



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

PEOPLE'S SCORECARD SUMMARY REPORT 2025



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NIGERIA NETWORK OF NGOS - NNN

Introduction

2025 marks ten years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the world is now entering the final five-year stretch to 2030.

However, human societies continue to face multiple crises and the rise of populist leaders has led to some governments stepping back from the shared goals altogether, so delivery of the 2030 Agenda remains under threat. Indeed the combined risks of higher costs of living, growing inequalities and repression of civic space is leading to severe risks of countries falling back in the key indicators that underpin the SDGs.

Nevertheless, in the face of these challenges, civil society coalitions in many countries were able to draw together their diverse membership and share key inputs on their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2025.

The People’s Scorecard aims to provide a way to understand progress on each of the SDGs according to national civil society coalitions. Civil society partners 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).

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.

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.

This report provides an accessible approach to understanding a comparative civil society view on progress around SDG implementation with a focus on many of the countries delivering a Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year.

Key Trends

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

- **Overall progress is perceived as low**, with most countries clustered between 0 and 1, with more visible forward movement where delivery systems are relatively stable (**Malaysia, Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan**), and weaker or stalled trajectories where fiscal gaps, governance/participation deficits and territorial inequality combine to limit delivery (**Nigeria, Philippines; Guatemala showing slight regression**). **Sudan** is an extreme outlier, where civil society perceptions reflect the civil war, displacement and humanitarian emergency - experienced as *systemic regression* rather than slow SDG implementation.
- **SDG averages show a consistent divide: what is visible scores higher; what requires redistribution, enforcement and governance reform scores lowest.** At the global average level, goals linked to tangible service delivery and infrastructure register relatively higher (**notably SDG 3, and also SDGs 9 and 17**), reflecting perceived progress delivered by facilities/programmes, connectivity and partnership instruments - though still at low levels overall. In contrast, **SDG 16** is the major regressive outlier, and poverty/inequality goals (**SDG 1 and SDG 10**) also fall into regressive territory, repeatedly linked in spotlight narratives to cost-of-living pressures, informality, elite capture, weak enforcement and limited accountability - policy frameworks exist, but don't reliably translate into inclusive outcomes.
- **SDG coordination architectures exist almost everywhere - but participation remains structurally constrained, limiting policy leverage and accountability.** The 2025 countries reflect a clear typology: (i) formal multi-stakeholder architectures with tiered committees (**Malaysia, Kazakhstan**), (ii) executive-/planning-led coordination with multi-stakeholder add-ons (**Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines**), and (iii) VNR-centred/ad hoc steering (**Gambia, Iraq**), plus outliers where SDG follow-up is described as exclusionary (**Guatemala**) or where participation is locally anchored but weakly institutionalised nationally (**El Salvador**). Across these models, the recurring pattern is structurally constrained consultation: engagement may exist, but tends to have weak influence over planning, sustained monitoring, and corrective action - reinforcing the broader civic-space constraints and weakening partnerships reflected under SDGs 16 and 17.



SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SDGS – MALAYSIA

1. Process, geographical coverage and methodology

1.1: The Scorecard survey and its steps

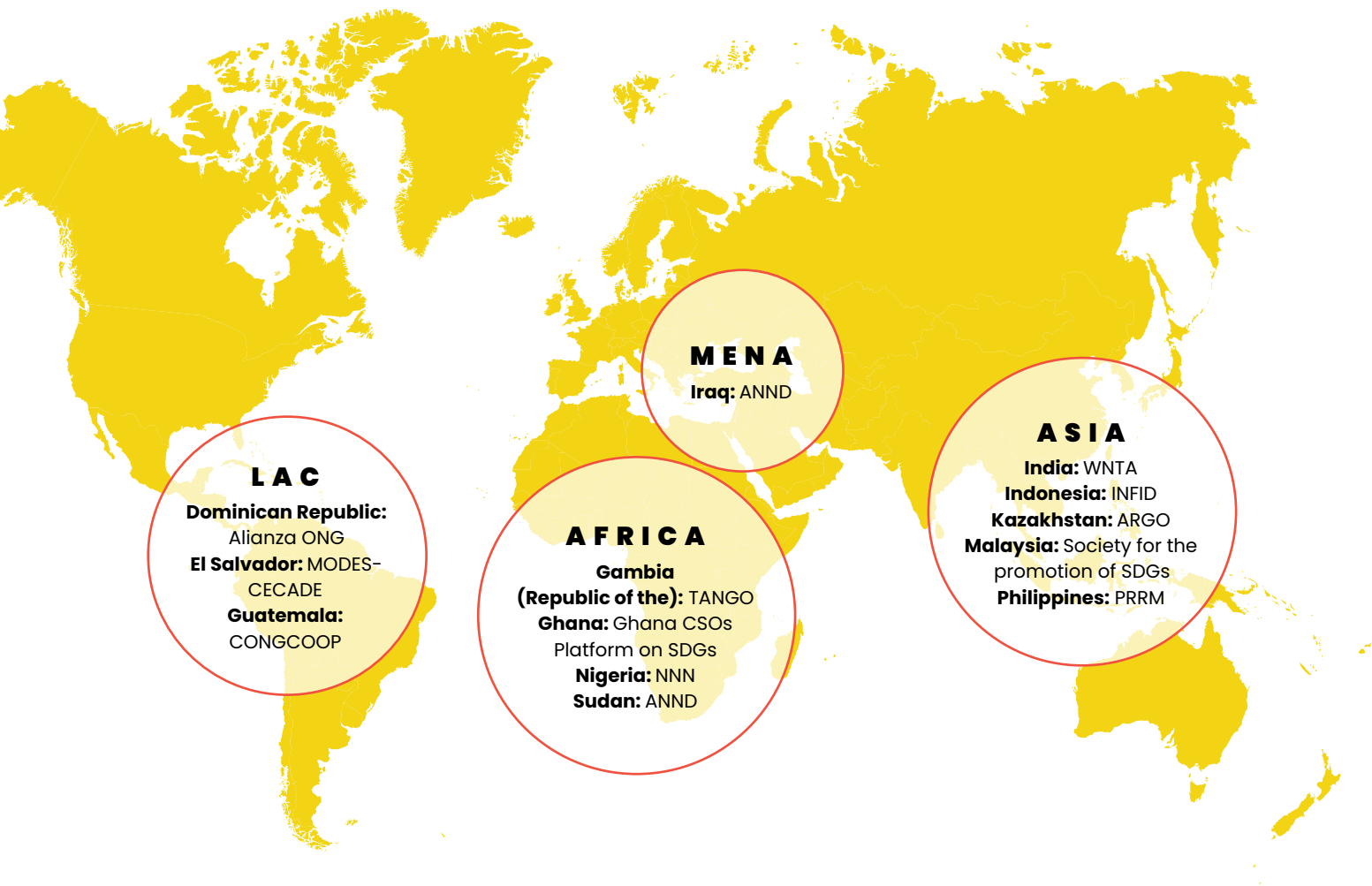
The **Scorecard** is a **perception-based** tool that captures civil society's aggregated view of **tangible progress (or regression) in SDG implementation since 2015**, grounded in the official SDG targets. It aims to assess two dimensions: **(i)** whether adequate public policies exist for each SDG, and **(ii)** whether these policies are *implemented* and produce visible results in people's daily lives.

The process follows a shared sequence: **(1)** the survey is administered online and/or through in-person consultations to a diverse set of CSOs and community groups; **(2)** respondents score each SDG on a **-5 to +5** scale, prioritising goals where they have direct expertise; **(3)** alternatively or concurrently, workshops can be organized, where small groups discuss and agree on consensus scores for selected SDGs; and **(4)** results are aggregated into a draft national scorecard. **Spotlight Reports** then add qualitative analysis of national implementation pathways and, where available, complementary evidence from official and citizen-generated data. Coalitions act independently in advocacy, while applying a common methodology shaped by shared learning.

1.2: Geographical coverage of the Report

In 2025, A4SD partnered with coalitions in **15 countries** spanning four regions, reflecting diverse political contexts, civic-space conditions, socio-economic challenges and institutional capacities – thus implying different baselines for SDG progress. By using a standardised template and sequence, the People's Scorecard enables **comparability of trends** within and across countries. This report focuses on the **12 countries** that completed the Scorecard assessment and presented a VNR at HLPF 2025, summarising results through country average scores, SDG average scores, and **SDG-based insights from the Spotlight Reports**.

Countries covered in 2025:



1.3: Methodological observations

Since 2023, the People's Scorecard assessment has shifted from a **process-driven** to an **outcome-driven** approach, aligning with the need for a midterm review of SDG progress.

The **perception-based nature of the Scorecard** follows a non-probability, self-selecting sampling method, engaging a sample of civil society and grassroots organizations. It is not designed to be statistically representative, as the Scorecard's primary goal is to create a platform for stakeholders (practitioners and citizens) to express their perceptions on SDG progress. This introduces a degree of subjectivity and uneven depth – some respondents base their scoring across many targets, others focus only on a subset. To strengthen accuracy, participants are encouraged to prioritise SDGs linked to their expertise and lived experience.

While not a scientific measurement instrument, the -5 to +5 scale captures perceived regression, stagnation or progress, offering a useful read of national trajectories and enabling aggregate trend analysis. Combined with **Spotlight Reports**, the Scorecard also strengthens SDG engagement, supports multi-actor dialogue, and enables the identification of country-specific challenges, achievements and policy recommendations.

2. Key factors for inclusive SDG implementation

2.1: Fostering effective participatory governance

As has been observed over recent years, a recurring pattern across the 2025 Scorecard countries is that many governments have put in place some form of SDG coordination architecture – either a dedicated multi-stakeholder body, an executive-/planning-led mechanism with multi-stakeholder add-ons, or a VNR-centred steering process. However, across this typology, participation remains structurally constrained, as vertical governance practices tend to persist regardless of the mechanism’s formal design. Where SDG coordination is embedded in central planning or executive structures, it can gain political salience and capacity, but decision-making often remains explicitly hierarchical and state-led. Where governance arrangements are formally more open – mainly through councils and thematic working groups that sit at the institutional periphery – engagement can be somewhat more horizontal, but it also frequently lacks tangible influence over planning, territorial delivery and sustained monitoring and accountability.

1. Formal multi-stakeholder architecture with tiered committees:

Malaysia and **Kazakhstan** have relatively sophisticated SDG governance arrangements on paper (council/coordination bodies, thematic working groups formally embedded within the governance body, secretariat/data functions, and parliamentary interfaces) and are both formally chaired by the Prime Minister. The main constraint is that these mechanisms are not consistently wired into core planning, budgeting and subnational implementation systems. With decision-making remaining centralised, participation is seen as episodic and tokenistic rather than influential.

2. Executive-/planning-led coordination with multi-stakeholder add-ons:

Nigeria, Indonesia, and **Philippines** fit a pattern where SDG governance is embedded in powerful state nodes (presidency/central planning/line-ministry steering), with formal platforms for engagement layered on top. This can increase visibility and capacity (even as siloed approaches are still prevalent), but in this type of institutional design engagement remains very much hierarchical – strongest where CSOs help implement service delivery, weakest where CSOs seek accountability, inclusive planning, rights safeguards, or budget transparency.

3. VNR-centred and ad hoc steering:

Gambia and **Iraq** are characterised by processes that appear heavily VNR-driven, with limited detail on permanent SDG governance beyond reporting cycles. This tends to produce inclusion in consultations and working groups without sustained, structured follow-up, regular public reporting, or durable multi-actor oversight.

4. Exclusionary governance in a broader context of capture and democratic fragility:

Guatemala stands out as a case where SDG follow-up channels are described as narrow and exclusionary, with more representative or outspoken movements largely outside decision spaces and past proposals for an inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanism

reportedly not implemented. This should also be viewed within a wider context of institutional capture and low trust in the political system.

5. Participatory practice with weak national institutionalisation

In **El Salvador**, participation is described as substantively anchored in program-delivery at the local level, while at the same time the national SDG governance mechanism is seen as high-potential yet weakly institutionalised. This has prompted calls from civil society to revitalise the multi-actor council and ensure stable permanent spaces for dialogue.



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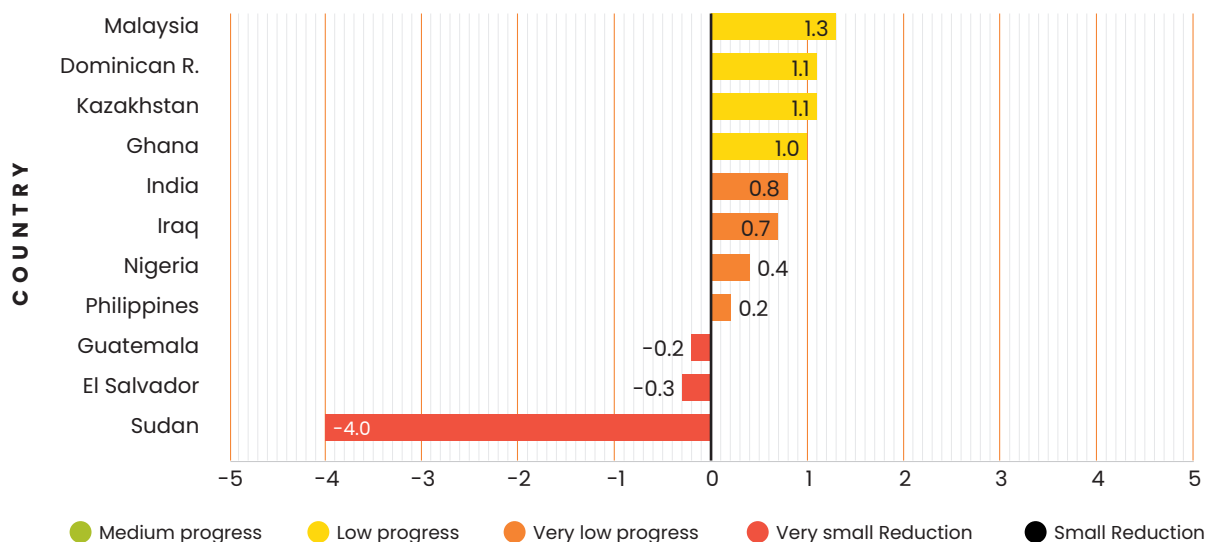


CENTRO DE CAPACITACIÓN Y PROMOCIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA CECADE - EL SALVADOR

3. Analysis of the scorecard results

3.1: Country averages

Scorecard 2025 – Total averages (Global Average: 0.24)



The most straightforward entry point to the Scorecard is by mapping average SDG scores by country, which captures how civil society perceives overall progress in their respective countries since 2015. Given different starting baselines, what is most comparable across countries is not the absolute number but the **direction and intensity of perceived change** – whether progress is collectively perceived by civil society as advancing, stagnating, or regressing, and to what extent.

Across this 2025 sample, the aggregated picture is of **low progress**, with most countries clustering between zero and one and only a few standing out at the top – as well as one extreme outlier, shaped by ongoing conflict. A consistent cross-cutting pattern is that countries score higher where basic service systems and the implementation machinery are relatively stable, and score lower where SDG delivery is constrained by some combination of fiscal stress, governance/participation deficits, territorial inequality, and compound crises (inflation, insecurity, climate impacts).

Most countries also show a familiar dynamic, characterized by persistent gaps between policy architecture and actual delivery: plans, laws and programmes exist, but institutional capacity, resourcing, accountability, and inclusive implementation lag.

