



# State of Progress on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the CAREC Region

[elena.danilova-cross@undp.org](mailto:elena.danilova-cross@undp.org)

15 September 2022

# Where do we stand with national SDG and Human Rights reporting ?

## Voluntary National/Local Reviews and Universal Periodic Reviews

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023/forth coming
Azerbaijan		VNR	UPR	VNR		VNR		
Georgia	VNR				VNR	UPR		
Kazakhstan				VNR/UPR			VNR	
Kyrgyz Republic					VNR/UPR			
Tajikistan		VNR	National SDG Report			UPR		VNR
Turkmenistan			UPR	VNR				VNR /UPR
Uzbekistan			UPR		VNR			VNR/UPR

# Highlights: National SDG institutional structure

- **Well-established systems** in place to implement and monitor progress on the SDGs: high level coordination, bodies, secretariats, working groups and web portals (ex. [sdg.gov.ge](http://sdg.gov.ge));
- While the designs of the institutional structures are highly country-specific, most countries practice the **'whole-of-government'** and **'whole-of-society'** approaches and engage various government entities as well as non-governmental stakeholders;
- more collaboration with cross-sectoral government entities than engagement with subnational governments, indicating a **pre-eminence of horizontal rather than vertical coordination**;
- specific entities are emerging to manage **SDG localization at the national level (local and regional governments)**, however, further measures are needed to mainstream the SDGs fully at multiple levels of government;
- increasing numbers of **parliaments are engaged** in SDG oversight, monitoring and budgeting activities

# Highlights: SDG mainstreaming and policy coherence

- Mainstreaming the SDGs into national development plans (NDPs) has become an **established practice**;
- **SDG strategies, roadmaps and action plans are increasingly being developed** in order to mainstream the SDGs;
- Although reviewed NDPs make important contributions to the SDGs, any **analysis of how these interrelate, including their trade-offs, is still limited**. Many sustainable development contributions are **still reported in the context of sector-based** strategies, plans;
- To accelerate progress on SDG mainstreaming, **multidimensional, systemic and integrated approaches must be stepped up at all levels of government**;
- Progress on SDG localization is advancing with some countries making headway in mainstreaming the SDGs at local level. **COVID-19 has further uncovered the importance of SDG localization**.

# Integration of SDGs into National Development Agenda

Country	m/y of RIA	total number of reviewed policy documents (expiring between 2017 - 2035) and regulatory acts	# of documents at national level	# of documents at (sub)national/ regional level	# of documents at city/local level	number of targets aligned overall	analyses made at indicators level? (y/n)	analyses made at budget level? (y/n)	RIA used in VNRs
Azerbaijan	Dec-19	54	54	n/a	n/a	82 out of global 169 or 68 out of prioritized 88	n	n	yes, 2020 (pages 39-42)
Georgia	Apr-19	55	37	9		88 out of national 95	y	y	yes, 2020 (pages 9-10)
Kazakhstan	Feb-21	80	47	14	3	129 out of global 169	y	n	yes, 2019 (pages 24-25)
Kyrgyzstan	Mar-20	36	36	n/a	n/a	138 out of global 169	y	n	yes, 2020 (pages 16-19)
Tajikistan	Dec-16	10	10	n/a	n/a	96 out of selected 119	n	yes, but for two rayons only	yes, 2017 (page 16)
Turkmenistan	Sep-17	20	20	n/a	n/a	99 out of national 126	y	n	yes, 2019 (paged 10-11)
Uzbekistan	May-22	22	22	n/a	n/a	133 out of global 169	y	n	expected in 2023?

Source: Author's elaboration based on application of Rapid Integrated Assessment methodology



# Challenges in implementation of LNOB principles in the Voluntary National Reviews



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

Only around 40% of the VNRs include a chapter or sub-chapter on LNOB

Between 2019-2022 over 90% where UN was involved in preparations included LNOB in VNRs!

## Operationalization of LNOB

## Challenges

Who is left behind and Why?	↔	Group-based versus intersecting/individual deprivations.
What should be done and by Whom?	↔	Inadequate prioritization in national development planning. Lack of cross-institutional cooperation.
How to measure and monitor progress	↔	No innovative methodologies to measure LNOB due to lack of statistical disaggregation and “invisible population” phenomena.
Advancing accountability for LNOB	↔	Lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Financial coverage gaps.
Meaningful participation	↔	Those left behind are often excluded from consultations, negotiations and statistics.



