MALAYSIAN CSO-SDG ALLIANCE

A partner in the National SDG Steering Committee

SUBMISSION TO PEOPLE'S SCORECARD PROCESS

Assessing National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

Prepared by:
MALAYSIAN CSO SDG ALLIANCE

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by

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July 2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance was invited by Action for Sustainable Development (Action4SD) to participate in the 2021 People's Scorecard process. This is a CSO assessment of the national delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Malaysia. This process provides a valuable platform for CSOs to provide their analysis at the national level and then compare the data across countries around world.

The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance has been active in SDGs since 2015 and has provided input to the Malaysian National VNR process in both 2017 and 2021. This year we were active as members of the National VNR Technical and Steering Committees organised by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department.

We hosted five working groups in the VNR preparation participated by 62 CSO activist and academics. The findings which was submitted to the National VNR process was also useful in this People's Scorecard process. We hosted three additional thematic-targeted focus groups discussions among indigenous people, people with disabilities and women/gender concerns.

We invited key CSO leaders who led the five VNR working groups and the three focus groups to be part of the collective team in undertaking the score card assessment. Different individuals assisted in undertaking this score card exercise on the 17 SDGs and 10 categories which was a methodology introduced by Action4SD (see **appendix 1**)

This National CSO Report on the 2021 People's Score card is undertaken as a collaborative effort by 15 core CSO leaders and academics in Malaysia. This report is divided into three parts with Chapter 1 providing general overview of SDGs delivery in Malaysia. Chapter 2 is on the summary of scored card assessment of the 17 SDGs while detail comments are included in the **appendix 2**. Chapter 3 is the focus group discussion findings. This is Malaysian CSOs input to the global People's Scorecard process which will be launched on July 8, 2021 at a side event at the High Level Political Form (HLPF).

I like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Dr Lin Mui Kiang, Prof Dr Rashila Ramli, Ms Omn Sreeni Ong, Mr Kon Onn Sein, Mr Anthony Tan, Ms Nur Rahmah Othman, Mr Jeffrey Phang, Dr Murallitharan, Mr James Raj, Assoc Prof Dr Zaimuariffudin Shukri Nordin, Ms Bathama Krishan, Mr Afandi Nor Azmi, Ms Eira Khanum and Dr Jain Yassin for their role in undertaking this exercise in preparing this assessment report based on a score card for the national delivery of SDGs in Malaysia.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mr Oli Henman (Action4SD) and Mr Anselmo Lee (APSD) for your value advice and partnership in this global advocacy process.

Prof Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria
Co Chair, Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance
July 2, 2021

CHAPTER 1:
GENERAL ANALYSIS AND CONTEXT SETTING

1.1 Overview of SDG Progress

Over all Malaysia has adopted the 2030 Agenda into the development planning as indicated in the Mid Term Review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2018-2020). This is significant at the national policy level. However at the localizing SDGs at the grassroots there are many challenges which the National SDG Roadmap has recognized and is undertaking in the second phase of SDG implementation through the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021-2025).

In the CSOs assessment, Malaysia has done well in SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education) and SDG 6 (water). It is also noted that in another five SDGs, Malaysia is only making moderate process namely in SDG 2 (nutrition), SDG 5 (gender), SDG 9 (infrastructure), SDG 10 (inequality), SDG 12 (consumption) and SDG 17 (partnerships)

Furthermore, CSOs are concerned with the very slow progress in SDG 7(energy), SDG 8 (economy), SDG 11 (cities), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (life in water), SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 16 (peace). One needs to recognize the impact on the COVID pandemic on public sector resources and in the achievements of national targets. However both environment and SDG 16 must not be neglected as a Right to development must be enhanced to ensure inclusion and mobility so that no one is left behind.

1.2 National planning, implementation and budget commitments

Malaysian development plans have directly linked the five year development plans with SDGs. This is evident in the Mid Term Review Report on the Eleventh Malaysia Plan[1] where there is a mapping of SDGs and the national development plans. Furthermore in the National SDG Road map[2] which is a phase 1 (2016 -2020) provides details on policy incorporation as well as the level of localizing SDGs. In this context as SDGs are incorporated in to National development plans the corresponding allocations are made to the various ministries. However at the level of implementation especially in localizing there are some challenges is to addressed in Phase 2 of the SDG roadmap through the strategies of the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021-2025) and Phase 3 in the Thirteen Malaysia Plan (2006-2030).

[1] Page 0-11 https://www.epu.gov.my/sites/default/files/2020-08/3.%20Overview.pdf
[2] https://www.epu.gov.my/sites/default/files/2021-05/SDG_Roadmap_Phase_I_2016-2020.pdf

1.3 Progress since last VNR

The last VNR was in 2017 and since then in 2018 through the Mid Term Review Report a mapping was undertaken in 2018. The Government and the UN on November 6-7, 2019 hosted the SDG Summit with the theme "Accelerating Progress on the SDGs: Whole of Nation Approach". A 1,000 people (government, CSO, youth, academia and private sector) participated. The CSO hosted a CSO forum and the findings (73 page document entitled "Accelerating SDGs in policy & services at the local levels: Civil Society Perspective"[3]

The Department of Statistic Malaysia (DOSM)[4] has played a major role in the collection of data, making it accessible with the published 2018 and 2019 reports. DOSM has within government played a major role in this aspect of popularizing the SDG goals, targets and indicators. A total of 128 indicators were identified and made available out of 247

The Ministry for Housing and Local Government's special unit URBANICE[5] is working with cities and local government in the localizing of SDGs. URBANICE has prepared an awareness booklet entitled Malaysia SDG Cities[6] and is playing a major role in enabling cities to develop Voluntary Local Reviews on localizing SDGs. For 2021 two Malaysia cities have prepared reports namely the City of Shah Alam and the city of Subang Jaya.

At the level of localizing SDGs and in adopting a cross cutting approach in SDG implication, there is much room for improvement as a majority of the agencies are operating in silos with their respective ministry mandates. In this context too the issues pertaining to SDG 16 such as human rights, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability have seen very little progress.

1.4 Key communities who face being left behind

Malaysia has adopted an inclusive development strategy with the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. This approach basically targets citizens who are poor below the poverty line and those in the Bottom 40% through various social assistance programs. Since the pandemic there is much discussion in the formulation of a comprehensive social protection scheme[7] for all Malaysia especially including the informal sector.

Among the poor the indigenous poor especially the interior and forest based natives of Sabah and Sarawak and the Orang Asli[8] communities in Peninsular Malaysia are the most vulnerable. This was highlighted in the focus group discussion among indigenous people linking their deprivation to land and other right to development matters.

From CSO perspectives among the cluster of vulnerable communities are also the poor including rural coastal fishermen, famers in rural villages, as well as the B40 and urban poor[9] to live in high rise low cost flats in urban locations.

Other vulnerable groups who are very much neglected are non-citizens. Among them are undocumented person and refugees[10] in Malaysia society including migrant workers who are

[3] https://www.epu.gov.my/en/malaysia-sdg-summit-2019
[4] https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cone&menu_id=UFkzK2xjRE04OVVRKzhOeXd6UWk2UT09
[5] https://www.urbanicemalaysia.com.my/
[6] https://www.urbanicemalaysia.com.my/malaysia-sdg-cities-booklet/
[7] https://www.bnm.gov.my/documents/20124/3026377/emr2020_en_box1_socialprotection.pdf
[8] https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Poverty/VisitsContributions/Malaysia/MalaysiaCare.pdf
[9] https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/family/2021/05/21/unicef-unfpa-report-shows-urban-poor039s-precarious-plight
[10] https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/05/25/Malaysia-coronavirus-refugees-asylum-seekers-xenophobia

facing a critical situation especially during this pandemic. Among the most vulnerable facing societal stigma are the LGBTQI community faces systemic discrimination which impacts their access to employment and social cohesion in the community[11]

1.5 How have you engaged across communities?

The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance is a network of CSO who are undertaking economic, social and environmental concerns including human rights. There are about 50 organizations both national with affiliates and single focus organizations. Since 2015 we have been the SDG platform for engagement with the government on SDG related matters. As organizations with specific members (women, youth, indigenous people, disable people) from various vulnerable communities there are opportunities for public advocacy and feedback to the government.

For the 2021 VNR process we set up five working groups where about 62 CSO leaders participated. We hosted three focus groups where disable people, women's groups and indigenous people participated. In our work on localizing SDGs were are currently involved in 31 of the 222 parliamentary constituencies. This is a project undertaken by the All-party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on the SDGs (APPGM-SDGs)[12]. The APPGM SDG is a bi partisan parliamentary group and is very active at the grassroots. The APPGM SDG managed to secure funding from the Ministry of Finance with the support of EPU for 2020 (RM1.6 million ringgit) and 2021 (RM5 million ringgit).

Thus fare between Jan 2020 and June 2021 we have visited 25 of the 31 of these parliamentary constituencies and engaged with grassroots communities. We have prepared mapping of local needs report. Of these locations we have executed 34 SDG solution projects in 10 of the 25 parliamentary constituencies in 2020. Ours is a bottom ups action research including mapping local needs and undertaking solution projects with our solution partners.

1.6 Overview of climate change

In Malaysia, climate change combined with rapid development have intensified climate risks in forms of floods, drought, emerging diseases and biodiversity loss which threatens coastal habitation, infrastructure, food security and public health.

As of 2013, Malaysia has achieved 33% reduction in GDP emission intensity of its Paris Agreement NDC of 45% reduction by 2030 compared to 2005 level[13]. However, long-term ambition is required in developing low emission pathways and setting peak-emission target. In addition to mitigation, adaptation policies and risk-based planning are urgently needed to build adaptive capacity and climate resilience. This require a regulatory framework and expansion of risk and vulnerability assessment to mainstream adaptation and guide development planning.

