



Mongolia SDGs Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support

Review of Mongolia's experience in implementing 2030 agenda

Dr. Undraa Agvaanluvsan | Member of Parliament | Head of the SDG sub committee in the Mongolian Parliament

Ulaanbaatar 2018

Contents

- Background, entry points
- SDGs, SDV-2030 and Three Pillars Development Policies (TPDP)
- Aligning strategies and budgets with 2030 agenda and SDGs
- Ensuring that no one is left behind
- Focusing on selected accelerators and unpacking the budget
- Facilitating policy coherence, monitoring and evaluation for results
- Key recommendations, strengthen mechanism that support coordinated and coherent policy making

Background, entry points



After a brief period of rapid GDP growth of 2011-2013, Mongolia's economic situation deteriorated. By 2016 GDP growth had fallen to nearly zero, the fiscal deficit had climbed to 17.3% of GDP, and Mongolia faced a serious risk of default on external debt.

By mid 2018, the economy started recovery. The Government has already achieved positive results in reversing the macroeconomic deterioration and reducing the fiscal deficits

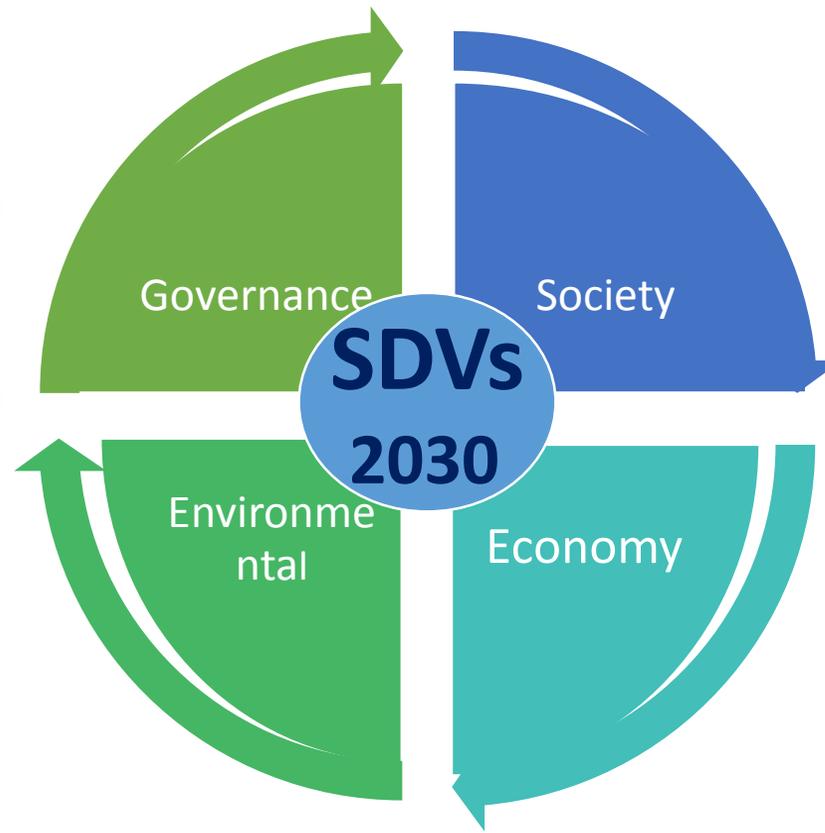
SDGs, SDV-2030 and TPDP

Approved by the
General Assembly of UN
in Sep 2015



SDG s: 17 goals, 169 targets 244 indicators

Approved by the
Mongolian Parliament in
Feb 2015



4 pillars 44 objectives 20 indicators

SDV heavily focused on promotion of economic growth,
The SDV does not sufficiently recognize the balance between the economic, social and environment issues.

Three core recommendations regarding measures that could enhance ability to achieve the SDGs

The initial mission note to government presented three core recommendations regarding measures that could enhance ability to achieve the SDGs under current tight fiscal conditions:

- 1. Coordinated and coherent policy making – and implementation – will be vitally important.** This requires mechanisms to align sectoral policies and plans with the SDGs and with any other government short- and medium-term policy priorities, while identifying duplication and inefficiency and closing gaps in coverage.
- 2. Systems are needed at the Cabinet level to carefully monitor SDG progress, including the effectiveness of SDG-related government-financed programs.** If the Government wishes to make demonstrable SDG progress by 2030, it will be necessary to closely track the progress of key SDG programs while holding central and local government officials accountable for outcomes. Systems that provide decision-makers with up-to-date high-level information on SDG progress to allow quick responses to bottlenecks would be of great benefit.
- 3. Policies and budget allocations need to be better aligned with Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030 to enhance impact.**

Alignment of the Three Pillar Development Policy (TPDP) with 2030 Agenda and SDGs

2018 a TPDP which is serving as the key guideline for investment decisions in the coming two fiscal years. The policy sets forth the three pillars of government investment policy for 2018-2020 as:

Multi-pillar economic development policy

Fair, equitable, accountable and sustainable governance policy

people-centered social policy

3 Pillars Development policy

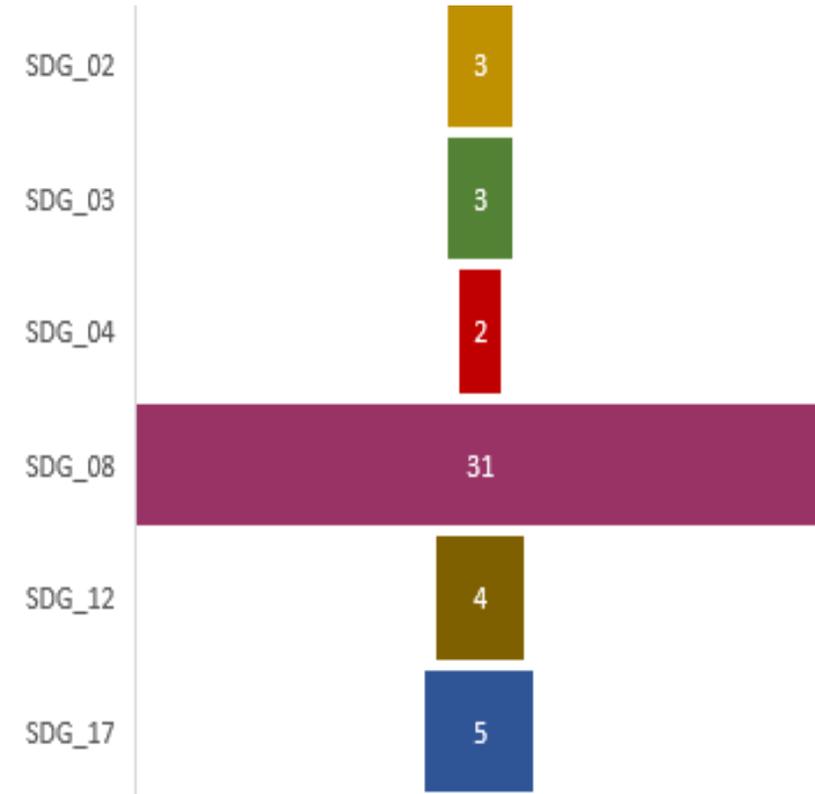
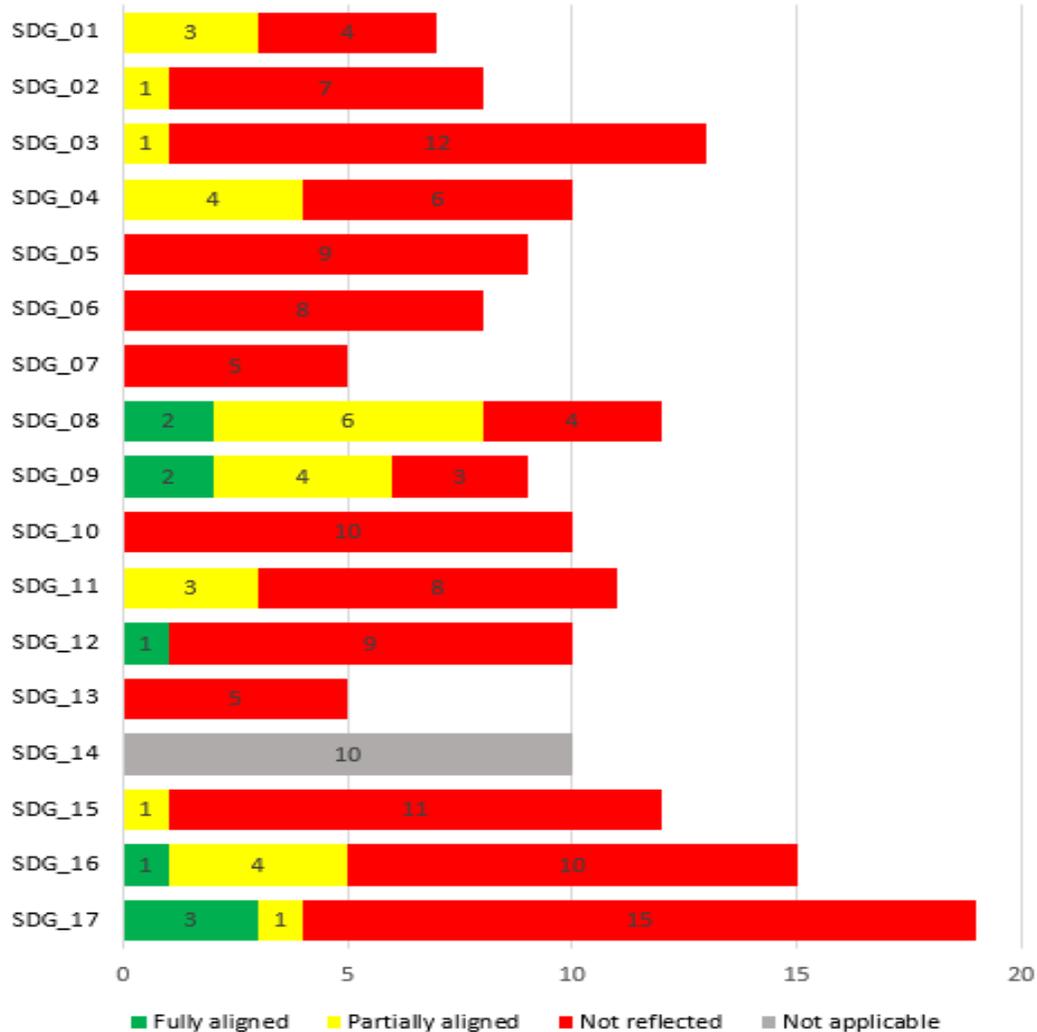
Approved by the
Mongolian Government
in Feb 2018



