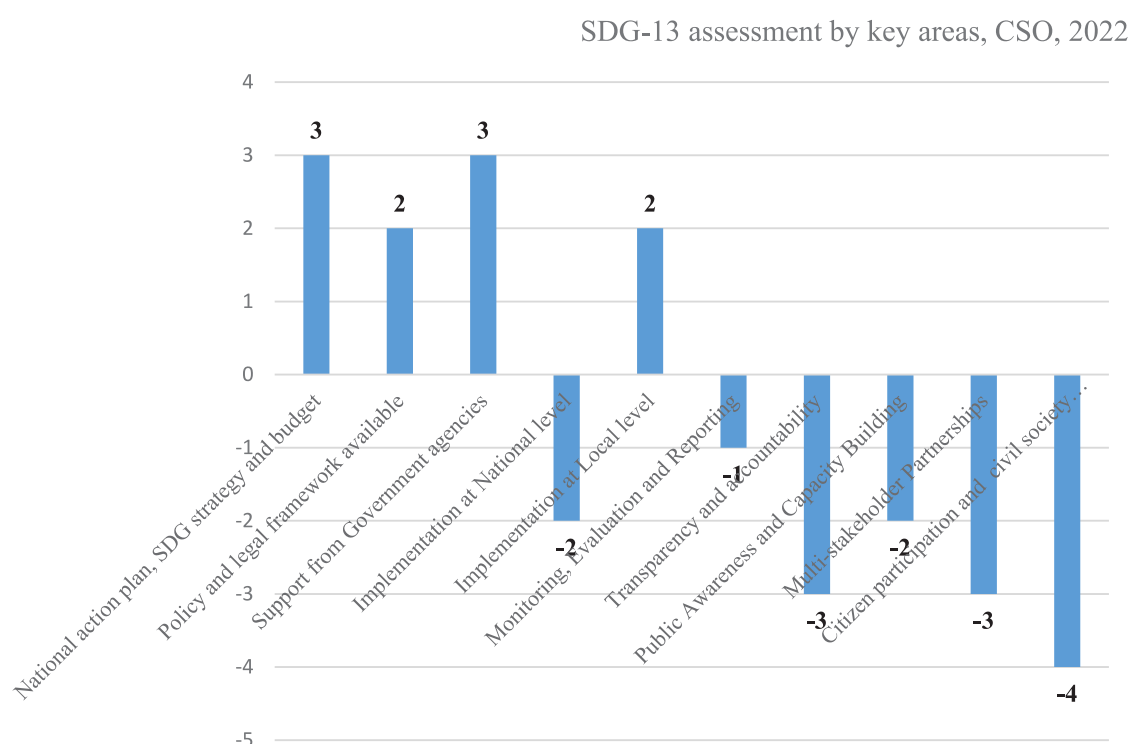
Poor knowledge and understanding of sustainable use. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms are not uniform or consistent. Audits are conducted but are ineffective.

Personnel capable of monitoring, evaluation and reporting are scarce. Human resources need to be built.

Information is generally transparent, but there is no social responsibility system in place to solve the accumulated problems.

SDG-13: Overall score **-0.5**

Figure 16. SDG-13 implementation, CSO assessment



National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change, The Technical Guidance for implementation of the national plan, Strategic Partnership Map to ensure stakeholder participation, objectives for the Nationally Determined Contributions to implement the Paris Agreement have been approved. Around 20 projects with total funding of USD 400 mln. from the Green Climate Fund have been implemented in Mongolia in the past years.

Down the administrative hierarchy, fewer staff work on issues of climate change and biological diversity. At local levels, very few staff are assigned to environmental monitoring, usually a single person is in charge and heavily loaded. There is no policy in place to respond to the growing demand for more humans, time, specialized knowledge resources and capacities.

Due to lack of inter-sectoral approach, the policies are not aligned and coherent, and have a negative consequence. There is no policy aimed at identification of climate change and overcoming which should be based on geographic differences, regional character,



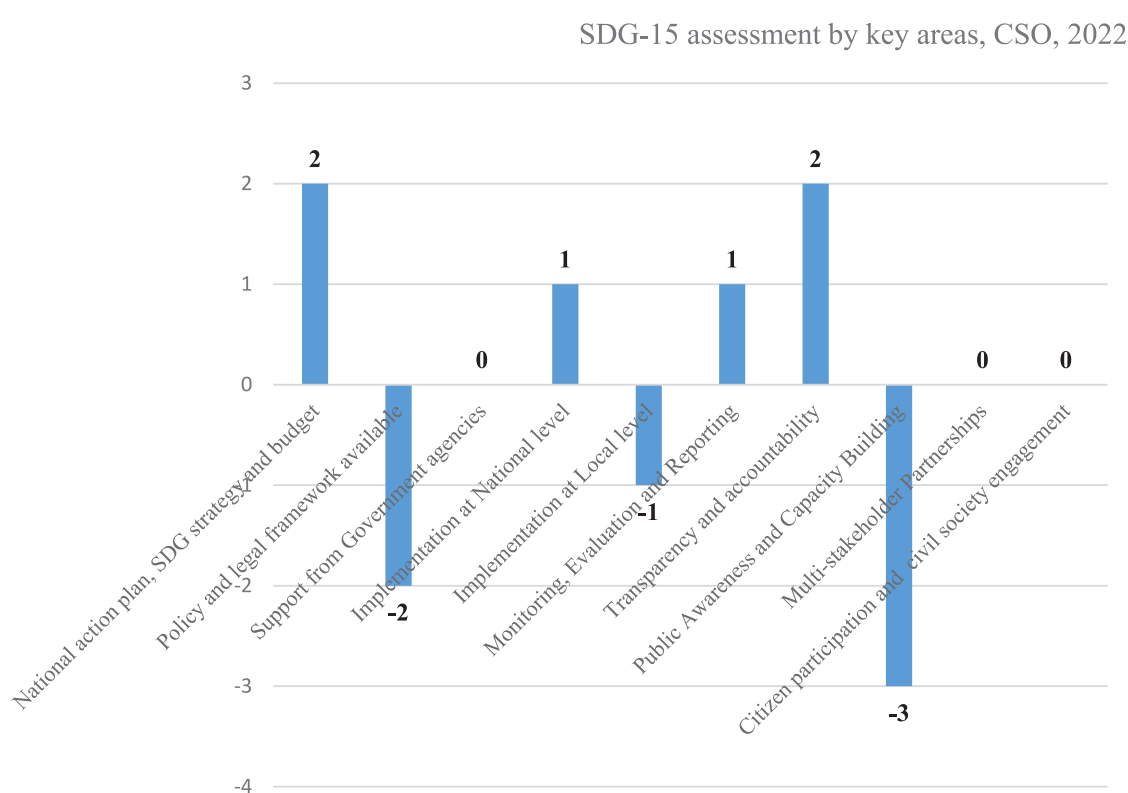


and ecological capacity. No research, studies and assessments are carried out and the implementation of too general policies has low impact.

Little information is available on organizational, systemic, individual capacity building on adaptation to climate change, technology transfer and development aimed at reducing climate change. Few CSOs organized trainings to enhance public understanding and knowledge about climate change in hope to increase public participation in future.

SDG-15: Overall score **0.1**

Figure 17. *SDG-15 implementation, CSO assessment*



Vision 2050 long term development policy defined objectives, actions to implement in 2021-2030, targets and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of implementation. The National Program on Biological Diversity was revised and is under implementation until 2025 in 3 stages. Sixth report on program implementation was released in 2018.

Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management and Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism are in charge.

No inter-sectoral working group was formed. No mechanism exists to engage non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

The State Great Khural approves national policies, but there is no evidence about the parliamentary hearing of official reports on implementation of these policies, Policies on

protection, restoration, and efficient use of terrestrial land ecosystem and biological diversity, increase forest resources, combat desertification, protect endangered animals and plants are not aligned with the policies on economy. The Gold 2, The Three Pillar Economic Policy, The New Recovery Policies do not align with the SDGs.