Policies to leverage on and upscale nature-based solutions are needed to achieve co-benefits in addressing mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and other potential socio-economic challenges.

[11]https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/SexualOrientation/SocioCultural/NHRI/Malaysia%20Human%20Rights%20Commission.pdf
[12] Page 183 https://www.isis.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SDG-Book.pdf
[13] https://www.epu.gov.my/en/economic-developments/development-plans/rmk/previous-plans

1.7 Civil society priorities

One of civil society's major priority is the institutionalization of the engagement process between government and civil society, as opposed to an ad hoc system of engagement which is prevalent today. The call is for meaningful engagement in an open and transparent process as opposed to selective approach. A good example highlighted is the engagement process established by the United Nations the accreditation process through UN ECOSOC[14].

Transparency and accountability[15] including access to the data and information is most critical such as allocation of funds, contracts and projects are major concerns in public light. Here too social and economic data is essential pertaining to poverty, gender, ethnicity and indigenous people. CSO are concerned for certain vulnerable communities like undocumented persons, detainees, refugees, vulnerable communities like urban poor etc. CSO have been critical on the state of human rights and shrinking democratic space in Malaysia[16]. In the area of human rights death in custody[17] and police accountability is a major area of concern and CSO advocacy action. There is the call for an independent police complaint commission (IPCMC) [18] as earlier recommended by the Royal Police Commission (2005)[19]

1.8 Civil society engagement

The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance has been working closely with the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) since 2015. The Alliance is a members in the National Steering Committee (NSC) on SDGs along with CSOs representing environmental, women and the CSOs in the Universal Periodical Review process. However the NSC has not been regularly but in the preparation of the VNR CSO has had good interaction with the EPU in the drafting process. The SDGs and the localizing SDG agenda has enabled multi stakeholder engagement at the grassroots.

CSOs women issues, consumer concerns, youth engagement, poverty have had regular meetings. However among the human rights organizations and environmental organizational the engagement might not be very regular. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been engaging human rights NGOs on the UPR process. However this is not the case especially with the Ministry of Home Affairs on human rights issues like undocumented persons, refugees, death in custody or missing person's advocacy concerns. In addition national unity and social cohesion[20] are also major concerns and room for government action like ratification of ICERD.

[14] https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/civil-society/ecosoc-status.html#:~:text=ECOSOC%20accreditation%20is%20separate%20and,of%20Public%20Information%20(DPI).&text=The%20Committee%20on%20NGOs%20reviews,does%20not%20decide%20but%20recommends.
[15] https://www.ideas.org.my/publications-item/procurement-legislation-compliance-transparency-and-accountability-in-malaysia-a-final-report-of-ideas-procurement-research-and-roundtable-series-2020/
[16] https://www.thevibes.com/articles/opinion/20128/a-look-at-human-rights-in-msia-over-past-decade-proham
[17] https://www.awam.org.my/2021/06/07/pdrm-fails-to-protect-detainees-civil-society-demands-police-accountability-ipcmc/
[18] https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2020/10/19/bring-back-ipcmc-bill-anti-graft-group-tells-govt/
[19] https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/news/legal-and-general-news/legal-news/royal-police-commission-findings-10-years-on
[20] https://komas.org/sincerity-of-the-government-is-vital-in-the-agenda-of-national-unity/

1.9 Public awareness

Current SDG data is available in English and much of it is global community especially the UN generated. Local SDG stories, awareness materials is lacking. In the National language Malay, there is very little public information. Currently only the 17 SDG goals and the targets have been translated into Malay. This is a major setback for the localization and delivery of SDG goals as the service at the bottom do not have access to case studies, best practices which can enrich their delivery. Likewise there is no translation into other ethnic languages

More needs to be done to popularize the SDGs in Malaysian society although most are aware of the individual SDGs as part of the development agenda. However the cross cutting and over lapping including the multi-dimensional are not well articulated and capture.

CHAPTER 2:
MALAYSIAN SCORE CARD SUMMARY TABLES & ANALYSIS

2.1 Introduction

Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance undertook a consultative process in working on the SDG Score Card for 2021 based on the methodology provided by Action for Sustainable Development.

Malaysia hosted five focus group discussions by way of input to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process with the participation of 62 CSO leaders and academics in Malaysia. The core leaders of the five working groups namely Poverty & Nutrition, Health recovery, Inclusive economic growth, Sustainability & climate change and finally governance and partnerships.

A comprehensive report[21] was submitted as input to the VNR process and the Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance was invited to be a member of both the VNR Technical committee and the VNR Steering committee. We reviewed the draft Malaysian VNR report prepared by the Government lead agency, the Economic Planning Unity of the Prime Minister's Department. The 2021 VNR preparation was a very inclusive process with CSOs having access to the draft documents as well as an opportunity to provide input and analysis. However, the CSOs recognise that the Malaysian VNR report is a government report with inputs from multi-stakeholder groups including CSOs.

On the Score Card review the Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance hosted two discussions to review the scores cards including the rating and comments on two occasion (June 18 & 24, 2021) before we submitted our score on to the global score card.

This write up by the Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance is a brief summary of our full scores with some analysis of our conclusions. The methodology of assessment is in **Appendix 1** while full assessment of the score of 17 SDGs with comments are attached in **Appendix 2**.

2.2 General Analysis Using the Score Card

The Malaysian CSOs in the SDG Alliance, have given **56.71%** out of 100 as the national overall score.

This is not too bad taking into account it is the pandemic period and Malaysia has had political changes. Over the past 5 years between 2017 and 2021 we witnessed the Malaysian government change three times. Even now there are so many political under certainties with parliamentary democracy as we are in a state of emergency. However development planning

[21] https://kasi.asia/publications/submission-to-malaysias-2nd-voluntary-national-review-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-2021-by-malaysian-cso-sdg-alliance-appgmsdg/

agenda has remained consistent and the present government is seriously focused on addressing the COVID 19 pandemic and the wellbeing of all the Malaysian people.

Table 1 is a summary of the total scores on the 17 SDGs. Likewise **Diagram 1** is illustrative of the high covers meaning doing well with the highest score, followed by moderate scores and finally lower scores.

By CSO assessment, Malaysia has done well in SDGs 1, 3, 4 and 6. Here the percentage scores are above 60 with the highest for SDG 3 (Health) at 66% followed by SDG 1 Poverty and SDG 4 (Education) at 64%. SDG 6 (Water & Sanitation) scores 62%. The highest score is for health and wellbeing.

Overall Malaysian society is very appreciative of the role played by health care professions during this COVID pandemic. Government action in addressing poverty too has been rated highly including the changes towards the new Poverty Line Income indicators and the introduction of the Multi-dimensional Poverty Indicators. CSOs call for a greater inclusive agenda of reaching out to all vulnerable groups (indigenous & ethnic minority poor, women and disabled people), irrespective of ethnicity, religious, gender, age, locational backgrounds including a special focus on the urban poor communities especially the B40 in high rise flats.

Our scores are moderate for SDG2 (hunger), 5 (gender), 9 (infrastructure), 10 (inequalities), 12 (consumption) and 17 (partnerships). Here the scores are 60% and below but above the 50% mark. While some progress has been made especially in the multi stakeholder partnerships there is a call for more institutional arrangements are called for.

However the scores are low and we are not doing very well on SDG 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Here the scores are 50% and below. The lowest score is SDG 16 at 42%. CSOs are critical on issues pertaining to accountability, transparency, global compliance to human rights instruments including non- discrimination indicators.

2.3 Score Card Analysis By The Categories

The score card provided 10 thematic categoris for the review of 17 SDGs. During the national VNR preparation phase CSOs worked on the 17 SDGs with the SDG targets and indicators for the selected SDGs for the 2021 HLPF.

The Score card assessment however reviewed SDGs by using 10 thematic categories. In this exercise we reviewed policies, delivery and institutional arrangements keeping the SDG targets and indicators in mind.

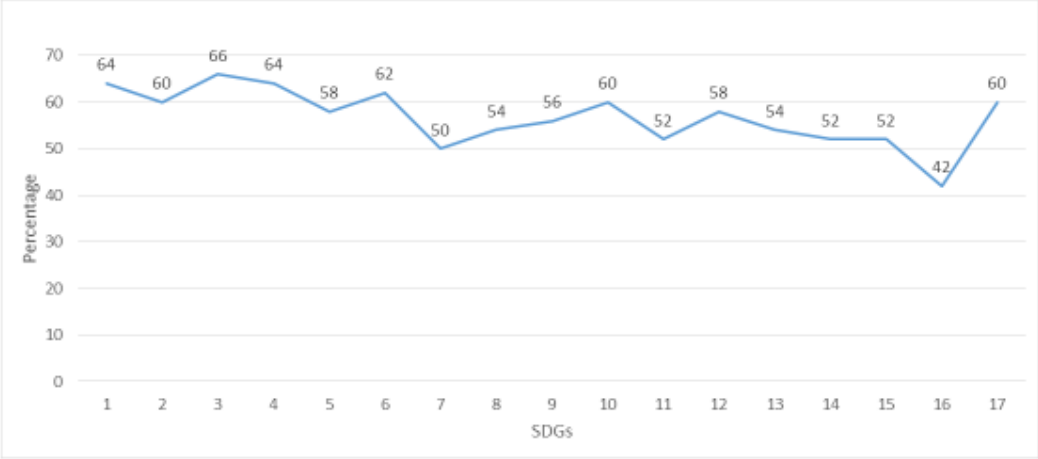
A review of Table 1 and Diagram 2 provides a good picture of this. Of the 10 categories CSOs have highly ranked category 1, 2 and 3. These are all at the level of policies and plan. We have a saying that Malaysia has excellent policies but implementation and delivery is weak.