A low progress upper cluster: steady systems, but not transformative

Malaysia (1.3) sits at the top of this group, alongside **Kazakhstan (1.1)**, **Dominican Republic (1.1)** and **Ghana (1.0)**. The common thread is that civil society perceives net forward movement since 2015 supported by relatively functional delivery capacity – often visible through service

coverage, infrastructure and policy tools. However, the clustering around 1 (rather than much higher) suggests that progress is still widely seen as uneven and only partially inclusive: persistent inequality pockets, territorial gaps, environmental/climate trade-offs, and governance transparency limits continue to cap perceived SDG acceleration. In this cluster, policy architecture (albeit sometimes inconsistent) and relative system stability raise the average, while equity, path-dependency and accountability deficits prevent a stronger trajectory.

A very low but relatively positive middle cluster: policy effort under constraint

India (0.8), Iraq (0.7) and form a mid-cluster where civil society sees some meaningful progress, but consistently qualifies it as fragile, uneven or constrained. Here, the typical dynamic is visible programmes and investments that coexist with some key bottlenecks: uneven demographic and territorial reach, affordability barriers, weaker safeguards and participation, and limited accountability for outcomes. In other words, progress is recognized, but implementation quality and inclusion are not strong enough to shift perceptions into a clearly *on-track* narrative – especially under climate risk, fiscal pressures, or governance imbalances.

A very low progress cluster: fiscal strain + weak local delivery

Nigeria (0.4) and **Philippines (0.2)** sit close to the 2025 global average line, reflecting a perception that SDG delivery is being held back by compound constraints rather than a lack of formal policy intent. In both cases, civil society narratives repeatedly point to a gap between frameworks and lived realities – where macro-fiscal and governance conditions (debt service, inflation/cost-of-living, elite capture/corruption, implementation capacity, accountability) limit translation into inclusive outcomes. A key differentiator inside these countries is the dominant binding constraint: for **Nigeria**, fiscal space, insecurity, corruption and delivery-system fragility repeatedly suppress progress; for the **Philippines**, uneven decentralised capacity, urban bias, elite capture and governance/civic-space concerns reinforce a sense of stalled or uneven gains despite dense policy architecture and major programmes.

Stagnation / regression: structural inequality and governance constraints dominate

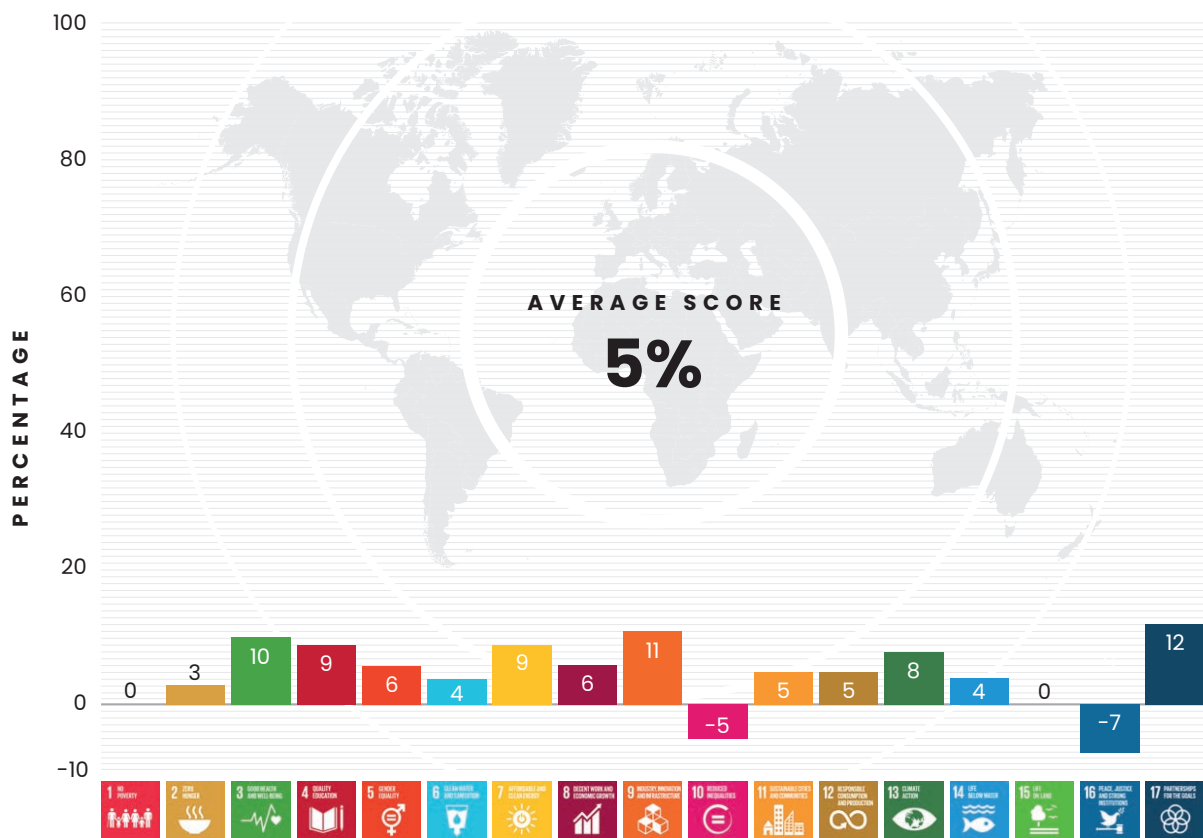
Guatemala (-0.2) and **El Salvador (-0.3)** in Central America converge on a civil-society diagnosis that SDG progress since 2015 has mostly stalled, largely because governance constraints (capture and weak institutions, limited accountability, unequal power) and deep inequality prevent macro-economic strengths and policies from translating into broad, inclusive gains – felt most sharply by rural and marginalized groups. They diverge in that **Guatemala** is framed as structural blockage across the board (elite capture, under-resourced services, persistent poverty/inequality) with little evidence of sustained traction, while **El Salvador** pairs that governance critique with some sectoral gains (health/education/connectivity/security) but still lands slightly regressive due to lagging environmental protection, structural inequalities, uneven territorial distribution, and calls for stronger participatory delivery to make progress sustainable and shared.

An extreme outlier shaped by conflict and systemic regression

Sudan (-4.0) is not comparable to the rest of the distribution in normal implementation terms. The civil society perception captured here reflects the civil war context, displacement and humanitarian emergency dynamics that disrupt institutions, financing and service delivery simultaneously. In this setting, SDG progress is experienced not as slow implementation but as systemic regression, where basic state functions and social protection mechanisms break down - overwhelming any sector-level gains.

3.2: Global averages by SDG

Scorecard 2025 - Averages by SDG



The 2025 SDG-based averages¹ show a clear pattern: goals linked to visible service delivery and infrastructure score higher than goals that require redistribution, enforcement, and governance reform.

1. Scores from -5 to +5 are converted into percentages for improved comparability at the global aggregate level.

Highest-scoring SDGs: service delivery, infrastructure and partnerships (SDGs 3, 9, 17)²

SDG 3 Accessible Healthcare (10%) is the highest-scoring goal (although still reflecting a low level of progress), consistent with narratives from Spotlight Reports that recognise tangible movement through facility expansion, targeted health programmes, and financial-protection reforms (insurance/Universal Health Coverage-type measures). That said, coalitions consistently warn that progress is capped by territorial inequities, health-worker shortages and brain drain - while also pointing to governance weaknesses, and high out-of-pocket costs in several countries. So the score reflects a degree of forward motion, although not universal, equitable coverage.

SDG 9 Infrastructure (11%) and SDG 17 Partnerships (12%) also score relatively high because they capture areas where governments can demonstrate activity and results through connectivity, roads, digitalisation, industrial plans, and partnership/finance instruments (funds, investor maps, green instruments, INFF³ -type processes). Across reports, however, this activity is often described as unevenly distributed and weakly anchored in inclusion, rights safeguards, transparency, and local value-add. So, in this case, the low-but-positive scores reflect visibility and momentum, but not consistently transformative partnerships and outcomes.

The binding constraint: governance and civic space (SDG 16)

The major outlier is **SDG 16 Human Rights and Good Governance (-7%)**, which also helps explain why progress is broadly seen as very slow within 2025 Scorecard countries. Across countries, coalitions point to combinations of restricted civic space, weak access to information, corruption and impunity, selective enforcement, and participation that is consultative at best. The tentative takeaway that can be drawn from this is that when accountability systems are weak, policy frameworks do not translate necessarily into positively perceived outcomes - because communities cannot consistently monitor, contest, or correct implementation shortcomings.

Socio-economic goals: weakest where protection and redistribution are thin (SDGs 1, 10, 2, 8)

Two other goals drop into regressive territory: **SDG 1 No Poverty (0%)** and **SDG 10 Reducing Inequality (-5%)**. Qualitative insight from Spotlight Reports repeatedly link these scores to cost-of-living pressures, unequal recovery, informality, and elite capture dynamics, with social assistance often described as fragmented or insufficient relative to need. Even where anti-poverty measures exist, coalitions argue they rarely change the underlying distribution of income, assets, and power, and are vulnerable to macro-economic and fiscal constraints.

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2. 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. Integrated National Financing Framework

SDG 2 Zero Hunger (3%) scores very low for similar reasons: hunger and malnutrition are framed as structurally persistent, driven by price volatility, climate impacts, insecurity in some contexts, weak support to smallholders and fishers, and major post-harvest losses, even where large-scale programmes are in place.

SDG 8 Decent Work (6%) is positive but modest, reflecting the repeated pattern of growth without decent work. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), MSME schemes and investment drives are acknowledged, but employment remains informal, precarious, and weakly protected, with inflation and macro constraints eroding real gains in several contexts.

Human development cluster: progress, but capped by quality and equity (SDGs 4, 5)

Beyond SDG 3, both **SDG 4 Quality Education (9%)** and **SDG 5 Gender Equality (6%)** remain on the positive side because most countries have some established policy architecture and programming in education access and gender equality. Still, spotlight reports consistently explain why scores do not rise higher: quality education is constrained by a learning crisis, teacher conditions, digital divides, and territorial inequities, while SDG 5 progress is limited by implementation gaps, persistent Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and harmful practices, incomplete legal protections in some contexts, and in some cases legal/regulatory backsliding.

Environmental SDGs: policy attention exists, but lagging protection dominates (SDGs 12–15, 13, 14)

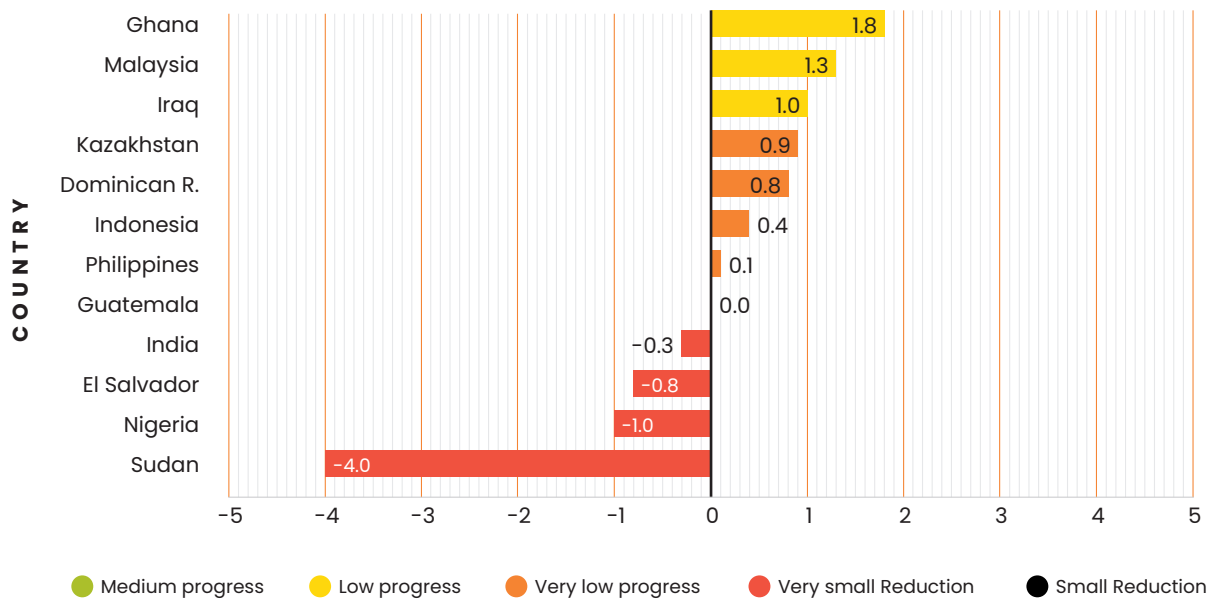
Environmental goals remain relatively weak overall. **SDG 13 Tackling Climate Change (8%)** performs better than other environmental SDGs largely because climate is now on the policy agenda, but coalitions repeatedly highlight underfunded adaptation, limited local capacity, fossil lock-in, deforestation, and weak safeguards as key constraints. **SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption (5%)** stays low because many countries show a *strong framework, weak enforcement* pattern on waste management systems, pollution control and circularity. **SDG 14 Life Below Water (4%)** is modestly positive but still framed as lagging due to pollution, overfishing/illegal fishing, weak enforcement and very incomplete data. **SDG 15 Life on Land (0%)** is the clearest goal reflecting lagging protection: protected areas and restoration initiatives are widely described as too small-scale relative to pressures from logging, mining, agribusiness expansion, infrastructure, land conflict, as well as from insecure Indigenous tenure, with indicator and monitoring gaps weakening accountability.

3.3: Country averages by SDG



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 1 (Average: 0.01)



SDG 1 overview

- **Stagnation / regression:** **El Salvador** and **India** are explicitly assessed by CSOs as regressing on poverty reduction; **Nigeria** also shows regression as macro-economic reforms triggered a cost-of-living shock pushing 10–15m more people into poverty; **Philippines** shows stalled post-COVID recovery amid inflation/shocks, with households cycling in and out of poverty. **Guatemala** (poverty/social protection among the lowest-scoring national priorities);
- **Largely off-track:** **Indonesia** (severely off-track; SDG 1 lowest-scoring goal); **Iraq** (off-track with persistent poverty/vulnerability plus fiscal/debt pressure crowding out social spending); **Kazakhstan** (low progress with persistent vulnerability).
- **Relatively stronger but unequal:** In **Ghana**, multi-dimensional poverty reduction and social protection schemes is acknowledged by CSOs, coverage and equal access to land/credit/formal jobs still lag. **Malaysia** performs better nationally, but with pronounced regional and group-level gaps.

Main policy drivers / enablers

- Targeted transfers and social assistance:
 - **El Salvador:** social transfers, food support, community projects.
 - **Guatemala:** conditional cash transfers + new monetary transfers (MIDES).
 - **Malaysia:** cash transfers + rural programmes.
 - **Philippines:** cash-transfer expansion (linked to pre-pandemic poverty reduction gains).
 - **Nigeria:** NASSP cash transfers using an expanded National Social Register + digital payments (but limited reach/value).
 - **Indonesia:** broad social-protection stack (JKN + social assistance), performing slightly better on protection/resilience than on extreme poverty eradication.
- **Legal and policy reforms / frameworks:**
 - Kazakhstan: new Social Code (plus related rights reforms).
 - India/Malaysia: existing poverty-reduction frameworks that previously drove progress.
 - Indonesia: Presidential Instruction No. 4/2022 on zero extreme poverty (ambitious, weak delivery per CSOs).

