PEOPLE'S SCORECARD

SUMMARY REPORT 2023

Contents

Introduction

2023 marks the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda, therefore many countries are now reporting for a second or third time on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, delivery of the SDGs faces many obstacles and civil society partners can often play a key role in ensuring a 'whole of society' approach that truly enables all voices to be heard as part of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In a world facing multiple crises, it is very challenging to ensure comparable reporting but the People's Scorecard aims to provide a way to understand progress on each of the SDGs according to national civil society coalitions.

This year, Action for Sustainable Development continued to work with a wide range of national civil society partners to set out a comparative report on the SDGs alongside the Voluntary National Review process, based on the same process of scoring in each country. This report provides an accessible approach to understanding progress around SDG implementation with a focus on many of the countries delivering a Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year.

In each case, the national coalitions themselves organized extensive dialogues with a diverse set of civil society organizations, community groups and local networks, to gather a broad range of views from those who are active on key thematic areas within the SDGs. In a number of cases, they also produced their own parallel or Spotlight Reports alongside the official Voluntary National Reviews.

The People's Scorecard tool was developed collaboratively within the A4SD network in order to provide a framework for measuring civil society's collective perception about SDG implementation progress at the national level to allow comparison and identification of patterns and trends within and between countries from a civil society point of view.

It draws from a steady process of mutual learning since 2016 and is rooted in wide experience of national CSO coalitions, including expertise from those in Brazil, Colombia, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, South Africa, and many others.

Key Trends

Based on the collaborative scorecards and reports collected by civil society coalitions in each country, several general trends can be highlighted as follows:

- **Overall SDG progress remains slow**. This year in terms of the 'People' Goals, Goal 4 on education scores highest, with Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Goal 3 on Health also scoring highly. Meanwhile on the Planet side, Goal 7 on Clean Energy stands ahead, alongside Goal 13 on Climate and Goal 12 on a Sustainable Economy.)However the key goals on fighting poverty (Goal 1) and tackling inequality (Goal 10) scored very low alongside the lowest score for sustainable cities (Goal 9) in the countries conducting a Scorecard in 2023.

- **Restrictions to civic space and its impact on political rights, freedoms and SDG implementation are a growing challenge.** Key case studies include Venezuela, Chile, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mongolia, showcasing varying degrees of curtailment of political participation, freedom of assembly, association and expression—rooted in different power dynamics and motivations within their respective political elites.

- **A vast gap between policy and implementation in the countries reviewed for the Scorecard remains**, primarily due to limited progress in both non-financial (policy integration, governance, institutional efficiency) and financial means of implementation (mobilization of domestic and international resources).

1. Process, geographical coverage and methodology

In 2023, A4SD provided support for national CSO coalitions to conduct independent scorecard-based progress assessments + spotlight reports in 16 countries (primarily in Africa, Asia, LAC and MENA regions).

The Scorecard methodology is based on a qualitative assessment of the implementation process, which intends to measure the collective, aggregated perception from civil society coalitions around the world. In 2023, given the halfway point in the SDG implementation process, the Scorecard aimed to measure tangible results made since 2015, thus trying to gauge the level progress (or lack thereof) made since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, using the set of 169 targets as reference for the assessment.

Regarding the process, national civil society coalitions were asked to conduct a Scorecard-based survey among CSOs (online and/or in-person), grassroot organizations and key constituencies in their country, that are known to be involved in SDG implementation and/or advocacy, or that represent categories of the population that have been historically marginalized within their national contexts.

The sequence for the scorecard-based assessment includes the following steps:

      a.   A survey was distributed both through an online platform and in-person consultations, to a wide range of CSOs and community groups based on the Scorecard template, asking participants to provide a global score between -5 and + 5 for each SDG. Respondents are encouraged to focus primarily on the SDG(s) where they have specific knowledge and experience, to ensure accuracy in the scoring process.

      b.   When the survey is administered at in-person consultations, the Scorecard template will be used to organize collective assessments in small groups, dedicated either to one or to a cluster of SDGs, in order to reach consensus on a single score for each SDG under review.

      c. Data processing and development of a draft aggregated scorecard.

The scorecards allow the identification of key trends for the Goal-based assessment, and they are usually complemented by Spotlight Reports. In the spotlight reports, organizations are encouraged to provide a qualitative assessment on the nature and scope of their national implementation pathway, as well as to supplement the perception-based assessment provided by the Scorecard with an analysis based on available statistical data for each SDG, both official and citizen-generated.
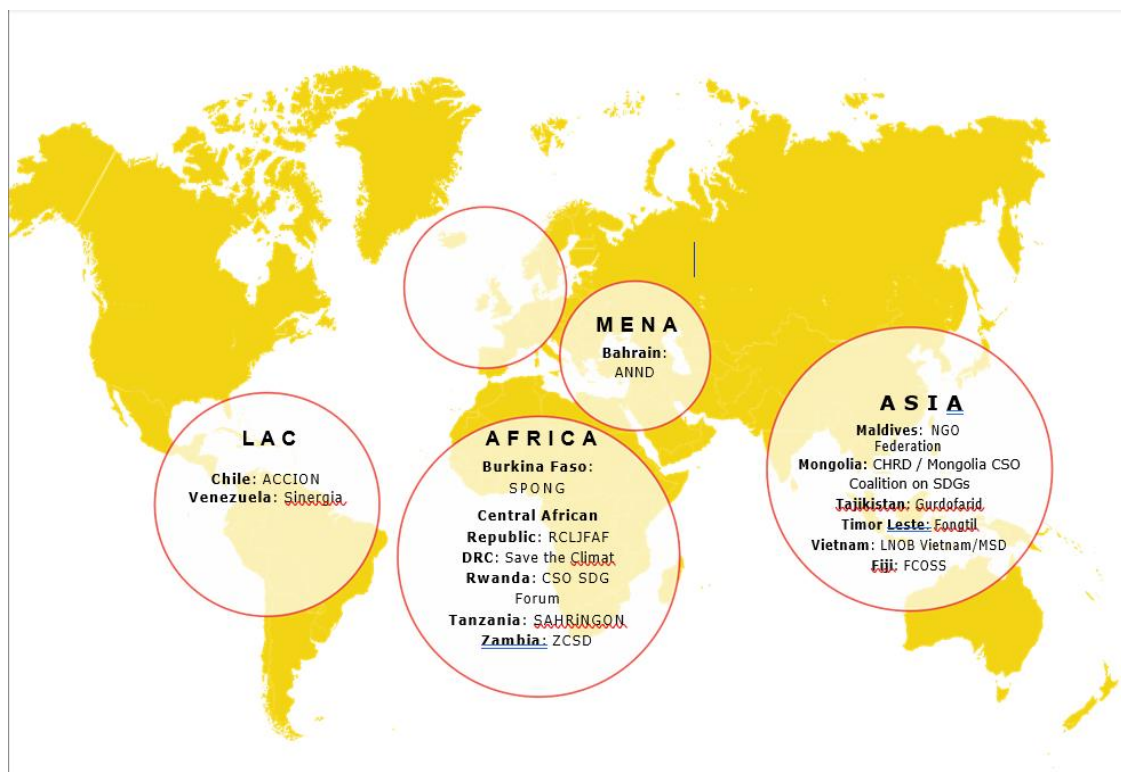
Every coalition acts independently and engages in its own advocacy activities, but they adopt a similar methodology based on previous experience and shared learning.

Geographical coverage of the Report

A4SD partnered in 2023 with national coalitions of CSOs in 16 countries, spanning four regions (Africa, Latin- America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Asia) and including a wide array of national contexts: political regimes, cultural contexts, nature and scope of civic spaces, socio-economic and environmental challenges, institutional and fiscal capacities- all of which imply different baselines and varying systemic conditions for each country. That said, by promoting a standardized sequence and template for conducting collective reviews, the People's Scorecard contributes to build a common ground for an independent assessment on the level progress in the implementation process since the SDGs inception in 2015, and hence, provides a platform for identifying key trends within and between countries.

This report focuses on the 16 countries that completed the Scorecard- based assessment and whose countries presented a VNR at HLPF 2023. It aims to provide an overview of the results, based on the aggregated total scores for each country, the aggregated average scores for each SDG, as well as the insight contained in the spotlight reports.

Countries covered in 2023:

M E N A
Bahrain: ANND

L A C
Chile: ACCION
Venezuela: Sinergia

A F R I C A
Burkina Faso: SPONG
Central African Republic: RCLJFAF
DRC: Save the Climat
Rwanda: CSO SDG Forum
Tanzania: SAHRiNGON
Zambia: ZCSD

A S I A
Maldives: NGO Federation
Mongolia: CHRD / Mongolia CSO Coalition on SDGs
Tajikistan: Gurdofarid
Timor Leste: Fongtil
Vietnam: LNOB Vietnam/MSD
Fiji: FCOSS

Methodological Observations

The 2023 edition of the People's Scorecard includes specific modifications regarding its underlying methodology.

Firstly, regarding its overarching objective, this year's Scorecard intends to provide a halfway point assessment of the SDG implementation process since 2015 in the countries where the survey was conducted. Secondly, it uses the set of 169 targets as reference for the assessment, the rationale for the use of the official SDG targets is to provide respondents with a broader concept of the thematic array within each SDG. Indicators -national, regional or global- tend to have a narrower focus, which would also limit the view of respondents about the thematic scope of each Goal. Given that the scorecard survey is conducted in very different national contexts (with varying degrees of knowledge and engagement around the SDGs), and submitted to organizations and individuals with different levels of knowledge around the full thematic scope of each SDG, it is useful to provide the set of targets as a reference point for the scoring process.

The adaptation of the Scorecard's approach from a process-based assessment to a results-based assessment in the context of the halfway point review has led to a review of the methodology.

Methodological adjustments

As mentioned, the Scorecard assessment is a perception-based survey, conducted following a non-probability sampling method (self-selecting sampling)– which implies that the assessment is conducted by targeting a specific subset of the population (civil society and grassroot organizations, which are not necessarily representative of the entire population), and that the sample is ultimately built around the organizations that are willing to answer the survey.

The aim is to provide a venue for individuals and civil society organizations to engage with the SDG monitoring process and convey their views and perspectives about the progress of SDG implementation in their country. At an aggregate level, the Scorecard thus allows us to identify trends regarding the collective perception from civil society at a given moment in time.

Also, given that countries, organizations and individuals have engaged with the SDGs and public policies to varying degrees at the national and local levels, the extent of their knowledge about the specific contents of each SDG, and thus, the level of comprehensiveness in the assessment will vary. In more practical terms, person A will be able to put together a very complete picture based on the different thematic strands included in each Goal, drawing from a more comprehensive set of theoretical and statistical knowledge, as well as on-the-ground experiences, whilst person B may base his/her score on only one or two targets at most. At an aggregated level, though, both scores will contribute to identifying broader trends and establish the collective perception from civil

society. These variations in approaches are addressed -at least to some extent- in the instructions to the survey, by encouraging respondents to focus mainly on the SDGs for which they have more specific knowledge or information, based on their work or life experiences, in order to increase accuracy in the scoring.

Value of the Scorecard-based assessment

By providing a venue for organizations and individuals to engage with the SDG monitoring process, the Scorecard's first contribution is to raise awareness about the SDGs. It will also encourage and inform dialogue around the implementation process and results, initially within civil society and later with public authorities at different administrative levels, as well as other stakeholders like the private sector and academia.

The Scorecard is a structured and standardized tool that allows for the identification of key trends around the level of progress for each SDG, as well as for the SDG framework as a whole. Given that the nuanced Scoring scale (-5 to +5) enables respondents to convey whether they perceive a degree of backsliding, no progress or some degree of positive progress, the aggregation of the different scores tends to provide a broader picture regarding the *direction of travel* a given country is engaged in regarding SDG implementation.

The Scorecard assessment establishes 2015 as its baseline, creating an assessment that is placed between two overlapping timelines: one static and the other dynamic. Respondents evaluate tangible present-day results based on their experiences, while also assessing progress made in the eight-year implementation of the SDGs. This necessitates consideration of specific policy changes and institutional innovations inspired by the SDGs, which might not have produced immediate outcomes but signify specific or overarching efforts made by governments, and might produce results moving forward. Thus, the assessment offers both a view on the current state-of-play and the general trend since 2015, as perceived by respondents.

In conjunction with the more qualitative assessment provided by the narrative Spotlight reports, civil society coalitions are able to highlight and specify different challenges that have arisen and achievements made. They are also able to propose recommendations for the implementation of each SDG, the identification of context-specific interlinkages or improvements that could be included in the governance and monitoring mechanisms.

By providing a specific structure and approach, enabling collective engagement and assessment, the Scorecard provides a degree of comparability between different collective perceptions about the direction of the overall trends for each country.

2. Participatory governance in 2023 VNR countries

Based on the 2021 and 2022 editions of the Scorecard, in many countries there have been limited improvements in the way governance is organized for SDG delivery. There is often a lack of progress in terms of meaningful spaces for cross-societal dialogue on policy planning, or inclusion of marginalized communities in policy-making processes.

The set of countries under review in 2023 doesn't significantly move away from these earlier trends. One of the reasons for this is that the set of countries under review this year includes countries that are either undergoing economic and humanitarian crises (Venezuela), or are governed by political regimes categorized by the CIVICUS monitor as either closed or repressed (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Venezuela, Tajikistan, Vietnam), or are Heavily indebted poor countries -HIPC- (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia). These countries face major internal governance challenges and are therefore limited in their ability to develop meaningful engagement on the SDGs.

In particular, political conditions in these countries don't provide the necessary space for inclusive institutional innovations (mechanisms for participatory planning, policy coordination and policy integration, participatory monitoring), whilst macroeconomic conditions in many of these countries actively hinder the fiscal space available to pursue inclusive sustainable development – this factor being further compounded by the built-in asymmetries that structure the global financial architecture.

In practice, while the SDG framework is envisioned as a universal roadmap for sustainable development, its effectiveness is influenced by the diverse political regimes and economic circumstances it encounters during implementation. This interplay is primarily shaped by existing power structures and political systems, which influence the extent of institutional and policy integration of the SDGs in national and subnational frameworks. The level of openness within these systems, influenced by various interests, motivations, conceptions of power, and practices, determines the scope and depth of the adaptation process. Through this imperfect adaptation process crucial elements and principles such as participation, inclusiveness, transparency, evidence-based policymaking, policy integration, and indivisibility) can be eroded to different extents.

At this point, 8 years into the implementation process, most countries still have not put in place the necessary structures for societal dialogue that would foster shared understanding about sustainable development as a guiding principle – and building consensus on context-specific sustainable development pathways. Nevertheless there are a number of elements that can highlight the potential for establishing more inclusive forms of public debate and deliberation around the structure of nationally relevant preferences for SDG implementation.

Examples of Participation in policy, planning and review processes:

In **Burkina Faso,** even amid political upheaval, the spotlight report acknowledges that the national NGO platform SPONG has been able to participate in the formulation and monitoring of the former and the current National Development Plans (2016-2020 and 2021-2025). The National Development Plan is the vessel through which the SDGs are adapted into the national context in Burkina Faso. This type of participation within planning-formulation processes is a significant and positive step towards consensus-building and more inclusive policymaking. However, the extent to which the NDP actually constitutes a guiding document for policy and decision-making is less clear and it would be worthwhile to note whether this type of multistakeholder dialogue could be further transformed into more continuous participatory spaces for dialogue and monitoring.

In **Vietnam**, civil society groups stated that they were able to participate in consultations in the context of the formulation and review of planning instruments, as well as contributing insight and data for the VNR, annual SDG reports, as well as 5-year SDG reports. That said, as in Burkina Faso, these participation spaces are still considered as specific events within planning and review processes, and still haven't been translated into more regular and institutionalized spaces for dialogue.