This popular saying is reflected in the scores as the lowest category to be ranked is category 8 which secured only 44.71% score pertaining to transparency and accountability. Likewise also scoring low is Category 5 which is implementation at 47.06% and Category 6 on public awareness and capacity building at 50.59%

Table 1: SUMMARY TABLE OF 17 SDGs

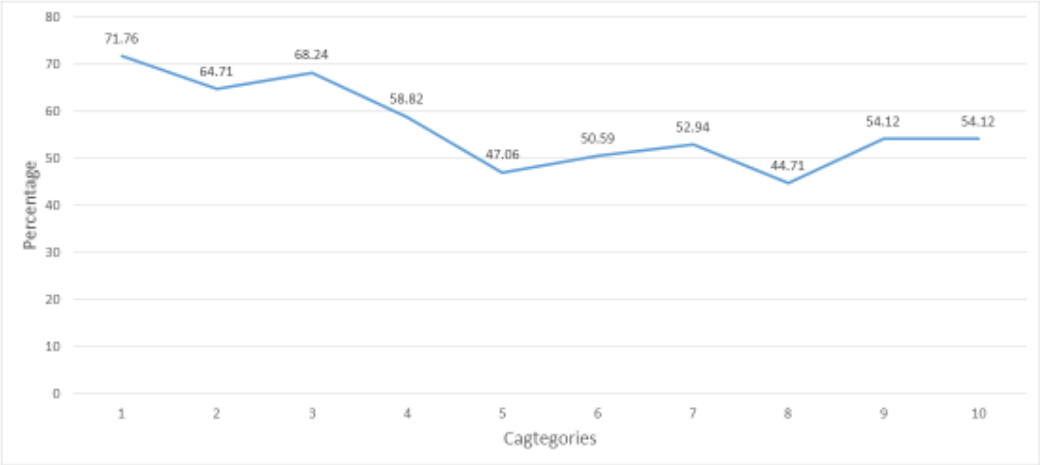
		GOALS																		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Points	Percent
Categories	1	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	61	71.76
	2	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	55	64.71
	3	4	4	5	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	4	3	3	4	2	4	58	68.24
	4	3	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	50	58.82
	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	40	47.06
	6	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	43	50.59
	7	3	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	45	52.94
	8	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	38	44.71
	9	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	4	46	54.12
	10	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	4	46	54.12
	Points	32	30	33	32	29	31	25	27	28	30	26	29	27	26	26	21	30	482	**56.71**
	Percent	64	60	66	64	58	62	50	54	56	60	52	58	54	52	52	42	60	**56.71**	

Diagram 1: Score card Analysis by the SDGs



High (66) SDG 3; Low (42) SDG16; Average 56.71

Diagram 2: SDG Score Card Analysis by Category



High (71.76) Item 1; Low (44.71) Item 8; Average 56.71

2.4 Score Card Analysis Based On Five Pillars of the SDGs

Using the five SDG Ps namely People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace & Partnerships, Table analysis 2 and Diagrams 3 & 4 are used to show where Malaysia is doing well on the basis of CSO assessment using the score card.

The scores are highest for **People related SDGs** such as SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 where the score reaches 62%. These are the social sector and Malaysia through its comprehensive development planning has done well here although CSOs do feel some aspects need improvement especially pertaining to inclusive development, women empowerment, quality education and addressing access to digital technology as one of the poverty indicators

Partnerships score the second highest and in recent years especially with the formation of the All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on SDGs (APPGM-SDG), government has allocated funds as well inclusion in policy dialogues multi stakeholder groups at the national and local levels. The awareness and networking of SDGs through local government too has been enhanced by URBANICE[22] preparing voluntary local reviews at the city level in 2021. This was done by the City of Shah Alam and Subang Jaya. Furthermore CSO strongly recommend the institutionalisation of the multi stakeholder partnerships at both national and local levels as opposed to the current ad hoc engagements for VNR report preparations.

Planet and environment related SDGs are in the 55.6% mark. In this set of SDGs, the CSOs noted that Malaysia have various policies on natural resources management and institutional and legal framework in place. Despite strong policies commitment and subscription to various multilateral environmental agreements, there are serious gaps in implementation at national and sub-national level. There needs to more formalised multi-stakeholder partnerships and taking greater "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach. The CSO is critical on lack of transparency and accountability pertaining to limited access to environmental rights and information. The CSOs also call for greater attention in addressing adaptation in climate action.

[22] A agency of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

Prosperity scores 54.4%. In this set of SDGs, CSOs ranked SDG 10 in addressing inequality in the 60% mark as opposed to the other scores with are in the 50% mark. Malaysia has introduced a Shared Prosperity Vision Agenda by 2030 as an inclusive development agenda for all. There a very strong policy commitment however there needs to be a very effective delivery strategy in addressing rising levels of inequality both in urban poor neighbourhood as well as in interior villages at the rural end

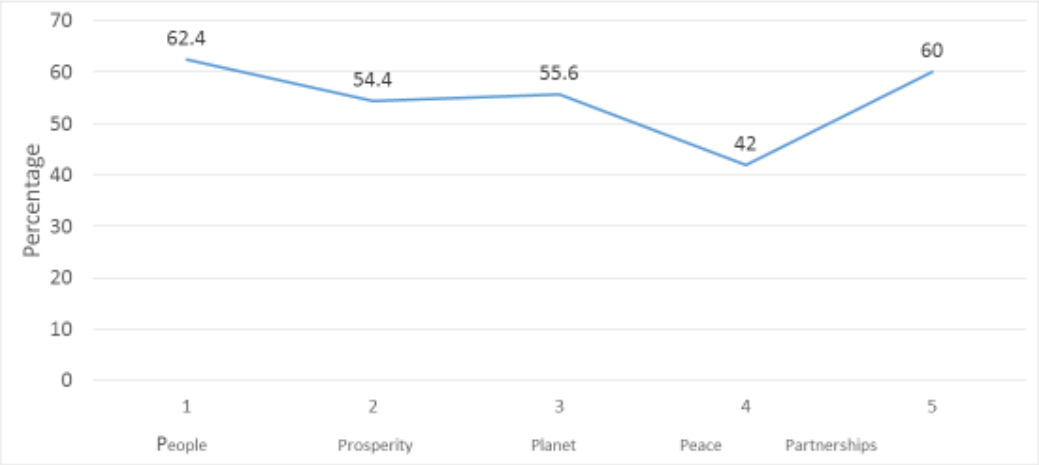
Peace & justice scores the lowest at 42%. This is SDG 16 and CSO is critical of the government neglect of these aspects pertaining to human rights, media freedom, parliamentary accountability and non-discriminatory policies. Recently in Malaysia's bid for a seat for the UN Human Rights Council, Malaysia issues a "Voluntary Pledges and Commitment"[23] with a promise to work closely with UHCHR and the promotion of human rights domestically and globally. CSOs call for Malaysia's stronger commitment for human rights protection not just promotion.

Table 2: SDG SCORECARD BY 5P's

		Goals						
		People	Prosperity	Planet	Peace	Partnerships	Points	Percent
		1,2,3,4,5	7,8,9,10,11	6,12,13,14,15	16	17		
Categories	1	19	17	18	3	4	61	71.76
	2	18	16	16	2	3	55	64.71
	3	19	15	18	2	4	58	68.24
	4	15	14	16	2	3	50	58.82
	5	14	11	11	2	2	40	47.06
	6	13	14	13	2	1	43	50.59
	7	15	14	11	2	3	45	52.94
	8	13	12	9	2	2	38	44.71
	9	15	10	15	2	4	46	54.12
	10	15	13	12	2	4	46	54.12
	Points	156	136	139	21	30	482	**56.71**
	Percent	62.4	54.4	55.6	42	60	**56.71**	

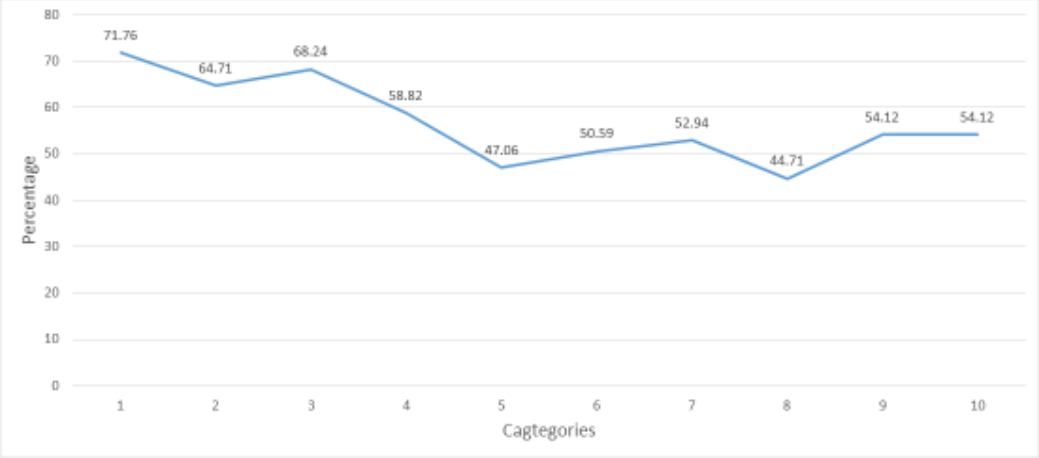
[23] https://www.kln.gov.my/web/usa_un-new-york/news-from-mission/-/blogs/malaysia-s-candidature-to-the-human-rights-council-term-2022-2024-voluntary-commitments-and-pledges

Diagram 3: SDG Score Card by the 5P's



High (62.4) People; Low (42) Peace; Average 56.71

Diagram 4: SDG Score Card by 5P's & Categories



High (71.76) Item 1; Low (44.71) Item 8; Average 56.71

2.5 Conclusion

The CSO engagement in undertaking this scoring based on CSO analysis is timely and serves as a report card for the Government of the day. The objective is not to find fault but to recognise the areas we are doing well as the areas we need to strengthen. This is an ongoing exercise and the CSO community hope for a stronger SDG compliance and partnership in the coming years.