No measures have been taken to establish a cross-sectoral coordination and to define the duties and responsibilities in terrestrial land ecosystem protection. Mongolia has regressed in terms of protection, restoring, relocation and ensuring favorable conditions for biological diversity, particularly in areas of financing, professional training and retaining human resources, and ensuring local community participation.

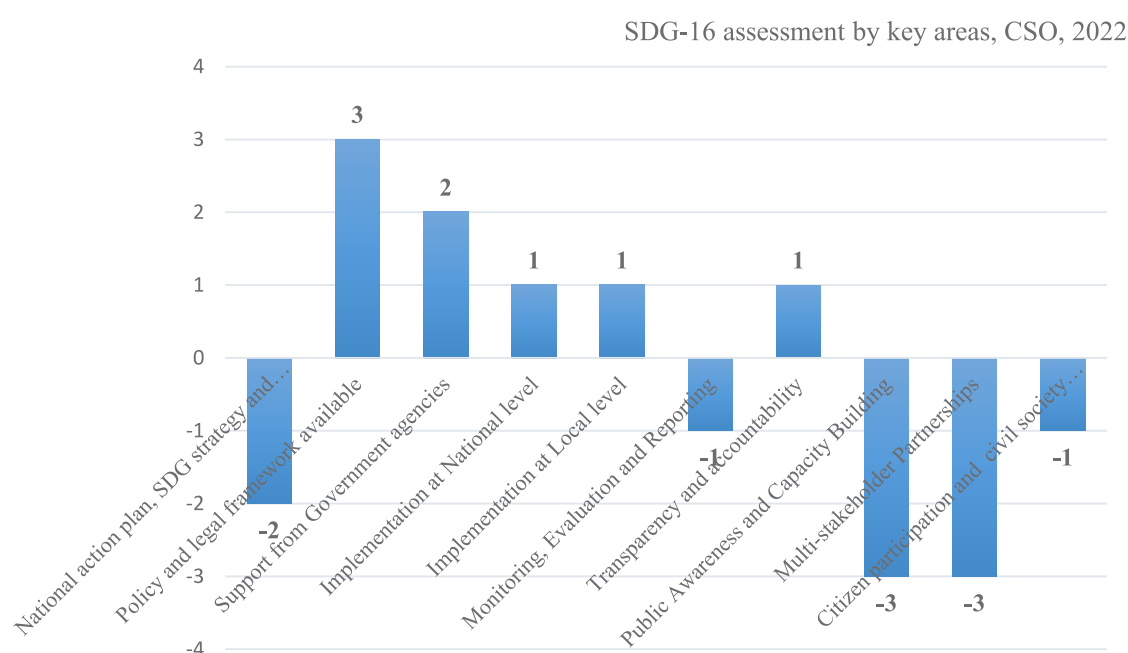
Local administration has unsatisfactory understanding and knowledge of issues as well as limited understanding of their duties and responsibilities. They have not received any training on aligning local policies with regional/ national policies. Moreover, there is no policy guidance, advise and management instructions given by the Cabinet Secretariat to local level authorities regarding the Law on Development Policy Planning and Management, conducting results-based reviews of work performance of local authorities.

There are good practices and lessons learnt on monitoring of SDG 15 by CSOs, however, advocacy consumes most of time. The CHRD's savings groups assessed the implementation of SDGs. The Steps Without Borders NGO conducted analysis on alignment of SDG13 and SDG15 with local policy and planning in four provinces of Gobi region.

The State continues to undervalue the important role and contribution by civil society in the implementation of SDGs. This lack of recognition means regression in some areas. The main challenge faced by CSOs is lack of a partnership for cooperation for regular consultations among CSO - private sector –donors and state organizations.

SDG-16: Overall score **-0.2**

Figure 18. SDG-16 implementation, CSO assessment





To localize the SDGs, Mongolia approved Sustainable Development Vision 2030 concept paper in 2016, identified the framework for SDG planning coordination and necessary institutional structure. Also, a methodology for budget preparation based on SDG was developed.

The State Great Khural approved Vision 2050, a long-term policy document for development of Mongolia between 2020 to 2050. This Policy aims to align development policies and planning and was adopted by resolution #52, thus the SDG concept paper 2030 was invalidated. The new fundamental document decreases the previous targets such as to eliminate poverty by 2030 and for saving the planet by 2030. This makes clear that the initial objective of SDGs will not be achieved.

Vision 2050 policy document does not cover all SDG indicators, Mongolia has no SDG strategy documents.

Governance mechanism structure to implement SDG consists of the subcommittee on Sustainable development goals under the State Great Khural, National Sustainable Development Committee led by the Prime Minister of Mongolia, state secretaries of Ministries and Governors of provinces lead the branch committees at local level. The National Statistical office is responsible for approval of methodology to measure SDG indicators and generates quantitative data, while Ministry of Economy and Development ensures inter-sectoral engagement on SDGs and is responsible for localization through integrated development policy and planning.

CSO representatives were included in the National Sustainable Development Committee which was seen as the mechanism of multi-stakeholder cooperation; however, the committee was dissolved.

Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Council was formed in May of 2022, with the following duties: to accelerate planning, funding and implementation of sustainable development, strengthen monitoring and evaluation structure, support activities of the Subcommittee on sustainable development goals of the State Great Khural to submit professional recommendations, to reinforce cooperation of State Great Khural, Government, development partners, private sector, civil society organizations, scientists and researchers, disseminate information on sustainable development goals, implementation, challenges to the public. The Council includes NGO representatives but there are no representatives of the SDG and CSO network.

There are many examples of poor functioning of this established mechanism as well as poor alignment between sectors. For example, the documents on localization of SDG, definition of national indicators and targets, identification of priority indicators discussed during the first VNR have not been approved and not implemented until today. This lack of follow up action has slowed the process of monitoring and evaluation of the SDG implementation and examining the progress and challenges.

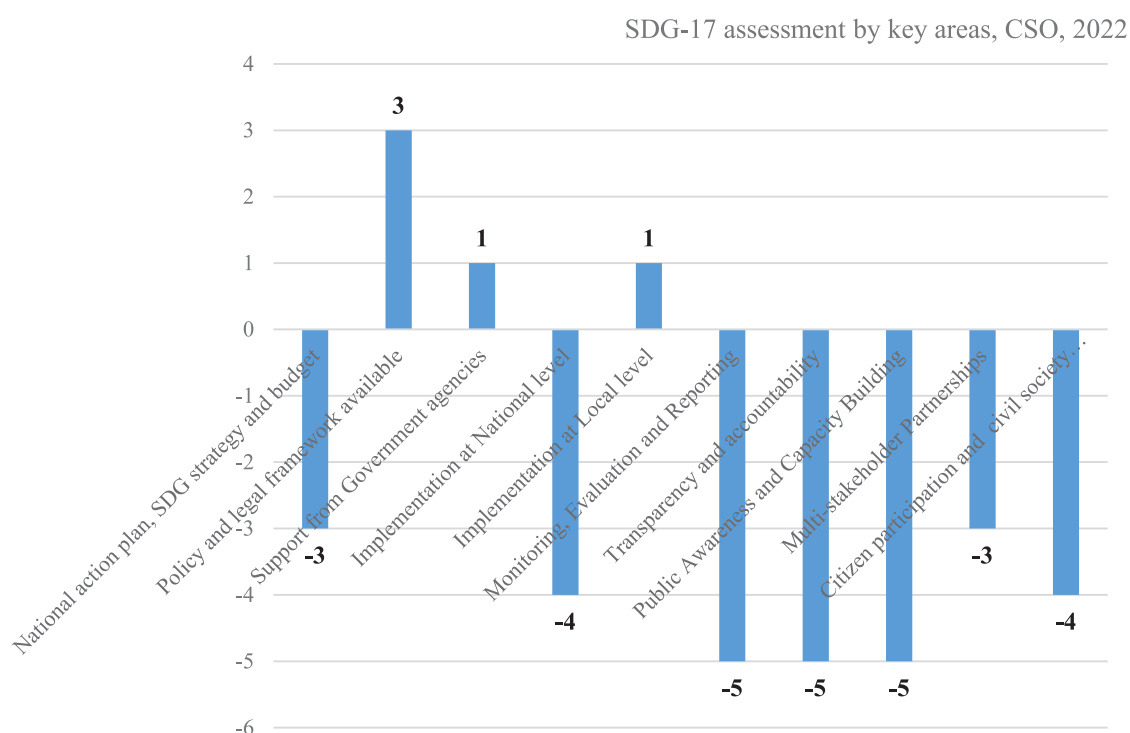
The Government support to local administrations and agencies is not unified.

