



Public Opinion Research Center



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



The institutional architecture to contribute to SDG achievement in Kazakhstan

- **The Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Goals** led by the First Deputy Prime Minister and work in five main SDG areas – “People”, “The Planet”, “Prosperity”, “Partnership” and “Peace”;
- **The Committee for Monitoring SDG Achievements** (2021);
- **Economic Research Institute – a Secretariat** of the Coordination Council and a working body of the Committee for Monitoring SDG Achievements;
- Kazakhstan has approved the national indicators and is developing a comprehensive **national mechanism for SDG funding**, using such tools as the Assessment of Development Funding and Rapid Comprehensive Assessment, which results were reflected in the Second VNR;
- On November 22, 2021, the **Regional Platform for Knowledge Exchange in the area of Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asian countries** was officially launched.

Methodology_1

- The **People Score Card (PSC) in Kazakhstan** survey on assessment of the SDG implementation process **from the perspective of civil society** was conducted by ARGO and CIOM as part of the APSD initiative in cooperation with Asia Center, SAAPE, ADA and Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).
- The methodology is based on a –mainly- **qualitative assessment** of **each SDG** centered around **10 key areas** that together constitute an inclusive conception of the implementation process. Respondents are asked to provide a **grade from -5 to +5 for each of the Goal's key areas**.
- The questionnaire was developed on the www.cognitofrms.com platform, survey participants filled out the questionnaire using the appropriate link.

Methodology_2

- In total, **61 representatives** of various sectors of the country took part in the survey: non-governmental organizations, public associations, academic and educational organizations, media and community based organizations;
- The survey sample is gender balanced: among the survey participants **54% are women and 46% are men**; The indicators of descriptive statistics of the age of survey participants indicate that the **youngest is 20 years old, the oldest is 81 years old, the average age is 46 years**;
- A total of **10 online meetings** were held to discuss and validate the results of the survey to assess the achievement of the SDGs. All suggestions made by experts are presented in the report.

10 Key Areas for Assessment and Analysis of the Scorecard Results by Goal Scoring Scale

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

- **Strategies, National Action Plans, National Budgeting**
- **Legal and Policy framework**

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- **Institutional Support** – Scope of the institutional capacities (clear mandate, specific budget) made available for each goal
- **Implementation at National Level** – Perception of policy implementation efforts on the ground + assessment of progress indicators
- **Implementation at Local Level**

INCLUSIVENESS

- **Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:** this area seeks to establish the existence of and measure the perception on the level of inclusiveness of the monitoring system (establishment of indicators and data-generation for measuring progress), evaluation (the process of interpreting and analyzing the data collected, as well as the assessment of related public policies), and reporting (VNR process).
- **Public Awareness and capacity-building**
- **Transparency and accountability mechanisms**
- **Inclusive Partnerships** – Extent and perceived quality of multistakeholder partnerships
- **Citizen Participation and Civil Society Engagement** – Extent of formal and informal participation mechanisms in policymaking processes