In **Chile**, the NGO platform ACCION highlighted that the VNR gave the incoming government an opportunity to expand participation in a broader way around the SDGs. This included the design and launch of an inclusive stock-taking and validation process, aiming to inform the national SDG Strategy. In this context, the government organized a series of 15 subnational and national dialogues throughout the country – along with 7 additional consultations specific to children and youth. The outcomes from these dialogues are said to have informed the Strategy proposal, which was then put to a week-long online consultation for comments and validation. The extent and geographical coverage of the dialogues is noticeable(especially in a very centralized country like Chile), and more broadly, a more participatory planning process is positive. However, civil society groups also expect that the revamped National Council on Sustainable Development will indeed be built as a multistakeholder and horizontal space, with clear mandates and with binding participation within decision-making procedures. It is also hoped that the SDG strategy will indeed constitute a form of consensual view of sustainable development that can guide policy and decision-making moving forward.

In **Rwanda**, civil society highlights that the few opportunities for policy dialogue are available at the district level, through Local Councils, and at the national level through sectoral and joint reviews.

In **Mongolia**, a new Multi-Stakeholders Council on the SDGs was created under the auspices of the sub-committee on the SDGs at the State Great Khural (Mongolian Parliament) in 2022. The mandate of the Council aims to intensify the planning, financing and implementation of the SDGs; ensure the participation of different stakeholders within Mongolian society (CSOs, private sector, academics, development partners); and enable improved coordination between public actors (Parliament, Government, local authorities) and between state institutions and broader stakeholders.

However, the civil society coalition highlights that the Council still hasn't started to function, and that there isn't information publicly available on its inner workings. Until the Council is fully constituted and its mandate further specified, the extent to which the Council will indeed improve coordination, consistency and coherence within state institutions and integrate stakeholders will remain unclear. In this case, the Scorecard process has provided a venue for fostering dialogue between civil society and the Mongolian government. After the Scorecard results were presented to government officials from different ministries, the government proposed to organize a joint workshop to conduct a dialogue on the Scorecard results. This dialogue provided the opportunity for Mongolian civil society to directly formulate specific recommendations for each SDG and conduct a joint in-depth assessment of progress.

These developments show practical examples of the different ways in which the SDGs have brought about more participatory approaches, however their limited scope, uncertain institutional status and mandates, as well as discontinuous nature lead to inconsistency which limits substantive progress.

This perspective leads to the acknowledgment that there is no one single method for advancing SDG implementation; rather, strategies and expectations need to be tailored to specific contexts.

Throughout the implementation process, it is the local civil society partners who are best placed to advise on the engagement strategy.

3.   Scorecard Results

3.1 : Country averages

Scorecard 2023 - National Averages (Global Ave. 0.80)
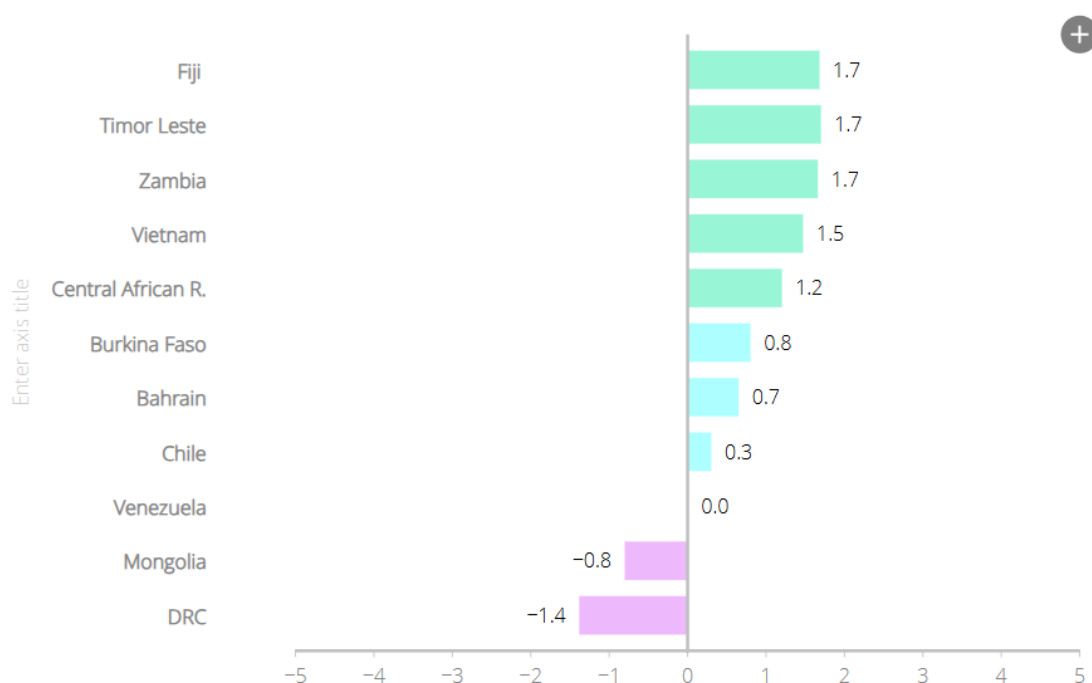
Scorecard results can be analyzed in multiple ways, but the most straightforward approach is mapping the average SDG scores by country. This provides a broad civil society perspective on overall progress since the launch of the SDGs, as respondents were asked to assess national progress since the SDGs' launch in 2015. Given that each country started from different baselines, what is truly comparable is not the specific numerical score itself, but the **trend**—whether progress is perceived as advancing or regressing, and to what degree.

The 2023 global average Scorecard stands at **0.80**, reflecting very low progress across participating VNR countries. While the Scorecard offers a global perspective by including countries from all regions, its averages and analytical insights apply specifically to this group of reporting nations.

Notably, the collective perception in this set of countries encompasses nations facing socio-economic and political challenges like Venezuela, DRC, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic. These challenges are reflected in their scorecards.

These shared perceptions suggest limited cumulative progress in SDG implementation midway through the process. While positive trends exist at the policy level, civil society perceives a widening gap between policy and implementation in many countries (like for

example in Mongolia). The integration of SDGs into national planning and governance remains incomplete, not inclusive enough, or too recent, resulting in minimal tangible outcomes. Financial constraints further hinder progress.

For the countries that register a low level of progress **(Fiji, Timor-Leste, Zambia, all with +1.7),** the common main drivers that can be identified are strong government commitment to SDGs and integration into national plans, relatively active multi-stakeholder engagement, and moderate institutional capacity (in the case of Fiji, less so in the case of Zambia and Timor Leste.). That said, challenges include limited fiscal space and dependence on external funding, all of which constrains implementation. In the case of **Vietnam (low progress at +1.5), c**entralized governance with strong policy execution, industrial growth, and poverty reduction could be seen as the main drivers, whilst limited civic space and governance transparency are elements that hold back progres. In the case of the **Central African Republic (low progress at +1.2),** the slightly positive outlook from civil society stems from a series of institutional rebuilding efforts post-conflict, especially around education, energy and environmental conservation, backed by donor-supported development programs. That said, weak state capacity, fragile security situation, and heavy reliance on humanitarian aid.

Regarding the countries registering very low progress, in **Burkina Faso (+0.8)** SDG integration in national plans, external funding, and relatively active CSO involvement are seen by SONG's spotlight report as assets, while political instability, security crises, and governance disruptions are amongst the factors hindering the pace of progress. As for **Bahrain (+0.7), e**conomic diversification, policy reforms in labor and gender equality, as well as institutional stability are seen as the main drivers of progress, limited democratic participation and inequality concerns are holding the country back in their pathway to sustainability. Regarding **Chile (+0.3),** the lower score reflects a collective perception that recognizes policy continuity, social reforms, and a renewable energy boom as assets, while seeing political polarization and slow policy implementation as the main elements hindering progress.

Venezuela's civil society perceives no tangible progress in the country's sustainability pathway (0), as
an economic collapse has created a protracted humanitarian emergency, which has been compounded by growing authoritarianism, and weak institutional capacity. Venezuela civil society still recognizes that some social programs remain, as well as some level of international cooperation.

As for the countries that register regression in their development pathways, **Mongolia'**s civil society perceives limited regression (-0.8). This score is shaped by the fact that although the country boasts stable democratic governance and increasingly sophisticated policies, as well as resource wealth, economic volatility, corruption, environmental degradation, and very slow policy implementation are seen as the factors that create the conditions for an increasing gap between policy and implementation. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (small regression at -1.4),** persistent conflict, weak governance, lack of basic services, and extreme institutional fragility greatly hinder its sustainable development pathway.

3.2 : Average Scores by Goal

Scorecard 2023 - Averages by SDG

Average Score: 16%
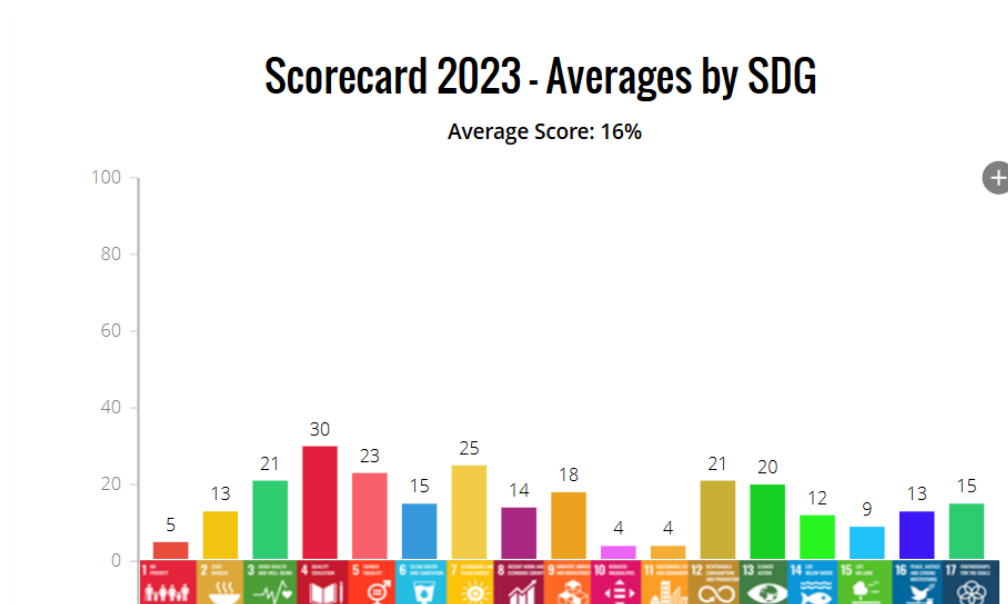
Progress in SDG implementation is largely perceived as **uneven and limited** overall. **Exceptions** include **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 7 (Clean Energy), SDG 12 (Sustainable consumption & production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, where infrastructural investments (SDG 7) and policy-driven progress (SDGs 12 & 13) stand out.

People-centered SDGs[1] (3, 4, 5)—focused on human well-being, development, and women's empowerment—generally score higher than **socio-economic SDGs (1, 8, 9, 10, 11)** and **ecosystem-related SDGs (14, 15)**. This reflects a trend where sectors with strong donor support or clear government priorities (health, education, gender equality, energy, climate) show more tangible progress, while areas requiring deep structural change—such as poverty reduction, economic inclusion, and urban development—lag due to weak institutional capacity and inconsistent policies.

Environmental SDGs display mixed progress: while **climate action (SDG 13)** benefits from global commitments and policy traction, **biodiversity protection (SDGs 14 & 15)** remains weaker.

SDG 16 (governance & institutions) has a mixed perception, reflecting challenges in institutional stability, transparency, and accountability.
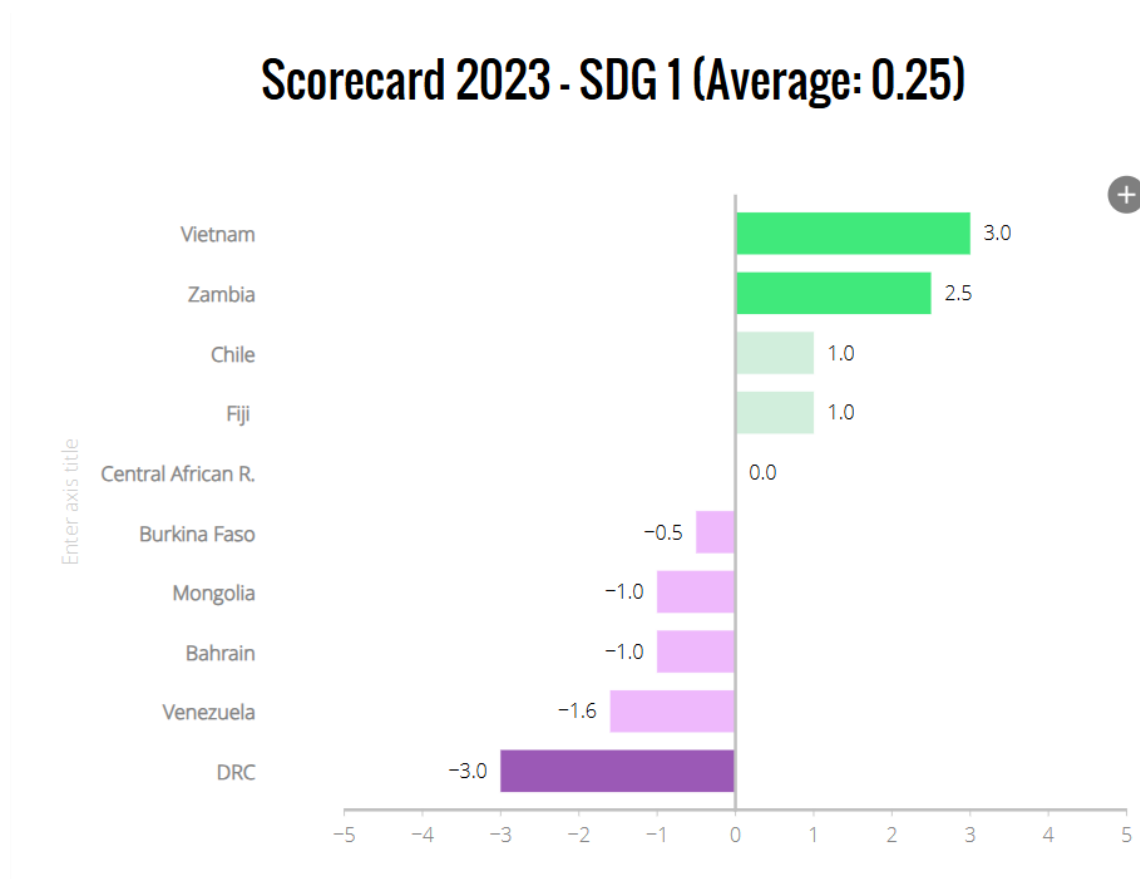
SDG 17 (partnerships) appears relatively strong, yet many countries in the Scorecard (e.g., CAR, Zambia, DRC, Burkina Faso) rely heavily on external funding, raising concerns about the sustainability of institutional capacities for long-term SDG implementation.

For more policy-specific insights, refer to the sections dedicated to each SDG.

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[1] This categorization is of course based on the primary emphasis of each SDG, acknowledging that many goals have multifaceted impacts across social, economic, and environmental domains.