SDG-17: Overall score **-2.4**

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Figure 19. *SDG-17 implementation, CSO assessment*



The progress achieved by Mongolia around 2016-2017 has slowed down.

Despite advancements in the legal environment, and the implementation of several relevant policies and programs, no tangible results towards SDGs have been observed.

Participation of CSOs is mostly limited to consultations, however the proposed ideas and recommendations often remain unaccepted by decision makers.

The Government of Mongolia presented its first Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019. The National Development Agency coordinated the preparation and production of Voluntary National Review, organized a seminar on National Voluntary Review to state employees of Mongolia and other stakeholders on September 7, 2018, jointly with the UN office in Mongolia and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of UN, thus had expanded multi-stakeholder engagement in the process. However, the energy generated during preparation of the first VNR had dropped down. This is seen from delayed until now approval of national indicators to measure SDG implementation developed with involvement of multi-stakeholders in 2019. This inaction leads to loss of an opportunity to localize SDG, define priority indicators, establish regular monitoring and evaluation.

The status of the National Development Agency was upgraded into Ministry of Economy and Development in 2022 to speed up the SDG implementation, however, no powerful actions are seen. CSOs are concerned about a significant increase in the spending budget and enlarged structure. The Ministry of Economy and Development oversees sustainable

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

development.

Activities on raising public awareness, increasing understanding, and strengthening capacities of relevant stakeholders have been carried out only within the voluntary initiatives, projects and programs of civil society and international organizations,

Except for placing SDG images, no activities to promote SDGs at local level has been conducted. There is no information about SDGs available to the public, no understanding of SDGs and the roles of local stakeholders in their implementation. Information on SDG should be provided to the leadership of local governments.

Social welfare approach prevails over empowerment vulnerable groups. Policies and programs on raising public awareness and knowledge, increasing capacities of public do not reach planned results. Few policies and programs do not ensure tangible public engagement, as most information targeted to public are of warning nature for specific situations and disseminated through mass media outlets and social networks. These ways of public communication do not encourage people to learn about SDG and develop themselves to support SDG implementation.

The multi-stakeholder mechanism is not operational.

Conclusions, recommendations

Conclusions

- 1 Long and mid-term national development objectives and goals are aligned with SDG. However, the measurement of implementation is not aligned with the SDG targets and measuring indicators.
- 2 Monitoring and evaluation reports providing sectoral information about SDGs, quantitative data are not publicly available, and some data is missing. This creates challenges to obtain information on SDG implementation and make an evaluation.
- 3 Poor alignment and cooperation among sectors, significant gaps in understanding and knowledge about integrating SDGs in the development policies and sectoral plans.
- 4 Public knowledge of SDGs is very poor. Civil society organizations contribute to filling gaps in this area. However, projects and programs of donors are limited, and the state does not provide support.
- 5 As no work has been done to establish multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism to implement SDG at national, local, and sectoral levels, evaluate and discuss development policies and plans and the implementation with participation of multiple stakeholders, the SDG implementation is not supported through involvement of stakeholders.

Recommendations

- ✓ Define, approve, enforce national targets, indicators, methodologies to measure the SDGs implementation, select priority indicators to evaluate the SDG implementation, reflect this development policy and plans.
- ✓ Take joint measures to raise awareness of public on the implementation of Mongolia's commitment to achieve SDGs as people are the beneficiaries of sustainable developments.
- ✓ Ensure ministries in charge of each sustainable development goal adopt sectoral implementation plans, produce annual reports, make available to public, and organize open discussions.
- ✓ Encourage and activate independent monitoring of SDG implementation, increase participation of CSOs in the monitoring, support partnership with civil society organizations' working in particular field, establish technical capacities to carry out joint actions, ensure transparent and open budget planning and spending.

The state should focus on the following for monitoring and evaluation:

- ✓ Disclose evaluation reports to the public.
- ✓ Hold regular multi-stakeholder consultations on development policy, planning and implementation at national, local, and sectoral level.
- ✓ Establish a multistakeholder mechanism to align development policy and planning among regional, sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and plans, make the mechanism regularly function.

Post-scoring assessment process

CSO score-assessment of SDG implementation process provided a valuable perspective to find out about the extent of inclusiveness of SDG implementation.

National consultation

The National consultation was organized on August 30, 2022, at Puma Imperial hotel conference hall to present results of score-assessment of SDG implementation by CSOs to policy and decision makers, state employees, civil society organizations and representatives of public, receive additional comments and clarifications.

Expert teams of SDG and CSO network member organizations presented CSO assessment and received comments and recommendations from stakeholders during the National consultation organized with the support of the UNDP.

79 participants including advisor to subcommittee on Sustainable development of the State Great Khural, representatives of the Cabinet Secretariat, several ministries, National Human Rights Commission, National Committee on Gender Equality, local governments, representatives of Citizens' Representative Councils, UN resident representative, UNFPA, NGOs, local community members attended the consultation. Local communities were represented by over 20 individuals including chairs of Citizens' Representative Councils of Arkhangai, Darkhan-Uul, Uvurkhangai, Dornogobi, Khentii, Dornod provinces, citizens and organizations of Bayandun soum of Dornod province, representatives of CSOs. The attendance ensured representation of all levels of government administration.

Opinions and comments of state organizations were heard from 38 people including heads and specialists from policy and planning; monitoring and evaluation, internal audit departments of the Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Road and Transport, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy, NSO, National Committee on Gender Equality.

Following the presentation of assessment conducted by CSOs, a Q&A session was conducted whereas participants exchanged their comments and views. Representatives of the Ministry of Health and National Committee on Gender Equality expressed their unacceptance of SDG evaluation. The organizations commented that measures implemented by these organizations are not fully reflected in the assessment. The Head of the Human Rights Division of the Department of International Law and Treaties proposed to cooperate to produce the Government report and eliminate the understanding gap.

CSOs expressed their position that they are looking forward to discussing feedback and comments received during the National consultation and reach mutual understanding. The presented assessment was announced to be the baseline study of the second voluntary national review conducted by the civil society organizations.

**National consultation on the CSOs assessment of the SDGs' implementation.
Ulaanbaatar August 30, 2022**



Launch meeting of the Second SDG Voluntary National Review of Mongolia

Mongolia shall be presenting its second VNR on SDG in 2023 at the UN High-level Political Forum.

During the Second VNR preparation launch meeting organized on November 22, 2022, by the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Ministry provided an opportunity to CSOs to present score-assessment. Ministries, NGOs, private sector, local representatives attended the launch meeting.

After the CSO presentation, some participants expressed their concern on assessment bias. Some participants proposed to conduct re-assessment of SDG implementation involving multi-stakeholders. The resident representative of UN to Mongolia supported the proposal and accepted the proposal of the CSO network.

Re-assessment of the SDG implementation with multi-stakeholders' participation

The expert team of the CSO network immediately started preparations for score-re-assessment of SDG implementation with multi-stakeholder participation. The Centre for Human Rights and Development was responsible for the multi-stakeholder participation and invited delivered over 200 invitations.

A consultation involving multi-stakeholders on organized on January 4, 2023, at Puma Imperial hotel's conference call with 83 participants. 21 of them were representative of state organizations including 6 ministries, NSO, NEMA, National Gender committee, NHRC, two representatives from international organizations, 3 from private sector and 9 representatives of local communities, including Khentii, Dornod, Arkhangai, Sukhbaatar, Dornogovi, Uvurkhangai provinces, Bayandun soum of Dornod province, Khatanbulad, Dalanjargalan soums of Dornogovi province and Dariganga soum of Sukhbaatar province.