Broadly, CSOs see these measures as necessary but insufficient to tackle structural poverty, informality and inequality at scale.

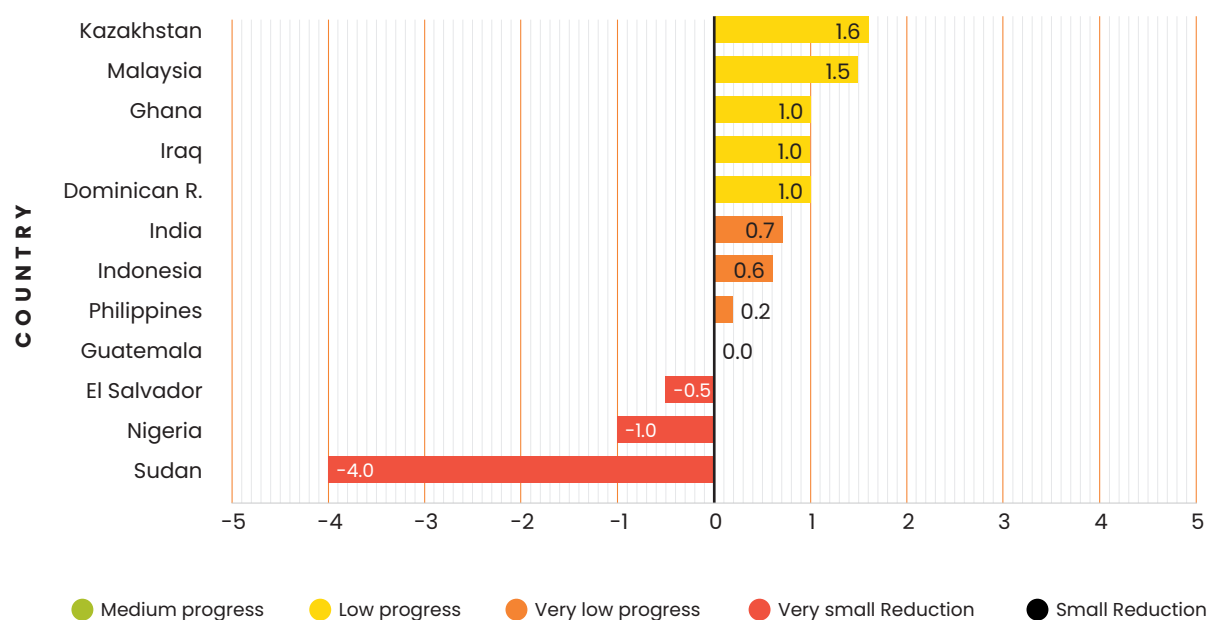
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Build comprehensive social protection floors:** shift from fragmented assistance to rights-based, well-financed, transparent and shock-responsive systems (**all**).
- **Expand coverage and adequacy:** protect transfer real value against inflation; scale safety nets (**Philippines, Nigeria, Iraq, Indonesia**).
- **Link poverty policy to decent work and rural transformation:** tackle low wages, informality and structural rural deprivation; strengthen land/rural livelihoods (**El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, India**).
- **Prioritise LNOB territories and groups:** target high-poverty regions and excluded groups using disaggregated data (indigenous/rural communities, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, migrants, older persons).
 - Explicit focus: farmers/fishers/informal workers (**Philippines**); rural North/high-poverty regions (**Nigeria**); remote/indigenous/smallholder communities (**Indonesia**).
- **Fix governance of schemes:** reduce clientelism/corruption; depoliticise and integrate fragmented programmes; strengthen registries/targeting for consistent reach (**Guatemala, Kazakhstan, El Salvador; also Philippines/Nigeria/Indonesia**).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 2 (Average: 0.16)



SDG 2 overview

- **Off-track / regressing:** **El Salvador** (slight backslide), **Guatemala** (chronic crisis), **Nigeria** (sharp deterioration: ~25m acutely food-insecure; 35% food inflation; 33% stunting), **Philippines** (very low progress; entrenched rural hunger among small farmers/fishers).
- **Partial / uneven:** In **Ghana** CSOs note mostly training/advocacy efforts ; limited evidence of sustained nutrition gains, resilient practices, or seed/genetic-diversity systems. **Indonesia** shows some gains on hunger/nutrition but lags on sustainable agriculture/ productivity, hit by climate + price volatility.
- **Moderate but unequal:** **Kazakhstan and Malaysia** show moderate progress, but malnutrition and exclusion pockets persist.

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Large-scale food/ration programmes:** major lever, but design/coverage gaps blunt impact—**India** (NFSA + free rations for 800m+, exclusion risks from outdated lists), **Guatemala** (higher agriculture budget + “Mano a Mano” still new and skewed toward short-term rations vs structural smallholder support), **El Salvador** (family agriculture

- support + school feeding acknowledged but fragile), **Nigeria** (food-security emergency + NATIP intent, but hunger persists without security + logistics + resilience fixes).
- **Smallholder/family agriculture support:** recurring entry point across **El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Nigeria, Indonesia**—small producers are framed as both key food providers and highly vulnerable.
 - **Nutrition programming and local food-system measures:** **Indonesia** maintains nutrition programmes, with CSOs urging scale-up of smallholder support, climate-resilient agriculture, local food systems and price stabilisation.
 - **Policy frameworks vs food sovereignty:** **Philippines** has support frameworks, but CSOs stress import-dependent food policy and agribusiness priorities undermine local food systems/right to food; limited agroecology focus.
 - **School feeding / institutional diets:** used as levers, but quality and funding are uneven—under-standard institutional diets in **Kazakhstan**; school feeding in **El Salvador** needs consolidation and stable budgets.
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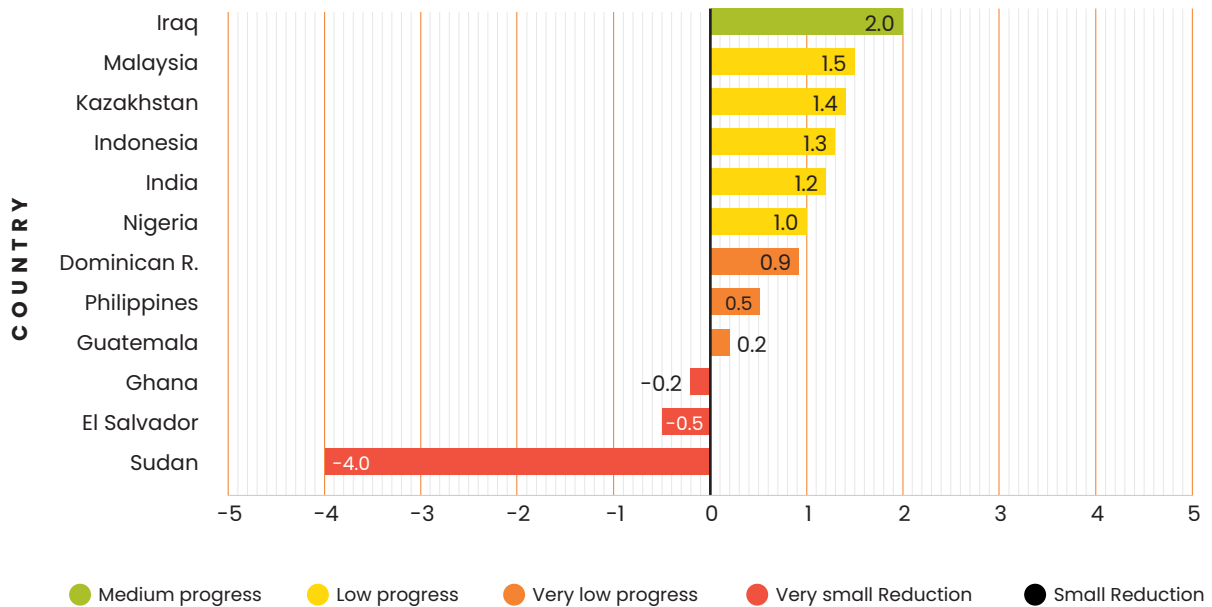
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Strengthen family and smallholder agriculture:** stable, territorially targeted public support (**El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Nigeria, Indonesia**).
- **Shift from rations to resilience:** move from emergency food aid to structural support for production, agroecology and resilient local food systems (**Guatemala, El Salvador, Philippines**).
- **Protect land and water rights:** address land concentration/conflict; secure access for small farmers and Indigenous communities (**El Salvador, Guatemala; Nigeria's constraints are strongly security-linked**).
- **Build climate-resilient food systems:** protect small producers/fishers from climate shocks and price volatility (**El Salvador, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Indonesia**).
- **Stabilise prices and back local food systems:** price stabilisation and local food-system reinforcement (**Indonesia** explicitly; consistent with inflation-driven hunger in **Nigeria/Philippines**).



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

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 3 (Average: 0.5)



SDG 3 overview

- **Relatively stronger but fragmented: Iraq** shows improvements based on higher spending and built facilities but remains far from realised due to high Out-Of-Pocket, territorial inequality and barriers to women’s access (especially rural). **Malaysia** shows visible improvements and comparatively stronger indicators, but persistent territorial/ demographic inequities and resilience concerns.
- **Some progress with major gaps: India and Kazakhstan** show notable advances (insurance, maternal–child mortality reductions, digital tools) but large equity and quality deficits. **Indonesia** shows progress, sharp regional disparities remain. **Nigeria** sees infrastructure and vaccination improvements remain, but the system is still fragile post-COVID with severe human resources constraints/brain drain.
- **Low progress / off-track: Guatemala** is far off-track with most indicators lagging; **Philippines** is low progress (slow/uneven Universal Health-Care, high Out-Of-Pocket, urban bias);

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Infrastructure expansion:** new/rehabilitated hospitals, labs and specialised centres (**Gambia, El Salvador**); facility expansion/specialty centres (**Philippines**) and new hospitals (**Iraq**) but unevenly distributed; PHC financing flows (**Nigeria** BHCPF) though readiness gaps persist; PHC networks “on paper” in **Gambia** with limited real coverage.
- **Financial protection tools:** insurance schemes as core levers—NHIS-type schemes (**Gambia, India**) and social health insurance (**Kazakhstan**); **Philippines** UHC law/ PhilHealth expansion but slow and OOP remains high; Iraq Health Insurance Law noted but weak guarantees for free care for the poorest and high OOP persists.
- **Targeted programmes:** SRHR/maternal-health initiatives (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Guatemala**); immunisation/basic programmes (**Malaysia**); maternal/neonatal measures (**Nigeria**: free C-section policy, MAMI, renewal initiatives); communicable disease + UHC-linked programming (**Indonesia**) though prevention (road safety/environmental health) lags.

The drivers highlighted by CSOs show that progress levers exist, but don't translate into equitable, quality services without staffing, primary care strengthening and governance.

Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

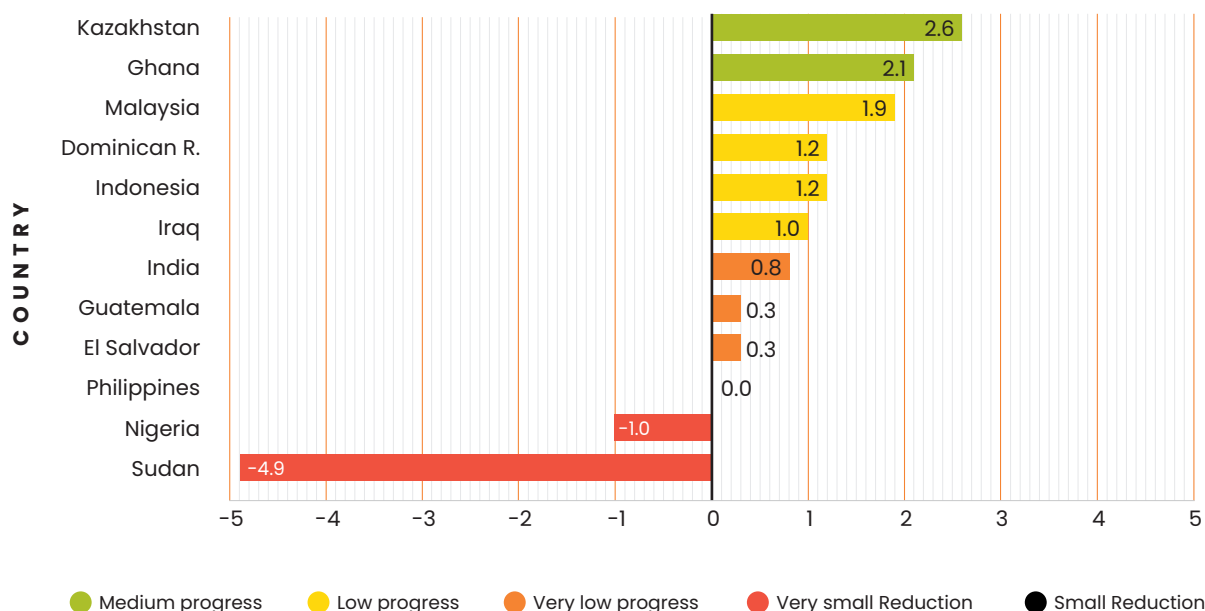
Strengthen primary care and local networks: stable financing + staffing for rural/remote/marginal urban areas (**El Salvador, Gambia, Guatemala, India, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Nigeria, Indonesia**).

- **Fix the health workforce crisis:** increase density, distribution and skills; prioritise retention and rural/indigenous coverage (**Guatemala, Gambia, Kazakhstan, India; Nigeria** prioritises retention; **Philippines** flags urban concentration).
- **Guarantee medicines and facility readiness:** reduce stock-outs; improve logistics/infrastructure (**El Salvador, Gambia, Kazakhstan; Nigeria** adds reliable power and PHC readiness).
- **Embed rights-based SRHR and prevention:** gender- and youth-responsive SRHR, adolescent pregnancy/GBV prevention, mental health (**El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Philippines**).
- **Improve governance and accountability:** stronger M&E, transparency, crisis accountability, and equity monitoring with better territorial data use (**Gambia, Guatemala, Malaysia**).
- **Reduce financial barriers:** lower OOP, strengthen protection for the poorest, and ensure equitable benefit delivery (**Philippines, Iraq**, and broadly relevant).



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

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 4 (Average: 0.47)



SDG 4 overview

- **Good enrolment, weak equity/quality: Malaysia and Kazakhstan** (coverage strong, learning/inequality concerns persist). In **Ghana**, free primary and secondary education programs and TVET expanded access are seen as positive, but rural early-childhood quality, disability/menstrual readiness, and literacy remain weak points.
- **Low but sustained progress with structural constraints: El Salvador and India** (access gains but deep quality/equity problems).
- **Near-stagnation: Philippines** (extreme learning weaknesses despite relatively high enrolment).
- **Acute crisis: Nigeria** (dual access-quality crisis; one of the world's largest out-of-school populations).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Infrastructure and connectivity investments:** new/improved school buildings (especially rural/peri-urban) (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan**); digital learning/connectivity expansion (**El Salvador, Malaysia, Kazakhstan**); **Indonesia** pushes infrastructure and inclusive facilities (4.a) but uneven, with CSOs stressing remote digital access.