3.3 SDG averages by country and SDG

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 1 (Average: 0.25)

Country	Value
Vietnam	3.0
Zambia	2.5
Chile	1.0
Fiji	1.0
Central African R.	0.0
Burkina Faso	−0.5
Mongolia	−1.0
Bahrain	−1.0
Venezuela	−1.6
DRC	−3.0

The 2023 scorecard highlights minimal progress in alleviating poverty across most reviewed countries. While civil society notes strides in social security and specific poverty programs, limitations persist. Predominantly contributory social systems omit coverage for informal workers and vulnerable groups, impeding overall poverty reduction efforts. Governments should broaden social security, revising eligibility and introducing new programs to include marginalized populations. Targeted poverty alleviation and empowerment initiatives, such as education, skills development, and economic opportunities, are also critical

In **Vietnam**, civil society acknowledges that the general economic development process, in conjunction with targeted social policies, has been efficient in lifting people out of poverty – with the country's multidimensional poverty rate decreasing sharply, from 9.2% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2022, as well as the multidimensional poverty rate among children declining from 19.1% in 2016 to 11.7% in 2020. That said, specific policies put in place for specific categories of the population left behind, for example, the New Rural Development program, or the National Target Program for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas -as well as various diversity-focused policies aim to support poor and near-poor individuals in rural areas, ethnic minority communities in economically and socially difficult areas-, still lack solid data to assess their efficacy.

In **Tanzania**, civil society highlights that the country has taken several steps to build resilience to climate change and its effects, with a focus on addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable populations through the development of a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). Regarding social security, coverage for populations in the lower deciles is only 6.5%, with civil society asserting that substantial increases could be reached if real investments are made.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society acknowledges improvements in building a social security system in the country- which has implied more coverage for vulnerable children and socially excluded persons. That said, the report also highlights that inclusion of persons with disabilities in the social security system has been far too slow, coverage going from 16,12% in 2015 to 18,17% in 2021 – with the national target of 55% remaining very much out of reach.
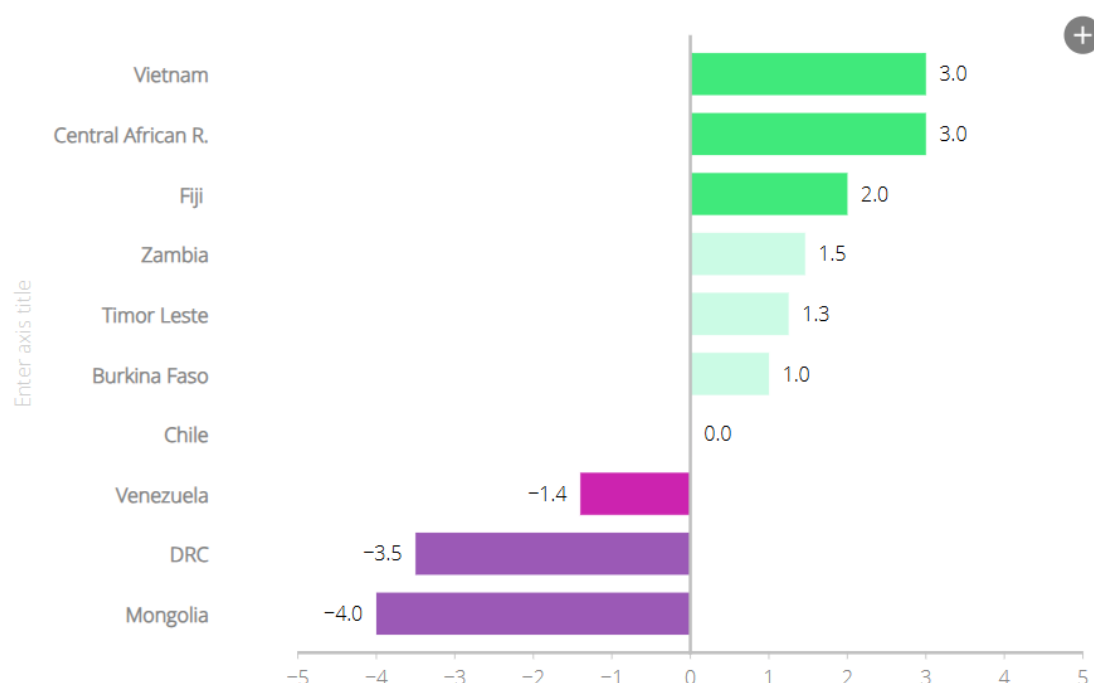
In the **Central African Republic**, civil society also points to a slow progression regarding the establishment of a social protection system, as well as the existence of a tenuous land-rights system (interlinkages with SDGs 2 and 10) – which disproportionately affects indigenous people.

In **Chile**, even though the country has made very significant strides in improving basic living conditions for large sections of the population – with the poverty rate diminishing by 30% between 1990 and 2016 (according to the methodology used by the UN Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean), clear inequalities still persist regarding Indigenous People, women, immigrants, the elderly and rural populations. Moreover, the pandemic shed light on the fragmented nature of the social security system, particularly regarding informal workers. During the pandemic, 25% of the working-age population reverted to informality, which placed them outside of the contributory social security system. Inequalities in access to social security are also evident regarding the private pension system in place - because of fluctuations between formality and informality (as well as the general informality levels), but also of low salaries (lower and middle-classes) and unpaid care work (women).

In **Venezuela**, the civil society report asserts that household surveys contradict the data put forward by the government. Whilst official statistics place the extreme poverty rate at 4% in 2021, the Encovi household survey estimates it at 68% in 2021, with an improvement at 53% in 2022. Furthermore, studies by Transparency Venezuela show that the government's social programs are hindered by a lack of systematic assessment of their impact, periodicity and coverage.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 2 (Average: 0.63)

Country	Score
Vietnam	3.0
Central African R.	3.0
Fiji	2.0
Zambia	1.5
Timor Leste	1.3
Burkina Faso	1.0
Chile	0.0
Venezuela	−1.4
DRC	−3.5
Mongolia	−4.0

The scorecard shows an uneven picture for SDG 2 – which translates into a low level of progress at an aggregated level. Whilst progress has been made in terms of increasing food security in most countries until the pandemic, geopolitical and geoeconomic crisis, internal conflicts, environmental degradation and climate change impacts have hindered progress to varying extents depending on each national context. The less positive elements within SDG 2 are linked to sustainability, since in many countries food security is being reached by building input-intensive and soil-degrading agricultural systems, which prioritize large-scale farming actors instead of building networks of smallholder farming. The role of agriculture in tackling climate-change through adaptive practices and locking carbon in the soil through regenerative practices is rarely addressed.

In **Vietnam**, the civil society report asserts that access to food has improved through the expansion of national target programs on poverty reduction that have contributed to hunger eradication nationwide, whilst noting that the country now needs to prioritize addressing malnutrition among ethnic minority children. From a sustainability standpoint, the report also notes that agricultural production in the country involves both conventional and sustainable approaches: '*the findings from a survey on more than 33,000 agricultural production households in 2020 demonstrated that the percentage of land area in efficient and sustainable agricultural production reached 37.8%, meaning 62.2% of agricultural production land is neither suitable nor efficient*'[9] .

The **Burkina Faso** spotlight report emphasizes food security disparities, notably influenced by geographic and age-related factors. Climate change, conflicts, and displacement in certain regions, particularly the north and northeast, have disrupted agriculture, displacing nearly 3 million people, impacting production and straining host regions. Ukraine's conflict affected imports, impacting food availability and prices. Children's nutritional needs face challenges due to production and import issues, although recent policies show positive trends. Despite efforts to improve water management, access to agricultural resources, and financial markets, progress remains limited amid political and security challenges.

In **Chile**, the civil society report acknowledges that food security is relatively ensured, given that the country has managed to build a solid agricultural system in terms of production and volumes. That said, challenges arise from the fact that the nature of the agricultural system is based on fostering large-scale farming, which translates into unsustainable agricultural practices – intensity in the use of phytosanitary inputs, water management and pollution, as well as soil degradation-. The prioritization of large-scale farming also implies that most products are geared towards export markets instead of providing healthier food choices for the population. The dominance of the agro-industry has also meant that some crops that have less export-value have been abandoned – which has increased the reliance on imported products-, and that smallholder farmers have less access to infrastructure, finance, land, and water.

The **Venezuelan** spotlight report highlights that the Global Report on Food Crises in 2022 classified the country as the fourth largest food crisis – with 30% of children under chronic malnutrition, and the percentage of the population in food insecurity -be it because of cost or availability- going from 67% in 2020 to 78% in 2022.

In **Mongolia**, the civil society report points that one of the main categories of the population left behind in public policy efforts are small livestock herders (the health of their animals is affected by air pollution by mining operations), vegetable farmers with small land, as well as household farmers without collateral assets. It also highlights that the ongoing distribution of food stamps means that hunger exists in the country, all the while large scale food programs and projects often omit the important issues of food quality and security. This is further illustrated by the fact that a law allowing import of genetically modified food products is in force.

In **Timor Leste**, civil society reports low agricultural production, compounded by the lack of adaptation to the effects of climate-change, protecting the genetic diversity of local seeds, as well as by the lack of systematic and integrated land-use mapping. The decrease in locally-produced food and the increase in prices of imports has implied a deficiency in the overall balance of macronutrient intake - with a Demographic Health Survey (DHS) of 2016 showing that 46% of children 0-59 month(s) experienced severe malnutrition and stunting.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 3 (Average: 1)
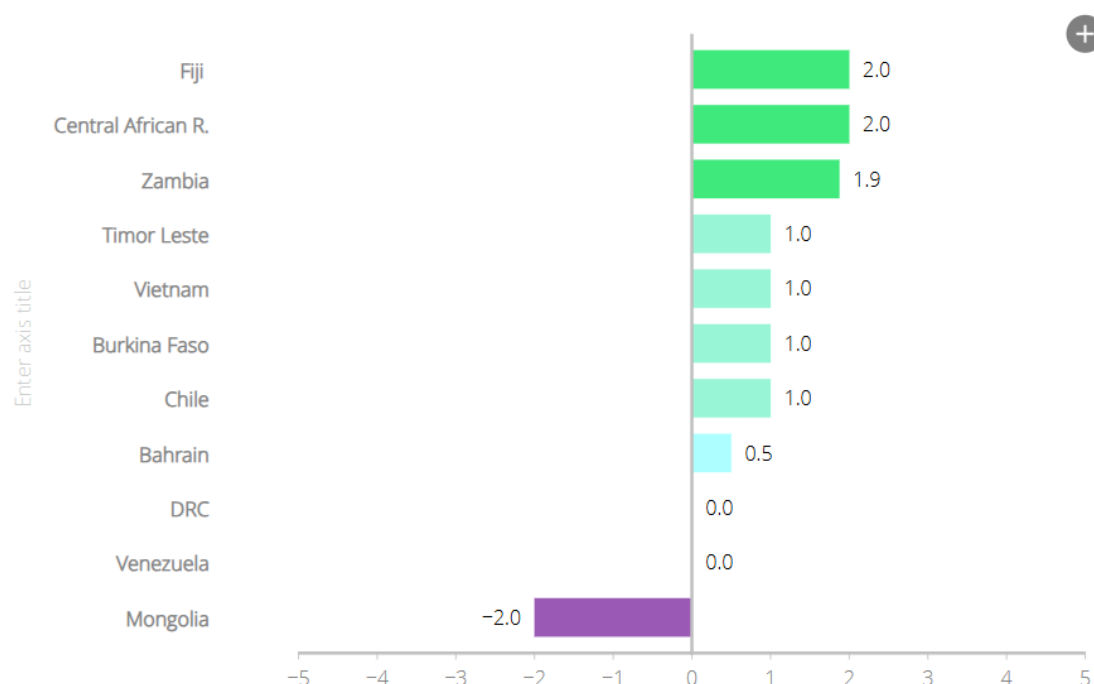
The scorecard for SDG 3 shows steady -albeit slow- progress in terms of coverage and affordability of basic healthcare, although spotlight reports highlight different categories of the population that are still being left behind in each national context. Further challenges persist in most countries regarding equal access to specialized care, and in some countries, healthcare systems are still undergoing varying degrees of rebuilding from the COVID pandemic.

In **Chile**, the civil society report asserts that even though the country has managed to establish a broad and solid enough public health system in terms of access to basic care, profound inequalities persist regarding access to specialized care – which is mainly concentrated in the private sector. Given that the private healthcare sector is profit-driven and weakly regulated, costs are prohibitive for most of the 77% of the population in the public system. This generates a very segregated and segmented healthcare system, which doesn't fully ensure access to health as a human right.

In **Burkina Faso**, even though a Universal Healthcare Insurance is being progressively built, women and children, as well as internally displaced populations remain particularly vulnerable.

In **Venezuela**, regressions in the healthcare system were repeatedly mentioned in the consultations carried out in the context of the scorecard/spotlight report. The lack of access to hospital centres and medicines, added to the desertion and migration of doctors and health
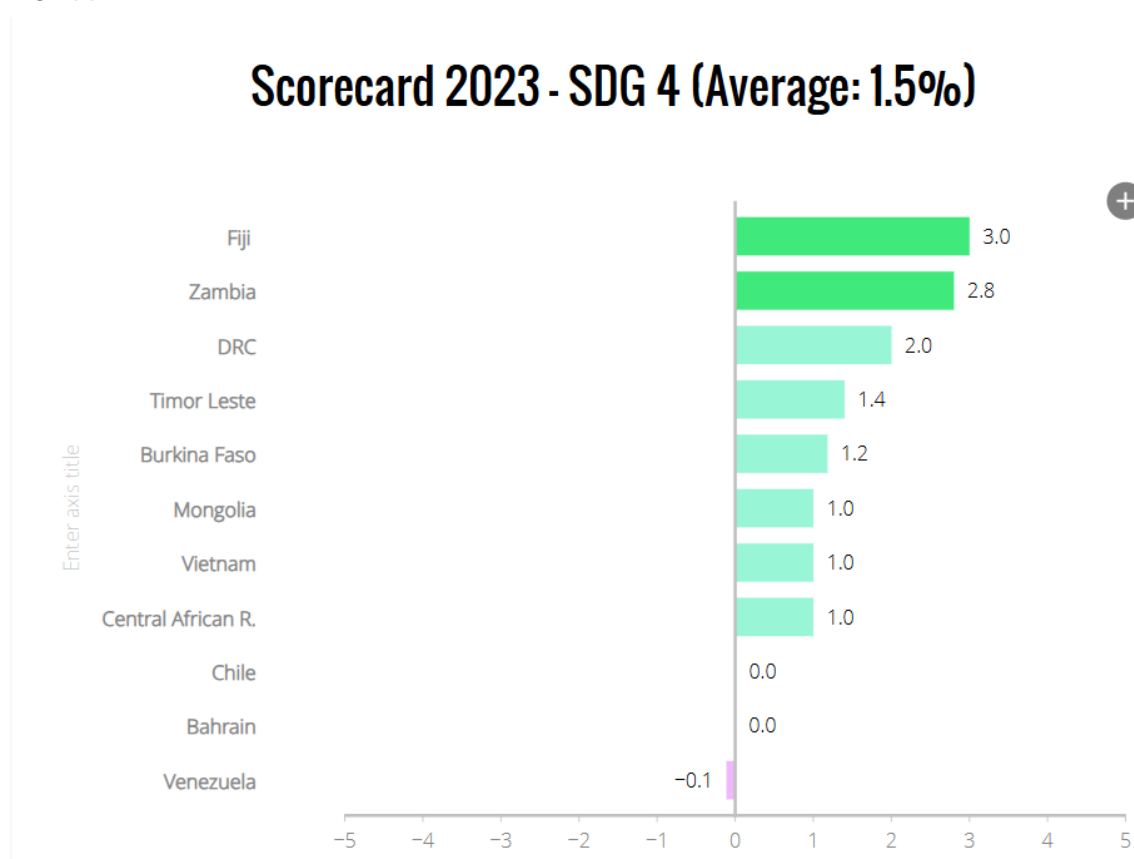
personnel, have eroded access to and coverage of the healthcare system in the country. Women, children, and the elderly have been particularly affected by this.