CHAPTER 3:
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FINDINGS

THE CSO-SDG Alliance hosted three online conversations under three themes related to three Grassroot Groups – Disability, Indigenous People and Gender. Feedback on the 17 SDGs were received on how the specific target group feels on the gaps and challenges while providing recommendation and way forward.

3.1 FOCUS GROUP 1: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Online conversation on June 20, 2021

The moderators of this focus group were: Ms Bathmavathi Krishnan (President, Association of Women with Disabilities Malaysia) and Ms. Nur Rahmah Othman (Program Executive, APPGM-SDG).

It was attended by the representatives of civil society organisations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD). This focus group discussed a few key areas covering a few SDGs. They are health and wellbeing, poverty and economic development, education, infrastructure and cities, and justice. This section describes challenges for sustainable development and recommendations by persons with disabilities.

3.1.1 Challenges

The main challenge identified from the discussion was that PWD is a vulnerable group with a higher risk of being left behind as their needs are not sufficiently considered. This is due to the lack of engagement with PWD and there are no concrete actions besides advocacy and awareness-raising with regards to the needs and the rights of PWD. While there may be a legal framework and policies, there lacks implementation and monitoring of these initiatives. There are more to be done to ensure that policies are implemented where PWD are included in development planning and implementation to ensure their rights are accessible.

Health and Well-being
The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the various ways that PWD communities are being left behind. Their inaccessibility has been further exacerbated as COVID-19 strains the healthcare system where services for PWD has become less available. For the PWD communities, the most required healthcare is secondary and tertiary healthcare instead of primary healthcare. In Malaysia generally, primary healthcare is mostly accessible widely. However, services for PWD are only accessible at specialised hospitals and not district hospitals. This significantly reduces the access of those PWD situated in rural areas. Another impact of COVID-19 that was observed was that the attention on rare diseases has shifted. Prior, there was a more robust discussion

regarding this matter, however at this point, the current status is unknown as there is no follow-up or monitoring.

The inadequate access to information too is highlighted where there is less information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery strategies. Deaf persons are facing difficulties in accessing related information through television and radio. Essentially, there were no sign language interpreters to deliver this information. Information accessibility particularly on health issues is crucial so that PWD communities do not live in panic and paranoia. There is also little considerations for persons with learning disabilities as most of the documents are dense with information. The community has to take initiative to ensure information was shared sufficiently.

Healthcare insurance and coverage are expensive and inaccessible due to restrictive insurance policies. Those with intersecting disabilities are at a higher risk of being denied insurance due to the fear of expensive coverage. Premiums are also applied for those with disabilities while personal assistance, assistive devices and related equipment are not covered by insurance. While public healthcare services are readily available for primary services, affordable secondary and tertiary services are limited in availability.

Engagement with PWD communities was done in isolation regarding their disabilities, selectively and sporadically. For example, those with spinal cord injury were only consulted regarding rehabilitation issues, instead of overall healthcare services and facilities. This also reflected in the mental health sector where many PWDs are suffering in silence due to the lack of engagement in organised programs. This in turn prevents an integrated approach in providing healthcare to those with intersecting disabilities.

Engagement and consultation sessions too are not transparent where findings are not communicated and discussed in the public sphere. There is a lack of accountability in delivery services and the lack of accessible information makes it highly challenging to monitor initiatives from the government. As it stands, there are insufficient PWD representatives in government service delivery to properly assess the needs of PWD communities.

Poverty and Economic Development

Poverty is common among PWD communities due to intersecting reasons. Mainly, they are systemic barriers starting with limited availability for education which impacts employability, low wages and limited job prospects in the workplace. Generally, they lack opportunities for a higher level of education as there is limited availability for education. While there are PWD who are university graduates, and the government imposed a quota of 1% placement of PWD in the public sector, this quota is still under-fulfilled. Furthermore, there is a specific job category allocated for PWD which prevents them to access higher-level positions despite having higher qualifications. Stigma from the private sector is prevalent while there are few incentives for them to employ PWD.

PWDs are dependent on welfare allowances and daily wages which tend to be inadequate for them to improve their livelihood. The challenge remains as there is low financial literacy among PWD communities. Overall, there is little research done on PWD communities regarding their livelihood which prevents robust legal and policy frameworks addressing these systemic barriers. There is a lack of data and information regarding PWD communities which prevents monitoring and evaluation for accountability measures.

Education

There are opportunities for PWD to receive education from the pre-school stage to university or vocational training. A few public higher education institutions have the policy to enrol students with disabilities. However, there is no specific unit to manage the needs of PWD in these institutions. Whereas, for pre-school, there is a lack of specialised education catering to specific disabilities. NGOs are providing this specialised pre-school education however, it is not sustainable for the long term.

Additionally, there is an inadequate transition programme for PWD from school to workplaces and employment. Vocational courses and centres for the PWD are valuable. While there is only a training centre for all the PWD communities in Malaysia thus, the courses and content offered are limited. Besides educational centres for the PWD themselves, there is a need for suitable teachers to teach PWD. There is a lack of training and capacity building for teachers to teach PWD in addition to the lack of appropriate compensation for the teachers.

In education for PWD, there is a severe lack of engagement. The National Council for PWD plays an important role in leading the agenda for PWD education. However, there is no PWD representative on the education committee. Therefore, the council themselves are not able to identify the needs of PWD with regards to education.

Infrastructure and Cities

The main challenge regarding infrastructure and cities in the implementation of legal and policy frameworks. The Uniform Building By-Laws (UBBL) ensures that the building facilities and infrastructure are accessible with the right building and infrastructure facilities. Furthermore, it is not made known if there are any audits regarding building whether it follows the universal design requirement. Public Interest Litigation is not conducted. Public and government buildings such as the courts and legal firms are not provided with the facilities for even lawyers with disabilities. This increases the marginalisation of PWD in public spaces.

Accessibility includes the use of public transportation for PWD. The National Transportation Policy includes provisions related to PWD however, there are implementation gaps. For example, blind persons face difficulties accessing information such as bus schedules and bus stops. Not only that, the lack of integration and interconnectivity of public transportation facilities including the first mile and the last mile connectivity pose a challenge for the PWD communities.

Another challenge for the PWD communities is regarding housing and house ownership. The National Housing Policy does not include and consider the needs of PWD. Currently, there is insufficient public housing that is accessible to PWD as the designs are not in accordance with the universal design. According to them, there is a limited number of units available for wheelchair users and other PWD. One of the reasons for the lack of housing rights is there is a lack of engagement of PWD regarding housing and other infrastructure needs.

Justice

Access to justice was briefly discussed by the participants. It was focused on the procedural aspect of the criminal justice system and procedures of enforcement available to PWDs. At present, there are standard operating procedures as guides for detaining persons with autism. However, this operating procedure is not extended to other communities of PWD. Furthermore, legal services are not readily available for PWDs but there is limited help from the legal aid foundation. However, access to court interpreters remains inadequate.

The Persons with Disabilities Act 2008) is perceived as weak legislation as it does not comprehensively consider the rights of PWD. In any case, there is no room for negotiation with government agencies regarding issues that matters to PWD. Thus PWD is more likely to be unprotected in unfavourable circumstances. There is a wide gap in the rights of PWD in Malaysia in general. The awareness of legal rights and services is generally low within and beyond the community.

3.1.2 Recommendations

To address the abovementioned challenges, participants of the focus group discussion have provided the following recommendations:

Communication, Awareness, and Public Education (CEPA)

1. To establish an engagement platform that includes PWD communities' representatives for the local councils and district offices to engage with for policy formulations
2. To increase transparency in consultation including monitoring and evaluation processes
3. To create awareness on financial literacy and welfare aids available
4. To create awareness of the legal rights and services available to PWD

Regulations

1. To review the current legal and policy frameworks to ensure the protection of the rights of PWD

Infrastructure and Institutions

1. To establish a research and data centre for PWD communities that produce a more detailed reporting to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
2. To establish a one-stop info centre for PWD with a high level of involvement of the PWD community as a job creation mechanism
3. To increase the capacity of teachers and training centres to benefit wider PWD communities by increasing access to education
4. To implement the use of Malaysian Sign Language (Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia) as an official practice replacing the Hand Codes (Kod Tangan)
5. To integrate the use of technology to facilitate service provisions and communication with PWD, especially during the pandemic.

Participants of Focus Group 1

1. Siti Safura Binti Jaapar (Spinal Muscular Atrophy Malaysia Association)
2. Mohd Rizal Bin Mat Noor (Malaysian Spinal Cord Injury Advocacy Association)
3. Siti Huraizah bt Ruslan (Society of the Blind Malaysia)
4. Ramlah bt Jalee (Association of Women with Disabilities Malaysia)
5. Anthony Chong (Malaysian Sign Language and Deaf Studies Association)
6. Lucy Lim (Sign Language interpreter)
7. George Thomas (Malaysian Association for the Blind)
8. Mohd Faiz Bin Shuhaimi (Malaysian Youth Disability Council)
9. Dr Ikmal Hisham Md Tah (Faculty of Law UiTM)
10. Yeong Moh Foong

3.2 FOCUS GROUP 2: Indigenous People

Online conversation held on June 19, 2021

The moderators of this focus group were: Mr Kon Onn Sein (designation), Dr Jain Yassin (APPGM-SDG Liaison Officer and Researcher), Dr Zaimuariffudin Shukri Nordin (APPGM-SDG Liaison Officer and Researcher).