- **Teacher measures:** higher salaries and training/stability efforts (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan**); **Nigeria** highlights urgent teacher training and digital-literacy reforms; **Philippines** flags underpayment and overcrowding as binding constraints.
- **Access expansion + TVET:** near-universal primary enrolment and TVET investments (**Malaysia**); universal primary/secondary coverage and improving preschool (**Kazakhstan**); high enrolment (**India**). **Philippines** enrolment relatively high but K-12 reforms not translating into learning quality; **Iraq** has a National Education Strategy (2022–2031) and constitutional free basic education, but financing/implementation gaps dominate.
- Bottom line: policies expand access and basic coverage, but not equitable, high-quality learning.

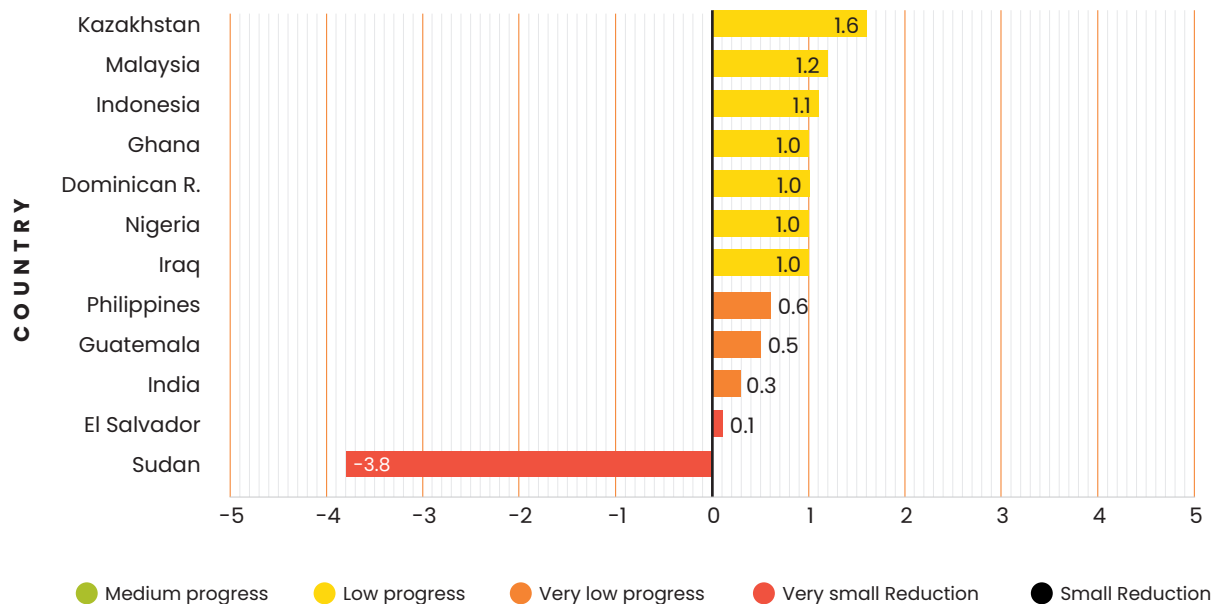
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Equity-centred reform:** long-term reforms prioritising territorial justice, inclusive pedagogy and institutional sustainability (**El Salvador** explicitly; relevant across all).
- **Strengthen marginal schools:** targeted financing, infrastructure and teacher incentives for rural/remote/small-island settings (**all**, especially **Indonesia/Philippines/Nigeria/Iraq**).
- **Close the digital divide:** affordable connectivity, devices and relevant content for underserved learners (**El Salvador, Malaysia, Kazakhstan**; strongly **Indonesia; Philippines**).
- **Upgrade the teaching workforce:** better pay/stability linked to continuous professional development and innovation (**Kazakhstan, El Salvador**; urgent in **Nigeria/Philippines**).
- **Shift to learning outcomes:** diagnostics + remediation; focus on foundational skills, not enrolment only (**India** strongly; central for **Indonesia/Philippines** learning-crisis framing).
- **Scale inclusive education:** disability support plus language/discrimination barriers so minority-language learners can progress (**Kazakhstan, Malaysia, El Salvador**; relevant in **Philippines/Indonesia**).
- **Protect access in insecure settings + improve credibility:** safe-school measures (**Nigeria**) and credible implementation plans with budget transparency (**Iraq**).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 5 (Average: 0.29)



SDG 5 overview

- **Moderate policy progress, weak implementation/outcomes:** **Kazakhstan** (frameworks/strategies in place, but partial, uneven progress); **Malaysia** (frameworks exist, but enforcement and structural change lag – persistent gaps in representation, pay, care, GBV). **Indonesia** (slow progress; stronger laws/SRH but weak outcomes on violence/discrimination/harmful practices; rising GBV, high child marriage); **Philippines** (strong laws/index rankings, but deep implementation gaps and incomplete protections).
- **Limited structural change:** **India** (some gains via budgeting/local representation but deep structural/cultural constraints); **Guatemala** (very slow/under-prioritised, with advances driven mainly by women’s movements); **Nigeria** (slow legal change/enforcement and persistent patriarchal norms; women <4% of National Assembly; GBV/child marriage widespread; “gender bills” repeatedly postponed). **Ghana** (multiple GBV/rights projects and advocacy underway, yet progress remains project-driven with limited structural change).
- **Perceived stagnation :** **El Salvador** sees modest policy/programme advances amid persistent GBV, SRHR and leadership gaps.

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Gender-equality and GBV legal frameworks:**
 - **Gambia** (Women’s Act, FGM ban, National Gender Policy).

- **Kazakhstan** (new law to protect women/children; quotas).
- **El Salvador** (National Equity plan; GBV legislation).
- **India** (gender-responsive budgeting).
- **Philippines** (Magna Carta of Women; workplace anti-discrimination—implementation weak; SOGIE Equality Bill stalled).
- **Nigeria** (revised National Gender Policy; key equality/representation bills pending).
- **Indonesia** (policy progress + SRH advances, but weak enforcement on VAW/discrimination/harmful practices).
- **Dedicated institutions and services:** specialised centres/protocols (**El Salvador** CEMUJER, “Mujeres al Centro”); FGM elimination policies/institutions (**Gambia**); commissions/strategies (**Kazakhstan**); local quotas (**India** Panchayati Raj). **Indonesia** CSOs push for expanded survivor-centred services and stronger UHC/primary services for rural/Indigenous women.
- **Women’s movements and CSO ecosystems:** strong civil society (**Gambia, Guatemala**); feminist activism (**Kazakhstan, Malaysia**); local women leaders (**India, El Salvador**); **Philippines** women’s rights actors pushing for fuller protections amid harassment.

Enablers exist, but CSOs underline that these are undermined by weak implementation, under-resourcing and resistant social norms.

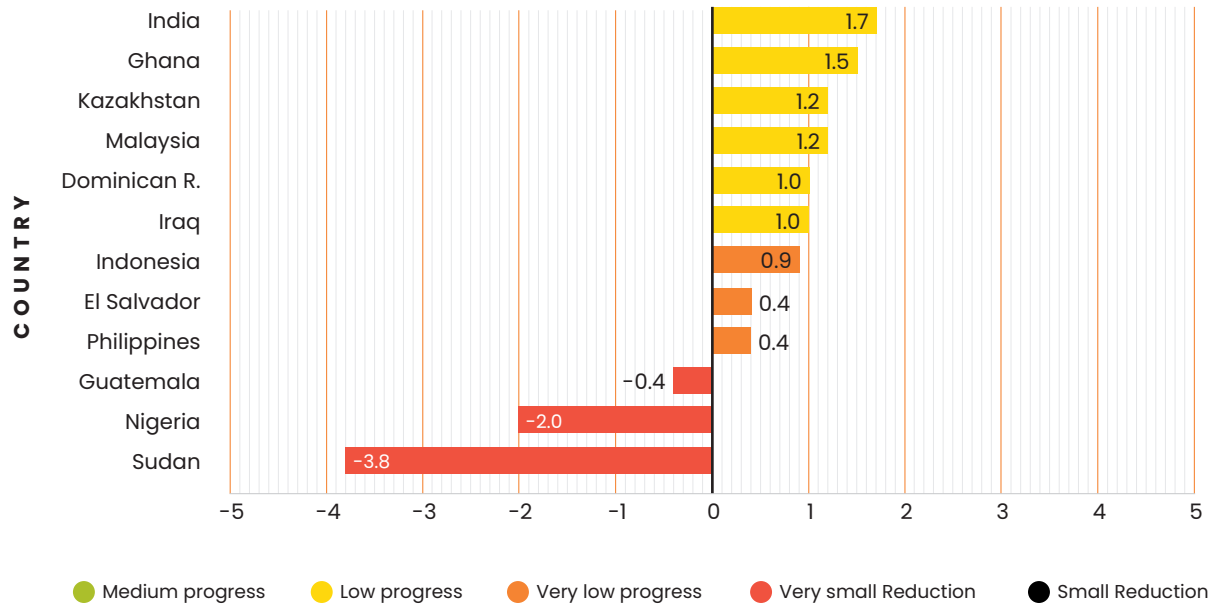
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Strengthen enforcement and services:** fully implement GBV/equality laws, resource survivor-centred services, improve police/justice response, adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination/harassment protections (**all, especially Philippines, Nigeria, Iraq**).
- **Secure stable financing:** adequate budgets for gender equality, GBV services and women’s economic empowerment; strengthen results-based gender budgeting (**El Salvador, India, Gambia, Malaysia, Guatemala**; scale services in **Indonesia**; enforcement in **Nigeria**).
- **Expand women’s leadership:** boost representation in parliaments/cabinets/local councils and community/economic governance (**all**; urgent in **Nigeria**; **Philippines** needs broader non-dynastic representation).
- **Transform norms and care regimes:** shift social norms (new masculinities), reduce unpaid care burdens via care policies, social protection and public services (**El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia, Gambia, also Philippines, Indonesia**).
- **Prioritise intersectional justice:** targeted measures for rural/Indigenous/poor/B40/disabled women, including land/resources/services access (**Guatemala, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, El Salvador, also Indonesia**; rural women’s access barriers in Iraq).
- **Close legal gaps and prevent rollback:** restore/adopt rights-based personal status and domestic-violence protections (**Iraq**), pass pending equality/representation bills (**Nigeria**), and enact comprehensive SOGIE protections (**Philippines**).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 6 (Average: 0.19)



SDG 6 overview

- **Low-to-moderate but fragile quality/resilience:** **India** and **Malaysia** (strong national coverage, major quality and climate-resilience gaps). **Kazakhstan** (near-universal access claims, severe quality/sanitation deficits) and **Ghana** (drinking-water access improving, while sanitation, wastewater treatment, ecosystem protection and rural reliability remain major constraints).
- **Very low progress:** **Philippines** (expanded access but uneven; rural/poor communities rely on unsafe sources; ageing infrastructure, contamination and floods/droughts; Local Government capacity/finance constraints; safe affordable water not secured as a right). **El Salvador** (visible advances, but perceived gaps remain). **Indonesia** (rural/outer-island gaps tied to weak local capacity, uneven investment, climate water stress).
- **Severely off-track on sanitation:** **Nigeria** (some water gains, rural access much lower; Clean Nigeria/PEWASH exist but weak post-commissioning functionality).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Infrastructure expansion:** core driver everywhere—**El Salvador** extends/rehabilitates networks; **India** scales rural piped water via Har Ghar Jal + water-body rejuvenation;

Philippines expands improved services but uneven due to LGU finance/technical limits; **Nigeria** rolls out schemes (Clean Nigeria/PEWASH) but over-focuses on new builds vs O&M/community ownership; **Indonesia** expands WASH while pushing community-based, climate-resilient systems in regional planning.

- **Institutional reform/regulation: El Salvador** created a national water authority (ASA) to strengthen governance.
- **Climate/flood resilience measures:** some flood-management/resilience investments in **Malaysia** and **India**, still insufficient; climate stress/extremes are central context drivers in **Philippines** and **Indonesia** (floods/droughts).

Policy attention exists, but delivery still lags on reliability, safety and resilience.

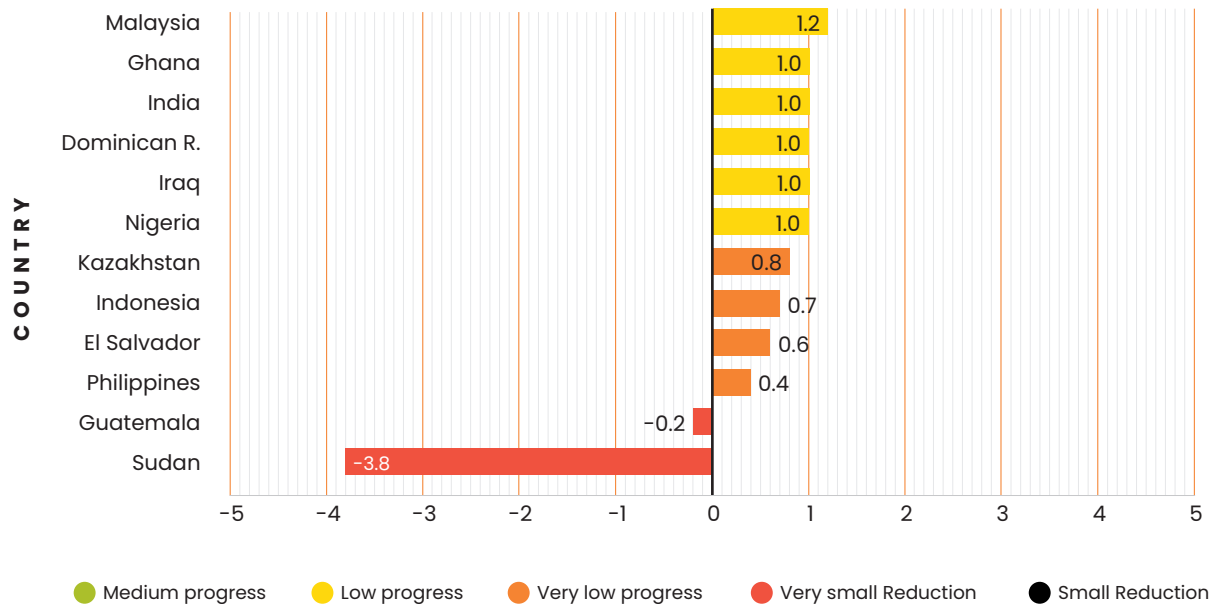
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Strengthen governance and regulation:** empower water authorities/regulators, improve enforcement and anti-corruption safeguards (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, India**, and relevant for **Philippines/Indonesia/Nigeria**).
- **Prioritise LNOB territories:** targeted investments for water-stressed rural areas, informal settlements, small islands and Indigenous territories (**all**, with **Iraq** implied).
- **Shift to safely managed, climate-resilient services:** move beyond “access” to quality, continuity, wastewater treatment and flood/drought resilience; invest in infrastructure renewal (**all**; **Nigeria** stresses functionality).
- **Embed community participation and environmental protection:** community ownership, watershed/ecosystem management and accountability (**El Salvador** explicit; aligned with **Nigeria** and **Indonesia** community-based WASH).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 7 (Average: 0.39)



SDG 7 overview

- **Progress on access and renewables: Malaysia** (strong access and ambitious state RE targets, but decarbonisation remains too slow for 1.5°C-aligned pathways). **India** (some progress based on a rapid renewables build-out, but still off-track for 500 GW by 2030 and air pollution remains very high);
- **Low progress where fossil lock-in/affordability dominate: Kazakhstan** (coal-heavy reliance); **Philippines** (low progress—access gains but slow transition; high prices/outages; continued coal plus LNG/nuclear plans; harms and weak consultation reported by project-affected communities); **Nigeria** (world’s largest access deficit; unreliable grid collapses; off-grid growth but affordability/implementation gaps); **El Salvador** expanded grid and renewables, but rural access/affordability gaps persist; and **Ghana** (Electrification/hydro base is strong, but affordability and clean-cooking access gaps plus slow solar/wind scale-up limit overall progress).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Grid expansion and reliability efforts:** network expansion (**El Salvador**); near-universal connections (**Kazakhstan, Malaysia**); rural connection rollout (**India**). **Nigeria’s** Electricity Act 2023 decentralises power to states and programmes aim to expand access, but

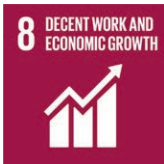
stability remains binding. **Philippines/Indonesia** have progressed on electrification, yet reliability and affordability remain uneven—especially in remote/island settings.