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

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

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

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

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

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

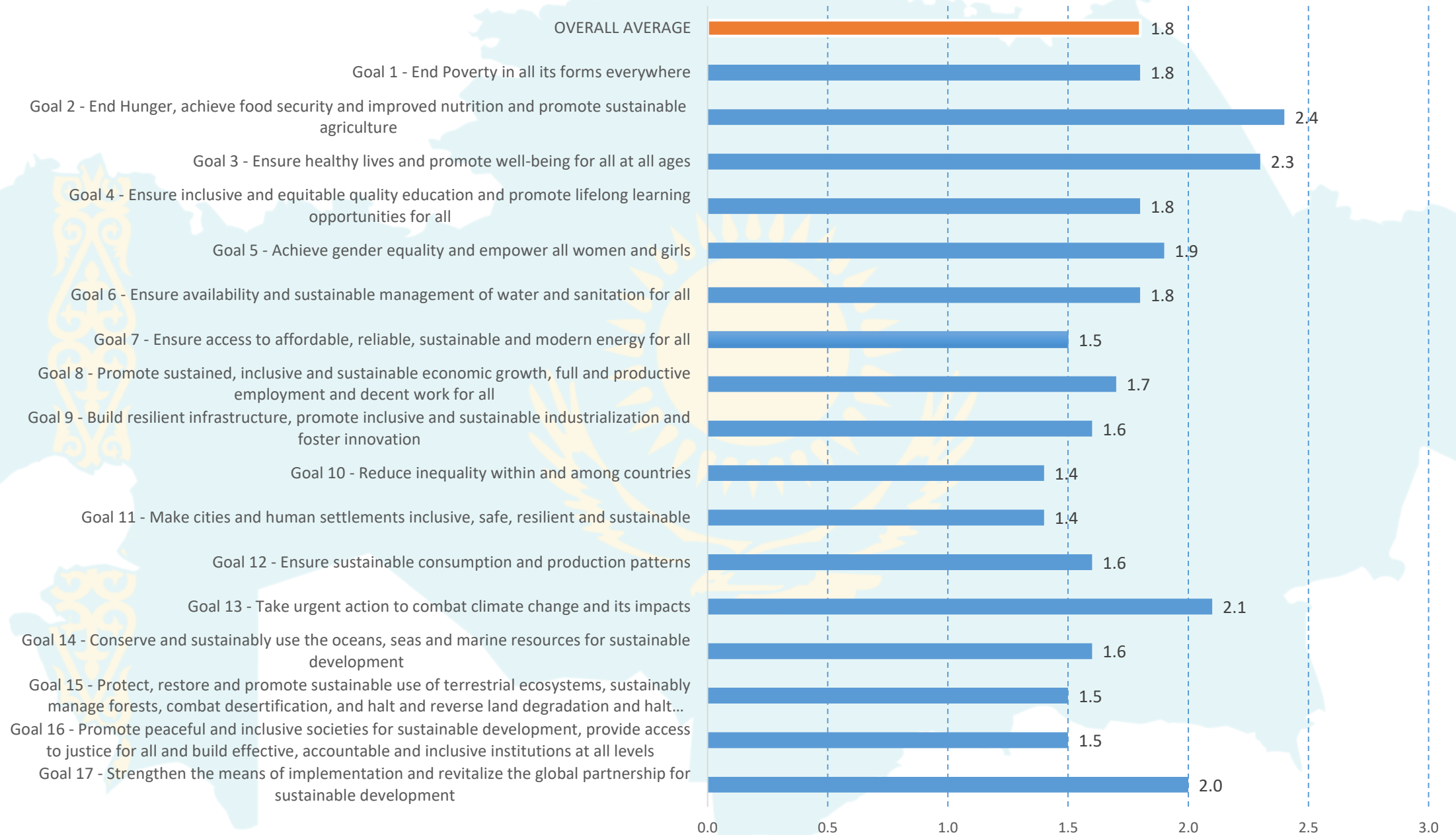
0 to 20% - Very Low progress (Between 0 and 1 point based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

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

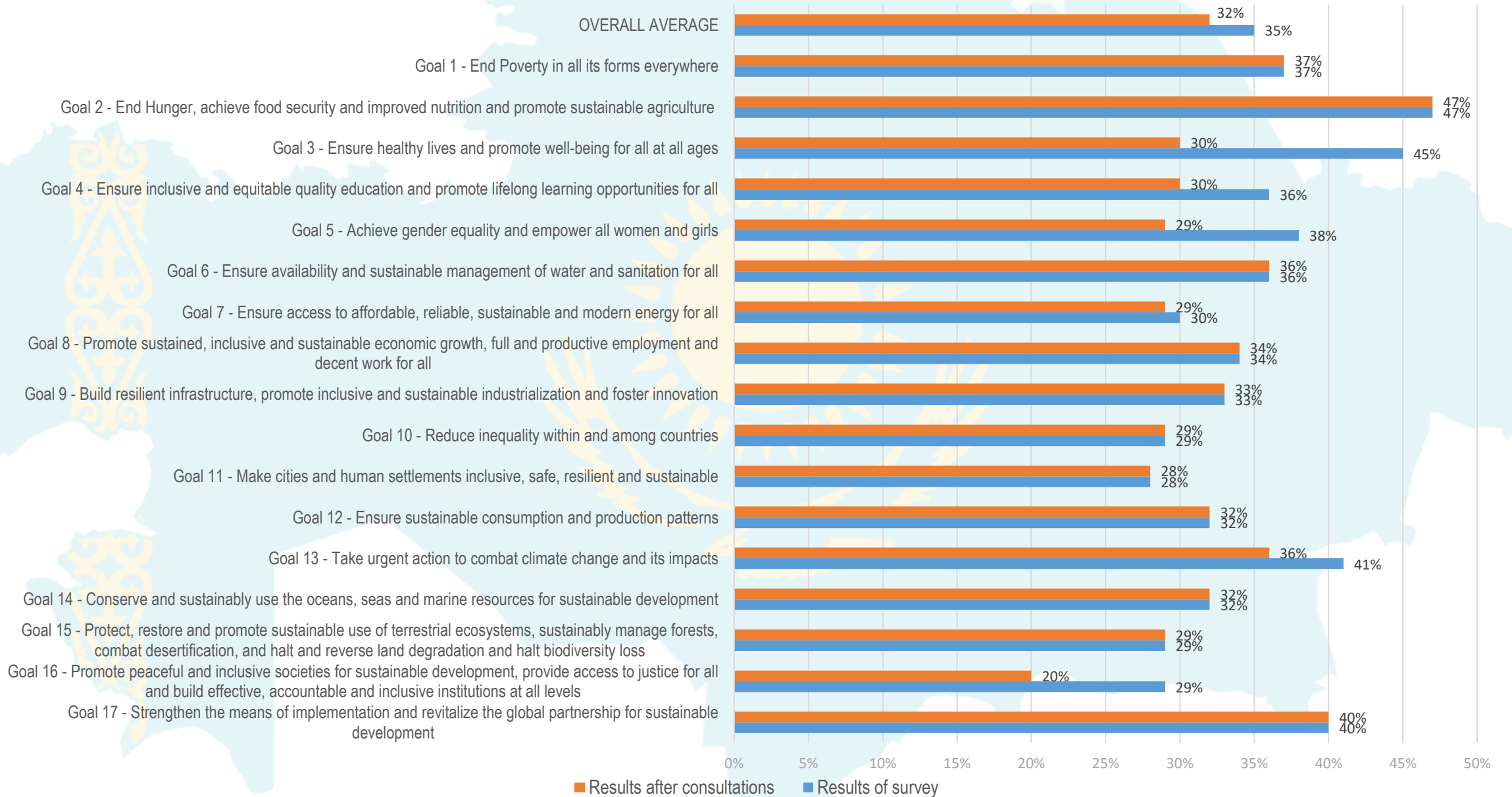
41% to 60% - Medium progress (Between 2 and 3 points based in the Scorecard survey's scale)