# Examples of LNOB reporting in VNRs 2019-2022



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

<i>Identified specific vulnerable groups</i>	<i>conducted an analysis and review</i>	<i>stated that their development frameworks incorporate the principle of LNOB</i>
<p>Turkiye (2019) - refugees</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan (2020) – IDPs, ethnic minorities</p> <p>Azerbaijan (2019 and 2021) – IDPs</p> <p>Georgia (2020) – IDPs and ethnic minorities</p> <p>Moldova (2020) – Roma and migrants</p>	<p>Moldova (2020) ,</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan (2020)</p>	<p>Around 40% of all reported countries, but over 90% where UN was involved in preparations</p>
<p>North Macedonia (2020) - LGBTI</p> <p>Serbia (2019) – migrants and Roma</p>		
<p>Kazakhstan (2022) low income, migrants with undefined status</p>		

<i>measures to promote social protection</i>	<i>measures to promote social inclusion</i>	<i>Data issues</i>	<i>policies, programmes and efforts that address the needs of vulnerable groups</i>
<p>Azerbaijan (2019 and 2021)</p> <p>Moldova (2020)</p> <p>Armenia (2020)</p> <p>Serbia (2019);</p> <p>Uzbekistan (2020)</p>	<p>Moldova (2020)</p> <p>Serbia (2019)</p> <p>North Macedonia (2020)</p>	<p>All VNRs</p>	<p>All VNRs</p>

# Highlights: SDG Financing

- **SDG principles are not integrated into the budget process ;**
- **The total amount of financing gap is not defined;**
- While a few initiatives explore different forms of financing for the SDGs (DFAs, budget classifiers, Citizen's budgets, programme budgeting), **more innovative solutions are needed;**
- **Growing pressure on expenses associated with COVID-19 and recent development;**
- **Limited public participation** in the budget process and **lack of accountability** of key development actors;
- Systematic SDG budgeting and **specific financing for the SDGs from non-government sources** could help broaden the means of implementation, pave the way for increased **private-sector engagement** and foster innovative financing solutions.



# Impact of COVID-19 and recent challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic have reversed progress and affected all population groups, in particular, the most vulnerable;
- Inequalities due to disruption in the labour market, supply chain instability and threatened community resilience;
- Investments a needed in:
  - sustainable and high-quality infrastructure;
  - inclusive skills development for young people;
  - more resilient healthcare systems;
  - climate and business environment;
  - alternative energy: and
  - expanding green financing.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Central Asia socio-economic development

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on household income had three ramifications:

- (i) a loss of wage income and revenues from informal work;
- (ii) a loss of remittances; and
- (iii) price inflation, particularly food price inflation.

Loss of incomes affected households significantly, adding to spillover effects such as:

- rising household debt,
- inability to afford out-of-pocket payments for health services and reduced access to education.
- Some aspects of the crisis have affected women more than men.
- The high incidence of informality makes the impact on precarious employment significant.

# Poverty and vulnerability projections and policy responses\* (1)

Country	\$1.90	\$3.20	\$5.50
Afghanistan	n/a	n/a	n/a
Azerbaijan			
China			
Georgia			
Kazakhstan			
Kyrgyz Republic			
Molgovia			
Pakistan			
Tajikistan			
Turkmenistan			
Uzbekistan			

This figure plots countries' poverty impacts under different monetary thresholds. The poverty impact is measured as the proportion of each country's population falling into poverty as a result of soaring food and energy prices vis-à-vis the benchmark scenario.

The table at the bottom shows the average poverty impact for each poverty line and impact magnitude.

*Average poverty impact (percentages of country's population falling into poverty at each poverty line)*

	\$1.90	\$3.20	\$5.50		\$1.90	\$3.20	\$5.50		\$1.90	\$3.20	\$5.50
<b>Low Impact</b>	0.00%	0.02%	0.04%	<b>Medium Impact</b>	0.20%	0.76%	0.88%	<b>High Impact</b>	2.94%	3.09%	3.72%



# International commodity prices

In the last 12 months:

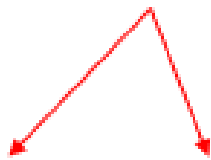
- ✓ Food and energy/gas prices go up ↑
- ✓ Metal prices go down (with few exceptions) ↓
- ✓ Fertilizers costs go up ↑