In **Vietnam**, some results from healthcare policies include improvements in maternal health, as well as improvements in under-five mortality and infant mortality rates; improvements in the prevalence of new tuberculosis and malaria cases, as well as the increase in the percentage of fully vaccinated infants (which reached 96.8% by 2020). That said, further efforts need to be made in order to ensure coverage for the elderly and ethnic minorities.

In **Mongolia**, the spotlight report highlights progress in the health sector with legal improvements and early steps toward SDG alignment. Measures like public health screening and enhanced insurance are notable, but maternal and infant mortality rates have risen, reaching 68 per 100 thousand births in 2021 from 30 in 2020. Despite budget allocation, implementation gaps persist, leading to unequal distribution of health benefits. Issues like financing for HIV-infected individuals and healthcare services for trans women remain unaddressed. Mongolian civil society further points out that 'According to a study carried out by mongolian CSOs cited in the spotlight report, *the health of herders residing around mining operations have deteriorated; lung disease has become common among locals, 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 to damage their health and being left out of healthcare. The report highlights the evidence of the most serious impact on pregnant women*.'

In **Timor Leste**, although civil society acknowledges improvements in prenatal care and prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, it also highlights large and persistent rural/urban inequalities within the country's health system (as specialists and health personnel, and equipment are concentrated in the capital city), as well as an incomplete road and communication system - which hinders patient evacuation of patients.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 4 (Average: 1.5%)

Country	Value
Fiji	3.0
Zambia	2.8
DRC	2.0
Timor Leste	1.4
Burkina Faso	1.2
Mongolia	1.0
Vietnam	1.0
Central African R.	1.0
Chile	0.0
Bahrain	0.0
Venezuela	−0.1

With 34%, SDG 4 is the highest-scoring Goal in relative terms – although the score still implies only a low rate of progress at an aggregate level. Progress concentrates in coverage and infrastructure improvements, as well as gender parity, especially for primary education. Challenges in terms of equal access to quality education -particularly at secondary level- persist and were amplified by the pandemic.

In **Tanzania**, civil society highlights a significant gap between primary and secondary education, with Gross enrollment ratio (GER) in primary school standing at 99% for boys and 98% for girls, while in Secondary school enrollment rates stand at 30% for boys and 27% for girls.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, civil society acknowledges the beneficial effect that the policy of gratuity in primary education instated four years ago has had in bringing 2.500.000 children back to school, as well as the creation of 24.000 new primary schools around the country - although it also points that there are still many efforts to make in regard to improving quality levels.

In **Burkina Faso**, the civil society report acknowledges wide-ranging progress in the educational system since 2015 – with more and improved infrastructure and human resources, gender parity in access, material support for families, etc. That said, data from 2022 suggests stagnation or even a slight regression, which has been caused by the security challenges in the north and north-eastern regions of the country, where thousands of schools have had to

stop providing classes temporarily. The government is putting in place a program to re-open schools once the security situation improves.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society advocates for more public support for technical and university-level education to broaden coverage and ensure equality of access – particularly for women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people.

In **Chile**, a segregated, mostly profit-driven educational system has implied inequalities in quality and outcomes depending on economic capacity – which also translates into an educational system that broadly perpetuates entrenched social inequalities. Furthermore, the pandemic and the adoption of online classes deepened these inequalities, given that 45% of Chilean families don't have access to a stable internet connection, concentrating in the bottom deciles of the income distribution.

In **Venezuela**, the spotlight report highlights that household surveys like 'Educational Diagnostic Venezuela' show that in 2021 1.2 million students left school because of lack of food (78%), lack of basic services (57%), cost (55%), health (44%), or transport (26%).

In **Timor Leste**, civil society acknowledges improvements in terms of coverage in preschool, primary and secondary education, whilst asserting that there is still a lot to do in terms of quality, with diverse factors contributing to the situation: the low ratio of attendance, lack of knowledge about the importance of cognitive development of the first three years, bad quality of physical infrastructure, poor quality of teaching, limited teaching aids/materials in rural areas, distance to school. Civil society also highlights the weak enrollment levels for children with disabilities in primary education (less than 50%), with only 66% continuing into secondary education.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 5 (Average: 1.1)
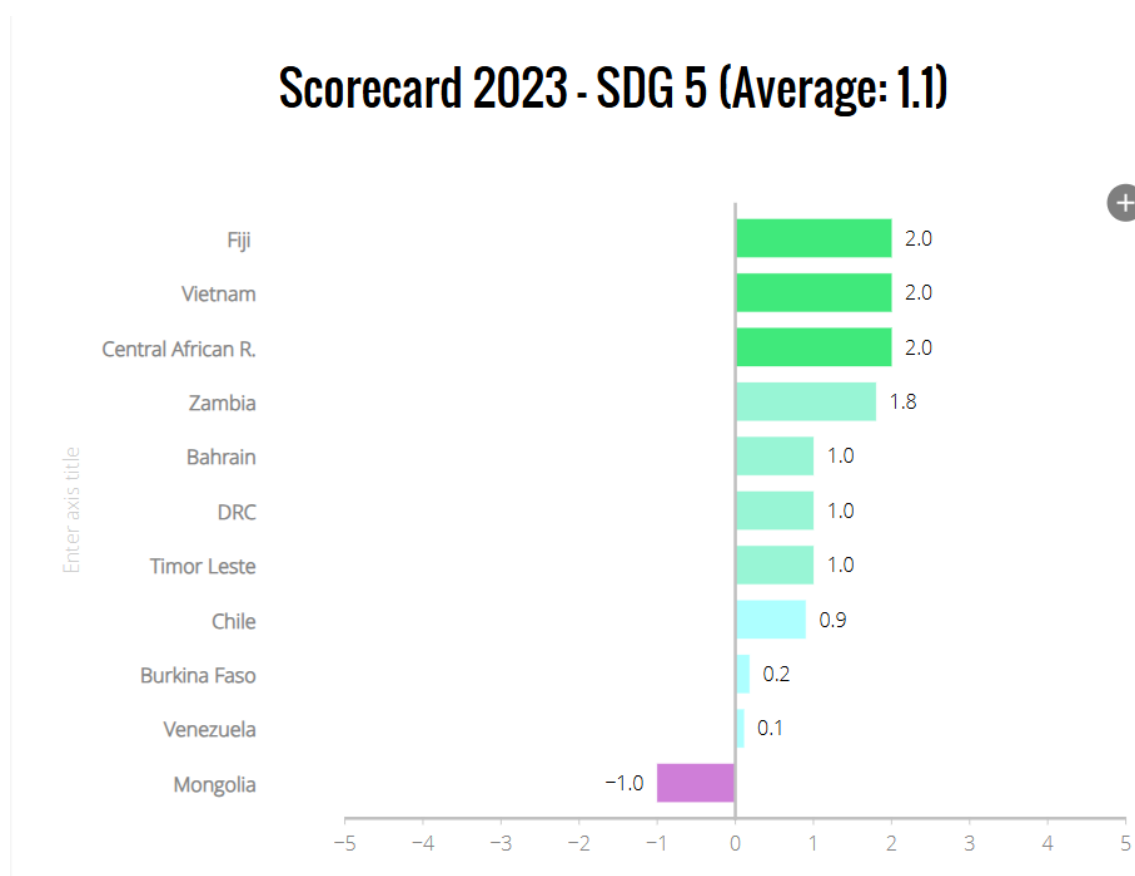
The global picture for SDG 5 that can be gathered from the scorecard is of steady – albeit low-progress around gender equality. This progress is mainly visible in the policy environment, since most countries report comprehensive legal and policy frameworks adopted, as well as in the form of institutional improvements made in order to monitor and oversee the protection and promotion of women's rights. Despite these advancements, many areas – like salary inequalities, access to decent work, unpaid domestic work, reproductive health and rights, pensions, participation in decision-making, gender-based violence- remain a work-in-progress to varying extents depending on each national context.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society reports some degree of progress in terms of the fight against gender-based violence, based on ensuring access to justice and effective legal remedies. The proportion of cases of family conflicts resolved increased from 47% in 2015 to 56% in 2019, with a prospect of 74% for 2025. This improvement has been managed by strengthening the legislative framework for the protection of women and girls, streamlining the subject in different government policies, as well as through awareness-raising and support. That said, challenges remain persistent in this area, as well as in the realm of gender equality in decision-making.

Regarding implementation gaps both civil society reports from the **Central African Republic** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo** point to clear gaps between existing legal and public policy frameworks, and their actual implementation.

In **Tanzania**, civil society asserts -based on figures from UNICEF-, that the 11% of girls in Tanzania are married before the age of 15 and 10% of girls and women undergone Female Genital Mutilation.

In **Rwanda**, SDG 5, 6, and 2 are interconnected through water access. The report notes a gender disparity in water access, with 82.7% of male-headed households having access compared to 81.4% for female-headed households. This inequality is exacerbated in rural areas where female-headed households access water at 76.4% compared to 95.1% in urban areas. Given that 63% of working females are in agriculture compared to 43% of males, rural water access significantly impacts gender equality efforts.

In **Chile**, even though significant progress has been made in gender equality, inequalities remain regarding salary disparities, labour participation, unpaid domestic work, gender-based violence, as well as reproductive rights, to different extents.

In **Mongolia**, strides in policy include the Inter-sectoral Strategic plan on gender equality (2022-2031) and a pilot project on gender-sensitive budgeting (2021). However, the National Committee on Gender Equality, while having provincial structures, lacks dedicated staff in provincial administration for gender-related work Regarding political representation and participation in decision-making, the report highlights that '*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, with the gender balance in lawmakers and leadership positions diminishing from 90.0 to 64.0*'[10].

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 6 (Average: 0.7)
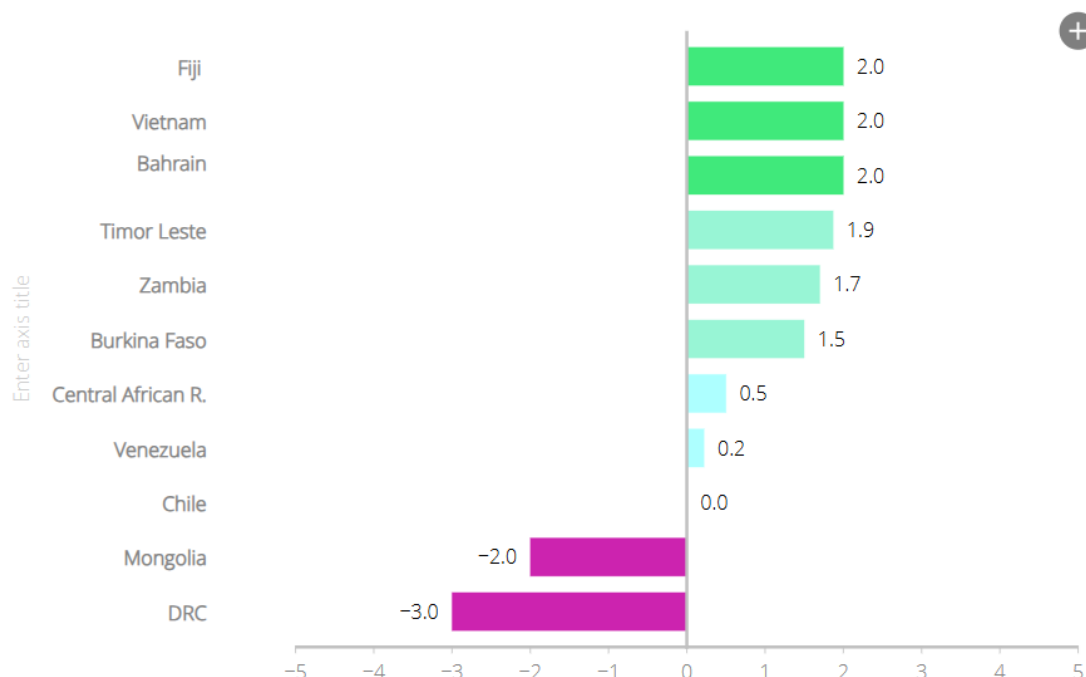
The global scorecard for SDG 6 shows a low level of progress at 20%. Rate of progress varies depending on the region, since each region of the world started implementing the SDG framework from very different baselines. In Africa, progress is steady in relation to infrastructure improvements to ensure access to water and sanitation, although universal access and coverage isn't within reach - given that most countries started from very low baselines. In Latin America and Asia, countries have better baselines in terms of coverage, but environmental challenges derived from climate change, unsustainable use and pollution from extractive industries, deficient water-treatment systems, as well as territorial inequalities, still haven't been properly addressed in most countries. For all these different reasons, the human right to water and sanitation is far from being achieved, and Integrated Water Resources Management approaches either haven't been formulated, or have been weakly implemented.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society acknowledges some steady -although slow- progress on access to water – going from 71,9% in 2015 to 76,3% in 2022, which translates into a favourable trend for achieving the national target of 81% in 2025. Regarding sanitation, the trend is also positive – although from a lower starting point: the 34% national target is within reach, with coverage levels standing at 27,5% in 2022. That said, civil society also acknowledges that the overall coverage rates identified by the national targets are still far from ideal, and that this progress has been stopped or even reversed in the regions affected by security challenges and internal displacements.

In **Chile**, a 15-year long climate change-related 'mega-drought' is being compounded by insufficient water-management policies, surface and groundwater pollution, profit-driven water rights and the implied aquifer over-use by extractive industries (agroindustry, mining, cellulose). Clear geographical inequalities also persist, with 47% of rural populations only being able to access water through wells and water tank trucks.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, water access is very low, as civil society highlights that 70% of the population doesn't have access to safe drinking water, especially in rural areas.

In **Rwanda**, civil society points to a report commissioned by Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation in 2021, on Gender, Women's Rights, Environment and Climate Change that reveals '*increasing water pollution from agro-inputs, including ammonia, nitrate, phosphate and pesticide residues (through leaching and erosion). If not addressed, they will affect groundwater and the ability of ecosystems to naturally purify water. Since end users of water are human beings and animals, effects on their health can be dire. There are reports about high sediment loads; toxic and acidifying materials, heavy metals from mining; and untreated domestic sources that cause microbiological pollution which threaten human and ecosystem health*'[11]. As mentioned in the section SDG 5, since agricultural and domestic tasks are mostly carried out by women, they are the most exposed to water pollution consequences.

In **Mongolia**, although many policies and institutions tasked with implementation and oversight have been put in place, civil society asserts that the existing policies lack actual implementation. At the institutional level, the Water Authority was established on paper, but no tangible progress is seen to date. The country also experiences water-scarcity, which civil society asserts is compounded by mining-related pollution and inefficient consumption patterns, lack of common standards on sewage facilities which leads to water pollution, as well as lack of monitoring and census of rural area waters and a lack of partnership to protect water resources.