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

Results based on survey assessment, average scores

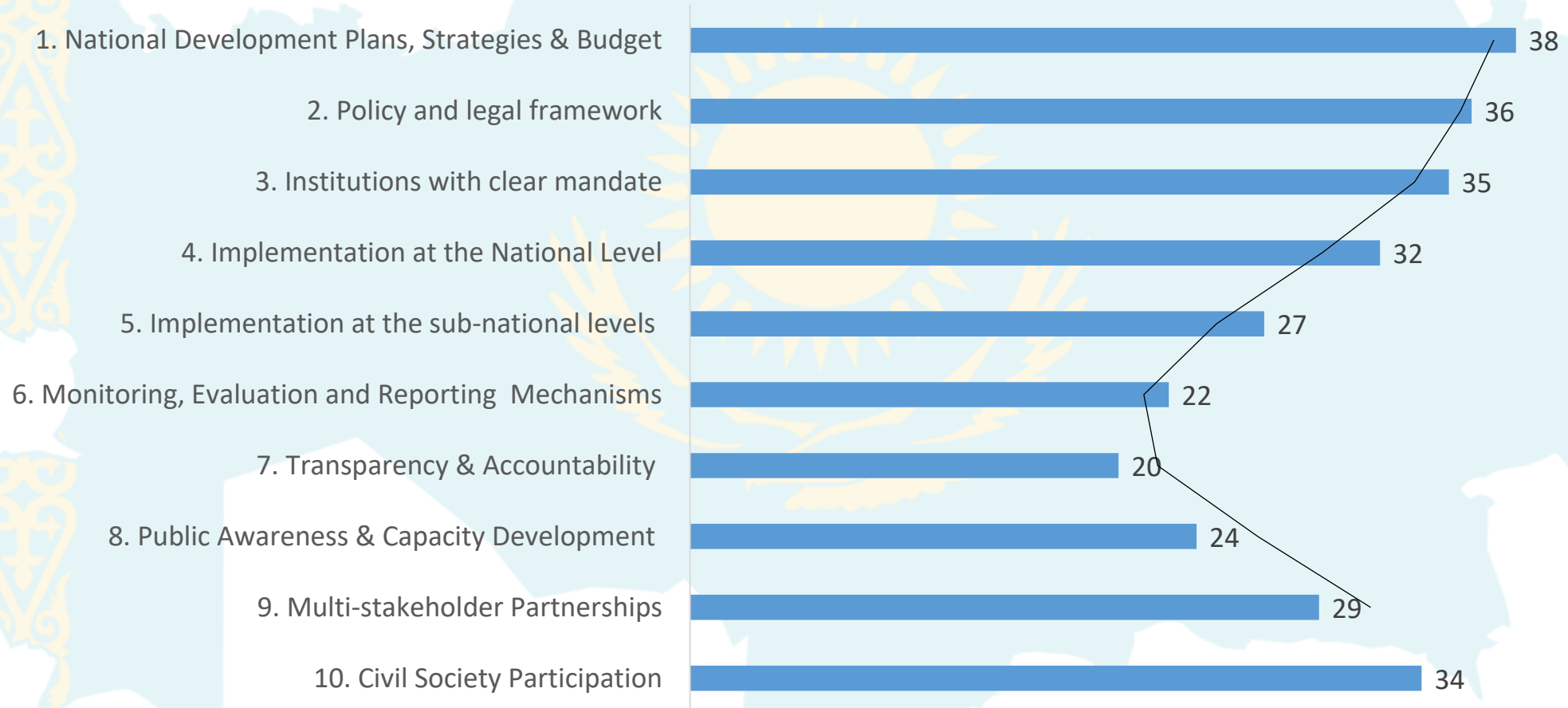


Comparative data of assessment, %



SCORECARD 2022 – AVERAGE SCORES BY SDG

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



POLICY

Development Strategies, Action Plans, and Budgets
Legal and Public Policy Framework