	<b>Food Price Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes Cereal, Vegetable Oils, Meat, Seafood, Sugar, and Other Food (Apple (non-citrus fruit), Bananas, Chana (legumes), Fishmeal, Groundnuts, Milk (dairy), Tomato (veg)) Price Indices	<b>Agricultural Raw Materials Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes Timber, Cotton, Wool, Rubber, and Hides Price Indices	<b>Base Metals Price Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes Aluminum, Cobalt, Copper, Iron Ore, Lead, Molybdenum, Nickel, Tin, Uranium and Zinc Price Indices	<b>Precious Metals Price Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes Gold, Silver, Palladium and Platinum Price Indices	<b>Fertilizer Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes DAP, Potash, UREA	<b>Fuel (Energy) Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes Crude oil (petroleum), Natural Gas, Coal Price and Propane Indices	<b>Natural Gas Price Index, 2016 = 100,</b> includes European, Japanese, and American Natural Gas Price Indices	<b>Cotton, Cotton Outlook 'A Index', Middling 1- 3/32 inch staple, CIF Liverpool, US cents per pound</b>	<b>Lithium Metal =99%, Battery Grade, USD</b>
2021M7	128.97	112.19	238.78	151.49	161.81	181.40	208.81	97.70	95767.61
2021M8	131.48	110.03	212.24	148.16	163.21	183.94	244.22	101.30	103970.14
2021M9	127.01	108.42	191.43	145.54	167.23	213.27	344.61	103.68	122714.90
2021M10	127.95	112.75	196.48	145.24	214.20	256.81	458.16	117.38	142293.44
2021M11	129.71	116.24	180.06	148.66	253.19	235.99	419.75	126.54	163563.75
2021M12	133.46	114.27	190.58	144.55	255.38	240.57	504.14	120.04	184429.31
2022M1	139.89	118.33	208.89	148.00	249.33	242.14	389.05	132.33	266260.85
2022M2	147.15	121.37	216.64	152.44	273.49	260.80	389.72	138.41	341140.05
2022M3	157.59	121.67	233.43	160.43	320.34	332.74	557.99	141.13	473185.88
2022M4	161.73	124.30	231.44	157.89	334.30	301.12	463.03	155.32	490008.18
2022M5	158.77	125.38	208.09	149.93	325.21	307.35	415.15	163.98	453228.86
2022M6	152.82	122.40	200.26	148.24	299.51	328.83	483.23	154.45	443656.20
2022M7	142.15	112.90	172.47	140.33	270.40	344.87	668.93	131.04	441052.34

Source: WDI (last visited September 2022)

# Inflationary pressure

Consumer price inflation reaches double digits in most countries









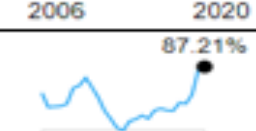




Country	2019	2020	2021	2022 (projection)	2023 (forecast)	2024 (forecast)	2025 (forecast)
Afghanistan	2.8	5	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
Azerbaijan	2.4	2.7	12	11	6	4	4
China	4.5	-0.3	1.8	2.5	1.4	2	2
Georgia	7	2.4	13.9	7.6	3.4	3	3
Kazakhstan	5.4	7.5	8.4	8.5	6	4.5	4
Kyrgyz Republic	3.1	9.7	11.2	14.7	6.4	6	5.5
Mongolia	5.2	2.3	13.5	17.5	11.5	10	8
Pakistan	8	8.6	9.7	12.7	8.3	7	6.5
Tajikistan	8	9.4	8	12	9	6.5	6.5
Turkmenistan	6.3	8.9	21	14	7	8	8
Uzbekistan	15.2	11.2	10	12.1	11.3	6.2	5.1

Consumer price inflation, annual average change (%)

source: IMF (last visited September 2022) - <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PCPIEPCH@WEO/CAQ>

# Finance considerations

## General Government Gross debt, % of GDP

Country	2019	2020	2021	trend		Country	2019	2020	2021	trend
Afghanistan	6.13	No data	No data			Azerbaijan	17.7	No data	No data	
China	57.05	No data	No data			Georgia	40.44	No data	No data	
Mongolia	68.44	76.57	No data			Kazakhstan	19.94	27.36	No data	
Pakistan	85.56	87.21	No data			Kyrgyz Republic	54.14	No data	No data	
						Tajikistan	43.13	No data	No data	
						Turkmenistan	32.91	No data	No data	
						Uzbekistan	29.42	No data	No data	

Recent inflation tends to “eat” debts, but prevents businesses in accessing financial resources for investment and operational activities and market development

Source: WDI (last visited September 2022)

# Call for success in achieving the SDGs!

- ❖ Fundamental shift in sustainable development pathway
  - ❖ Investment in human capital

## ➤ People

- Expansion of social protection
- Provision of quality education and health
  - Creation of decent jobs
- Transition to renewable energy
  - Ensuring digitalization for all
- Rethinking the system of SDG financing.



THANK  
YOU  
FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION



TELL  
US  
WHAT  
YOU  
THINK