CSOs applied scores on 10 key issues based on the inclusiveness of SDG implementation using the same assessment methodology.

Multi-stakeholder participants were divided into 9 groups, each group assessed the implementation of two sustainable development goals. SDG 17, with the greatest number of targets were assessed by group 9. CSO assessment did not cover SDG 14 which was assessed by multi-stakeholders as proposed by the Ministry of Road and Transport during the National Consultation.

CSO network experts presented the assessment methodology, disseminated detailed score guidance to every participant and moderated the assessment process. Assessment of each SDG were carried out by 7-9 participants from various organizations and presented results to the joint discussion.

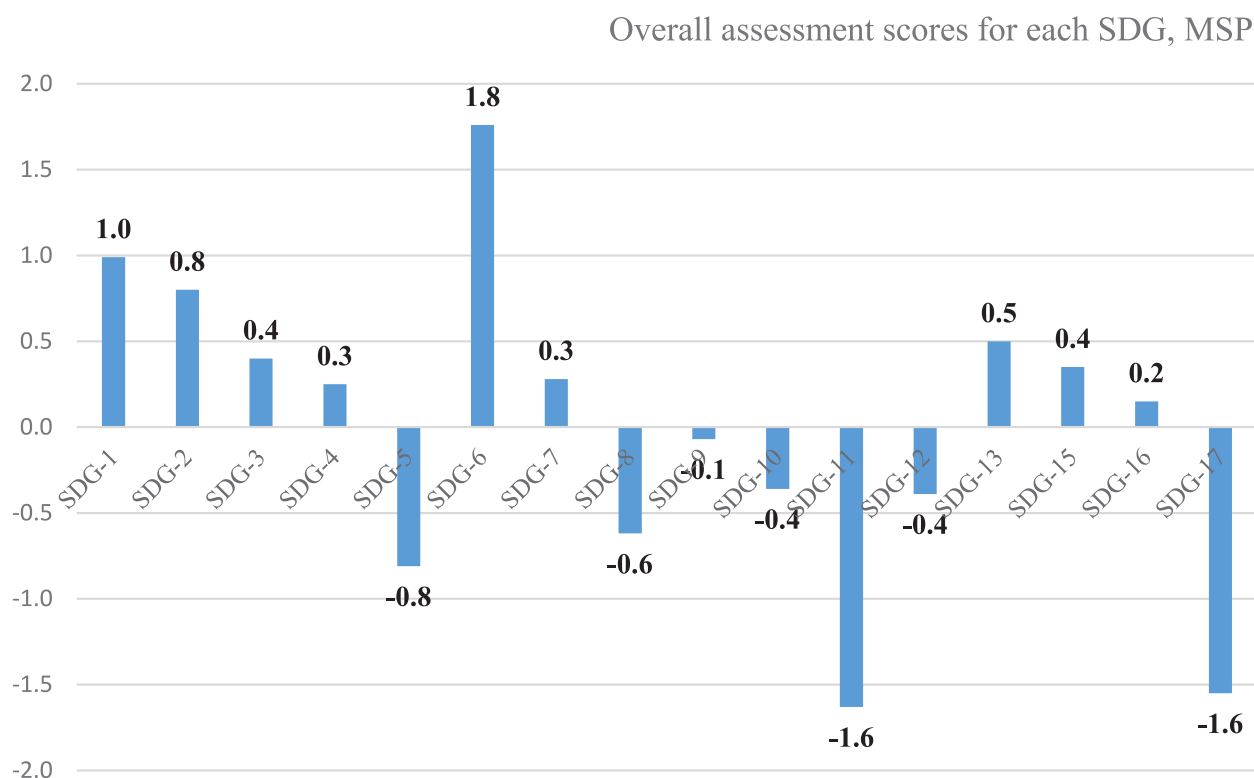
The multi-stakeholder assessment results were as follows.

Mongolia's SDG implementation progress was scored (+0.1) with the integrated results of the assessment conducted by the multi-stakeholders. This means very low progress has been achieved in positive SDG.

Progress was made on 10 goals SDG-1,2,3,4,6,7,13,14,15,16 and regress in SDG -5,8,9,10,11,12,17. multi-stakeholders evaluated a little progress in SDG 6 and 14. No assessment was done for SDG 14.

**Multistakeholders scoring assessment of the SDGs implementation.
Ulaanbaatar, January 4, 2023**



Figure 20. Overall assessment scores for each SDG, by Multistakeholders

Participants of the multi-stakeholder discussions provided the following comments on SDG score-assessment:

SDG-1(1.0) Policies, strategies, action plans approved at Government and ministries level are in place, however, the implementation of document goals and objectives are not satisfactory. Implementation below agency levels is unsatisfactory, due to failure to raise public awareness and disseminate information, public have no knowledge nor understanding. Projects, programs, investment, and tenders do not reach target groups.

SDG-2(0.8) A lot of expected from the Food Revolution Program initiated by the President and launched in 2022. It is planned to open dairy plants designated for mothers and infants and vulnerable population. Children's Milk plants which were operational in the past ceased their operations. Despite programs such as Salaried Mothers Food Stamps, there are many hungry people. Dairy products processed in local communities are developed into brands. A lot of talks on adaptation to climate change, soil protection and development of sustainable agriculture by 2030, and significant funds are spent. It is difficult to cooperate fairly in genetic bank sector for Mongolia and other developing countries. Very high price fluctuation is observed in food prices. Despite extensive talks and plans, transparency, monitoring and evaluation and accountability have not been implemented.

SDG-3(0.4) Policies, planning and budget are sufficient and responsible state institutions are in place. Poor implementation led to an increase of maternal mortality, increase of tuberculosis cases, unsatisfactory level of public awareness and knowledge, very little NGO involvement.

AIDS/HIV issue is funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Significant human rights violations and violence due to alcohol consumption, no effective measures are taken to resolve violations.

Except the resolution of the Minister of Health on "Implementation of mother and child reproductive health service for 2021-2024, there are no policies on reproductive health, which led to the deterioration of school curriculum, regress in public awareness and participation.

SDG-4(0.3) Issues are well reflected in the Vision 2050 long-term development policy with significant budget allocated. However, the indicators are unsatisfactory, due to lack of monitoring and inspection, there is lack of transparency and there are no planned activities to raise public awareness. Financing based on performance is not fully implemented.

CSO are included in the working group. There are talks on forming multi-stakeholder partnership.

Reforming the pre-school education is at planning stage. Enrollment has improved in Ulaanbaatar involving private pre-school education entities, however, the risk of being not included for children remains. The challenges at the local level are the following: insufficient budget, lack of transparency, lack of public knowledge and of understanding of importance, and parents are not aware of the legislation.

Poor oversight of tertiary education, no discussion of the main fields, major gaps in budget, planning and governance. Budget support had ceased in 2017. The Law on High Education has been submitted to the State Great Khural. The enrollment rates for the vocational education training went down. State support is required for advanced level training, i.e. schemes for scholarships.

Despite the talk, there is a lack of implementation of accountabilities, performance evaluation and transparency. The proposals from universities and institutions on linking to SDGs have not received support from the ministry. Insufficient social services are a concern. The opportunities for disabled people to study are limited.

SDG-5(-0.8) Despite the prohibition of discrimination in the Constitution, Criminal code, Labor law, Gender Equality Law, the enforcement is poor. The minorities such as LGBT cannot enjoy the safety and security under the law. The existing legislation has built legal environment and structure against abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. However, the inter-sectoral coordination of enforcement is not satisfactory.

There is a lack of gender responsive budgeting despite the policies and laws.

The NSO study revealed data on unpaid work performed by women for care of children, elders, ill and disabled people. The time spent on unpaid labor had increased. The infrastructure for such kind of social services has not been developed.

Regarding political participation of women, the electoral system, the quota, and nomination of candidates to run elections is not favorable for women. The SDG target quota is not achieved, and the number of Mongolian women elected to the Parliament is below Asia's and global average.