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

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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

- According to CSOs, the government needs to increase the capacity of ministries / departments, as well as local authorities in the implementation of the SDGs, especially in **design and implementing effective participatory policies and budgets that take into account the human rights and interests of vulnerable groups.**

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

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

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

Key findings and recommendations (the highest scores, more than 40%)

GOAL 2. In general, Kazakhstan Insufficient implementation of state programs in the field of agricultural development. Growth points are outlined at the national level; however, the programs are very poorly implemented at the local level. There are big gaps in transparency and accountability. The adopted plans and decisions are aimed at short-term interests and increasing budget expenditures instead of increasing the productivity of water and land; in reality, everything is oriented for the interests of large businesses.

“Based on the monitoring held in 2020, 4.4% of the population in Kazakhstan were undernourished and starved. At the same time, the energy value of the consumed products was higher than the minimum requirements. To ensure sustainability of the food and agricultural sectors, measures are being taken in the country to reduce risks, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Stabilization funds are being created, and peasant farms are being subsidized. However, we are dependent on imports. In general, SDG 2 is implemented through subsidies. There is no hunger in Kazakhstan.”

Coordination and interaction at the level of Central Asian countries are important in food security and provision of water resources. In general, an integrated approach is needed, taking into account all factors of food security, re-orientation of certain branches of agriculture and provision of water resources.

Key findings and recommendations (the highest scores, more than 40%)

GOAL 3.

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

GOAL 17. The Republic of Kazakhstan actively positions itself in the international political and legal space as a democracy-building, developing state that sets goals, in addition to the already existing membership in global and regional organizations (UN, OSCE, SCO, EAEU, etc.), to join a number of other international organizations and groups, including OECD, FATF and, possibly, even the Council of Europe. In addition, Kazakhstan has ratified many international treaties, including in the field of human rights. **Despite this, the progress is estimated as small because there are serious problems in the implementation of international obligations under the ratified international treaties in the field of human rights, which are indicated by the treaty bodies and the UN Special Procedures, or OSCE/ODIHR.** Besides, Kazakhstan does not comply with the decisions of the treaty bodies on individual complaints against the Republic of Kazakhstan (and there are more than 60 decisions of such kind).

Key findings and recommendations (the lowest scores, below 30%)

- **GOAL 10. (REDUCE INEQUALITY)** There is a systemic problem that has been repeatedly pointed out to Kazakhstan during the review of reports on the implementation of international obligations within the framework of ratified international human rights treaties by the UN Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Committee, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, UN Independent Expert on National Minorities who visited the Republic of Kazakhstan, and a number of international human rights organizations and independent experts. **This is due to the practical absence of a definition of 'discrimination' in Kazakhstan's legislation and law enforcement practice that would meet international standards, absence of anti-discrimination legislation and anti-discrimination institutions and procedures.** Achieving equality, including gender equality, is impossible without a systematic approach to this problem. Only in the last year or two have the government bodies at least begun to discuss it.
- **GOAL 11. (SAFE CITIES)** The development strategies of cities, regions, districts and villages are almost lacking an inclusive approach. The population rarely participates in the planning and discussion of budgets. **There is no vision of sustainable development of cities and populated areas.**
- The infrastructural accessibility of courts currently requires serious improvements. **Websites and mobile applications for online participation in proceedings are not adapted for the convenience of use of blind and visually impaired citizens.** Sign language interpreters are not always involved in a proceeding where deaf and hearing-impaired citizens participate.

Key findings and recommendations (the lowest scores, below 30%)

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

Key findings and recommendations

- CSO expert noted, that in Kazakhstan, the current situation with the human rights implementation necessitates to **urgently increase awareness, capacity of state agencies and CSOs;**
- **identify national SDG 16 plus indicators to monitor and oversight its implementation;**
- **and get acquainted with available best practices on SDG 16 plus localization and implementation for possible replication;**
- **In view of above, out of Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies indicators, of crucial importance remain the last two ones.**

PSC Report on SDG Kazakhstan you can find:
<http://cso-central.asia/biblioteka/analiticheskie-materialy/>