It was attended by the representative of civil society organisations and the indigenous peoples' communities in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak. This focus group focuses on the topics of health and wellbeing, environment and natural resources management, and poverty and economic development. This section describes the status of sustainable development, its challenges, and recommendations by the indigenous people.

3.2.1 Status of sustainable development

The indigenous peoples' communities have a low perception of the implementation of the SDGs and sustainable development in general. Briefly, it is perceived that the government are not prioritising the implementation of SDGs but the development agenda is focused on profit-making. There is no awareness programme of SDG-related initiates known to the indigenous peoples' groups. Generally, the indigenous peoples' communities are being left behind in terms of economic growth and infrastructure. This is because they have a limited chance to improve their socio-economic status due to the lack of jobs and entrepreneurial activities.

3.2.2 Challenges

Health and Wellbeing
Health and wellbeing are considered as interlinked issues as it covers the area of infrastructure, social security, and statelessness. It is considered to be a crucial aspect of the indigenous peoples to receive accessible medical and healthcare services as they are located in rural areas. Some limited public infrastructures and services are accessible to improve their quality of life. In terms of health and wellbeing, it includes inadequate healthcare services, main infrastructure as well as supporting facilities. There are only two COVID-19 vaccines facilities in Kudat, Sabah and a limited number of clinics in inaccessible rural areas. While there are clinics, the road to access these clinics is in bad conditions where they are not maintained and some of them remain undeveloped. Consequently, this prevents ambulances and vehicles for patients to receive medical interventions.

Additionally, there is a lack of clean water and electric supply to the rural areas in which most indigenous peoples are situated. The lack of a clean water supply makes the indigenous people more prone to diseases. Whereas, the inadequate electric supply affects the reliability of the internet connection and the dependence on electric gadgets. Consequently, this becomes a barrier for students to access online learning and online facilities such as the COVID-19 vaccine registration process which was done online. This is particular to Kudat, Sabah where the communities have to depend on the head of the village for vaccines registration.

The indigenous peoples' communities are facing more cases of stroke, hypertension, high blood pressure, and depression. As recounted, there was more death by suicide within the indigenous people's communities. Among pregnant women, there are cases of anaemia reported. Malnourishment too is prevalent among children, adults, and pregnant women. Furthermore, the communities are facing the risk of alcoholism as there are increasing sales of cheap alcohol

in the indigenous people's villages. It is said that alcohol is used by teenagers as well as adults as a coping mechanism for the COVID-19 pandemic. The usage of alcohol may rise as Malaysia struggles with addressing the COVID-19 recovery.

The well-being of the indigenous peoples is a cross-cutting issue. Currently, there is an inadequate social protection system particularly for the retired fisherfolks and farmers within the indigenous peoples' communities. The retired farmers and fisherfolks do not have enough savings to continue their livelihood. Besides farmers and fisherfolks, there is also a need to address the status of undocumented and statelessness. Without legitimate documents, they have no access to any public facilities which greatly reduce their likelihood to receive vaccination and other healthcare services. This affects the well-being of the community.

Environment and Natural Resources Management

Land ownership and land use become one of the most crucial issues concerning the indigenous peoples. A representative from Sabah states that land grabbing occurrences are common for profit-making endeavours as corporations are often prioritised. The current laws and ordinances weak and often are used against the indigenous peoples' which further marginalise them. There is no recognition by the authority regarding the land despite it being the village of indigenous peoples' for generations. These occurrences are common in Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia, particularly Sabah.

Common issues regarding the environment are water and air pollution, deforestation, human-wildlife conflict, and waste management issues. Water pollution is often due to the mining activities in Tasik Chini and soil erosion in Sabah. This affects not just the water supply for the people but also affects the life below water. Deforestation is due to the increased logging activities which are prevalent in a few states in Peninsular Malaysia. This causes air pollution affecting the health of indigenous peoples within the area. Development and mismanagement increase the human-wildlife conflict. For example, the building of a jogging track severely affects the existing forest that disturbs the ecosystem. As a result, there is more wildlife such as monkeys and elephants coming to the indigenous people's villages and plantations. Not only that, there is a mismanagement of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) where they sent caught monkeys from other places to be released to the indigenous peoples' villages. This reflects the lack of recognition of indigenous peoples' land.

Poverty and Economic Development

The main issues highlighted in this thematic area are imbalanced development and weak governance at all levels. The indigenous peoples perceive imbalance development as most development plans are focused on urban and suburban areas. The lack of development in the rural areas such as Kampung Melai, Pahang affects the indigenous peoples' as they have fewer opportunities to secure a job and fixed income. There is also a lack of infrastructures for community markets and regulation enforcement that secures the income of the small-scale fisherfolks.

In Sabah, the *Bajau* community are dependent on fisheries. However, there are constraints faced by them in pursuing fishing activities such as reduced number of fish caught due to the larger ships used by monopolies. Most of them using the larger ships are from the *Suluk* community. The farmers of Sabah are dependent on the community markets but there is inadequate maintenance of these structures causing constricted space. While they are adapting by setting up roadside stalls, these unplanned activities are not sustainable for the farmers in the long term.

According to the indigenous peoples, there are few main issues related to weak governance. Firstly, there is the lack of representation of ethnic groups and indigenous peoples holding government positions and in the Parliament. The indigenous peoples are discriminated against and underrepresented as their issues are not considered in decision making. There is little to no involvement of indigenous peoples in government's projects. Besides the lack of representation, there is no grassroots engagement in policy formulation. The indigenous peoples find that any development plans are only considering the interest of government officers and relevant stakeholders excluding indigenous peoples.

Secondly, there are inexperienced people elected to hold positions such as the Head of Village. This play a role in creating opportunities for proper engagement. The indigenous peoples are often perceived as being uneducated and thus excluded from the consultation and implementation process. While a community representative may be invited to consultation sessions, they are often lacking in knowledge of the actual needs of the communities. This result in ineffective consultations.

Lastly, the common issues regarding weak governance are the lack of transparency and prevalent corruption in governance. This is reflected in the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Papar/Kaiduan dam where the discussion during the consultation is not aligned to the outcome of the assessment. During the discussion, people were raising their concerns regarding wildlife and environmental management. However, the assessment was used as a means that justifying a development plan, without taking into account the considerations raised.

These challenges in governance are perceived to be one of the main reasons for the level of poverty and imbalanced economic development. If this persists, further development shall be unsustainable as it will not meet the needs of the people. Indigenous people will continue to be left behind if these challenges – are not addressed.

3.2.3 Recommendations

To address the abovementioned challenges, the indigenous peoples have provided the following recommendations:

Communication, Awareness, and Public Education (CEPA)

1. To create awareness on proper waste management
2. To provide education and awareness on drugs and alcohol abuse for youth and adults affected by COVID-19
3. To provide capacity building for newly elected Head of Village
4. To create an inclusive engagement platform and a task force to ensure the consideration of the indigenous peoples' voices regarding development issues

Policies and Regulations

1. To enforce laws that halt mining activities in the surrounding areas of Tasik Chini due to its environmental damage
2. To implement the policies and introduce innovations to facilitate systematic waste management
3. To enforce regulations regarding waste management
4. To review and implement necessary reform regarding land use, management and division
5. To gazette land for indigenous peoples communities

2. To provide proper and transparent documentation for the ease of information transfers through the change of leadership

Facilities

1. To establish better physical infrastructures for healthcare as well as economic activities

Participants of Focus Group 2

The representatives from Sarawak are:

1. Rukieth Jampong
2. Matek ak Geram
3. Nicholas Bawin
4. Andrew Paul
5. Bill Jugah
6. Sidi Munan
7. Ahmad Awang

The representatives from Peninsular Malaysia:

1. Chu
2. Meng
3. Ita
4. Salmah
5. Ridzuan

The representatives from Sabah:

1. Puan Saridah Bt Lakata (Bajau Association)
2. Dr Rizoh bin Bosorang (Association of Peace Tourism - Dusun)
3. En. Allan Dumbong (Borneo Sustainable Development)
4. En. Faizal (Association of Murut & Dusun Tompizos)
5. En. Hilson Matius (Rungus Association)

3.3 Focus Group 3: Gender Equality

Online conversation held on June 25, 2021

The moderators of this focus group were: Ms Omna Sreeni-Ong (Capacity Building Consultant [Gender]) and Prof Dato' Dr Rashila Hj Ramli (Head of Monitoring and Evaluation, APPGM-SDG).

It was attended by the representatives of civil society organisations advocating for gender equality and researchers specialising in women's development. This focus group discussed and assessed SDG 5 based on the criteria provided in the scorecard. This section describes key input on the challenges for SDG 5 implementation in Malaysia.

3.3.1 Challenges

The main challenges that were highlighted during the assessment were political will and leadership commitment to gender equality, the inadequate institutional and financial capacity, as well as the lack of coordinated efforts to implement national policies and action plans. All these challenges affect the progress on gender equality and women's development in the country. Specifically, it affects the implementation of the women's agenda developed through the policies and legal framework.

From the discussion, it was agreed that Malaysia has legal and policy frameworks present to address discrimination. There are processes for the enactment of the Anti-Discrimination Act, also known as the Gender Equality Act has been initiated. Despite the availability of these legal and policy frameworks, the political will of those in a leadership position is lacking to push further for implementation and operational activities. Women in leadership positions too may not perceive the glass ceiling and the present systemic barriers. While there are procedures in place and Malaysia's commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), there is little implementation and action due to the knowledge and awareness of those in leadership positions. This further impacts the progress towards gender equality.