The sample survey of social statistics conducted by the NSO demonstrated a decrease of sexual and reproductive health service from 54 percent down to 38 percent in 2018.

Socialist era legal provisions about property ownership and inheritance have not been amended

in the Family Law and other laws.

Despite of increased use of mobile phones and internet, the digitalization of the state services through E-Mongolia, D-Parliament, the differing needs of people have not been addressed. This has led to digital disparities among the population. There is a significant need to use accessible technology, specifically information and communication technologies for women's empowerment.

SDG-6(1.8) Despite some achievements in policy developments, the water quality and the sanitary requirements remain low. The management of institutions in charge of water issues is not effective, including weak management of transboundary waters.

There is low access to sanitation facilities in the countryside, as well as lack of financing and limited decision-making power at local level.

No significant actions are taken to recycle wastewater. Water reserves are declining because of climate change. No specific measures are taken on use of surface water, hence, there is a risk of water shortages.

Water pollution tends to worsen, also there is an increasing number of drying ponds and lakes mainly due to human activities.

SDG-7(0.3) A policy and legal environment to provide everyone with energy are in place, however, the issues regarding budget, monitoring, accountability, transparency, civic participation are not satisfactory.

Actions on clean energy research and technology, including on renewable energy, energy efficiency and savings have not started, and the implementation is not satisfactory.

Multi-stakeholder partnership is relatively good on all targets. However, there is a regress in CSO participation. Implementation of policy actions have not yet started, no progress is observed in public awareness, understanding and capacities.

SDG-8(-0.6) The action plan for implementation of the New Recovery Policy for the period until 2030 and the list of laws requiring amendments have been approved.

The Policy on State Support of Employment, the Law on Support of Employment, and the Law on Support of Youth Development are in place. However, the central and local governments and agencies are operating separately. Cooperation among partners is weak. The youth training also requires working with employers and creating a favorable environment. The monitoring and evaluation are often incomplete and get politicized. The CSOs are invited for consultation only. Lack of a national strategy is visible with regards to the existing forms of child labor and lack of prevention. Despite being the party to international treaties on elimination of worst forms of child labor, the central government and local governments issue decisions to organize winter horse races, with no monitoring, evaluation and reporting on child labour.

From the perspective of the development principle that leaves no one behind, there is a need to increase the labor force that creates high cost products. There is no integrated policy on increasing economic productivity through technological innovation until 2030, the legal framework is weak, and it is still unclear how each ministry will focus on this issue and cooperate.

Experienced companies in the private sector learn from good international practices and are not tied to Mongolian economic policies. There is a lack of domestic production to make highly productive value-added final products, Govi JSC produces 50% of the raw materials of the international cashmere market, but the profit is less than 2% of the final product.

There is no common policy of formalization of micro, small, and medium businesses and cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to create decent jobs with sufficient living wages, a favorable work environment without violations of labor rights, and supports for innovation and creativity. For example, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) implements programs to support informal workers and provides small loans, established e-job.mn - an online platform for meeting job seekers with employers. The Youth NGO implements programs to provide young people with skills suitable for the workplace. MLSW and the SME fund provide targeted loans. However, if look at the national level, people in the informal sector can't get loans from banks and financial institutions, and they have to take high-interest overnight loans. The Ministry, some agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and non-banking organizations are working individually, and they are mutually exclusive. A unified policy and organization of how to direct resources to common goals is weak.

The monitoring and evaluation mechanism is inappropriate, as it does not explore whether there is a link between the policy and the outcome in terms of increased employment, for whom and how, i.e., what resources were spent for which people. The monitoring does not reveal who benefits from development policy and its implementation, so that no good practice or lessons learned. No improvement actions had been taken for results.

Awareness has emerged among citizens and employers that disabled people should work, however, at the national level, there is no budget and policy management, and the policy and laws haven't been implemented. There is a lack of engagement and communication between state entities at top and mid-levels. Lack of progress in the implementation could be explained by various reasons, including border and travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As there is a lack of information and data on the international technical and trade assistance, size of loans provided to Mongolia, it is no possible to analyze the efficiency of their use and spending. Public is unaware of recipients of aid and loans, how they are spent and what are the benefits of projects and programs received by Mongolia, whether the benefits outweigh the loans. Measuring the outcomes, evaluating, and reporting would help to identify gaps in the implementation and propose corrective actions as needed. Yet these issues are unclear to the public.

Despite improvement of public understanding of this subject and commencing of cooperation with international organizations and private sector, there is unequal participation of CSOs. The CSO's participation is limited to consultations only. The voices of CSOs are not listened to nor are heard, their recommendations and demands are ignored by decision makers.

SDG-9(-0.1) Weak support of domestic technology development, Research & Development, innovation related to the SME, whereas people in positions of power enjoy privilege in obtaining support from the Development Bank. The monitoring with involvement of SME is poor and is not transparent.

The Science and Technology Fund is poorly financed, with little achievements. This Fund under the

Ministry of Education and Science is suspected of corruption. On positive side, the establishment of the Ministry for Digital Development and Communication and improvement of internet access in urban and rural localities.

SDG-10(-0.4) Legislation exists, but the budget is limited (tiered taxes, etc.), and sanctions have increased, support from government institutions is weak, employment projects have increased since the establishment of the agency, but they are not accessible, and there is no statistical data.

Little has been done to undertake reforms in social insurance and old age pension funds. State entities misuse these funds for wrong purpose Wages went down in local areas.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are not transparent, with weak civil society participation.

There is an anti-money laundry initiative. Unstable investment, debts and currency rates fluctuate. A procedure on digital currency is in place.

SDG-11(-1.6) Government adopted the Vision 2050, long term development policy. Also, it issued resolution #62 prohibiting use and transport of raw coal to reduce the air pollution in urban areas.

Public transport safety and convenience are not secured; the number of public transports has reduced in recent years.

SDG-12 (-0.4) No programs, strategy. Significant funds have been allocated to the budget and spent. However, waste remains unclassified. All types of waste, including food are disposed together at the waste disposal facilities such as Tsagaandavaa, Ulaanchuluut, and people who settled in these places continue living there.

There is no understanding of environmentally friendly regulation considering cycles of chemical and other types of waste. No progress has been made despite spending funds from annual budget allocations, loans, and assistance. The private sector, large LLCs, sort the waste, but the disposal is still done in combined way (all types of wastes loaded together).

There are talks of new jobs that meet ecological standards and as well as promotion of eco-tourism, but it is not being implemented. Large commercial centers are opening without decent jobs. Significant waste is left by people when travelling. The pit latrine issue remains unresolved.

SDG-13 (0.5) Legal environment policy and strategy had been improved since 2019. However, there are no planned detailed activities with a designated clear responsibility (owner) and financing, the strategy remains too general. According to the Law on Disasters, one percent of soum, district's annual budget must be allocated for trainings on raising awareness and skills of citizens on disaster risk reduction. However, domestic regulations are not well aligned so that local governments have no authority to spend at local level, and the Finance Ministry does not allow to spend the money.

Climate change events, negative consequences, measures taken are not studied for impact on specific groups in local communities, no statistical data is released. No policy, institutions, partnerships nor budget exist that are tailored to the Gobi region.

No cooperation between state, CSO, entities and scientific organizations, the funding raised from international projects and Green Climate Fund is not always spent to target the objectives, not transparent and no accountability. Despite small financing, the implementation of the Billion Tree Campaign is mandatory for local governments, hence, it's financed from non-designated funds. Especially, some regress is observed in areas of transparency, accountability, reporting, and civic participation.

SDG-14(1.6) State organizations have started to cooperate with NGOs and international organizations. Measures on freshwater ecosystem protection and efficient consumption are under implementation.

Mongolia carries activities in accordance with the international conventions of which Mongolia is the party and submits regular reports.

Although the global SDG-14 is not directly relevant to Mongolia, measures on protection, consumption, and rehabilitation of biological diversity in in-country lakes, rivers, waters at national level are ongoing.