- **Renewable energy scale-up:** renewables promotion (**El Salvador**); **Kazakhstan** >130 renewable facilities (~2 GW) and 15% by 2030 target; India +29 GW (mostly solar PV) reaching ~220 GW; **Malaysia** state-level targets (e.g., Sarawak 60% renewables by 2030). **Nigeria** off-grid renewables scaling fast (>200 solar mini-grids; DARES to expand mini-grids/SHS). **Indonesia** CSOs push to accelerate renewables and prioritise energy-deprived regions.

Policy drivers are gathering momentum, but not yet sufficient for an affordable, equitable, 1.5°C-compatible transition.

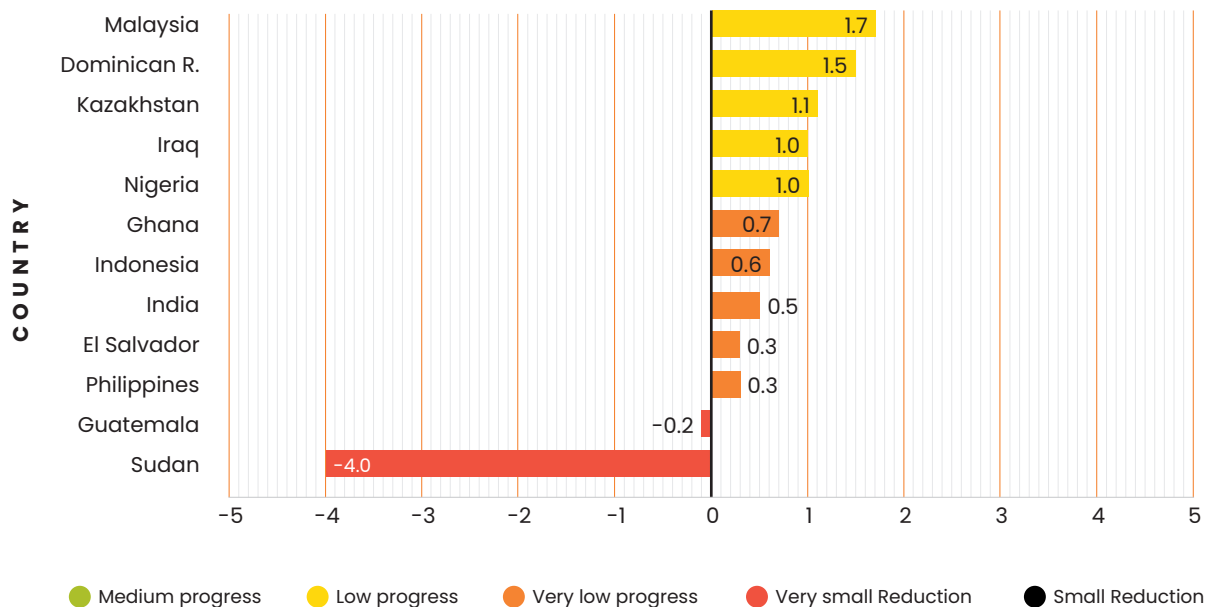
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Scale decentralised renewables:** expand renewables/off-grid solutions for rural/remote communities instead of centralised fossil build-outs (**El Salvador** explicit; critical for **Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines**, also relevant for **Kazakhstan/India**).
- **Make energy affordability pro-poor:** tariffs/subsidies that prevent energy poverty while supporting efficiency and clean uptake (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan**; strongly relevant for **Philippines, Nigeria**).
- **Modernise grids + align with climate goals:** upgrade grids, phase down coal, avoid risky nuclear lock-ins, accelerate renewables and efficiency (**Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia**, also **Indonesia, Philippines**).
- **Strengthen safeguards and participation:** robust environmental/social safeguards and community participation in major projects (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Malaysia**; strongly foregrounded in **Philippines**).
- **Deliver co-benefits people feel:** use the transition to reduce air pollution and territorial inequality and improve health/wellbeing (**India, El Salvador, Malaysia**; salient in **Philippines/Indonesia** where harms are community-visible).
- **Build decentralised implementation capacity:** strengthen state/local delivery and finance to scale off-grid access with affordability for poor households (**Nigeria**).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 8 (Average: 0.31)



SDG 8 overview

- **Moderate but unequal: Malaysia** (growth and job creation, but job quality, protection and inclusion lag).
- **Low–medium progress: Kazakhstan** (headline GDP/programmes moving, but informality and working poverty remain huge). **Nigeria** (GDP growth but non-inclusive; Massive TVET programs planned; youth unemployment critical; real wages crushed by inflation)
- **Low progress: Philippines** (high informality + labour-rights constraints); **Iraq** (macro narratives weakly translate into decent jobs, especially for youth/low-income groups, under debt-driven budgeting). **Indonesia** (job-creation/entrepreneurship programmes noted, but labour-market structure not shifting).
- **Stagnation / regression: El Salvador** (stagnation/slight backslide in decent work despite investment drives).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Post-COVID rebound and investment pushes:** growth rebounds (**Gambia, Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia**) and investment drives (**El Salvador**). **Philippines** and **Nigeria** also note recovery, but jobs remain largely informal/precarious with real-wage erosion.

- **Employment, enterprise and MSME policies:** **Gambia** (National Employment Policy/Action Plan, TVET, MSME policies); **Kazakhstan** (start-up/SME schemes, digitalisation); **India** (large MSME credit/livelihood schemes).
- **TVET and youth/employment programmes:** expanded TVET/youth programmes (**Gambia, Kazakhstan**) and entrepreneurship support (**El Salvador, Gambia**). **Nigeria** scales TVET via Nationwide TVET Initiative (Master 6/Master 12) targeting ~1m trainees/year, plus financing via **NELFUND** loans. **Indonesia** acknowledges job-creation and entrepreneurship programming.

As 2025 Scorecard countries show, policies create training and some jobs, but not secure, well-paid, protected work at scale – especially for those left behind.

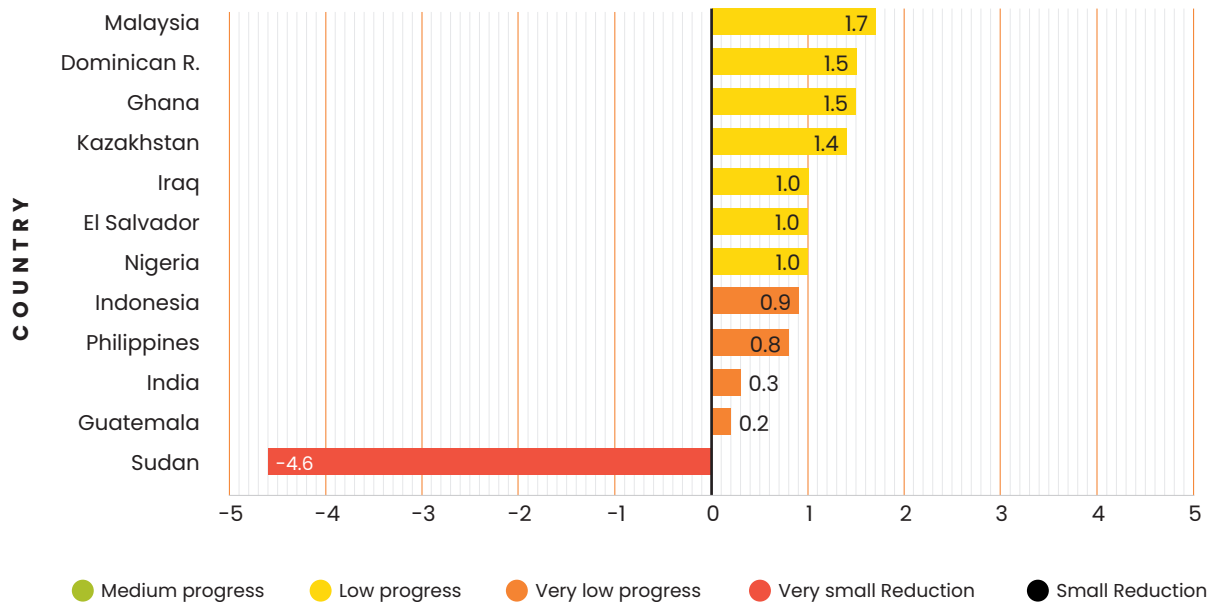
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Shift to inclusive structural transformation:** move from “jobs and growth” to formalisation, higher productivity and better wages (**all**).
- **Strengthen labour rights and social dialogue:** enforce contracts, living wages, safe workplaces and universal social protection coverage (**all**, especially **Philippines/Indonesia** where rights/enforcement are central).
- **Make youth programmes job-linked:** targeted youth employment and skills pathways (especially rural) tied to real job creation, not short-term training alone (**Gambia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria**, broadly relevant elsewhere).
- **Embed inclusion explicitly:** integrate gender equality and inclusion (youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, rural workers; where relevant PLHIV/LGBTIQ+) into employment and enterprise policy (**all**, explicit in **Indonesia**).
- **Measure job quality, not just quantity:** stronger data, monitoring and evaluation on employment quality to steer policy (**all**).
- **Protect migrant workers and reduce forced migration-for-work dynamics:** strengthen domestic decent-work pathways and enforcement (**Philippines** particularly).



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

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 9 (Average: 0.54)



SDG 9 overview

- SDG 9 is **relatively strong** on **visible infrastructure and digitalisation**, especially in **Kazakhstan** and **Malaysia**, but with questions over innovation, inclusion, territorial equity and environmental sustainability.
- Across the rest of 2025 countries, perceived progress is **even more mixed**: **Ghana** (Digital/urban infrastructure and mobile money are advancing, but rural infrastructure, affordable credit, industrial upgrading and R&D remain modest). **Philippines** (big infrastructure/digital push, but very limited inclusive/green industrialisation), **Nigeria** (flagship infrastructure/ICT momentum but weak value-add and high costs), **Indonesia** (low progress with sharp regional disparities/Java dominance), **Iraq** (reconstruction and investment efforts are limited by fiscal constraints, under-implementation, weak recognition/measurement of innovation).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Infrastructure and connectivity investment**: roads, transport, industrial projects, broadband across the sample.
 - **Nigeria**: major road/rail projects; fibre-backbone expansion, data-centre boom, digital-economy ambition.

- **Philippines:** large infrastructure and digitalisation drives (often via ODA/PPPs), improving connectivity and transport.
 - **Digitalisation as a state lever:** e-government and service platforms (**Kazakhstan** e-gov, Digital Family Map; **Malaysia and India** digital pushes); **Nigeria** and **Philippines** also frame digitalisation as a growth lever (incl. private capital mobilisation in **Philippines**).
 - **Industrial strategies and plans:** **Kazakhstan** industrialisation projects; **Malaysia** NIMP 2030; **Nigeria** local value-add/manufacturing ambition (incl. newer industrial financing initiatives); **Philippines** notes rising policy attention to innovation and upgrading.
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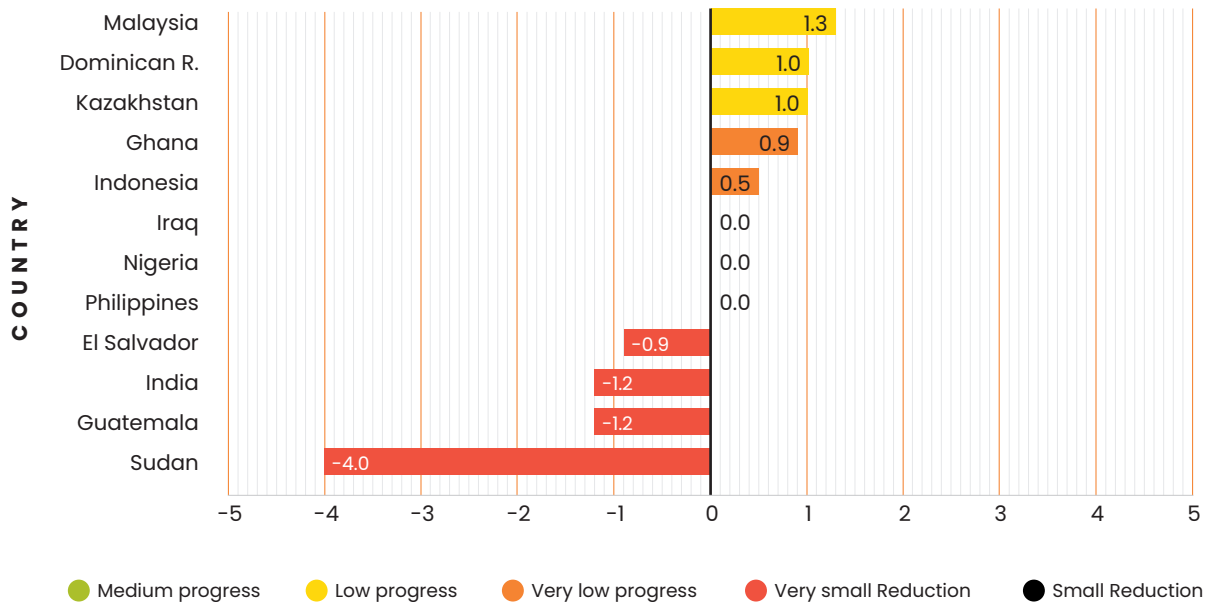
Emerging accelerators for SDG 9

- **Rebalance territorially:** prioritise neglected regions and marginalised communities in infrastructure/industrial policy (**El Salvador, Malaysia**; strongly echoed in **Indonesia/Philippines**; relevant for **Nigeria**).
- **Strengthen safeguards:** apply robust environmental, social and accessibility standards to major projects (**Kazakhstan**; echoed across others, especially **Philippines**).
- **Build inclusive innovation ecosystems:** scale SME finance/support, digital inclusion and technology transfer (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan**; explicit in **Indonesia/Philippines**; **Nigeria** needs SME-aligned cost/finance solutions).
- **Diversify and decarbonise industrial strategy:** shift toward low-carbon pathways and decent work, not just resource/investment-driven growth (**Kazakhstan, Malaysia, also Philippines/Nigeria**; aligned with **Indonesia** resilience framing).
- **Make innovation measurable and accountable:** track R&D and green/social innovation and recognise roles of universities/startups/CSOs (**Iraq** explicit; useful governance fix elsewhere).