Most of the frameworks available are focused on addressing violence and harassment towards women as an agenda to promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality. This includes public awareness campaigns initiated by the government. At this point, these initiatives are insufficient to address the socio-cultural patriarchal mindsets and behaviours that further enforce the systemic barriers. The whole-of-society approach and whole-of-government approaches are crucial for the implementation of national policies and action plans. These approaches require the consideration of cultures, norms and systemic barriers that prevent effective implementation. Without these approaches, it remains a consistent challenge to pursue and make progress regarding women's development and gender equality.

As it stands, there is a lack of institutional mechanisms and capacity of the government and its agencies. This results in the limitation of current initiatives related to the SDGs and gender equality to only taking part in monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Furthermore, most monitoring activities are an internal process that may diminish the transparency and availability of data. Nonetheless, there is a lack of gender-disaggregated data leading to poor implementation of present action plans. This prevents the civil society organisation to hold the government accountable and the researchers to further research to clarify issues regarding gender equality. Besides, there are public awareness initiatives, however, these are not supported with increasing institutional capacity to reach the grassroots communities affected

by discrimination and marginalisation. While there is budget allocation at the federal level, there are mostly used for welfare. There is a need for an enabling system and structure for robust financial and institutional capacity.

Besides the lack of financial and institutional capacity, the current structure of federal government and state government relations becomes a barrier to the coordinated implementation of policies and action plans. The blurry jurisdictions and mandates affect the sub-national and local level implementation. While there is the integration of SDGs at the state and local municipalities, only Selangor and Penang have a clear mandate on gender equality. This coordination too is reflected in the citizen participation and partnerships. Partnerships with research institutes and CSOs are often selective and ad-hoc in nature. On the other hand, there is also the lack of partnership with the private sector which is needed to address the widening gender pay gap and the lack of women in leadership positions.

Participants of Focus Group 3

1. Dato' Seri Maznah Mazlan (NCWO)
2. Dr Sabariah Baharun (NCWO
3. Lisa Fernandes (ENGENDER)
4. Dr. Zaireeni Amir (KANITA)
5. Dr. Ummu Atiyah (PKWK)
6. Dr. Syakiran Akmal Ismail (PKWK)
7. Ms Chia Ee Tan (AWAM)

APPENDIX

AP-1: Full Template of a People's Scorecard (PSC) on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

Country	
National CSO Coalition/focal point	
Website and/or FB link	
Name of respondent	
Contact Email	
Contact phone number	
List of Panel/Core Members	

- Introduction- about your coalition:
- Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?
- If YES, is the coalition inclusive of organisations that are working on all topics of the SDGs?
- Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets? If YES Please list them

The Scorecard considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area. **Please use the People's Scorecard (PSC) Toolkit to assist you in organising an inclusive national dialogue process.**

1. The first part aims to assess the overall delivery of the 2030 Agenda, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realizing the SDGs.

2. The second part aims to assess progress on each of the 17 SDGs in turn

At the end of each section, you should agree on a score of progress: 1-5

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	
Scale	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Very high	
	Very low level of commitment / achievement	Low level of commitment / achievement	Medium level of commitment / achievement	High level of commitment / achievement	Very high level of commitment / achievement	No Info Available

A) Overview of current implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Areas for monitoring and assessment	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available including commitment to the international agreements							
2. National implementation mechanisms, action plans and strategies ('whole-of-government' approach)							
3. Progress since the last VNR							
4. Leaving no one behind ('whole-of-society' approach)							
5. Planetary boundaries							
6. Inter-linkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)							
7. Localizing SDGs (sub-national)							
8. Public awareness and education							
9. Capacity building and development							
10. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure							
11. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
12. Delivery by the private sector / business community							
13. Delivery by CSOs							
14. Civic space, citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Total							

Before you finalise the scores, please consider the questions below for each area:

1. **National Implementation & Governance mechanism**

- Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is leading the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?
- How far is implementation already underway on the 2030 Agenda?
- Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda? Is the national budget in line with the 2030 Agenda? What is the role of international donors/development partners?

2. Policy Framework or Action Plan

- Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks, such as national development plans, national water/transport/education plans, etc? Have there been any revisions of the existing policy frameworks in light of the policy on SDGs implementation?
- How far do you see effective policy coherence and a coordinated national SDG framework? Does the policy approach include a recognition of the inter-related nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental & economic)? Is there any "cherry-picking" or do you see all SDGs are equally covered?
- Is there any parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and its activity, and any policy positions developed by elected members.

3. Progress since last VNR

- If your country is now presenting a second or subsequent VNR, how have the gaps identified in the previous VNR been addressed?
- Has there been any follow up since the previous VNR was presented?
- If "YES", how have civil society bodies been involved in engagement since the previous VNR?

4. Leaving no one behind

- In your experience, how far have the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind, been a focus for the national strategy of the 2030 Agenda?
- How would you assess the opportunities for these marginalised groups to engage in setting the national priorities and in review processes?
- We are interested in learning more about groups that are marginalised in your country context, by which we mean groups of people that are more likely than others to experience poverty, exclusion, discrimination, lack of participation, or violence. Which groups of people do you understand to be the most marginalised in the country where you work? (You may choose more than one and add more if relevant in your country)

Women & Girls	
Children & young people	
Indigenous peoples	
Older persons	
Persons with disabilities	
People discriminated by caste, work and descent	
People discriminated by geographic area: eg. urban slums/rural areas	
People from the LGBTQI community	

Small scale farmers	
Ethnic & Religious minority groups	
Migrants or undocumented persons	

5. Planetary Boundaries

- Are there policies in place to protect the environment? In particular does the plan include sustainable management of resources (eg. water, soil, air) or Sustainable Consumption and Production?
- Is agricultural production carried out in a sustainable way (considering eg. organic farming, non-GMO, animal welfare)?
- Are investments made towards sustainable and public transport?
- Are there clear national commitments to cut CO2-emisions and move towards a just transition of energy?
- Is the country reliant on extractive industries? How are those industries behaving towards their workers and the environment? Where are the profits of those industries going?

6. Interlinkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)

- How far have you considered the interlinkages between the different goals?
- Is there a holistic approach from government that connects different ministries and supports an inter-connected response?

7. Public Awareness

- Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?
- Are civil servants and policy makers in the national and sub-national governments getting more familiar with the 2030 Agenda / SDGs? If so, how? If not, why?
- Is the 2030 Agenda / SDGs getting more popular among general public? If so, how? If not, why?
- Are educational bodies and researchers actively seeking to analyse and share the SDGs?
- Are civil society organisations using the 2030 Agenda for framing their work?

8. Localizing the SDGs (sub-national level)

- Are sub-national or local governments (state, province, district, municipality, town, village, etc.) in your country actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If so, how? If not, why?
- Are there sub-national / local governments that have developed sub-national action plans on SDGs?
- Is there any voluntary local review (VLR) initiative or mechanism about SDGs in your country?

- Give good examples of local implementation and monitoring

9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement

- What is the engagement of stakeholders in the national implementation plan? Is there a broad partnership across sectors for implementation?
- How would you assess the partnership among different actors, is there mutual accountability? Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?

10. Data, monitoring and accountability mechanisms

- Is there progress on bringing together evidence with disaggregated data to demonstrate progress in your country? What data is disaggregated?
- Has civil society been invited to supply and/or review evidence and data 'disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts' - If YES please provide details
- Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF and/or make a presentation at the VNR?
- If "YES", has your government provided financial support for this participation?

11. Civic space and engagement / citizen participation and CSOs

- Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adaption of the 2030 Agenda?
- Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting of the Agenda?
- Was there any invitation to a public consultation on the Voluntary National Review in your country? If so, how is the invitation done and who was invited?

12. Delivery by the private sector/ business community

- How far has the 2030 Agenda been integrated into private sector business plans?
- Are there examples of effective delivery by the private sector?
- Are there challenges to guarantee an ethical and sustainable approach to business planning in your country?

13. Delivery by CSOs

- How far are CSOs developing their own plans on raising awareness about; and implementation of; the agenda
- Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?
- Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country? If YES please describe them

14. Capacity development

- What support exists for capacity development on the SDGs in your country?
- Are there opportunities for partnership with other CSOs and/or UN agencies?
- Have you identified specific gaps in CSO skill development?

B) Review of the 17 Goals

PLEASE FILL THIS IN ONLINE HERE

The second part of the Scorecard provides a detailed review of each of the Goals to enable a broad vision of the current level of implementation, follow up and review on each Goal.

You should consider the following areas to provide a score of 1-5 for each Goal.

Score	1	2	3	4	5	
Level and quality of Commitment/ achievement	Very low (no policy/plan in place)	Low (Initial planning phase)	Medium (Plans/ actions started)	High (Delivery underway)	Very high (Successful implementation)	Info unavailable

Areas for monitoring and assessment	1	2	3	4	5	
Level and quality of Commitment/achievement	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Info. unavailable
1. Policy or legal framework including commitment to international agreements available						
2. National action plan, budget & strategy development						
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational						
4. Substantial implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis						
5. Substantial Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*						
6. Public awareness, education and capacity building mechanisms and activities available and operational						
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational						
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational						

9.	Multi-stakeholder partnerships available and operational						
10.	Citizen participation and civil society engagement available						
	Overall progress on the Goal						/50

Goal 1 End Poverty in all its forms everywhere							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal 1 (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 2 End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							

Overall progress on the Goal 1 (score max. 50)	00 / 50	

Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement available							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 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							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 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							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development							
Areas for Assessments	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available							
2. National action plan, budget & strategy							
3. Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational							
4. Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis							
5. Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*							
6. Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational							
7. Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational							
8. Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational							
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships available							
10. Citizen participation and civil society engagement							
Overall progress on the Goal (score max. 50)	00 / 50						

Score / Goal	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50		Comments
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							
16.							
17.							
Total	000 / 850 (17 goals x 50)						

Once you have completed an analysis of each goal, it is useful to consider the interlinkages between the goals and any potential risks of one goal undermining another goal. At this stage you should refer back to your earlier assessment of the key cross-cutting themes and provide a qualitative analysis of the whole agenda in your country.