SDG-15(0.4) A Billion Tree Campaign has been launched. Size of the state protected areas has increased. Despite implementation of various projects and programs, the accountability mechanism is weak, and transparency is unsatisfactory.

Development of research methodology and reforms are in place for sustainable forest management. A positive trend is observed at implementation level. There is a legislation, strategic planning and a designated agency in charge, the planning and financing at national and local levels have been established. Top level partnership improved in certain areas.

There are slogan type laws and programs to combat desertification and protection of degraded land, however, no actual work is done on protection of water and glaciation, irresponsible mining operations worsen the situation causing expansion of degraded land.

Little progress is made on protection of mountain biodiversity in line with the SDG. Amendments and changes are introduced to the Environmental protection law. However, it was a regress allowing disturbance of ecosystem (-4).

An initiative to protect biological diversity was not supported in the law. Red Account has not been evaluated for more than 15 years.

No accurate information on illegal hunting and trade of wild animals is available. Hunting gazelles for stews and eating marmot meat are common in local areas.

A water agency has been established. Partnership towards reduction of impact on ecosystem is weak, and civil society participation is limited. There is lack of financing and legal environment to prevent the spread of alien species and reduce its impact on ecosystem. No improvement is observed since 2019.

There is a need to improve state policy and regulation on protection of biological diversity based on the participation. Projects focused on environmental protection are developed on the principle of "environmental protection through poverty reduction", however, the environmental status has not been improved. Since 2019, the results of actions taken to change attitudes and behavior regarding environment protection are still poor and the efforts are not sustained. The 2020 National assessment that evaluated Aichi targets was not transparent and the results

are unclear.

Laws are worsened. Laws aiming to “make significant money killing rare animals” were approved. Policies to “exploit in short period” are carried out instead of focusing on sustainability. The Ministry of Finance does not disclose detailed information on official development assistance/ aid and government’s budget spending for sustainable utilization and protection of ecosystem and biological diversity. As there is no designated unit, or structure to implement policies at central level, there are no organizations in charge in lower-level governments. No possibilities to hold accountable. Basically, no improvement has been made since 2019. No actual information is available on the trade of wild animals hunted illegally.

The forestation campaign across the country is positive, however, there is poor linking to watering and protection. Trees have been planted even in unsuitable areas where they cannot be grown. Water reserves are not estimated when deciding to plant trees, leading to wasteful spending. The mining sector continues to destroy more forests compared to the newly planted trees. The Ministry of Finance is required to disclose information about official development assistance and government budget spending for biological diversity and sustainable use of ecosystem.

SDG-16(0.2) No comments.

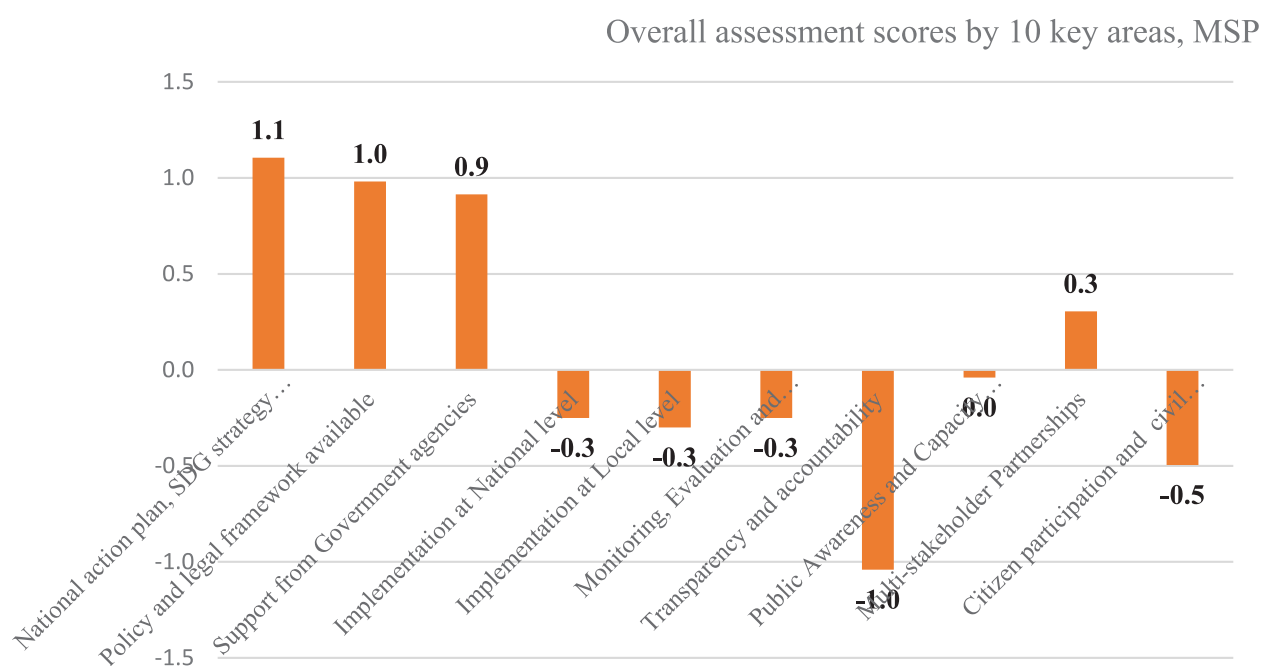
SDG-17(-1.6) On positive side, the Government approved a strategy document on Government’s debt management for 2023-2025.

The Ministry of Economy and Development and the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication were established, with approved action plans and budget. Public awareness and capacities are increasing but there is no monitoring, evaluation, and reporting structure in place.

Assistance such as USD 360 mln for the sewage treatment facility, water recycling and treatment project funded by the MCA, USD 3 mln project for pit latrines financed by Japan, sewage treatment equipment for provinces supported by the ADB should be properly implemented.

On negative side, the lack of civil society participation, weak control mechanism, limited multi-stakeholder partnership, weak ministries and Government, lack of commitment to support the civil society partnership are observed. Also, the issues relating to weak public knowledge, understanding of the issues, poor capacities and the lack of transparency have been left out of attention.

The following figure demonstrates the levels of understanding on ten key issues defining the main principle of SDG inclusiveness.

Figure 21. Overall assessment scores by Multistakeholders on 10 key questions

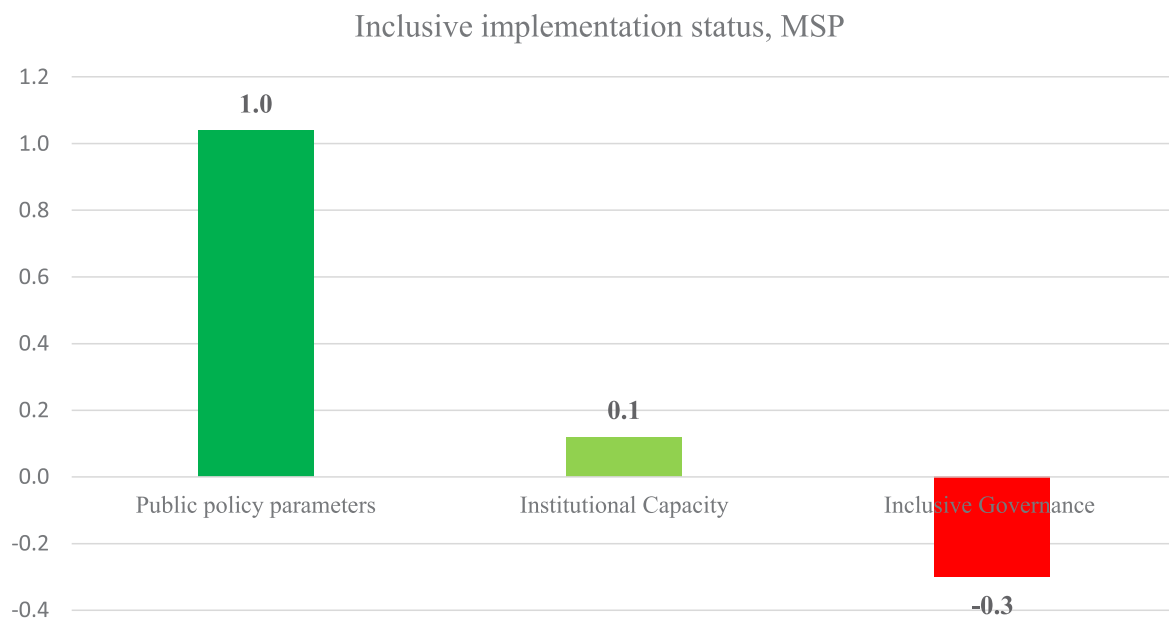
Participants of the multi-stakeholders' discussion believed that development policies, planning laws, and legal documents for the implementation of the SDGs are making progress. It was considered that the state institution to implement the long-term development policy of Mongolia has been fully established.