In **Timor Leste**, civil society highlights that -based on 2016 data-, only 36% of households have access to drinking water country-wide. In rural areas this number is even lower, with degraded infrastructure, with many of the wells and water taps located at great distances from habitations. This has also an incidence on SDG4, as many school-age children are tasked with water-fetching duties, instead of attending classes.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 7 (Average: 1.2)
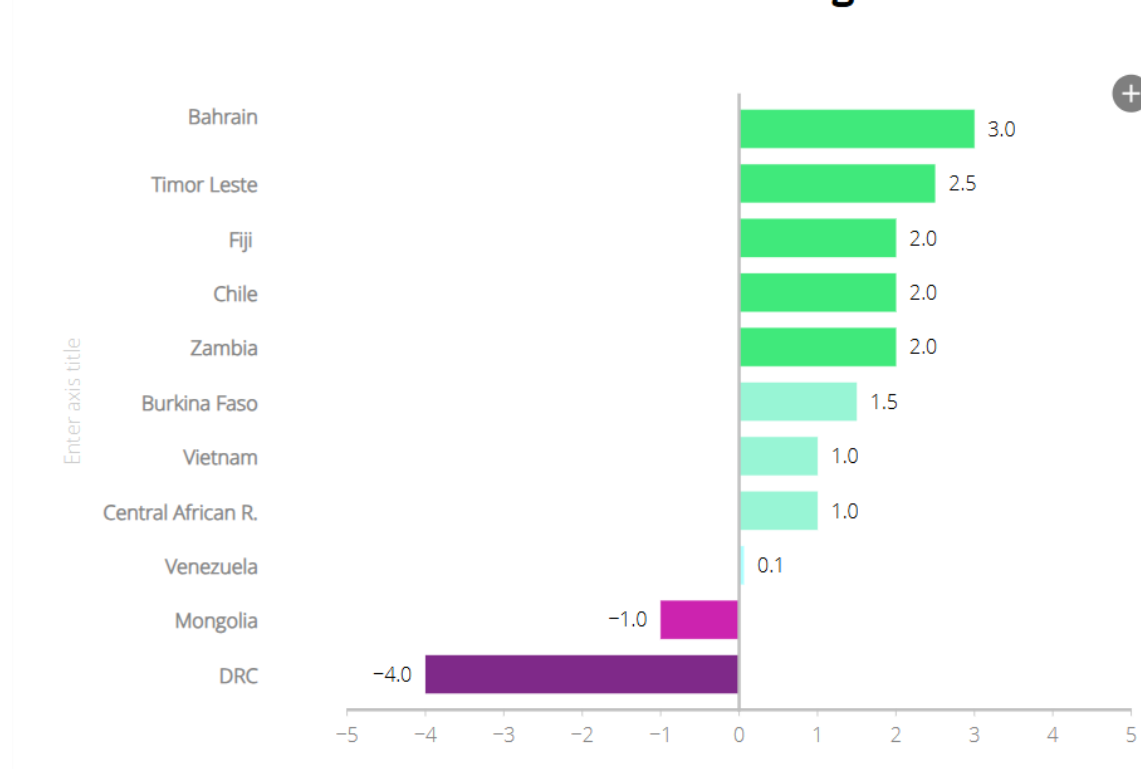
SDG 7, ranking second in progress, reflects positive advancements in many African nations, except the DRC. This growth is driven by expansive solar power integration, benefiting from a 90% decrease in solar panel costs since the 2000s. The shift towards low-carbon energy, especially solar power and batteries, is steered by technological advancements, conducive regulatory frameworks and increased investments, favoring renewables over fossil fuels. However, despite global climate finance having doubled, reaching USD 1.3 trillion in 2021/2022, flows remain insufficient for a rapid energy transition and universal access, constituting only a fifth of the necessary amount for a 1.5°C warming scenario. Investments in energy (renewable energies) and transport represent almost half of these total flows.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society highlights an impressive increase in the percentage of renewable energy in total energy production – with this indicator going from 9% in 2015 to almost 25% in 2020 – thanks to many solar power plants being put in place. Electricity access has also improved steadily, from 35,9% in 2016 to 49,29% in 2021 – with a national target of 63%-, thanks to improvements in electrical transmission lines. That said, many challenges persist in terms of national coverage -especially regarding the northern and north-eastern regions, where electrical infrastructure has been damaged in terrorist attacks -and new projects having been postponed-, as well as regarding energy affordability.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society also highlights the construction of solar power plants, whereas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, civil society points to very

little progress regarding energy access in the country, with only 15% of the population having access to electricity. This is compounded by broad geographical inequalities – as only 1% of the rural population has access to electricity, while 30% of the population living in urban centers has access.
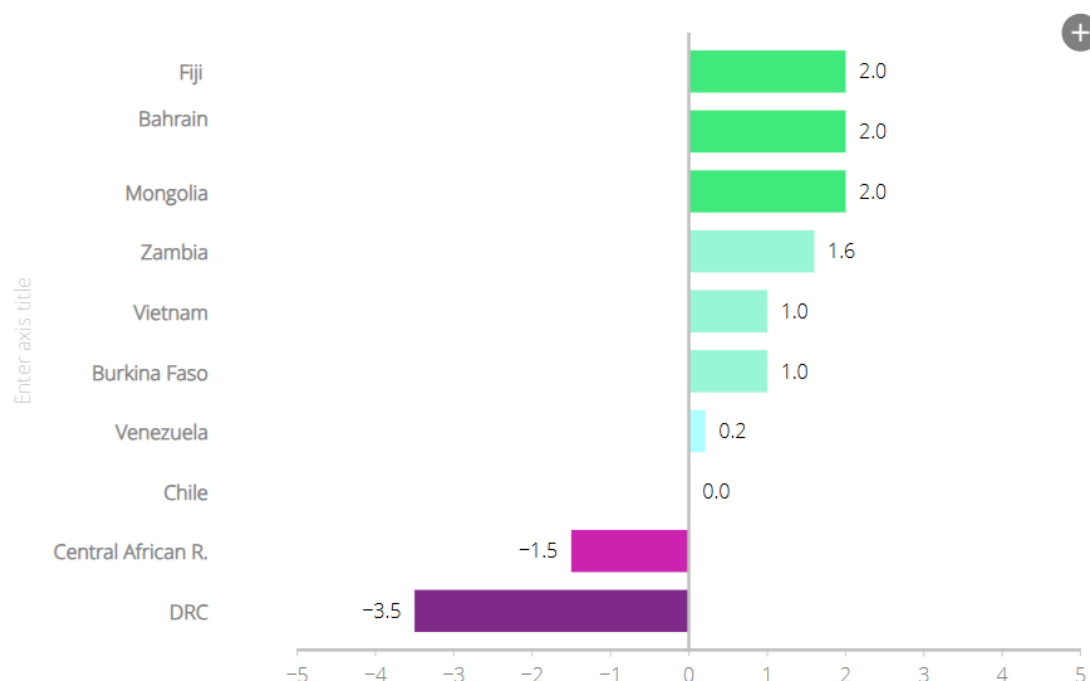
In **Rwanda**, the situation is better, with an estimated 77% Rwandans having electricity as of December 2022 -versus a country target of universal access (100%) by 2024. Regarding the composition of the energy mix, about 60% of the Rwandan power supply comes from renewable energy, mainly Hydroelectricity, whilst the remaining 40% is generated from Heavy/Light Fuel Oils and Peat/Coal. Civil society points out that there are still efforts to be made in terms of affordability and continuity in energy provision. Regarding domestic use, the report acknowledges efforts made regarding the uptake of gas-based cooking, but a clear roadmap for the transition from charcoal to gas is still to be formulated, that would include a more gendered strategy.

In **Chile**, the country has made significant strides in incorporating renewable energies - particularly solar- to the energy mix, mainly benefitting from the lower costs that these technologies now imply. That said, the spotlight report highlights that the country still generates 30% of its electricity through 20 thermo-electric power plants. Even though progress has been made through market-based approaches, successive governments still haven't fully been able to steer the country away from fossil fuel fast enough.

In **Timor Leste**, civil society acknowledges progress on electricity access (93%) - although affordability is an issue. Also, the lack of specific public policies to harness the potential of renewable energies is highlighted.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 8 (Average: 0.68)

Country	Score
Fiji	2.0
Bahrain	2.0
Mongolia	2.0
Zambia	1.6
Vietnam	1.0
Burkina Faso	1.0
Venezuela	0.2
Chile	0.0
Central African R.	−1.5
DRC	−3.5

Regarding SDG 8, civil society around the world reports very low levels of progress in terms of improved access to work and economic opportunities, decent working conditions, and economic diversification from an environmental perspective. From a sustainability standpoint, most countries still seem to approach economic growth as a goal in itself, instead of a more inclusive and integrated conception of growth that promotes resources-efficiency and environmental stewardship, as well as a more equal distribution of economic opportunities. Putting an emphasis on economic growth in isolation has interconnected implications on labor rights, equality in economic and education opportunities, wealth redistribution, environmental protection and restoration, etc.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society points to the lack of development banks that could support entrepreneurship, innovation, and smallholder farming to blossom, as all banks in the country are of commercial nature. Support for youth and for persons with disabilities to enter the workforce are also needed.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society asserts that even though decent work-generation is a key element of National Development Plans, and a number of policies have been adopted in order to improve the productive base and the labor market, few tangible results are to be reported. This is particularly the case of young people, as 45% of them remained out of education, training, or employment in 2020 – even though some specific supporting policies are starting to be put in place.

Chile -despite being considered a high-income country based on aggregated macro-economic figures and averages, with a per capita GNP of around 16.000 USD-, entrenched inequalities in labor markets persist, whether at the salary level (median salary of around 500 USD and average salary of around 800 USD). Low salaries for a majority of the population are the result of the still prevalent informality levels in the economy, but also the weakness of trade unions, as the current legal framework hinders unionization and collective bargaining. From an inclusiveness standpoint, the civil society report highlights that there's still a lot to be done in terms of access to the labor market for women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and more broadly, regarding diversification of the productive structure -still dominated by extractive industries.

In **Venezuela**, the country has seen a significant erosion of its productive base, as 12.000 companies active in 1998, only 2.500 were still functioning in 2018 – with entrepreneurs having little access to credit. Regarding salary conditions, 63% of workers earn less than the minimum.

In **Mongolia**, the civil society report highlights that even though the national development plan Vision 2050 includes some relevant objectives, no specific policies, legal environment, budget and planning exist to implement them. Regarding youth support to enter the labor market, there is no policy to provide scholarships for students of tertiary and vocational education institutions and universities, nor specific policy for supporting students studying in fields in priority economic sectors such as processing industries, transport, and logistics. Moreover, '*there is no effective policy to support training of girls and women to work in value-added fields of mining, transport and logistics, technologies, which are economic sectors that need labor force. The 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 and poor occupational safety. Employment in the mining sector is not sustainable*'.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 9 (Average: 0.89)
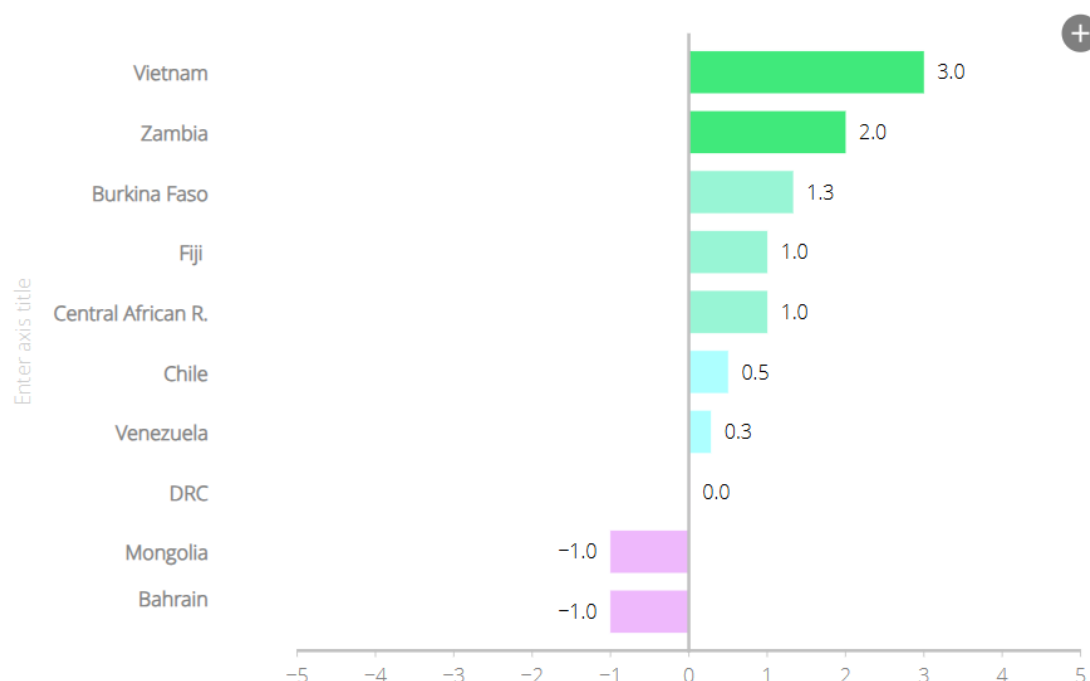
For SDG 9, civil society report focus varies between infrastructure, and research & development efforts. In Asia and Latin-America, emphasis seems to be made on R&D, since from a sustainability standpoint, many countries in these regions need to move away from a dependency on extractive, natural resource-intensive productive structures to more diversified and value-added-intensive types of production. In Africa, emphasis is made on developing infrastructure networks – and from a sustainability point of view, countries will have to find a balance between the development road and railway – in order to expand internal connectivity, improve regional integration, and at the same time limit environmental impacts.

In **Burkina Faso**, the civil society report focuses its assessment on infrastructure, asserting that although the armed conflict and terrorist attacks in the northern regions of the country have damaged many roads, in the rest of the country new roads have been built in order to articulate the coastal regions and the hinterland – through a special public fund and contributions from development partners. That said, progress is slow as by 2021, only 24% of roads were paved. Regarding the development of the railway system, the main cross-border line between Abidjan and Ouagadougou is being re-conditioned.

The **Chilean** civil society report focuses on innovation, advocating for an increase in funds for research and development (which have remained at only 0,34% of GDP since 2013), and developing a more stable and fruitful ecosystem for innovation between the

public and private sectors, as well as academia – to foster value-added and diversify the Chilean economy in an environmentally sustainable way.

In **Venezuela**, the civil society report highlights an assessment by the chamber of commerce and academic institutions that estimates the funding needed for rehabilitating the national infrastructure system to 330 billion USD.

In **Mongolia**, civil society asserts that SDG 9 is properly embedded within the long-term development plan, as well as detailed in Green Development, Innovation and Science and Technology policies. That said, it also highlights that results of this policy push for inclusive and sustainable industrialization areas are unclear and marred by corruption and lack of transparency: '*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 was 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. […] Monitoring, evaluation and reporting were reduced. Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been simplified and thus became insignificant. Civil society organizations work towards public education and capacity building.*' [13]

SDG 10: Reduce income inequality within and among countries

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 10 (Average: 0.2)
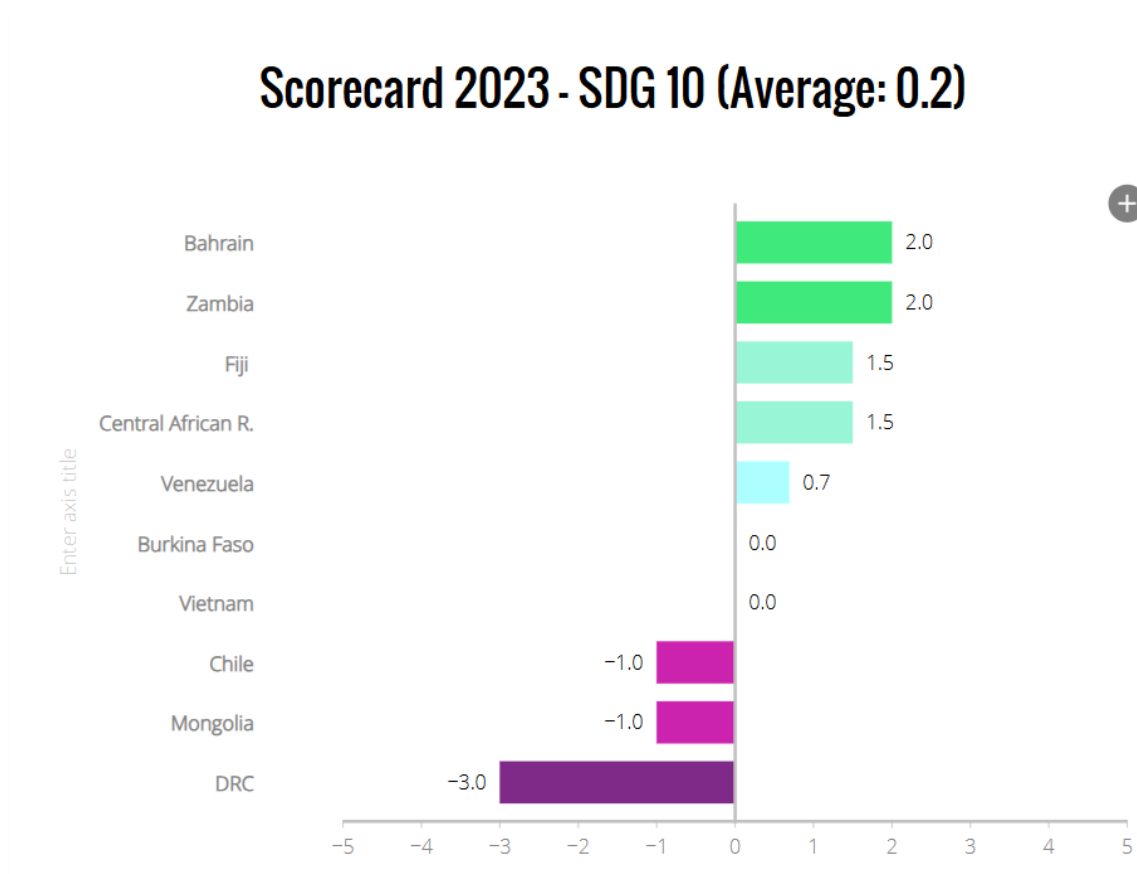
The centrality of SDG 10 stems from the fact that the aspirational push towards greater levels of equality lies at the center of the concept of sustainable development: from a material standpoint, it points to greater redistribution (income and wealth), and more broadly, it also calls for equality of rights, and thus, of agency – the ability (by exercising rights), capacity (through material resources) and capabilities (through education) of a person to pursue her well-being and objectives (at a personal and/or societal level). French economist Thomas Piketty has asserted that '*since the end of the 18th century, there has been a real, long-term tendency toward equality, but it is nonetheless limited in scope.*' [14] As a global roadmap, the SDGs should contribute to synchronize national efforts towards tackling socio-economic and rights-based inequalities, and hopefully, also foster redistribution efforts at the global level. That said, progress still seems limited in scope.

In **Chile**, the spotlight report highlights that inequality (both in terms of income and rights) is a structural issue in the country. Regarding income inequality, while 50% of the population earns an average of 3.100 USD per year, the richest 10% earns more than 93.000 USD (without accounting for assets). This amounts to 50% of the population earning 10% of national income, while the richest 10% earns 60% of the national income, making Chile one of the most unequal countries in Latin America. Even though the pandemic changed temporarily the redistribution effects of public policies, the Gini coefficient remains practically unchanged before and after taxes (0.49 before taxes; 0,46 after taxes[15]) – highlighted the limited redistribution effects of public policies. In terms of rights, women, migrants, LGBTQI+ and indigenous people continue to be

discriminated against in different ways within Chilean society, both in the labor market or daily life.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the civil society report asserts that the fact that the informal sector dominates the economy -70%-, social policies are limited, and that the country has one the highest unemployment rates in the world -at 80%-, inequalities soar.

In **Rwanda**, even though the informal sector is smaller – standing at 31% of GDP-, civil society calls for accelerating the transition into the formal economy.

In **Burkina Faso**, the civil society report focuses on external and internal migration, regulated in the country by the National Strategy on Migration for the 2014-2025 period, which has aimed to better integrate external migrants as well as internally displaced populations, and ensure their rights are protected. According to the report, the strategy has been effective in protecting migrant rights in the country.

In **Venezuela**, the civil society report highlights that the richest 10% of the population earns 70 times more than the bottom 10%. Still on income inequalities, the report also asserts that in the bottom decile, the average size of a household is of 4 persons, with an average income of 30 USD per month, whereas for the top decile, the average size of the household is two persons, with an average income of 1000 USD per month.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 11 (Average: 0.2)
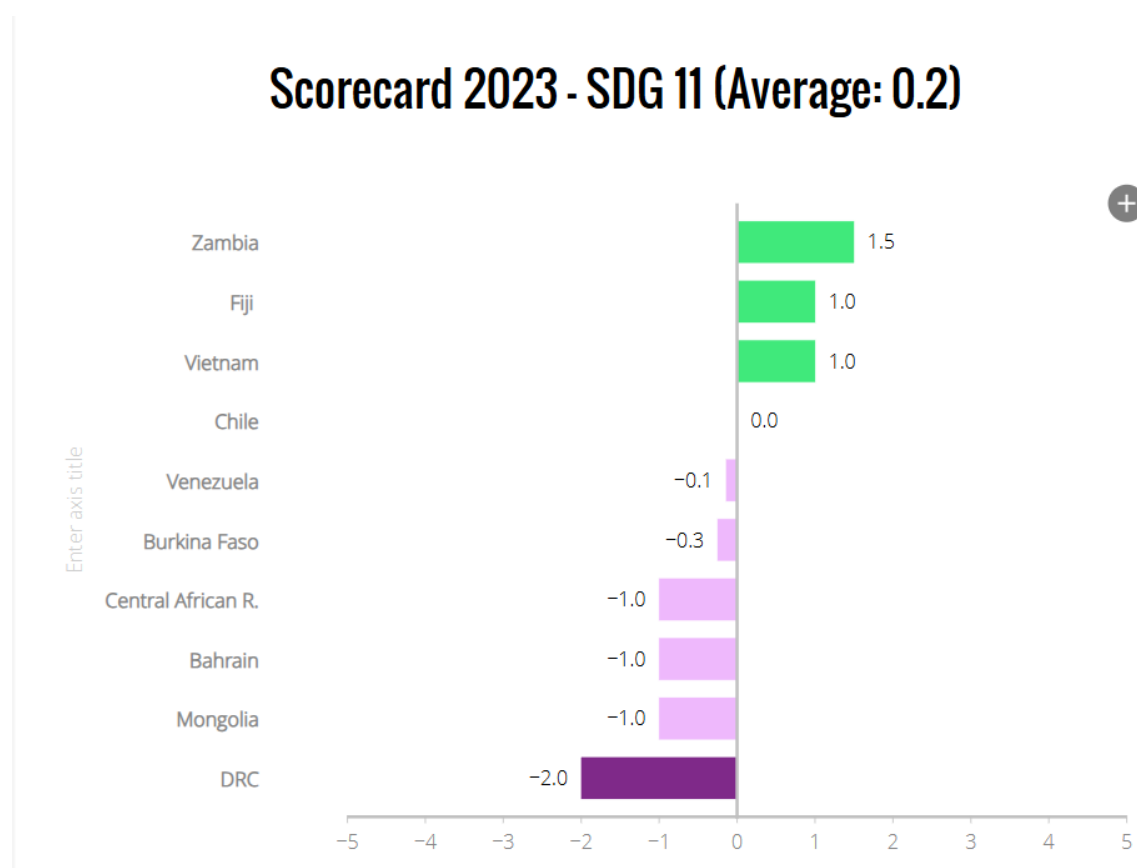
To tackle SDG 11 from a sustainability standpoint, it is key to avoid replicating unsustainable urban development patterns of the past – thus recognizing the interlinkages with improving water-management and sanitation access (SDG 6), fostering renewable energies (SDG 7), sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9), right to affordable housing (SDG 1 & 10), sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12, specially linked to waste management and recycling), climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13), sustainable urban planning, marine and terrestrial ecosystems (SDGs 14 & 15). Many countries report unsustainable urban development patterns, with an increase in unregulated settlements and its implications on housing conditions, pressure on basic services and existing infrastructure, as well as ecosystem degradation.
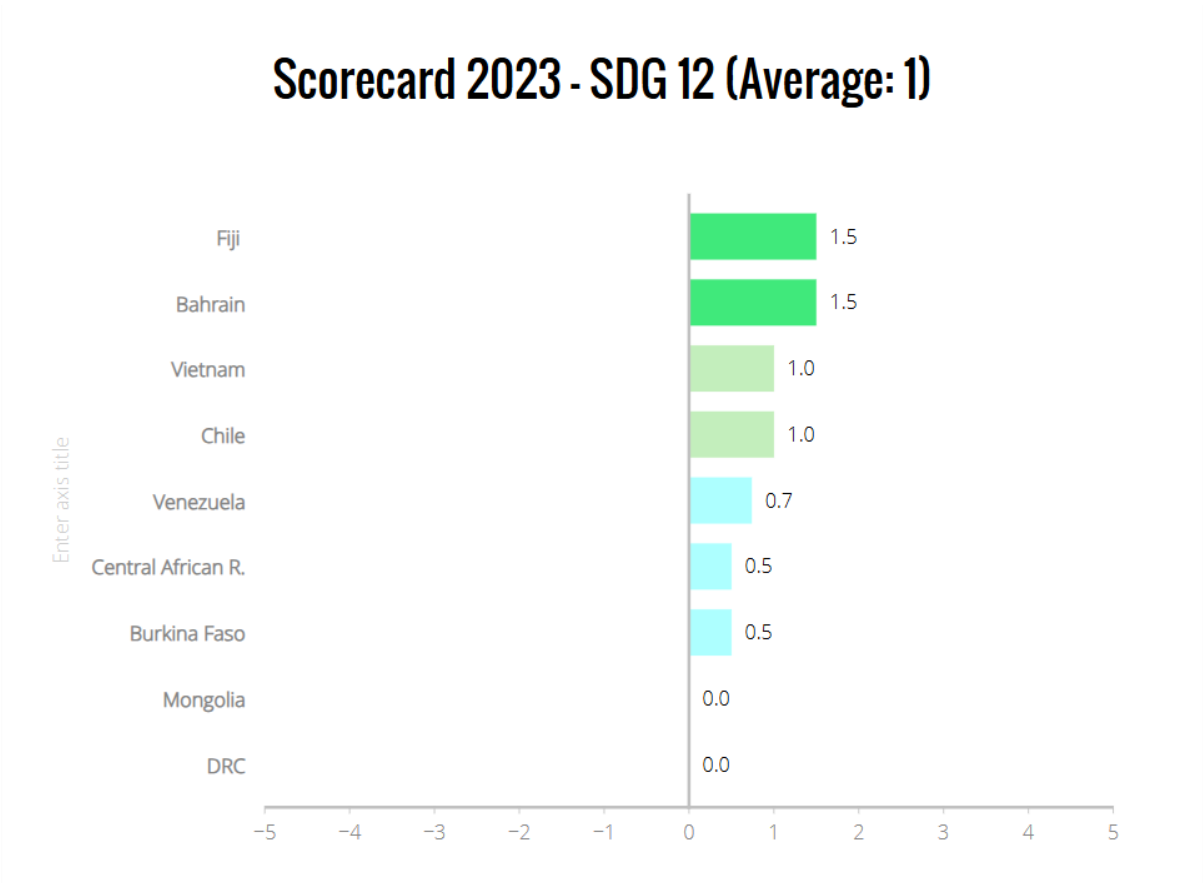
> In Burkina Faso, civil society contends that despite planning and policymaking efforts, results on the ground are still lacking. A significant regression regarding the rates of population living in urban slums is observed – going from 17,2% in 2015 to 18,2% in 2021. One main factor in this development has been the increase in internally displaced populations brought by the security situation in the northern regions of the country. The report notes that recent policy measures to streamline financial mechanisms and procedures should foster the implementation of urban planning regulations. Regarding waste management, even though efforts have been made by developing a specific policy instrument -the Principal Plan for Urban Waste Management-, few cities have formulated and implemented one.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society reports many World Bank-backed projects in the realm of inclusive urban planning – although funding isn't at the level required for the proposals to be fully implemented.

In **Chile**, territorial inequalities and urban segregation are physical manifestations of the socio-economic and rights-based inequalities that structure Chilean society. Within this context, urban development is mainly market-driven, a factor that has deepened spatial segregation and inequalities in access to decent housing. Since 2016, there has been a 33% increase in the amount of informal urban settlements throughout the country, and there's a housing deficit of 650 000 units. The current government has put forward a housing plan that aims to foster the role of the public sector in housing and urban planning and management (one of its key measures is strengthening the Public Lands Bank), building 260.000 units in 4 years, as well as fostering participatory planning and management approaches, like cooperatives.

The **Rwandan** civil society report highlights that SDG 11 is key for the sustainable development of the country, as the Population living in urban areas increased from 18.4% in 2016/17 to 27.90% in 2021 – which makes Rwanda one of the most rapidly urbanizing countries in the world. This has brought challenges in unregulated land use (with 63% of Kigali being made of informal settlements, and populations continued by-passing of building permits and planning tools, encroaching in agricultural land and forests), pressure on basic services (water and electricity networks), as well as on transport infrastructure. In this context, civil society advocates for more participatory approaches, as well as pro-poor urban planning and green economy policies.

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 12 (Average: 1)

Country	Score
Fiji	1.5
Bahrain	1.5
Vietnam	1.0
Chile	1.0
Venezuela	0.7
Central African R.	0.5
Burkina Faso	0.5
Mongolia	0.0
DRC	0.0

Fostering Sustainable production and consumption is primarily addressed in the countries under review through waste management and recycling. Most countries do report efforts underway in order to develop recycling infrastructure and cultures (both in producers and consumers). More broadly though, many efforts still need to be made in order to properly introduce circularity in the economy and in society – specifically regarding resource efficiency, eco-friendly production methods and sustainable supply chains. Stalled negotiations around a Treaty on Plastics are symptomatic of this, with oil-producing countries and lobbyists from the petrochemical industry successfully preventing the inclusion of plastic production in the scope of a draft proposal (for the moment, at least). Until plastic production is properly addressed, sustainable production and consumption patterns will not be meaningfully established.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society recognizes that policies geared at fostering sustainable production and consumption exist, with measures encompassing waste reduction, reuse and recycling, but that the funding to properly implement these programs is insufficient.

In **Chile** a legal framework that puts producers and importers in charge of creating recycling systems is in force since 2016 – thus fostering circularity in the economy. The civil society report advocates for more resources devoted to enforcing this law. The wider citizenry is slowly taking on the habit of sorting waste for recycling, although differentiated collection and recycling systems are still uneven throughout the country,

as waste management is very fragmented (dependent on municipalities). The report calls for a more integrated system and environmental education for the population.