For more information on the Goals and access to the SDG icons, please visit the UN website here:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

AP-2:
Scorecard Assessment of the 17 SDGs of a People's Scorecard (PSC) on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

SDG 1: No Poverty
"End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	Since 1970, the New Economic Policy provides the framework for restructuring of society and eradication of poverty.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	4	The 5-year Malaysia Development Plans sets the targets, budgets and strategies for ending poverty.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	Many ministries and agencies have been given mandates to implement poverty eradication programs.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Poverty level has been reduced to 5.6%, while pockets of poverty still existed and income gap has increased. The social welfare system is fragmented, with more than 120 welfare programs implemented by 21 agencies, databases are not complete, and 34% of those whose qualify for aid is left out.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	4	Implementation at local level is uneven, and delivery is slow
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	4	Many poor people on the ground are not aware of social welfare assistance, how to and where to apply. There are bureaucratic barriers.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	4	Ministries and line agencies are supposed to report annually and in the 5-year development plans but details are not made public. Department of Statistics (DOSM) collects income data regularly under its Household Income and Expenditure Surveys.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	The selection criteria and process are not clear, with many deserving cases not getting aid and some undeserving cases getting it.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	The Economic Planning Unit which chairs the National Steering Committee has included CSOs, academics, and private sector in preparing the SDG Roadmap, and drafting of the VNRs. The All-Parties Parliamentary Group was set up to localise implementation of SDGs in parliamentary constituencies.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	CSOs have been actively working with communities to provide aid, feeding programs, skills training, education, environmental protection, etc. .
	Overall progress on the Goal	**32/50**	

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

"End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	National policy frameworks are available for poverty eradication, agricultural & food policy, and nutrition.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	4	Action plans, strategies and programs are provided with budgets.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	Ministries and agencies have clear mandates to implement their programs.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	2	Food security situation is worsening with food imports increasing more than 6% per year to RM50 billion in 2019; persistent pockets of poverty; and worsening child malnutrition, stunting and wasting. From 2016 to 2019, underweight among the children below the age of 5 has risen from 13.7% to 14.1%, and stunting has gone up from 20.7% to 21.8%. NCD cases are increasing.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Situation at local level is worse especially at low-cost housing areas; and rural/ remote areas.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	Government has maintained that poverty rate has been reduced to 0.4% until the PLI was raised to RM2208 in 2019 when poverty was found to be 5.6%. but even this is considered underestimated as Living Allowance Assistance has still to be given even to those earning up to RM4,000/month and some for up to RM8,000.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Reporting is done by the respective agencies.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	DOSM publishes data on food imports and exports; food production and income levels. Ministry of Health's National Nutrition Survey provides status on nutrition and NCD cases.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	Some Ministries work with CSOs e.g. in gender, environment and welfare areas. But most government agencies operate in silos and it is difficult to deal with cross-cutting issues such as insecurity of land tenure for food production, welfare and feeding programs for different groups of deprived people and children.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	CSOs have been providing feeding programs, health screening, and promoting organic farming.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**30/50**	

SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	Most sub-sectors within the health landscape have formal frameworks in place which are publicly available
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	While most health sub-sectors have national action plans and downstream strategies in place, these are not funded, and implementation measures are not in place and/or limited.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	5	Almost all institutions and agencies have their roles and responsibilities spelt out clearly in terms of
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	4	Downstream implementation is very limited, with numerous implementation gaps at different levels. Little, if any, review processes which are in place in terms of assessing health strategies.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	3	Certain specific vertical programmes are being implemented at local level, while others are not being operationalised at all except in highly-selected areas.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	Public awareness remains extremely low and whole-of-society capacity building needs to be further engaged
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	4	Capacity building especially empowerment of individuals living with diseases/or at risk of diseases are very poorly being carried out, with sporadic superficial
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	Most strategy plans have m & E mechanisms in place as well as indicators at the macro level defined, however there is little visibility on the operationalization of this,
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	Transparency and accountability mechanisms are available, however, important operationalisation issues remain including public domain visibility of these areas.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	Strong partnerships exist in specific, particular health areas but are totally absent in others. Many partnerships are inequal in terms of the power balance- and tokenism is still the name of the game across different levels.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**33/50**	Significant inequity in access to services and the provisions of needs in terms of both geographical regions/people living with disabilities and vulnerable populations

SDG 4: Quality Education

"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	These are some policies Malaysia has: the National Education Blueprint 2013-2025 (MEB), Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education), The 11mp Strategic Thrust 3, National Higher Education Strategic Plan, Blueprint on Enculturation of Lifelong Learning for Malaysia 2011-2020.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	4	Budget has been allocation for research on SDG related issues through Malaysian Funds-In Trust with UNESCO. There are also research grants to study SDGs implementation.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	There is no unit within MOHE that is responsible for SDGs but all research trajectory are linked to SDGs
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Implementation has been regular but has stopped by 2020 for Malaysian UNESCO Cooperation Program (MUCP)
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	3	It is up to individual universities, private institutions to implement it IIAM, USM, UTM and Sunway University are strong advocates of SDGs
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	Programs especially through APPGM has increased public awareness but it is not widespread There is the integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in formal education to inculcate sustainable lifestyle among students (VNR 2017)
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Monitoring is in place but not specifically for SDG projects. However, universities are audited annually under Malaysian Research Assessment (MyRA)

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	Universities go through both academic program audits as well as financial audits.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	There is multi-stakeholder partnership such as the projects or program under Malaysian UNESCO National Commission (SKUM)
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	Citizen participation : there are more community based programmes initiated by universities.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**32/50**	

SDG 5: Gender Equality

" Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls ages"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	Government has expressed its commitment and begun the process for the enactment of the Anti-Discrimination Act (Gender Equality Act). Policies are generally in place but lack effective implementation. 75% legal frameworks focus on violence against women as an effort to promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality. (UNWomen)
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Malaysia is committed to gender where there is the National Policy on Women and associated National Action Plan 2021-2025. However, there has been little information and it is not made known. Gender mainstreaming project from 2005. However, its implementation is not visible nor is its efficacy measurable. MOWFCD partnered UNDP to conduct a review of gender mainstreaming in 2017/2018. However, the outcome and roll-out of the action plan is not known.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
			Lack of gender disaggregated data which leads to poor implementation of present women action plan. DOSM reported availability of 42.9% gender equality data while 21.4% is partially available, 28.6% is unavailable and 7.1% including data for female genital mutilation is classified as not relevant. There is also lack of financial and institutional capacity in conducting gender responsive budgeting where the Ministry of Women receiving low budget with a large share going towards welfare (% can't be verified).
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	The current initiatives related to SDGs are pertinent to monitoring and reporting mechanisms. There is lack of institutional capacity to fully operationalise policies and action plan, taking a whole of society approach.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	There is a lack of political will and understanding on the part of Government agencies in relation to gender equality and lack of institutional mechanisms, including the lack of capacity to advise Government agencies and to monitor, track and evaluate policies and programmes[24] The implementation at the national level is fragmented, lacking a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. There is a lack of political will as it is subjected to those in leadership position. Knowledge and awareness of leaders influences implementation plans. Women in leadership position do not perceive the present glass ceiling (systemic barriers)
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	3	The structure of federalism and state relations affects implementation despite planning at the state level. Federal policies have limitations at the state level due to its jurisdictions affecting sub-national and local level implementation. State and local municipalities under the leadership of Ministry of Housing and Local Government integrates SDGs in their local framework. However, only Selangor and Penang have a clear mandate on Gender Equality
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	The public awareness campaigns are initiated with a focus on violence against women with little awareness to address socio-cultural patriarchal mindsets and behaviour and systemic barriers There is a lack on initiatives aligned to the SDGs and international conventions such as CEDAW.

[24] CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations to Malaysia, 2018

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
			Public awareness is not supplemented with institutional capacity to reach the grassroots communities to implement the policies through activities.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	2	Government's monitoring activities are internal processes, and they are sporadic. From the CEDAW Committee 2018 review, Malaysia requires a stronger coordinating effort for monitoring and evaluation. There is a lack of leadership to institute enabling systems and structures. Reports are also considered as classified information where make data availability scarce and inaccessible to researchers and CSOs. The lack of regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is also due to the lack of gender-sensitive M&E (proper methodologies) to assess the impact of policies and initiatives. (UNWomen)
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	Documents such as legislation, roadmaps, and policy documents are closely guarded. There is a gap in communicating transparently about the current mechanisms and policy implementations. Example: Joint Government/CSO taskforces' outcome and next steps are not readily made known to CSO taskforce members.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	There is increasing potential and initiative for multi stakeholder partnerships. Women's CSOs who have built relations with government ministries are increasingly being included in policy consultations and taskforces. However generally partnerships are more often selective and adhoc in nature. Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita reaching out to academicians to be their speakers to discuss about women and gender issues. There is a strong selective and ad-hoc partnership between CSOs and government However, for private sectors there is a lack of government partnerships which affects women in leadership positions and widening gender pay gap, and lack of women in leadership positions are prevalent. Private sector partnerships are needed for more contribution to the general well-being to the people. Overall, there lacks synergistic partnerships between government, private sector, and CSOs to deliver on the SDGs strategically and meaningfully.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	CSOs engagement are mainly centralised at the Klang Valley and federal level. It is not reaching to grassroots level and states including Sabah and Sarawak. There is little citizen participation in action-oriented and project interventions where government and community at large participate and engage meaningfully.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**29/50**	