However, made a conclusion that the implementation is weak at the national and local levels, transparency, accountability, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms do not work. The public lacks information and understanding of government policies, and the participation of citizens and CSOs is considered insufficient.

Some progress is observed on developing multi-stakeholder partnership.

The following figure shows a little progress on strengthening state policy and institutional capacity on 3 cluster parameters defining SDG inclusiveness. However, no progress is made on inclusive governance.

Figure 22. Inclusive implementation status by Multistakeholders



Difference of results between CSO and Multi-stakeholder score-assessments of SDG implementation

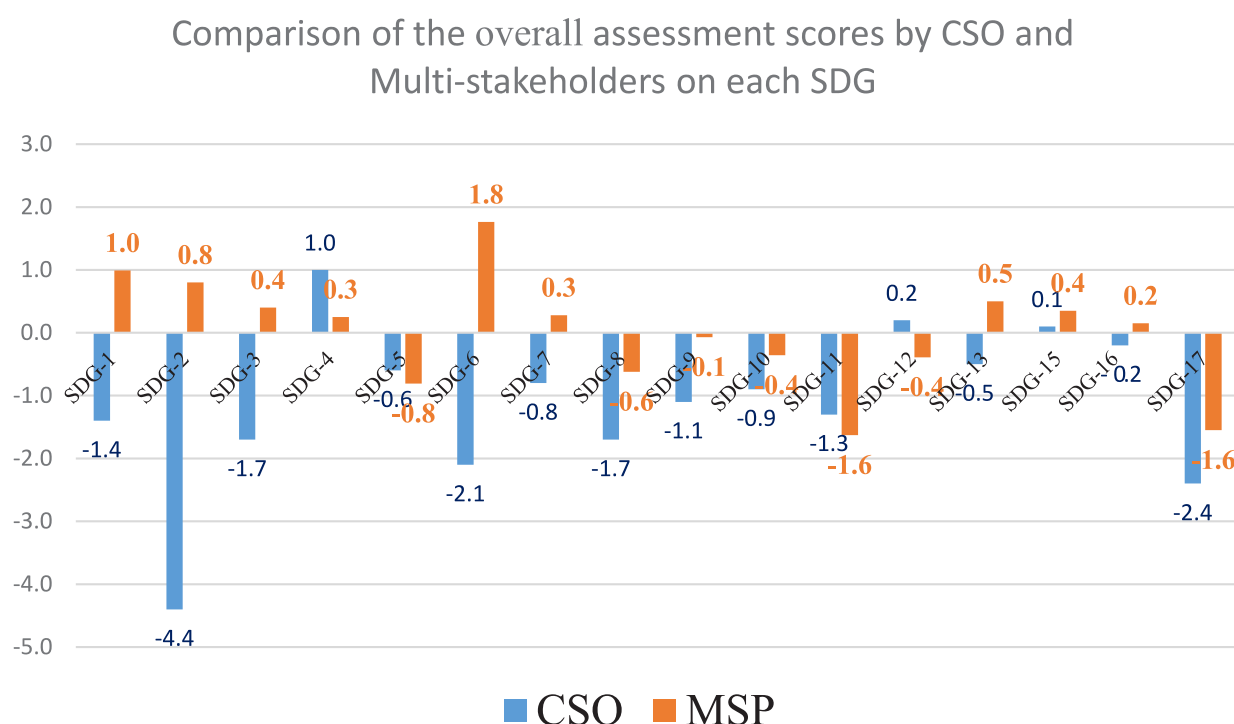
The below figure demonstrates significant differences for each SDG between evaluations carried out by CSOs and Multi-stakeholders which applied the same methodology. It may also depend on various factors such as knowledge, experience, information source, involvement in official policy, program and plan development, access to information, channels to access implementation reports, the availability of information, personal knowledge, and perspectives on the issues of SDGs.

Scoring assessment depends on understanding of assessment score levels and perspectives about 10 key issues defining the accessibility of SDG implementation. It is very important to provide the same information to all stakeholders, including state, NGOs, private sector, and citizens as well as to provide a platform to express opinions, share comments and discuss/consult on issues.

A multi-stakeholder consultation was the first successful cooperation activity of the Government and CSOs on SDG implementation assessment. It is an open and transparent progress ensuring multi-stakeholder participation to assess progress towards SDG implementation and challenges within the scope of preparing the second VNR of Mongolia.

The below figure demonstrates the gap in understanding of CSOs and Multi-stakeholders which participated in the assessment of the SDG implementation. The CSO network members are experienced in the human rights field, hence, they hold a more critical position regarding the implementation of SDGs. Multi-stakeholders mainly included state employees (civil servants). This consultation is seen as a significant event to start a cooperation towards reaching mutual understanding between the state and civil society.

Figure 23. Comparison of the overall assessment scores of CSOs and Multi-stakeholders on each SDG



It can be seen from the above picture that the evaluation of SDG-1, 2, 3, and 6 is quite different between CSOs and multi-stakeholders. CSOs believe that there has been a setback in the implementation of SDG-1, 2, 3 and 6.

SDG-1 goal to eradicate poverty in 2030 is planned to achieve by 50% in the Mongolia's long-term development policy document: Vision-2050 based mainly on social welfare. This fact is considered by CSOs as a significant setback.

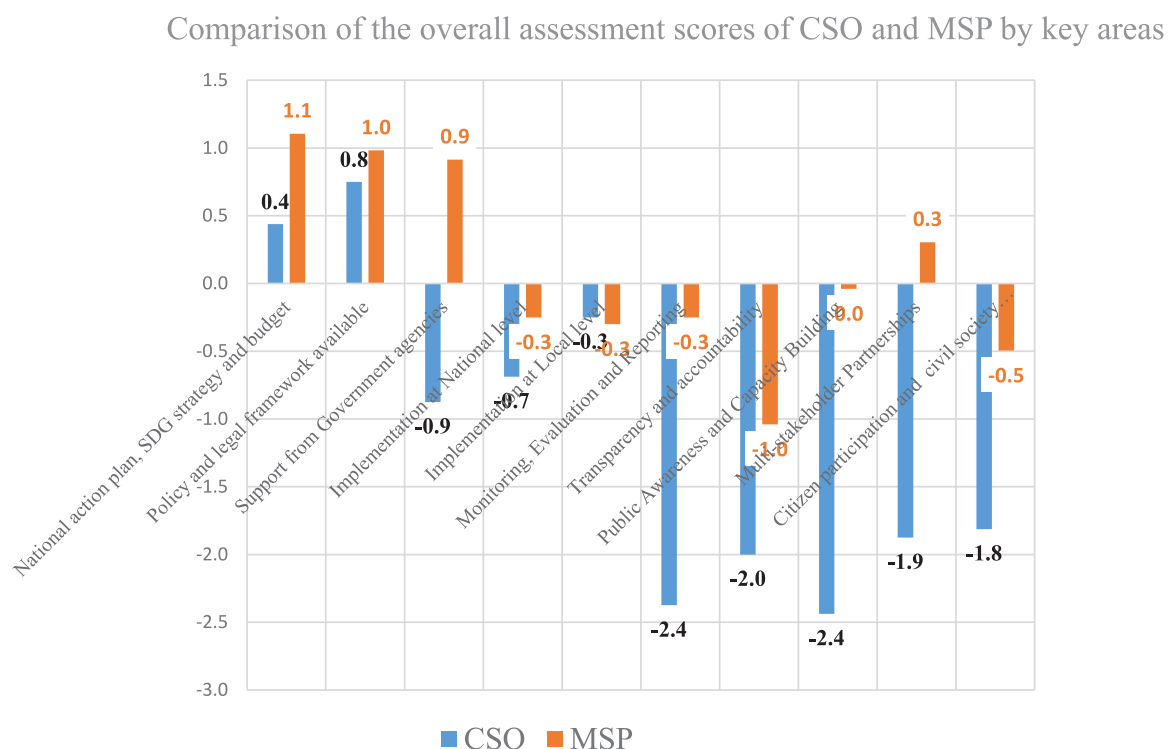
For SDG 2, despite many legal documents, financing is not enough and poorly coordinated among sectors. Ignorance of food safety issues, legalization of importing genetically modified food products talks about the impossibility to implement this goal. Further, it was explained that food shortage had forced the issuance of food stamps which points to existence of hunger.