In **Mongolia**, the legal framework hasn't been properly implemented because of a lack of specific policies. As a result, waste remains unclassified and disposed of in bulk by the population. The report does acknowledge that some private companies do classify waste, but that the lack of wider sorting and recycling facilities makes that all waste is also disposed of in bulk.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 13 (Average: 1)
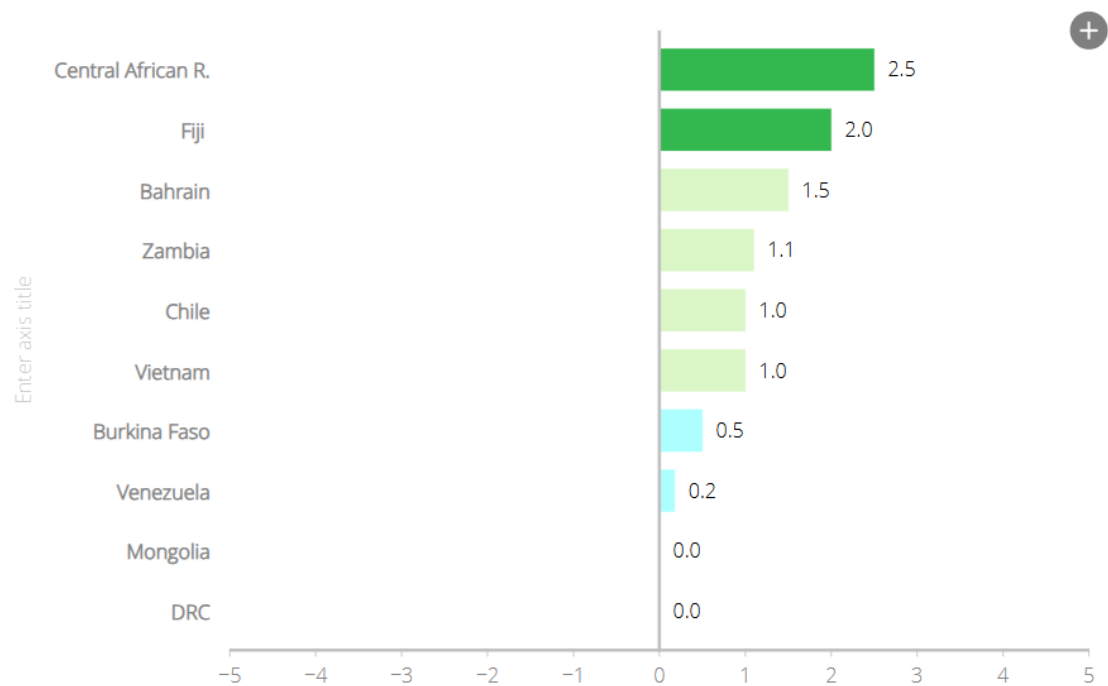
On Climate change mitigation, if every country were to follow through on its stated plans, the Earth would still heat up roughly 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius over pre industrial levels by the century's end, the report found. To stay below 2 degrees Celsius, global emissions would need to fall roughly 29 percent between now and 2030. To stay at 1.5 degrees, global emissions would need to fall about 43 percent. Aggregated objectives and policies currently don't even come close[16].

Furthermore, according to the Climate Policy Initiative, climate finance flows are very concentrated, with East Asia and the Pacific (mainly China), the US and Canada, and Western Europe accounting for a combined 84%[17]. Even though civil society in most countries recognizes policy and institutional efforts on the climate change front (which is the main target of SDG 13), the lack of effective mechanisms to improve the redistributional effects of climate finance flows between the global north and south, exacerbates the gap between policy and implementation in global south countries. This is further compounded by the fact that adaptation efforts lag far behind in terms of access to climate finance (at the moment covering only a quarter of the needs per year) – even though adaptation is arguably a key area, based on the intensity of climate change impacts already being felt in the global south. Institutional deficiencies, like still prevalent siloed-approaches and lack of coordination, also contribute to policy implementation gaps.

In **Burkina Faso**, civil society acknowledges progress in the legal and policy framework to tackle climate change, and particularly, regarding its effects on the population. A Resilience Plan has been put in place, which has enabled strengthening the help and support system for populations that are victims of extreme weather events. The number of persons supported increased from 42 482 in 2015 to 101.000 in 2021.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society recognizes the existence of different plans geared towards tackling climate change but note a lack of transparency on the subject.

In **Chile**, civil society also acknowledges the formulation of a National Strategy on Climate Change - further detailed by a climate change law, as well as sectoral adaptation plans-, enforcement must be strengthened, emissions standards updated, and participation fostered. The increase in solar power generation has been very positive, but parallel increases in wood-burning and deforestation are also to be noted – as well as the already mentioned 30% of energy-generation still coming from thermoelectricity. Tackling climate change in the country is linked with transforming the extractive development model prevalent in the country, which successive governments have still haven't fully addressed in order to foster a real ecological transition.

In **Vietnam**, civil society highlights that at present, 87.3% of provinces/centrally affiliated cities have promulgated their Action Plans to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In **Mongolia**, civil society asserts that a lack of an intersectoral approach and coordination between central and local authorities has hindered the implementation of an otherwise solid planning, legal and policy framework to tackle climate change (National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change, Strategic Partnership Map, Technical guidance documents).

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 14 (Average: 0.6)
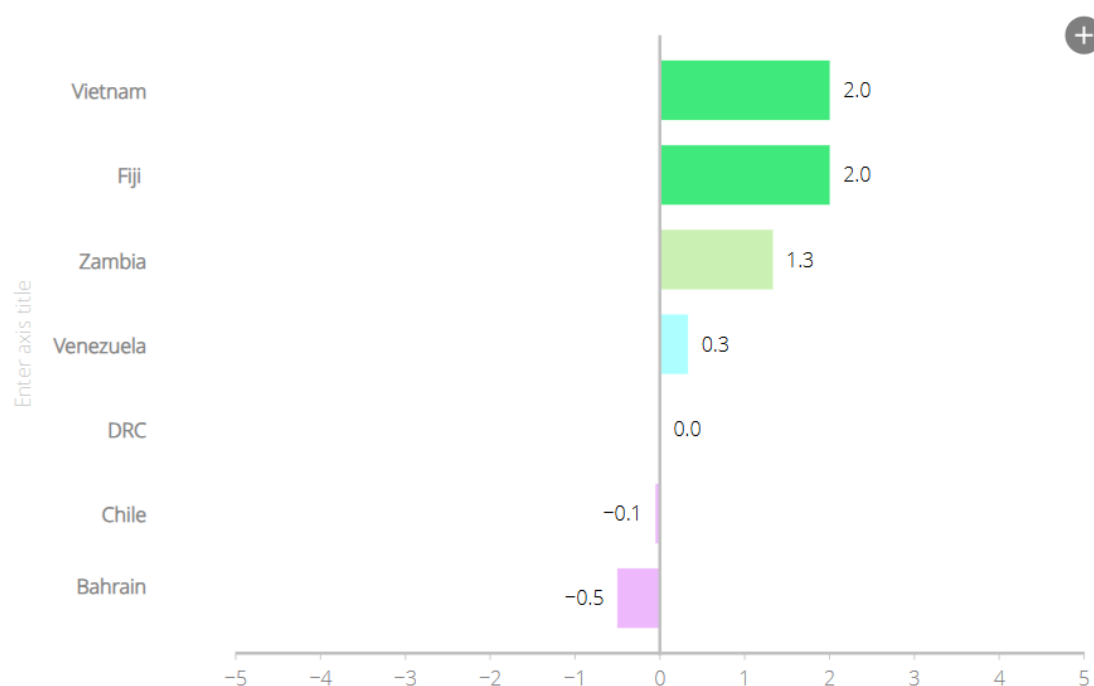
Efforts around the protection and restoration of salt-water and fresh-water ecosystems -as well as coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, wetlands, and coral reefs -, seems to be making strides on the policy-making front in most countries. However, improved implementation and tangible results will necessitate more resources -both financial and human- in order to control and enforce regulations around marine protection, sustainable marine resource-management, as well as around restoring ecosystem balance in degraded marine ecosystems. Significant gaps remain between policy environments and implementation, based on civil society reports.

In **Chile**, civil society recognizes that progress has been made in the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the country. A series of regulations and measures have been implemented to ensure the protection of marine resources, such as the creation of marine protected areas and the promotion of responsible fishing practices. Likewise, policies and management plans have been developed in order to ensure the conservation of marine species and coastal ecosystems. However, according to Chilean civil society, significant challenges remain. The overexploitation of fishing resources, degradation of the Marine habitat and pollution are constant threats to the sustainability of oceans and seas in Chile. In order to properly tackle these issues, strengthening inspection and control mechanisms to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing will be key, as well as to reduce pollution and improve water quality in coastal areas.

In **Venezuela**, civil society contends that according to Transparency Venezuela, the national oil company Pdvsa hasn't published reports on its Environmental Management since 2017, when it reported 8.250 oil spills in the country's coasts. On the other hand, the environmental NGO Clima21 has documented 199 oil spills between 2016 and 2021. Additionally, the same organization has also documented that all coastal cities throw raw sewage directly into the sea, mangrove deforestation has expanded, as well as unsustainable fishing practices, wetland degradation – all of which amounts to extensive damage to coastal ecosystems, including in protected areas.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 15 (Average: 0.48)
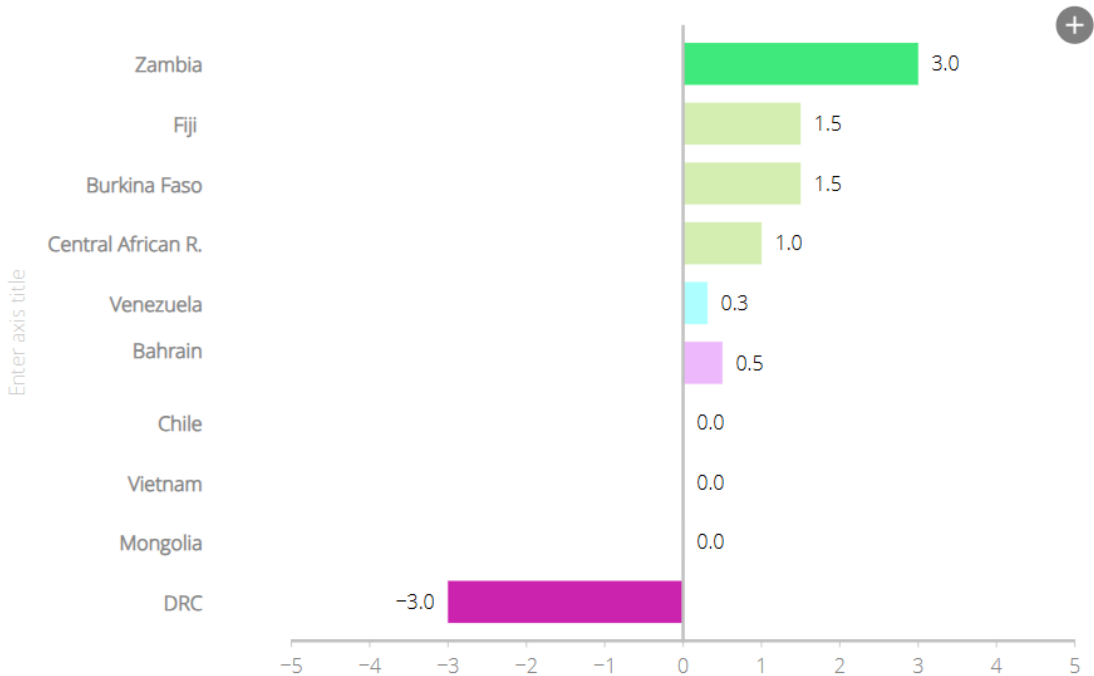
The protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems – and the biodiversity that these host and nurture, registers one of the lowest-scoring Goals, based on countries reporting this year. At the center of this phenomenon is the perception that development models are still very much based on natural resource-intensive activities. Additionally, in some African countries individual's daily needs also have a specific impact on deforestation (charcoal-based cooking and heating in the case of Africa), as well as urban expansion – which in turn impacts habitat fragmentation and biodiversity. From a policy and institutional standpoint, countries are still far

from formulating integrated regulatory frameworks -or creating the enforcing mechanisms- that would be necessary to properly foster the protection and restoration of ecosystem balance.

In **Burkina Faso**, the spotlight report notes differentiated results regarding the preservation of fauna-rich areas (which hasn't progressed, and even started to regress), and the preservation and restoration of wetlands and degraded soils, which register more positive dynamics.

In the **Central African Republic**, civil society calls for more institutional resources and funding being devoted to participatory forest-management to foster reforestation and forest-preservation efforts. More broadly, civil society notes a significant gap between policy initiatives (Code for Fauna preservation, biodiversity strategy) and the material resources being put forward for their implementation.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, civil society reports that the country is experiencing fast and continuous deterioration of terrestrial ecosystems, particularly regarding deforestation, spurred by the commercialization of wood used in the fabrication of charcoal for cooking and heating throughout the country.

In **Chile**, civil society asserts that the illegal exploitation of native tree species was widespread between 2000 and 2016 – reaching 206.142 hectares, or 12.884 a year, with the related deforestation concentrated in biodiversity-rich hotspots in the southernmost regions of the country. The extractive model that has fostered the country's economic growth for decades, has also entailed the development of the cellulose industry – which has translated into 3 million hectares of pine and eucalyptus monocultures, non-native species that tend to acidify and dry soils, further hampering biodiversity. Civil society advocates for increased control of illegal deforestation practices and regulation of monocultures. A revamping of the native forests law would be necessary as well, to ensure protection.
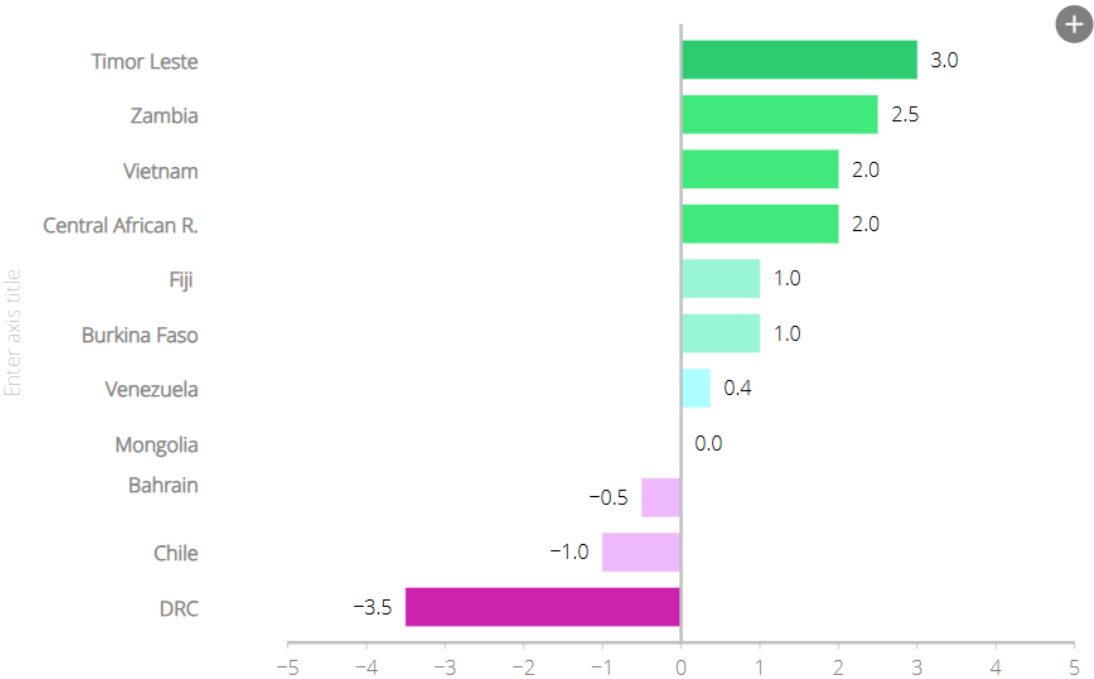
In **Venezuela**, civil society reports that deforestation has implied a decrease of 1.28 million hectares of forested area in the space of 10 years. Another source of ecosystem degradation is illegal mining in the Amazon, and according to the Amazonian Network of Georeferenced Socio Environmental Information, illegal mining activities have been registered in 4.472 localities.