SDG 10: Reduce income inequality within and among countries

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 10 (Average: 0.23)



SDG 10 overview

- **Perceived regression / backsliding:** **El Salvador** (inequality and discrimination persist; CSOs demand rights-based redistribution) and **India** (growth isn't reducing structural social, political inequalities). **Guatemala** shows entrenched structural inequality with minimal progress.
- **Low / very low progress:** **Kazakhstan** (widening gap between rhetoric and reality); **Philippines** ("deep-rooted" inequality and elite capture); **Nigeria** (deep multidimensional inequality and non-inclusive growth; "fiscal justice" reforms only beginning). **Malaysia** (entrenched regional/ethnic/income gaps and exclusion, with growth-first policy and data gaps keeping inequality a core bottleneck.) and **Ghana** (poverty exits and equity laws help, yet weak disaggregated data, uneven inclusion keep gains muted).
- **Deeply off-track:** **Indonesia** (entrenched spatial and identity-based inequalities); **Iraq** flags inequality as a major blind spot (no dedicated focus/indicators on marginalised groups).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Safety nets and participation mechanisms:** existing social protection/anti-poverty measures plus some quotas/participation schemes (**Kazakhstan, Guatemala, El Salvador**).

- **Fiscal justice levers: Nigeria’s** tax-reform acts framed as shifting burden toward high-wealth individuals/large firms—promising but early-stage implementation.
- **Selective reforms and coping channels: Philippines** notes some PFM and gender-policy reforms; remittances help households cope (while highlighting weak domestic decent-work pathways).

CSOs across 2025 countries see these levers as **fragmented, under-resourced and non-transformative** – cushioning impacts but without shifting income/wealth/power distribution.

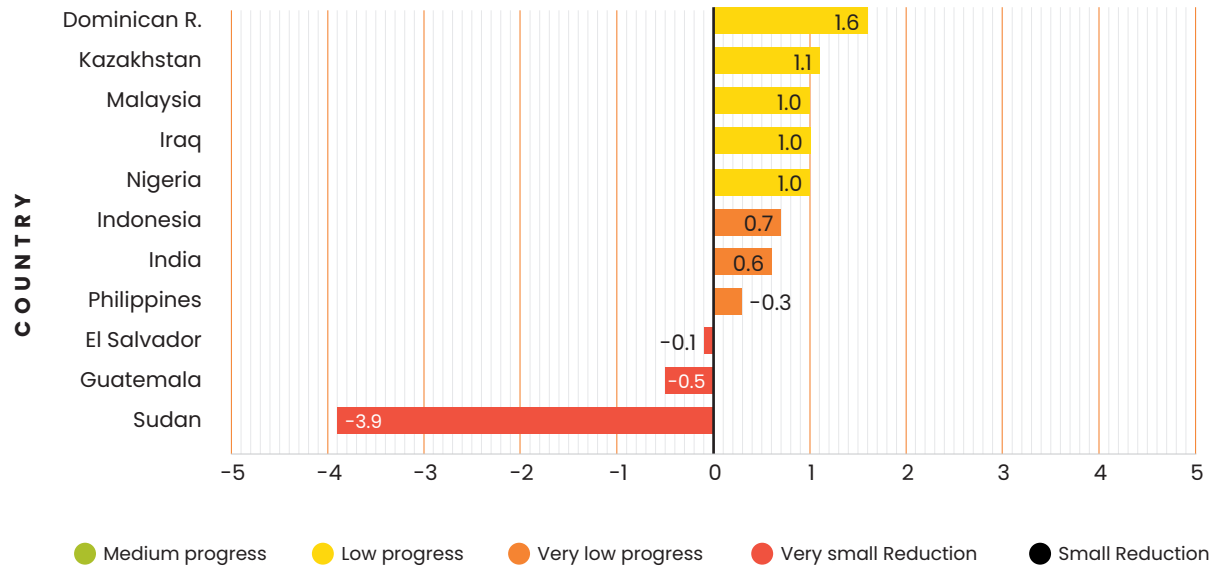
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Make equality enforceable:** adopt/implement comprehensive anti-discrimination and equality frameworks across grounds (gender, ethnicity, disability, SOGIESC, migration status, etc.) (**all**, especially **Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Iraq**).
- **Scale rights-based social protection:** expand coverage/adequacy for informal workers, children and territorially marginalised communities (**all**).
- **Prioritise territorial equity:** redirect investment in services/infrastructure toward rural/Indigenous territories and poor urban peripheries (**all**, strongly aligned with **Indonesia/Philippines/Nigeria/Iraq**).
- **Use taxation and anti-corruption for redistribution:** pursue fair taxation and real anti-corruption so fiscal systems reduce inequality (critical in **Guatemala/Kazakhstan**; aligns with **Nigeria** “fiscal justice” and **Philippines** elite-capture critique).
- **Fix the data and representation deficit:** produce robust, disaggregated inequality data to guide targeting and accountability (**all**; urgent for **Iraq** indicators; **Indonesia** also needs stronger documentation and meaningful representation).



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

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 11 (Average: 0.24)



SDG 11 overview

- **Some tangible but uneven progress: Kazakhstan** (big-city improvements, severe deficits elsewhere).
- **Very low progress: Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria** (rapid urbanisation overwhelms planning; slums/informal settlements widespread); **India** (some progress but exclusionary - housing/slum-upgrading and transport spend is rising, yet delivery is slow, infrastructure-biased, weak slum-resident voice and services); and **Iraq** (housing plans exist, but rights/targeting/access mechanisms and indicators are weak; informal settlements/camps lack durable solutions).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Urban infrastructure upgrades:** roads, public spaces, lighting, mobility and some public transport (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia**).
- **Policy frameworks + flagship initiatives:** **Philippines** has dense frameworks and commitments (urban development/transport/housing), but strong Metro-Manila bias and weak lived improvements.
- **City leadership examples:** **Nigeria** highlights sub-national momentum (e.g., Lagos mass-transit rail, resilience planning, VLRs) as proof of what capable city governance can deliver.
- **Housing and settlement programmes:** PMAY/AMRUT (**India**); SDG localisation in Almaty

(**Kazakhstan**); municipal projects (**El Salvador**). **Nigeria/Indonesia/Philippines/Iraq** have interventions in narrative/programme form, but CSOs stress weak pro-poor access and unclear mechanisms. **Iraq** “new cities” housing plans are noted as a potential lever.

- **Disaster risk management beginnings:** emerging DRM initiatives (**El Salvador, Malaysia, India**), often insufficient; **Indonesia** flags partial gains on DRR/climate integration.
- Bottom line: visibility improves, but safe, affordable, inclusive cities for those furthest behind are not secured.

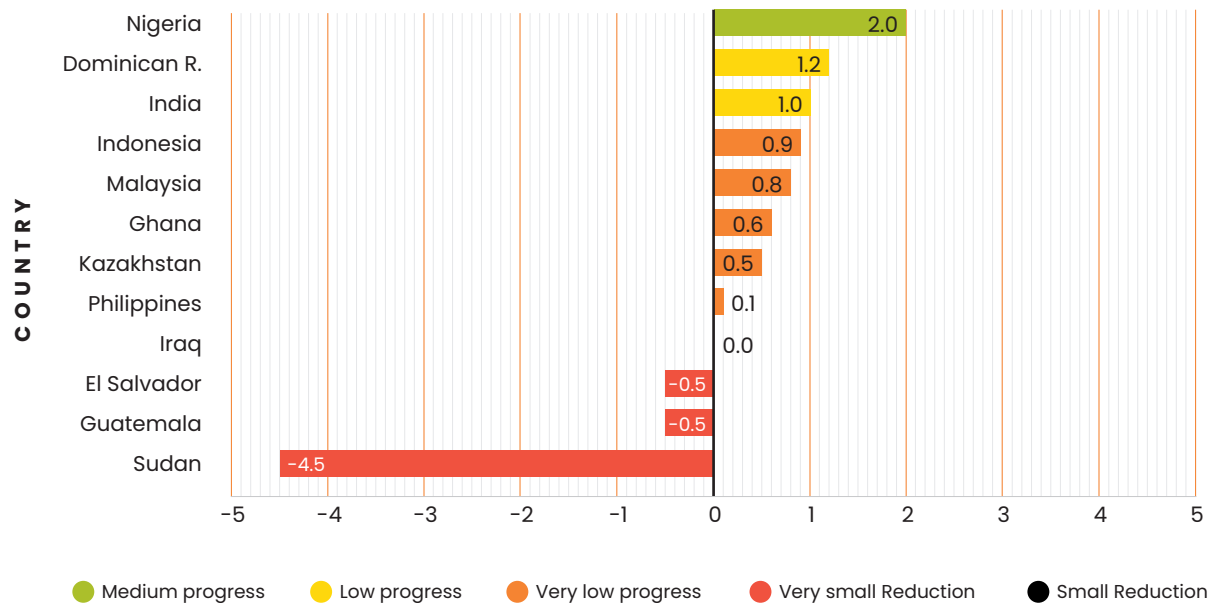
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Make planning rights-based and participatory:** embed strong participation of informal-settlement residents and marginalised groups (**all; Philippines** explicitly includes women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities).
- **Upgrade and regularise informal settlements:** secure tenure, service access and integration into city plans (**all**, especially **Nigeria/Indonesia/Iraq/Philippines**).
- **Mainstream DRR and climate resilience locally:** prioritise high-risk, low-income areas (**El Salvador, Malaysia, India; Indonesia** explicit; crucial for **Nigeria/Philippines**).
- **Strengthen municipal governance and finance:** predictable resources, autonomy and accountability so local governments can deliver inclusive services (**Malaysia**; also **El Salvador/India; Philippines** calls for decentralised resources; **Nigeria** needs scale beyond top performers like **Lagos**).
- **Protect heritage and ecosystems through enforcement:** stronger zoning, safeguards and compliance where development pressures are intense (**Philippines**, and as an entry point **Indonesia**).



SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 12 (Average: 0.24)



SDG 12 overview

SDG 12 is generally **weak and lagging** across 2025 countries with data.

- **Moderate but slow/uneven: Nigeria** (expanding EPR framework seen as positive, but persistent severe plastic pollution, low recycling).
- **Some progress with rollback risk: India** (warnings that regulatory dilution and pollution trends could erase gains).
- **Very low / regressive: Kazakhstan** (regression in recycling); **Philippines** (strong laws/plans, fragmented enforcement, “stark failure” on waste); **Indonesia** (mixed progress, weak circularity);

Common policy drivers

- **Policy frameworks and pilots:** waste-management policies, recycling/circular-economy pilots, cleaner production/green-tech schemes (across countries).
- **Strong frameworks with uneven delivery: Philippines** has extensive legal/policy architecture (SCP action plan, solid-waste framework, energy efficiency/RE/green jobs-type laws) but implementation is fragmented.

- **Producer responsibility and private engagement: Nigeria** shows growing private-sector recycling activity and “plastic neutrality” initiatives alongside an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

Actions across 2025 countries appear mostly **piecemeal and small-scale**, not yet shifting production/consumption patterns.

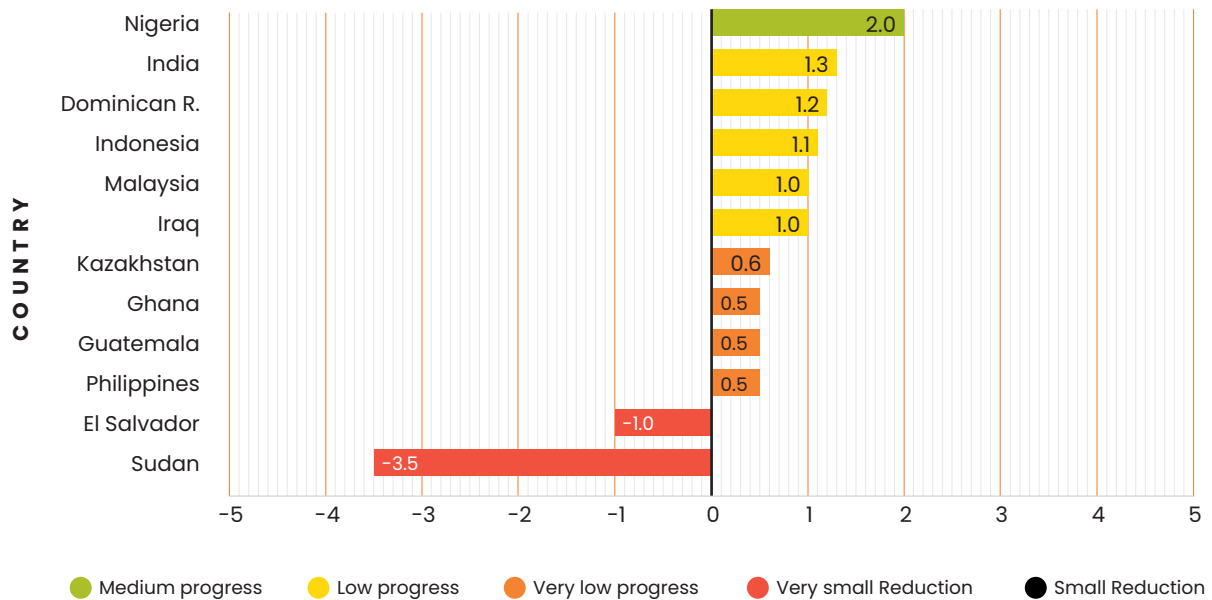
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Enforce the rules:** stronger regulation and enforcement, resist rollbacks, close loopholes (**all**, especially **Philippines/Nigeria**).
- **Scale circular economy:** expand circularity and green innovation in waste, plastics and industrial production (**all**; explicit in **Nigeria/Philippines/Indonesia**).
- **Fix municipal waste systems:** fund collection, separation, recycling and safe disposal (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Malaysia**; strongly **Philippines**; relevant **Nigeria/Indonesia**).
- **Make producer responsibility real:** strengthen EPR and behaviour-change measures targeting corporations/consumers, backed by transparent data (**Nigeria** via EPR; **Philippines** calls for enforcement + SME circular support; relevant across others).
- **Track SDG 12 credibly:** define indicators on resource efficiency, waste, chemicals and SCP impacts—and assess LNOB/social impacts of “green” investments (**Iraq** explicit; valuable elsewhere).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 13 (Average: 0.42)



SDG 13 overview

- **Moderate: Nigeria** (strong framework, limited adaptation finance and weak mainstreaming);
- **Low-to-moderate: India** (progress framed alongside serious rollback of environmental/community safeguards); **Indonesia** (plans/projects exist, but limited budget/planning integration plus deforestation and fossil dependence keep rural/coastal communities exposed); **Malaysia** (green policies/incentives exist, but high consumption/pollution plus weak enforcement and corporate behaviour change slow progress).
- **Very low: Kazakhstan** (coal dependence + fragile adaptation systems); **Philippines** (dense framework, chronic under-implementation and underfunded local plans);

Common policy drivers

- **Strategies, NDCs, renewables policies:** climate strategies/NDC updates and renewable-energy policies (**Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia**).
- **Framework institutions and commitments:** **Nigeria** (Climate Change Act 2021, climate council, net-zero 2060 pledge, green bonds, Great Green Wall/reforestation).
- **Dense mandates:** **Philippines** (Climate Change Act, DRRM Act, National Adaptation Plan, LGU mandates).

- **Projects and programmes: Indonesia** (climate policies and resilience/infrastructure programmes acknowledged).
- **Risk management and ecosystem protection:** risk-management and ecosystem measures often backed by international cooperation (**El Salvador, India;** also **Nigeria** via reforestation/Great Green Wall; Indonesia via resilience framing).
- **Green-tech / sustainable production incentives: Malaysia and India** (plus **Nigeria** green bonds; **Iraq** references “green projects”).

Across 2025 countries, climate is on the policy radar, but delivery is partial and often outpaced by fossil use, pollution and rising vulnerability.

