

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mongolia is a unitary republic with a three-tiered system of subnational government. At the regional level, the country counts 21 provinces (*Aimags*) and the capital city. At the intermediate level, there are 330 regions (*Soums*) and 9 districts (*Duuregs*). The country comprises 1 568 communities (*Bagh*) and 152 neighborhoods (*Khoroos*).¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In line with the 2030 Agenda, Mongolia has adopted a **Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (MSDV-2030)** in 2016. Nonetheless, the coherence assessment between the MSDV-2030 and the SDGs carried out by the National Development Agency (NDA) found that only approximately 50-60% of the SDGs were reflected in the MSDV-2030. Thus, to strengthen alignment, the government has undertaken in 2019 a systematic review of all effective medium and short-term policies, assessing their coherence with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals** under the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science of the State Great Khural was established in 2017 with the mandate to monitor the implementation of the MSDV-2030 and SDGs. The **National Committee for Sustainable Development**, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, was created in 2017 as well and is led by the **National Development Agency (NDA)**. The NDA is mandated to provide technical policy support to the government in mainstreaming the SDGs into long-term strategies and ensuring their coherent and coordinated implementation in the medium- to short-term.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2019, the first VNR of Mongolia has been prepared based on a decision by the **National Committee for Sustainable Development**. The National Development Agency was mandated to lead the reporting process, and headed the **Working Group** established for this purpose. It consisted of representatives from the government, non-government organizations, academia, and private sector. In addition, an **Advocacy Team** created within the Working Group was mandated to raise public awareness of the SDGs. A series of multi-sectoral consultations, discussions, and trainings was organized, with the representatives of the central government, local administration, academia, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

The task of strengthening SDG indicators and data collection is the role of the **National Statistics Office**. Eight government **Sub-Working Groups** were established to identify national SDG indicators and targets. Out of the globally recommended 244 SDG indicators, 233 indicators are applicable to Mongolia, while 11 are not relevant to the country. By the end of 2018, 50.6% of the indicators were available in Mongolia. A progressive improvement in SDG indicators, including strengthening capacity, calculation methodologies, and establishing data floors, are identified as key priority areas for monitoring, recognizing that what is not measured is often not done. Disaggregation of data by regions, urban-rural, gender, and other population groups, will help identify and better include disadvantaged groups, and ensure their participation so that no one is left behind. The National Statistics Office has carried out a data readiness assessment on SDG monitoring four times. The assessment defined indicators, methodology, and information sources for calculating 50% of the recommended SDG indicators.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26422VNR_2020_Uzbekistan_Report_English.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments were involved in the consultations organized as part of the 2019 VNR process. The VNR states that this allowed “involving subnational government representatives in national dialogue, to address regional concerns and inequalities and exchange ideas across subnational entities” (see VNR, 2019, p. 16).

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments’ annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR states that “it is important to reach a common understanding on the broader scope of the SDGs and recognize that the SDGs are not just national-level responsibilities. Local participation is key, as SDG implementation will largely depend on activities to be carried out locally” (see VNR, 2019, p. 45). The presentation of SDG 11 focuses on the situation in Ulaanbaatar, but without mentioning initiatives led to achieve the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Ulaanbaatar**, the local government has developed the nationally recognized Women and Business Incubator Centre (WBC), which provides technical assistance, training, personalized advice and financial consultancy services for women. This also offers a co-working space with a playroom for children to reconcile maternity with career development and employment opportunities.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Developing a financing strategy for the implementation of priority objectives towards achieving SDGs is critical. It needs to include not only the estimated financing needs, but also allocations aligned with policy priorities, sources of funding from public and private stakeholders, and resource mobilization strategies. Three years have passed since the adoption of Mongolia’s long-term policy but a financing strategy has not yet been developed.

Recognizing the importance of financing for the SDGs and the need for the mobilization of substantial financing sources, Mongolia supports the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which reflects concrete measures on the mobilization of public and private funding from both domestic and external sources.

Mongolia initiated the process of Development Finance Assessment in 2018. The assessment has recommended introducing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for setting up a broad based integrated management system to support the achievement of future long-term development. Nevertheless, the government has not been able to develop an Integrated Financing Strategy on resource mobilization for MSDV-2030 and SDG implementation, mainly due to lack of coherence between medium-term planning and budgeting of sectoral ministries and the current practice of defining the Mid-term Fiscal Framework Statement based on short-term sectorial policy targets.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR features the issue of air pollution in a dedicated chapter. It is a much-discussed topic in Mongolia, arising from a pre-existing policy focus on aggregate economic growth per se, without ensuring inclusion and environmental protection. This problem will be best tackled by applying a transversal SDG lens.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.7 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	39 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	59 (2020)
	Rural	49 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		38.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		58.5 (2015, Ulaanbaatar)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		54.5 (2019)

3. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/mng>