In **Mongolia**, civil society acknowledges progress at the policy level, but much is still to be done at the institutional and partnership levels to foster implementation. At planning and policy levels, the Vision 2050 long term development policy defined objectives and specific actions to implement in the period 2021-2030, as well as 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. That said, a lack of inter-sectoral collaboration and vertical coordination (between territorial levels of the administration) hinders integrated and coherent implementation, with the civil society report asserting that '*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, as local governments have not received any training 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'[18]

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 16 (Average: 0.67)

Country	Score
Timor Leste	3.0
Zambia	2.5
Vietnam	2.0
Central African R.	2.0
Fiji	1.0
Burkina Faso	1.0
Venezuela	0.4
Mongolia	0.0
Bahrain	−0.5
Chile	−1.0
DRC	−3.5

The Rule of Law, a central component of SDG 16 and a crucial governance principle, is intricately tied to the content of legal frameworks, judicial systems, and the political dynamics

in which it operates. In nations plagued by armed conflict, democratic deficits, corruption, and socio-economic disparities, the application of the 'Rule of Law' may inadvertently reinforce existing power imbalances and perpetuate inequalities. The significance of SDG 16, especially in its institutional dimension, lies in its potential to reshape power structures, rights, and resource allocation within each country, thereby enhancing individual agency.

The reporting countries in this edition are marked by varying degrees of armed conflict, democratic deficiencies, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities. However, they also share a common challenge: slow progress in fostering broad-based participation, societal dialogue, conflict reduction through a positive peace perspective[19], as well as making institutions efficient, accountable, open and transparent.

> In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and the **Central African Republic**, corruption is also prevalent, and according to civil society, little is being done to tackle these entrenched practices. In the CAR, from a peace and security standpoint, civil society also reports that although the situation in the capital city of Bangui has improved, armed conflicts persist in the provinces.
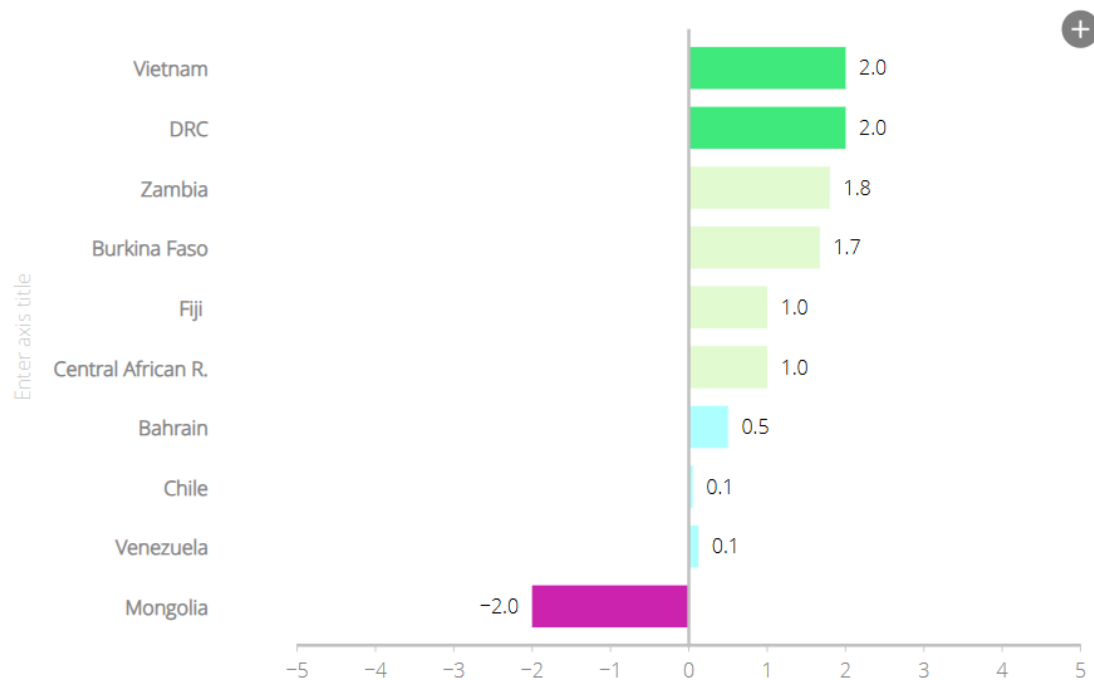
> In **Burkina Faso**, civil society highlights that governance challenges have increased given the security situation in the north of the country, but also because of political instability even though it also acknowledges that a culture of accountability has been established among the broader civil servant community, with regular reports from the administration on the delivery of public policies. That said, the country still has many challenges regarding corruption.

> In **Chile**, civil society calls for a reform of the Citizen Participation law to ensure more substantial forms of participation in public affairs, as was outlined by a civil society advisory council in 2017, as well as the creation of a National Ombudsman in order to protect the rights of vulnerated groups within Chilean society. Civil society also calls in its report for a comprehensive implementation of the National Plan on Human Rights, as well as the National Plan on Corruption.

> In **Venezuela**, the civil society report asserts that according to the Venezuelan Observatory on Violence, the country kept in 2022 its spot as one of the three most violent countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, the country occupies the last place in the Rule of Law index (given that the judicial system cannot be deemed as independent), and the 177th (among 180 countries) in the Corruption Perception Index.

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

Scorecard 2023 - SDG 17 (Average: 0.74)

Country	Score
Vietnam	2.0
DRC	2.0
Zambia	1.8
Burkina Faso	1.7
Fiji	1.0
Central African R.	1.0
Bahrain	0.5
Chile	0.1
Venezuela	0.1
Mongolia	−2.0

Regarding SDG 17, civil society reports around the world focus mainly on domestic resource mobilization, as well as non-financial means of implementation - like the coordination and monitoring mechanisms that are put in place. On both fronts, progress is mixed.

There is a clear suggestion that some policy initiatives looking to overhaul tax systems to raise public incomes have been hindered by implementation issues, as well as slowing economies. At the same time, economic plans have been impacted by the influence of internal and external factors, such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical instability and the inflationary context at the global level.

As for participatory monitoring mechanisms, most of these still only exist on paper – especially regarding their multi-stakeholder nature and mandates. In some countries, statistical capacity has regressed instead of improved and data generation remains a challenge for many governments.

In **Burkina Faso**, the spotlight report acknowledges progress regarding domestic resource mobilization, brought by administrative reforms and digitalization, broadening of the tax base and improved tax collection. That said, it also contends that the fact that 20% of domestic resources come from the mining sector is a factor of vulnerability for the country, given the current security situation.

In **Rwanda**, civil society asserts that the government's objective of reaching 80% of fiscal resources generated domestically might be difficult to attain given the current levels of informality and the fragility of Small and Medium Enterprises in the country – with both elements having been further weakened by the pandemic.

In **Venezuela,** civil society asserts that the country's statistical capacity went from 82% in 2016 to 62% in 2020 – a significant erosion of institutional capacities for monitoring development processes.

Mongolian CSOs suggest that the SDGs have brought legislative improvements, as well as enhancing development policy through the formulation of planning documents. At the institutional level, the SDGs have fostered the establishment of a state structure to implement long-term development policy in the country. However, civil society also contends that these policy and institutional gains still are far from yielding tangible results – either at national and/or local levels. Furthermore, regarding monitoring and accountability, CSOs have highlighted that there isn't yet an effective and transparent monitoring mechanism: '*the public is not aware of state policies, and participation of citizens and CSOs remains unsatisfactory. Some progress is observed on developing multi-stakeholder partnerships.*'[20]

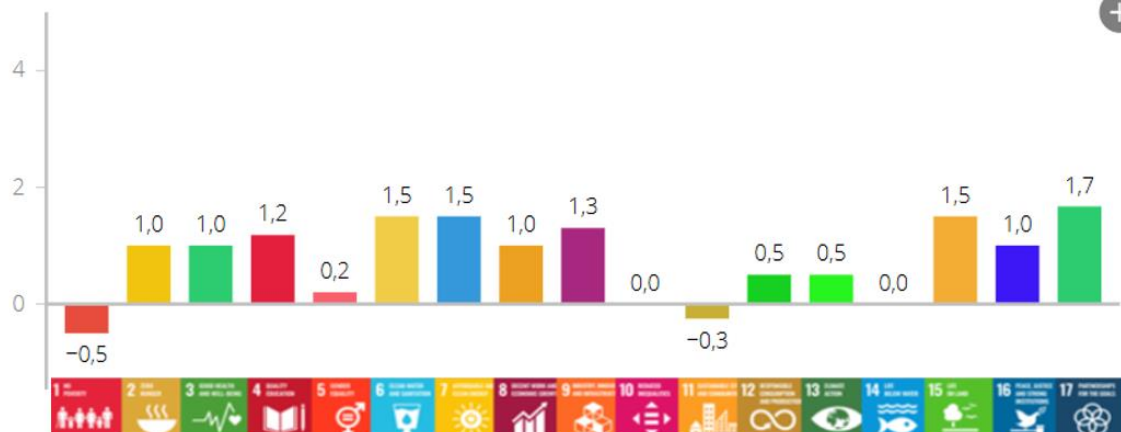**Annex : Scorecard 2023 - SDG Averages by Country**
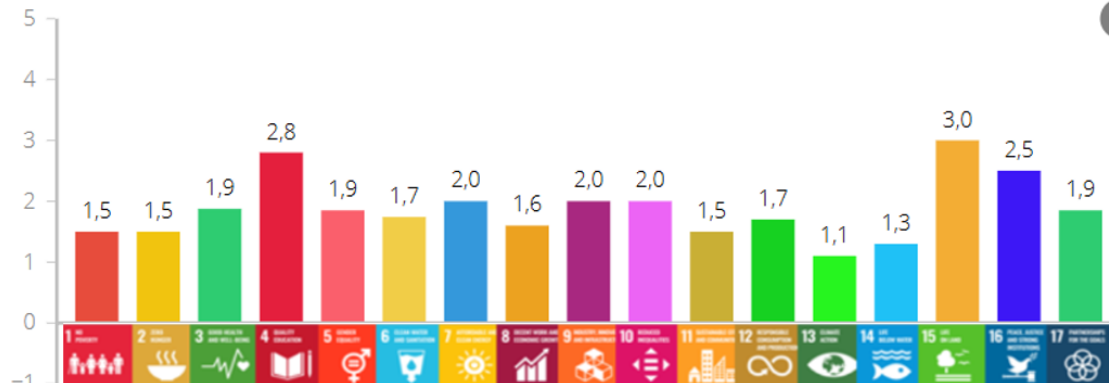
SDG Scorecard 2023 - Fiji

Average Score: 1.7
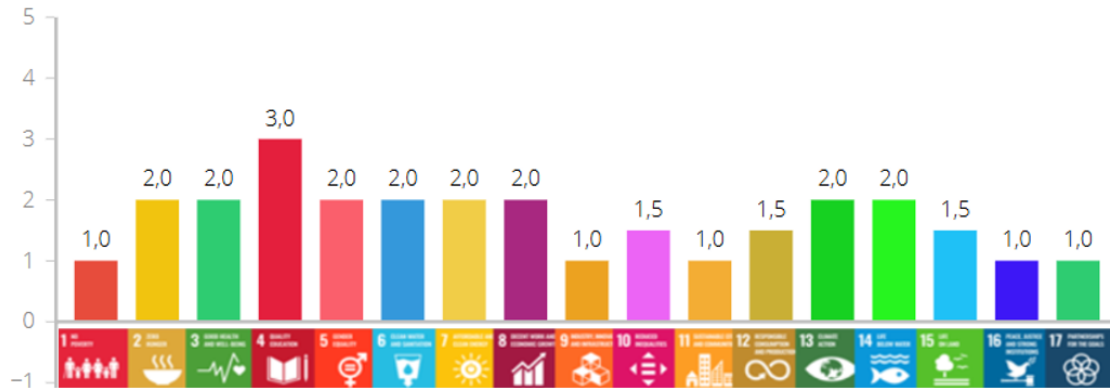
SDG Scorecard 2023 - Burkina Faso
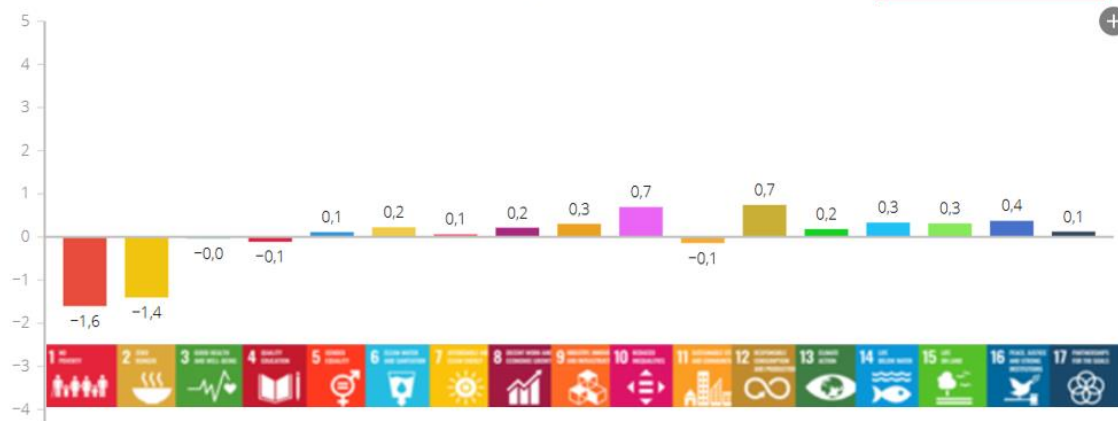
Average Score: 0.81

SDG Scorecard 2023 - Zambia

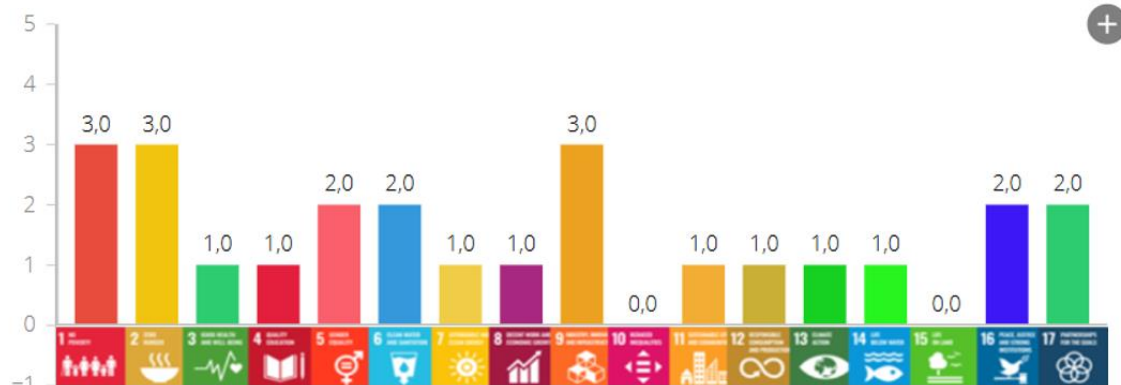### Average Score: 1.66

SDG Scorecard - Venezuela 2024

Average Score: 0.02

SDG Scorecard 2023 - Vietnam

Average Score: 1.47

SDG Scorecard 2023 - Chile

Average Score: 0.29