3 pillars 9 groups 27 goals

Alignment of Three-Pillar Development Policy (TPDP) objectives with SDG targets

- Concentration of TPDP interventions per SDG



Similar to the SDV, the TPDP also does not provide great detail on some other core SDGs such as gender, inequality and addressing climate change. Roughly one fifth of the 169 SDG targets are addressed by TPDP objectives with a majority of actions (51%) being concentrated on a single goal, namely SDG 8.

Ensuring “No one is left behind” and “At risk of being left behind”

- “Leaving No One Behind” also requires reducing inequalities and disparities
- Poverty declined significantly in 2012-2014 (from 39.2 to 21.6%) but increased in 2014-2016 (to 29.6%). Incomes of many households in Mongolia are centered around the poverty line, thus these households remain vulnerable to falling back into poverty NSO 2017.

There are a number of reasons why people are being left behind :

- Gaining economic growth does not bring equality,
- Accessing inequality in social services
- Rural-urban difference

Selected accelerators and smart budget

- Policies in a way that balances the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental
- Can help the government to channel scarce resources towards areas with a high degree of development impact:
 - **Addressing air pollution and its implication on health, public expenditure and the economy**
 - **Reversing land degradation and its impact on rural poverty and vulnerability**
 - **Addressing ageing trends and its impact on age care support services**
 - **Addressing the challenge of demographic trends and their implications on public expenditure and service provision**

Smart Budget Planning

- Mongolian public finances are still under great pressure, as the 2016 debt and budget crisis is being gradually resolved.
- The budget of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports (Mo ECSS) for 2018 stands at MNT1,610 billion or 4.8% of GDP. Education consistently accounts for about 85% of the Mo ECSS's budget, with culture, science and sports accounting for the remainder. The recurrent budget accounted for 77.3%, the capital budget accounted for 16.1% of the total budget, and expenditures on the State Education Fund (which represent lending) accounted for 6.6%.
- The budgeted environment related expenditures in 2018 are MNT362.4 billion or 4.4% of the total budget. In the 2018 budget, environment-related revenues were budgeted to equal MNT208.4 billion or 4% of total stabilized revenues (MNT1,928.4 billion or 37% of total if mining-related revenues are included).
- As a result of the fiscal situation in 2016, funding for some social welfare programs was reduced, and a further reduction by 10% of the funding for social welfare programs was reflected in the 2017 state budget.
- **The large proportion of government spending is directed toward non-SDG purposes, most importantly debt repayment and servicing.**

Facilitating policy coherence, monitoring and evaluation for results

All the policy documents are aligned with some SDGs – in particular the decent work, poverty, health and education goals, but less so with environmental, gender and overall inequality content of the SDGs.

Key elements of the monitoring and evaluation system in Mongolia

Data	Plans and programmes (with performance indicators)	Monitoring and evaluation Reports	Online systems	Oversight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical data by NSO • Administrative data collected by ministries, government agencies and local governments • The data ecosystem - Unconventional data collected by government, non-governmental actors and social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year GAP • Annual Socio-Economic Guidelines (SEG) • Action Plan for Implementation of the Green Development Strategy • Sectoral programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries' reports to the Cabinet and Cabinet reports to the Parliament on GAP and SEG • Reports on implementation of government programmes • Studies evaluating performance of government and mainly donor-funded programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO website – outcome indicators • Soum development database (NDA) – soum and aimag level outcome indicators; etc. • Industrial development database (NDA) • Systems for tracking public expenditures (MoF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audits of GAP and SEG implementation • Audits of budget execution • Audits of public investment expenditure execution, etc. • Media and social media reports

Key recommendations, strengthen mechanism that support coordinated and coherent policy making and implementation

1. Strengthen mechanisms that support coordinated and coherent policy making and implementation
2. Align public expenditures with Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030, medium-term plans and the SDGs
3. Enhance the system of monitoring of SDV, TPDP and mid-term programs by developing an integrated system to monitor progress
4. Integrated policies and interventions to address specific social and environmental issues to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs