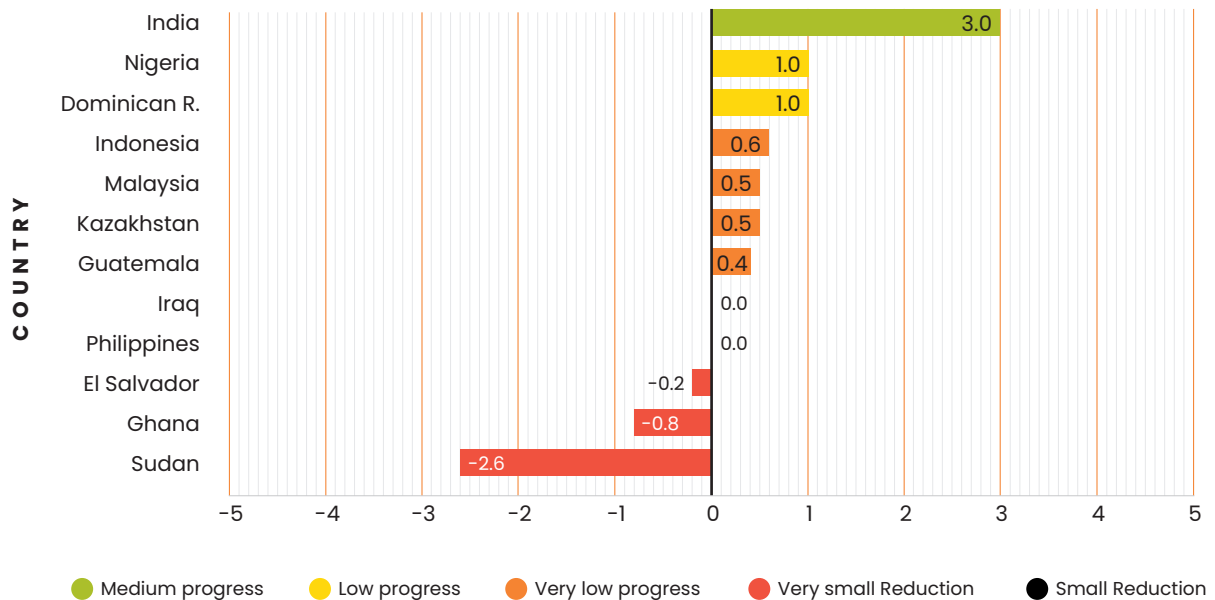
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Make adaptation local and people-centred:** prioritise community-led adaptation for small farmers, coastal and disaster-prone communities (**all**, strongly **Philippines/Nigeria/Indonesia**).
- **Restore ecosystems and manage water:** treat ecosystem restoration and water management as core adaptation levers (**El Salvador, India; Nigeria** Great Green Wall; **Indonesia** deforestation link).
- **Align energy/infrastructure with climate + safeguards:** phase down fossil fuels and ensure robust environmental/social safeguards for projects (**Kazakhstan, India, Malaysia**, also **Indonesia/Nigeria; Philippines** pushes prevention over relief and more ambitious unconditional targets).
- **Empower local actors with resources and authority:** devolve finance/expertise/decision power; ensure participation and climate justice (**all; Iraq** explicitly calls for local participation + clear metrics; **Philippines** stresses transparent climate finance and protection of frontline defenders).
- **Build credible climate finance and accountability:** operationalise climate funds, track outcomes with clear indicators and public reporting (**Philippines, Nigeria, Iraq**, and useful across the sample).



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

Scorecard 2025 - SDG 14 (Average: 0.21)



SDG 14 overview

- **Relatively stronger with caveats: India** (significant progress in coastal and marine management, but CSOs flag burgeoning rollbacks in environmental/community safeguards).
- **Low progress: Nigeria** (creation of a Ministry of Marine & Blue Economy (2023) and a Blue Economy strategy are positives, but chronic pollution and illegal fishing with limited enforcement capacity persist).
- **Very low: Kazakhstan** (inland water ecosystems in crisis) and **Malaysia** (weak/low priority).
- **Severely off-track: Philippines** (major biodiversity degradation; weak effective protection despite many MPAs); **El Salvador** (limited/low, ecosystem health concerns).

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Coastal/fisheries policies and projects:** co-management, seasonal closures, Ramsar wetlands, mangrove restoration, sustainable fisheries projects (**Gambia, El Salvador**).
- **Formal conservation bases: Philippines** (extensive conservation laws, many MPAs, plus Blue Economy Act as a policy anchor).

- **Institutional expansion and planning integration:** stronger coastal/marine management institutions (**India**) and partial SDG 14 integration into planning (**Malaysia, El Salvador**). **Nigeria** signals rising attention via Ministry of Marine & Blue Economy (2023) and a Blue Economy strategy.
 - **International/regional programmes:** **Gambia** (West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme, PROREFISH), plus Ramsar and climate-linked support more broadly.
- CSOs across 2025 countries show that even though awareness exists, initiatives are often **under-resourced** and enforcement is weak.
-

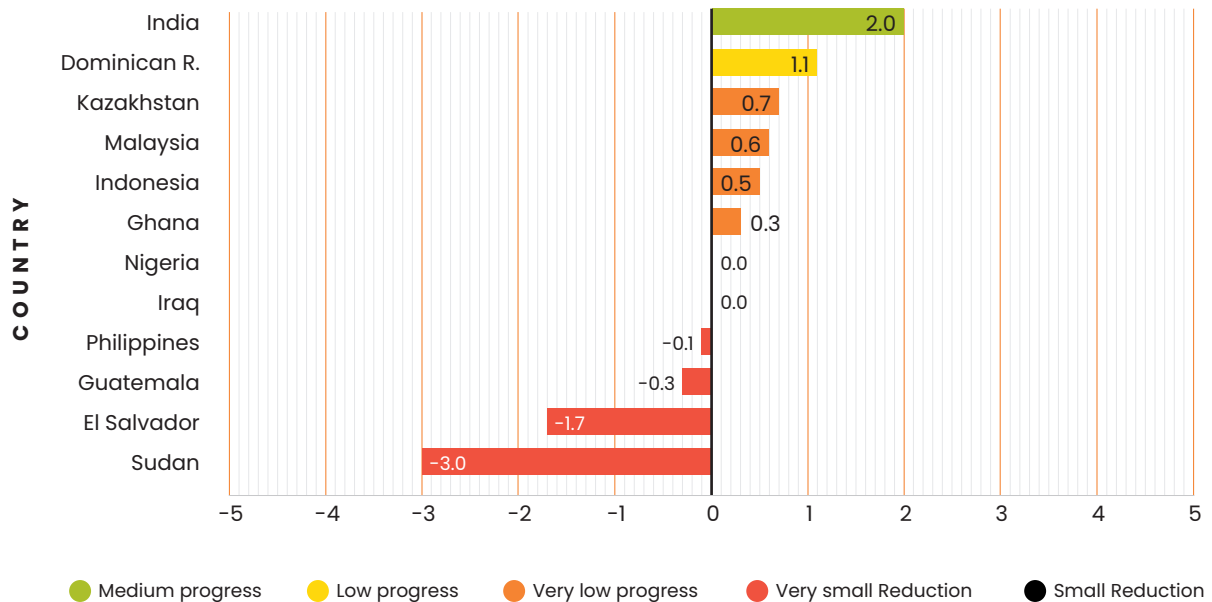
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Protect ecosystems for real:** well-managed MPAs, mangrove/wetland restoration, and enforcement against IUU fishing and industrial overfishing (**all**, especially **Gambia/Nigeria/Philippines**).
- **Integrate governance:** link SDG 14 with SDG 13, food security and livelihoods through integrated coastal/aquatic governance (**all**).
- **Centre community rights:** rights-based, participatory decision-making and benefit-sharing for small-scale fishers/coastal and inland-water communities (**all**, strongest in **Philippines**).
- **Cut pollution with safeguards:** tighter regulation of plastics, oil pollution and risky coastal infrastructure with robust environmental/social safeguards (**all**; explicit in **Nigeria/Philippines**).
- **Measure what matters:** expand indicators (ecosystem health, fish stocks), publish data, and strengthen accountability for outcomes (**Philippines/Nigeria** explicit; broadly relevant).



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 2025 – SDG 15 (Average: 0.01)



SDG 15 overview

- **Moderate but unstable progress: India** (programmatic progress on paper, but major concerns over rollback of Forest Rights Act and community rights).
- **Very low progress: Kazakhstan** (widespread degradation despite some conservation initiatives); **Malaysia** (policies exist, but forest conservation is lower priority than extractive and infrastructure agendas); **Indonesia** (deforestation and land conflicts tied to insecure tenure for Indigenous peoples/smallholders). **Ghana** (some forestry/biodiversity frameworks and afforestation efforts, but mining-driven land/habitat loss and weak enforcement dominate).
- **Pattern deepens elsewhere: Nigeria** (severe deforestation + southward desertification; fuelwood dependence), **Philippines** (low progress; weak enforcement; land grabs/ displacement affecting Indigenous Peoples; fragmented restoration). **El Salvador:** limited progress under sustained land/ecosystem pressures.

Main policy drivers / enablers

- **Protected areas and restoration programmes:** expansion/designation of protected areas and tree-planting/restoration initiatives (**Kazakhstan, India, El Salvador**).

- **International cooperation:** conservation/restoration projects supported by external partners (**El Salvador, Kazakhstan**).
- **Legal frameworks on paper:**
 - **Philippines** has protected-area rules and conservation legislation, but weak enforcement limits impact.
 - **Nigeria** has forestry laws and Great Green Wall-type institutions, but chronic underfunding constrains delivery.

The assessment of 2025 countries shows that policies exist, but they are not matching the scale of pressure from agriculture, extractives and infrastructure on the natural stock and its biodiversity.

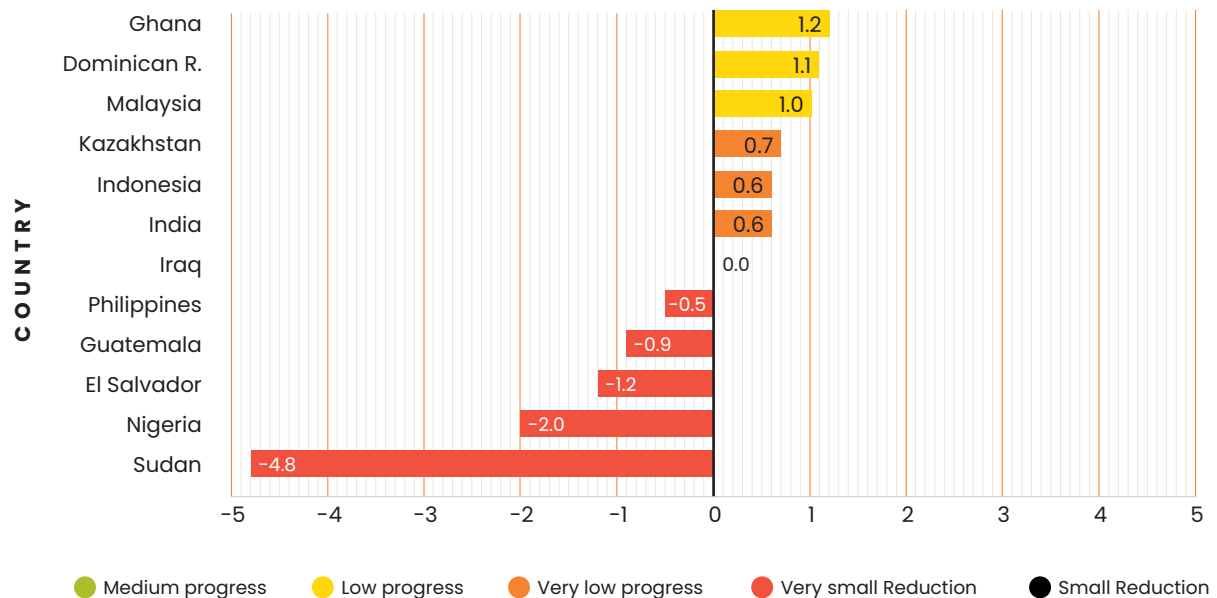
Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

- **Scale restoration and sustainable land management:** link ecosystem restoration to water management and local climate action (**all**).
- **Mainstream nature into core planning:** integrate biodiversity/land into economic and infrastructure decisions, not stand-alone environment projects (**all**).
- **Secure community land and forest rights:** strengthen customary tenure recognition and robust FPIC for Indigenous and forest-dependent peoples (**India/Malaysia**, also **Philippines/Indonesia**).
- **Enforce and prosecute environmental crime:** tighten enforcement against illegal logging, harmful conversion and corruption, with real resourcing (**all**, explicit in **Indonesia**).
- **Tackle underlying drivers:** expand clean-cooking/energy alternatives where fuelwood drives deforestation (**Nigeria**) and pair reforestation with agroforestry + livelihood pathways (relevant across rural landscapes).



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 2025 – SDG 16 (Average: 0.35)



SDG 16 overview

- SDG 16 is the most politically sensitive and lagging goal across the 2025 CSO reports.
- **Mixed/partial: Ghana** (media and legal-identity expansion show progress, but corruption, weak anti-money laundering enforcement, and uneven participation persist). **Malaysia** (reform talk, limited shift in power/transparency);
- **Low/weak reforms: Kazakhstan** (digital upgrades + entrenched corruption/restricted freedoms); **Indonesia** (very low; justice/transparency/civic space gaps); **Iraq** (persistent corruption; weak oversight; no right-to-information; participation largely formal).
- **Deterioration/regression: Guatemala** (rule of law + civic space collapse); **Philippines** (regressing civic space/rule of law; impunity); **El Salvador** (security gains, strong concerns on justice and participation); **Nigeria** (governance + security crisis; corruption/weak accountability).

Common policy drivers / enablers

- **El Salvador:** security and crime-reduction strategy.
- **India:** court decisions upholding constitutional protections (selectively).
- **Kazakhstan:** public-service digitalisation; selective human-rights commitments.
- **Malaysia:** SDG councils/parliamentary platforms as formal entry points.

- **Nigeria:** anti-corruption agencies/laws exist, but perceived as selective.
- **Philippines:** isolated positives noted (e.g., some rankings), but outweighed by broader negative trends.

Overall, 2025 country drivers suggest reforms remain partial, and accountability plus civic-space constraints limit depth and scope.