For SDG 6, there are many legal documents and many state institutions in charge. Due to poor coordination of inter-sectoral policies, policies and programs are not implemented on ground. Drying up of many rivers and water sources leads to the emergence of freshwater shortage.

The assessments of implementation of SDG 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17 are almost similar between CSOs and multi-stakeholders.

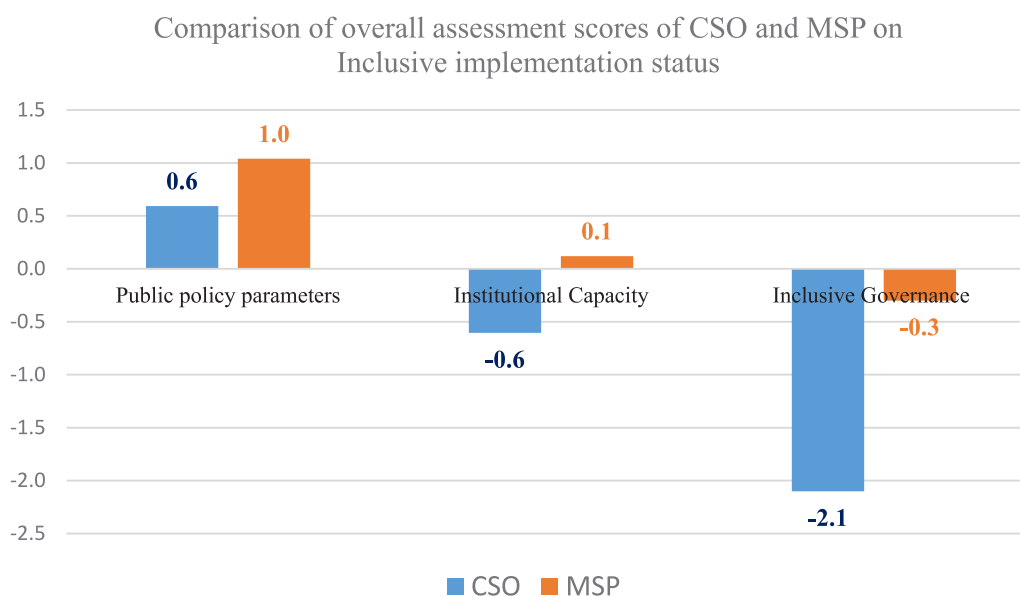
Whereas CSOs considered a regress in institutional capacity, the multi-stakeholders stated a very low progress for the same.

Figure 24. Comparison of the overall assessment scores of CSOs and Multistakeholders on 10 key issues



The below figure demonstrates that CSO and Multi-stakeholders' share the same opinion on cluster of state policy and inclusive governance.

Figure 25. Comparison of the overall assessment scores of CSOs and Multistakeholders on inclusive implementation status



Awareness of SDG16 and SDG 17

One of the issues observed during the SDG assessment is the poor level of implementation, lack of knowledge and information of SDG 16 and 17 which are fundamental to implement the SDGs. Given this situation, a survey was carried out among 200 respondents from central and local areas who work on issues related to the SDGs and who are expected to being knowledgeable of the SDGs.

A survey questionnaire was developed and used to assess the perceptions on the implementation of SDG 16 and 17.

Responses of participants on SDG-16 and SDG 17 are shown below in the Table below.

Selected SDG targets	Assessment of selected targets of SDG 16 and SDG 17, in percent				Responses in total
	Good	Moderate	Poor	Don't know	
SDG-16.1	9.2	35.9	36.9	17.9	100.0
SDG-16.2	9.7	40.5	32.8	16.9	100.0
SDG-16.3	9.2	40.0	32.3	18.5	100.0
SDG-16.4	10.3	28.7	29.7	31.3	100.0
SDG-16.5	7.7	19.5	56.4	16.4	100.0
SDG-16.6	10.8	25.6	47.7	15.9	100.0
SDG-16.7	10.3	27.7	45.1	16.9	100.0
SDG-16.10	11.3	40.0	31.3	17.4	100.0
SDG-16.6	10.8	36.9	32.8	19.5	100.0
SDG-16	9.9	32.8	38.3	19.0	100.0
SDG-17.14	8.7	41.0	29.2	21.0	100.0
SDG-17.16	9.7	34.4	30.8	25.1	100.0
SDG-17.17	9.7	31.8	35.9	22.6	100.0
SDG-17	9.4	35.7	32.0	22.9	100.0

Only about 10 percent of participants answered that the implementation of selected targets for SDG 16 and SDG 17 was well implemented. 19.0 percent of all survey participants acknowledged that they had no knowledge about the state of implementation of SDG 16 and 22.9% of SDG 17.

Most respondents, or 67.7% and 69.7% respectively considered the implementation of SDG 16 and SDG 17 to be unsatisfactory. This data demonstrates the importance of raising awareness on the SDGs, ensuring dissemination of Leaving Noone Behind concept and public participation in the SDG implementation.

Specifically, SDG 17.14, 17.16 and 17.17 targets are the most important tools to achieve the SDGs as they ensure coherent policies and regulations to support SDG implementation, introduce science and technology reforms and innovation, and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships. However, there is almost no information and knowledge on these tools and no indicators are approved to measure and evaluate the implementation.

Consolidated conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

- ✓ CSO network for SDGs conducted a qualitative assessment on SDGs for the first time and provided response to the question of citizen's understanding on whether the principle of Leaving Noone Behind has reached everybody, the extent of inclusivity of state policy and planning.
- ✓ SDG implementation assessment by citizens' scores with multi-stakeholder participation and organization of a joint discussion was an important step towards cooperation and reaching mutual understanding between CSOs and the State.
- ✓ Representatives of state ministries, organizations and public servants did not express their opinions openly, which means that there is a need to expand multi-stakeholder discussions and exchange of opinions.
- ✓ The gaps in understanding arise from lack of openness and transparency about activities to implement state policies and plans to lower levels of government, communities, and citizens.
- ✓ Results of SDG implementation score-assessment conducted by CSO and Multi-stakeholders applying same method have boldly demonstrated that state policies, decisions, methods of implementation, measures taken must be transparent to the public and the monitoring and accountability systems should be clear.
- ✓ To discuss with multiple stakeholders, it is critically important to regularly disclose information to the public. This would facilitate reaching a common understanding of issues.

Recommendations

- Within the broadly defined global sustainable development agenda, it is important to evaluate national actions, to have national policies aligned with the programs of implementation and have national indicators to define results.
- A great contribution shall be made to strengthen good governance through establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanism at national, local, and sectoral levels, evaluation, and discussion of development policies, planning and implementation with multi-stakeholder participation, creation, and operation of an official platform to receive inputs and feedback from public.



Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) is a non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit organization, established in 1998 and working for human rights, social justice and development. CHRD focuses on social groups in need of support to reduce poverty through the promotion and protection of economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to participation. CHRD works to strengthen national human rights mechanisms, increase the effectiveness of development programs and the role of civil society in development, and effectively use international human rights and development mechanisms.

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