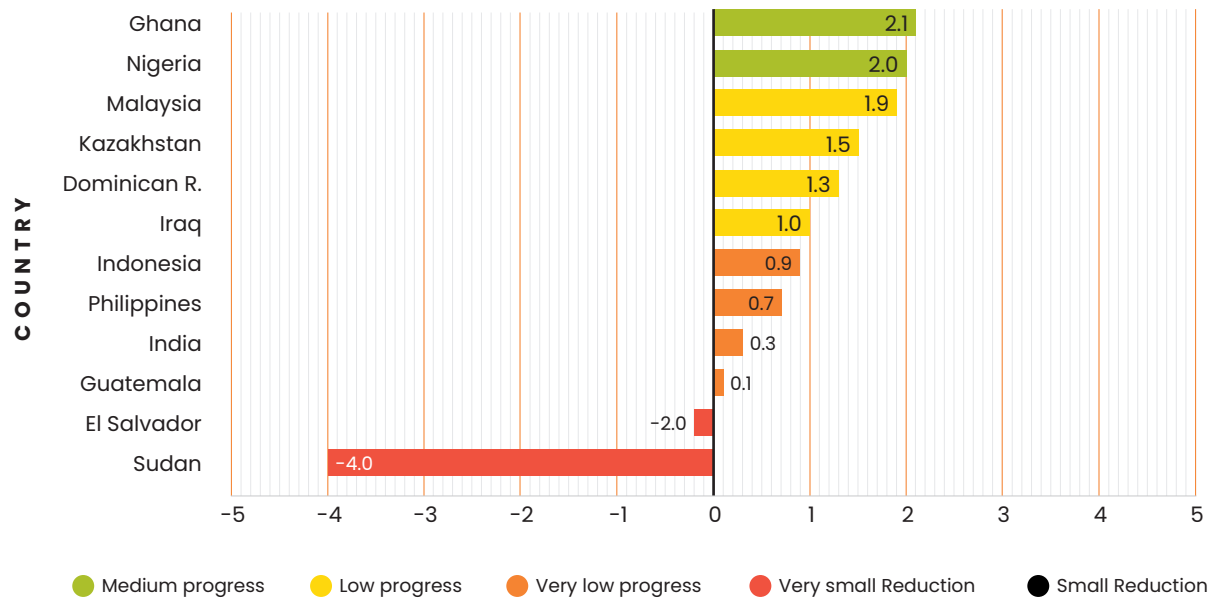
Emerging accelerators for SDG 16

- **Reinforce institutional independence + real transparency:** FOI/RTI laws, fiscal transparency, open data (especially **Philippines, Iraq, Nigeria, Indonesia**).
- **Protect and expand civic space:** remove restrictive NGO/CSO rules; guarantee association/expression/assembly (urgent in **Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Philippines**).
- **Strengthen access to justice:** resourced courts, policing reform, legal aid; rural/LNOB focus (**India, El Salvador, Kazakhstan**; equally relevant in **Nigeria/Philippines/Indonesia/Iraq**).
- **Make participation real:** permanent multi-stakeholder platforms with decision weight; HRD/journalist protection (**Malaysia/El Salvador** as entry points; **Iraq** calls for a permanent inclusive mechanism).
- **Tackle impunity and corruption** with measurable follow-through (especially **Nigeria/Philippines/Indonesia/Iraq**, but broadly relevant).



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

Scorecard 2025 – SDG 17 (Average: 0.64)



SDG 17 overview

- **Low-to-moderate progress: Ghana** (SDG budgeting/INFF tools, debt restructuring, improving digital and data capacity – tempered by ongoing debt/FDI pressures). **Nigeria** (INFF/green bonds/sukuk momentum, but debt service crowds out delivery unless SDG-aligned spending and debt management improve); **Malaysia** (strong innovative finance/tools (MySDG Fund, SDG Investor Map, green sukuk, IFI programmes) and active multi-stakeholder architecture – yet shared power and transparency remain weak); **Kazakhstan** (formal councils and international ties, but limited local engagement and constrained financing); **Iraq** (cooperation acknowledged, but data/transparency gaps and lack of structured multi-stakeholder platforms keep SDG 17 weak).
- **Very low progress: Philippines** (ODA/loan- and infrastructure-heavy partnerships seen as elite-skewed, driving calls for rights-based delivery and transparent SDG spending); **El Salvador** (partnerships are somewhat visible but under-leveraged, with weak coordination and territorial focus); **Indonesia** (low performance with tokenistic engagement and weak partnership quality); **India** (partnership space squeezed by restrictive CSO rules).

Shared policy drivers / enablers

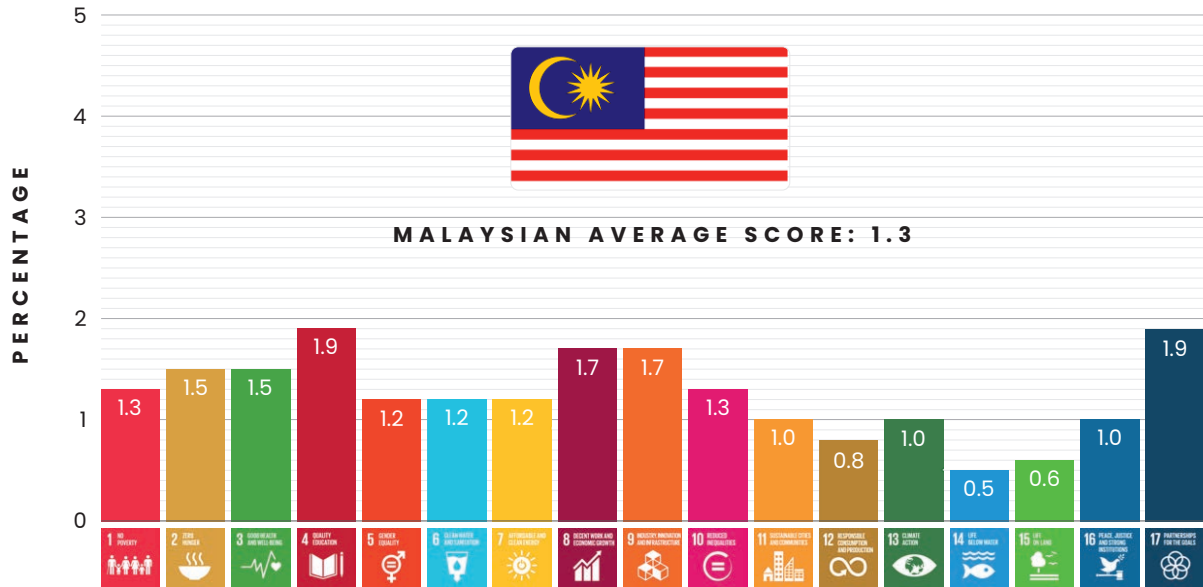
- **Coordination entry points:** national SDG councils, coordination forums and VNR processes used to convene dialogue (**most countries**, incl. **Indonesia/Philippines** in formal terms).
 - **Innovative finance + digital tools:** green sukuk, funds, investor maps (**Malaysia**); INFF/ green bonds/sukuk (**Nigeria**); plus data platforms/ICT agencies across countries.
 - **International cooperation remains central:** ODA, IFIs, bilateral and South–South partnerships—especially visible in **Philippines** and **Gambia**; **Iraq** and **Nigeria** emphasise cooperation but struggle to convert it into accountable delivery.
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Potential accelerators to address systemic constraints

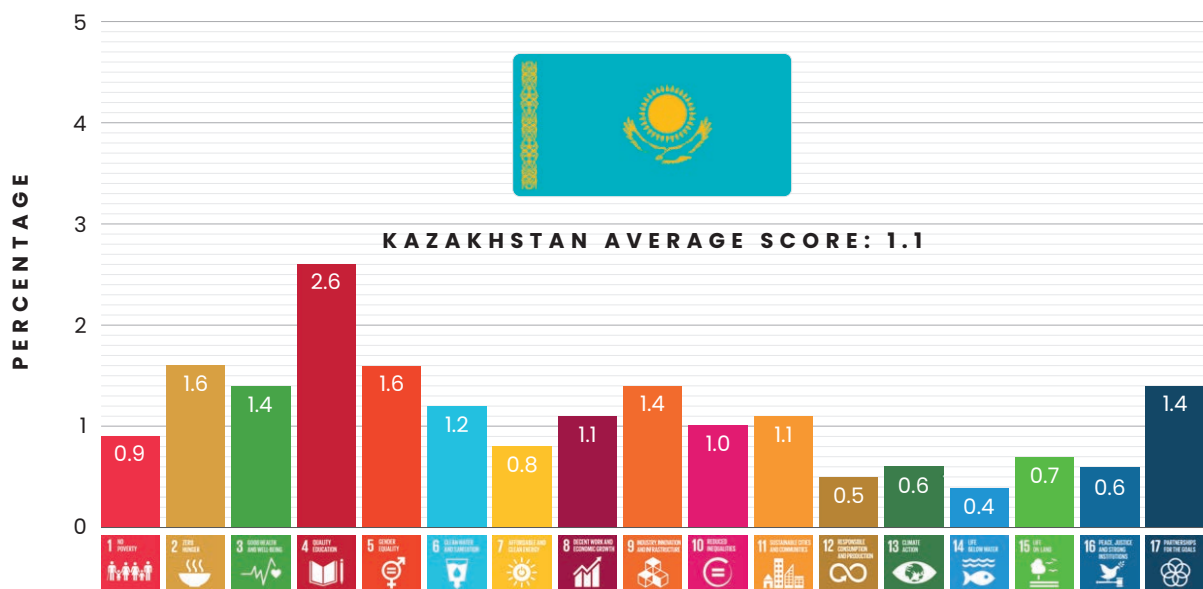
- **Make coordination multi-level and binding:** formal roles for CSOs, local governments and marginalised groups in planning/budgeting (**all**).
- **Open the data and recognise citizen evidence:** stable partnership frameworks with open SDG data systems and recognition of citizen-generated monitoring (**Gambia/Kazakhstan/Malaysia/El Salvador**; strongly demanded in **Indonesia/Iraq**; **Philippines** calls for transparent SDG-related spending).
- **Reorient finance toward LNOB and territory:** align ODA/innovative finance with territorial and LNOB priorities—not just megaproject pipelines (**all**, especially **Nigeria/Philippines**).
- **Protect civic space for real partnership:** ease restrictive CSO/NGO rules so partnerships are shared-power arrangements, not outsourced implementation (**India, Malaysia, Gambia**; relevant where participation is tokenistic).
- **Rebuild fiscal space and accountability:** strengthen debt management and SDG-aligned budget transparency so partnership finance translates into outcomes (**Nigeria** explicit; relevant across aid/loan-heavy contexts).

ANNEX : People’s Scorecard 2025 – Country Graphs

SDG Scorecard 2025 – Malaysia



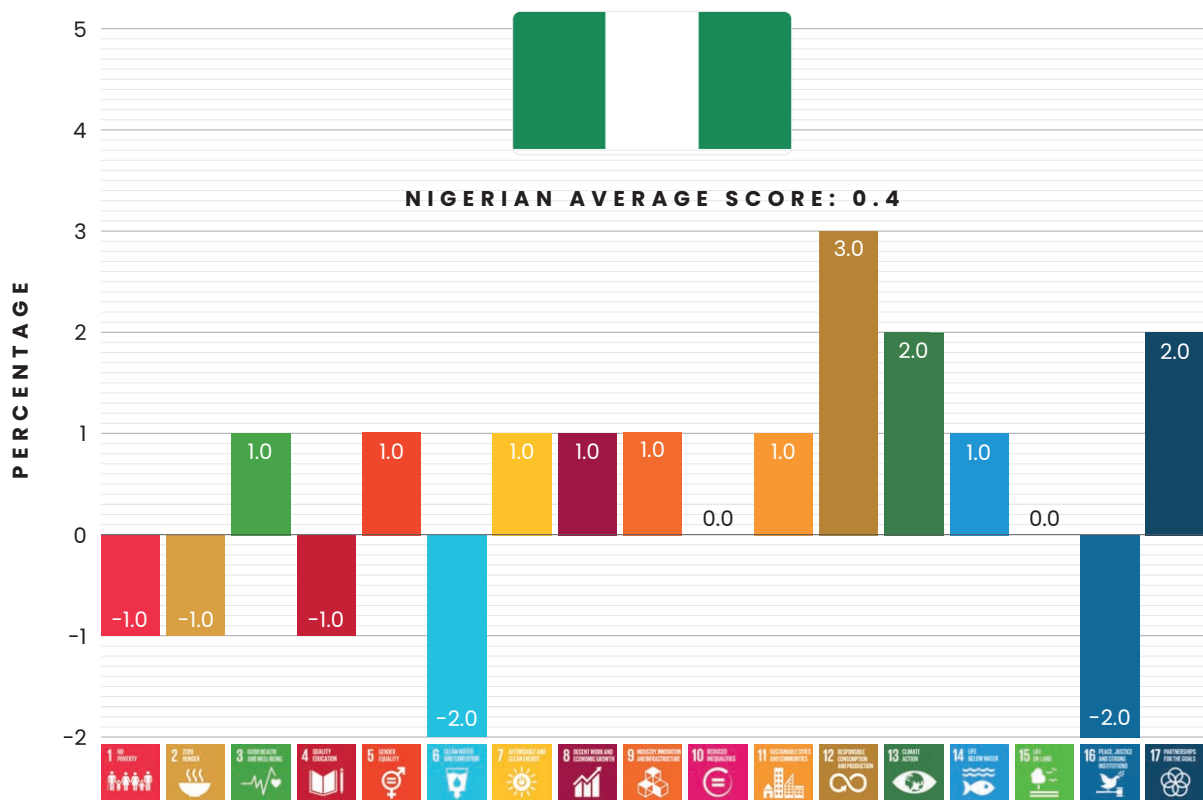
SDG Scorecard 2025 – Kazakhstan



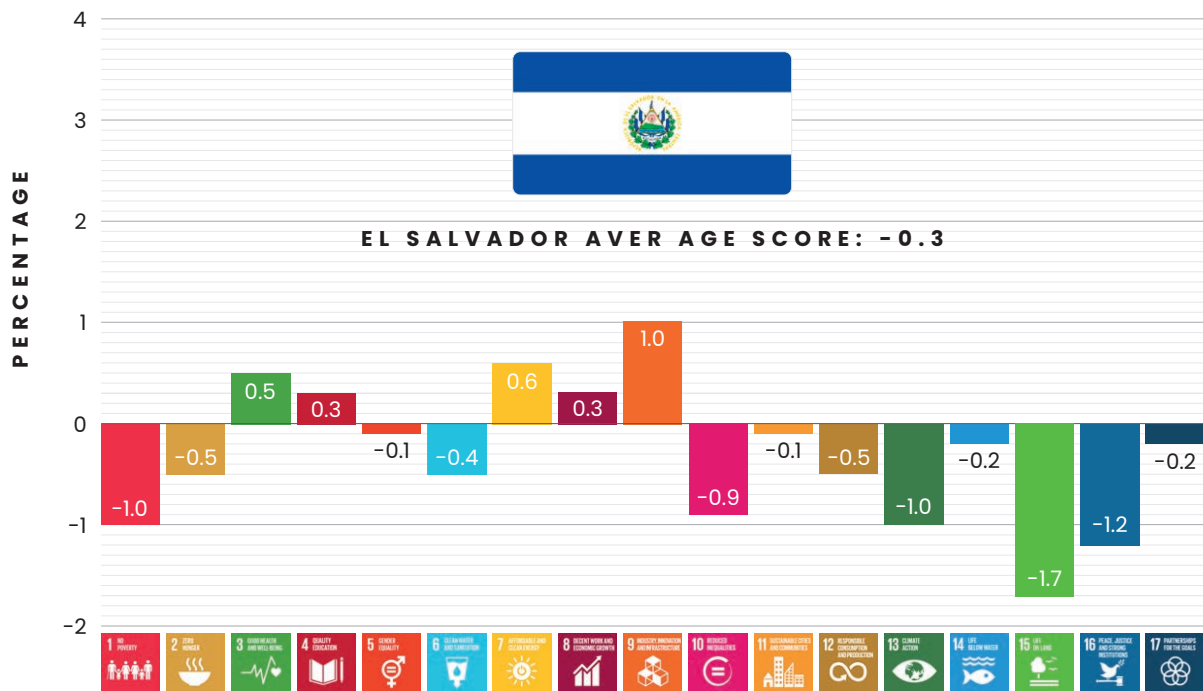
SDG Scorecard 2025 - Indonesia



SDG Scorecard 2025 - Nigeria



SDG Scorecard 2025 - El Salvador



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