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

" Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all "

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	-
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	-
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	-
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	4	Poor enforcement
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	3	There is room for improvement

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	There is room for improvement
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	2	Not clear
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	Still a lot of secrecy
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	Only the established MNCs & NGOs are involved
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	Citizens still suppressed
	Overall progress on the Goal	**31/50**	

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

" Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	Adequate legal framework

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Lack adequate budgets
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	Mandates are clear, but operational is open to question
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Not consistent
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Very inconsistent
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	Mainly "preaching to the converted"
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Mechanisms OK, results questionable
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	This is doubtful
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	Only to a small extent

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	Limited & ad-hoc basis
	Overall progress on the Goal	**25/50**	

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

" Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	Employment Act and Labour Ordinance, Industrial Relations Act, Social Security Act, Skills Development Act, National Social Safety System, Occupational and Health Policies
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	National Vocational Training Policy and strategies
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	EPU has a clear mandate to implement SDGs. SDG 8 should fall under Ministry of Human Resources. There are 12 agencies within MOHR.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	There is a sustained 6.2% per annum economic growth for 50 years. 35% of listed companies have been offering some form of flexible working arrangement (VNR 2017). All 12 departments have stated mandate. Programs are implemented regular, but documentations on impacts of program are not available to the public
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	3	At the local level, many entrepreneurship programs are available for youth, SMEs and women. There is the availability of the Skills Certification System (SKM). Formal sector employees can benefit from the i-Lestari provision from direct fiscal injections through the Employment Retention Programme (ERP), Employment Insurance System (EIS) and Wage Subsidy Programme

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
			(WSP) which ranges from RM600 to RM1,200 each for workers earning less than RM4,000, or from the SME package. However, it is observed widely across Malaysia that the local government agencies are increasing the inequality between different communities unintentionally. (VNR-Econ) Availability of Skills Certification System (MOSQ)
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	There is a fair amount of public awareness on productive employment and decent work,
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	There is the Industrial Court located at Wisma Perkeso Jalan Tun Razak. There are a total of 22 courts where 16 are situated in Kuala Lumpur, 2 in Penang and 1 each in Johor, Perak, Sabah and Sarawak.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	There is the Industrial Harmony Index to measure cooperation in Labour-Employer Relations
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	There are more mostly bilateral partnership such as govern-uni, govern-industry, gov-csos, but not many multistakeholder partnership. MOHR - townhalls
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	There has been more engagement with Civil society on migrant workers through organizations such as APPGM, NCWO, JHAMS and others
	Overall progress on the Goal	**27/50**	

SDG 9: Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure

" Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	The infrastructure framework is embedded in the 5 year Malaysian Plans. Usually infrastructure has the largest budget in all RMK . Roads, Railways, Ports, Telecommunications, and Electricity are the basis for connectivity From 2000, there is a recognition to develop digital infrastructure There are many policies such as the national Policy of Science, Technology and Innovation (2013-2020), Strategic Information and Communications Technology Roadmap, the National E-Commerce Strategy Roadmap, and the Malaysian Digital Economy Blueprint.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Malaysia ranked 8 in Asia and 33rd in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report released by WIPO While the country made good progress in the first 4 decades after Independence, the government has facilitated private sector participation in infrastructure development. From 1990s, more state owned enterprises have invested in infrastructure: Tenaga Nasional, Telecom Malaysia, KTMB, MRT The emphasis on infrastructure was state as Thrust 6 within the MTR of the 11 MP
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	The Public Works Department is largely responsible for the development of physical infrastructure. The poor connectivity for poor households. For example, in Sabah, about 93 per cent of households are using smartphones. Nevertheless, in some districts, about 50 per cent of households do not have internet connectivity.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Generally the implementation follows the allocation given in the National Annual Budget.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans	2	There is implementation at the local level. However, greater implementation takes place close to election period. For Sabah and Sarawak, the physical and digital connectivity in the rural areas are still limited

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*		
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	The public has a great awareness on what is needed in term of infrastructure or goals associated with SDG 9. MOSTI is responsible in promoting social innovation benefitting local communities (VNR 2017)
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	There is monitoring and reporting mechanisms within the main departments and MCMC
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	Companies especially public listed companies are required to provide Annual Audited Report.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	There are initiatives to enhance domestic technology development as required by Target 9.5b
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	there has been an increase in support given to MSMEs and SMEs especially through digital technology in line with Target 9.3
	Overall progress on the Goal	**28/50**	

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

" Reduce inequality within and among countries impacts"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	Since 1970, the New Economic Policy provides the framework for restructuring of society and eradication of poverty.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	4	For more than 50 years, programs and resources were given to provide affirmative action/preferential treatment to raise the economic status of the majority Bumiputra population in business and loans, education preferences, discounts in real properties, and jobs in the civil service.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	Agencies have clear mandate and many are specially created for this purpose.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Overall, income gap has increased. Vulnerable groups consisting of the urban and working poor, aging population, youth, women, the M40 and minorities such as people with disabilities, LGBT persons and foreign workers are increasing. Gini coefficient based on gross income increased from 0.399 to 0.407, and unemployment rose to 4.8% in 2020. Intra racial income distribution has increased. Implementation of affirmative action have created a rich Bumiputras class while many remain poor and make up about 75% of the B40 group.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	The situation is worse at local levels. There are pockets of poverty in both urban and rural areas. Some rural areas experience high poverty levels such as in 5 districts in Sabah which recorded the highest poverty - Tongod (56.6%), Pitas (53.6%), Kota Marudu (46.1%), Beluran (45%), and Telupid (40.7%),
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	The poverty eradication policy has been in place for 50 years. Its affirmative action prong has been politicized and accepted by majority of the Bumiputra population even when they are poor as it creates a sense of security.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Department of Statistics (DOSM) collects income data regularly under its Household Income and Expenditure Surveys. Other agencies report on their respective areas.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	Income data are reported but preferential treatment specific data is largely not accessible.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	Government agencies work closely with the Government-linked corporations
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	CSOs work to help poor communities.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**30/50**	

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
" Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	Dasar Komuniti KPKT
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Malaysian Plan Implementation?

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	Federal, State Local Government
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	2	National/State Coordination Unit/ SDG16, Silos working Lack of instuitutionalised public participation
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Guide lines for Public Participation MPC.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	No cohesive Citizenship Education plan.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Corporate Governance and Public Governance
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	Open Government, Open Budgetting and Open Data.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	Lack of Institutionalised Public Participation Mechanism
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	Lacking in substance

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	Overall progress on the Goal	**26/50**	

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

" Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns "

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	The National Sustainable & Production Blueprint was launched and incorporated into the 11th Malaysia Plan in 2016.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	4	The Blueprint states clearly the national action plan and strategies, and budget is provided under the 5-year development plans.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	All related agencies have clear mandates to implement
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Implementation is uneven and some are slow to commence in 10 pathways adopted under the SCP Blueprint.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Implementation is slower at the local level where service delivery is poor.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	Public awareness is low.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	2	Reporting in areas where there is more active implementation.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	3	Low level of implementation and information.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	There are several high-level active partnerships.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	Some CSOs are working to raise awareness in some areas of SCP
	Overall progress on the Goal	**29/50**	

SDG 13: Climate Action

"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	Paris Agreement first NDC submitted in 2016[25]. An overarching National Policy on Climate Change 2009 in place to mainstream mitigation and adaptation into development strategies with supporting policies on energy, green technology, forestry and biodiversity. No specific Climate Change Act; legislation options are being reviewed.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Funds for enhancing climate resilience and DRR allocated since Tenth Malaysia Plan (2010). Various national plans on energy, REDD+, low carbon, green technology, solid waste management but no long-term decarbonisation roadmap and strategy. Malaysia does not have a National Adaptation Plan to coordinate and mainstream adaptation vertically (across sectors) and horizontally (federal-state-local).
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	3	The Malaysia Climate Change Action Council (MyCAC)[26] was established in 2021 as highest policymaking body. National Disaster Management Agency formed in 2015 as national focal point for DRM but disaster management system is rigid, hierarchical and top-down. Current institutional framework to address climate change issue is fragmented due to its cross-cutting nature and loosely defined role for key ministries.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Major barriers to rapid GHG emission reduction include complex energy sector governance, technical capacity, high technology cost and policy conflict. Adaptation efforts are uncoordinated and embedded sporadically across various plans. Lack of reliable climate projection, risk & vulnerably assessment hinders risk-based planning. DRM is concentrated on disaster response and relief; not whole cycle of disaster management.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans	2	More local governments embarking on low carbon development[27] but implementation constrained by technical and financial capacity while many lacks local disaster risk reduction strategies. Stronger coordination and holistic approach needed across federal-state-local government for adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

[25] Malaysia intends to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 relative to the emissions intensity of GDP in 2005. This consist of 35% on an unconditional basis and a further 10% is condition upon receipt of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building from developed countries.

[26] My CAC is as successor to National Climate Change and Green Technology Council (2009) and is highest platform for setting the policy direction concerning climate change in Malaysia. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and include several Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers.

[27] 154 cities have adopted the Low Carbon City Framework and 57 cities have registered in the Green Technology Application for the Development of Low Carbon Cities (GTALCC) project.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*		
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	3	Awareness among citizens especially youth has increased[28] but needs more whole-of-society approach and capacity building. More forums and workshops by government, private sectors, financial institutions, think tanks and NGOs. Expertise required for key institutions in climate modelling, knowledge management, policy oversight, implementation, communication, and coordination.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	Malaysia consistently fulfils its reporting obligations to UNFCCC. However, there is a lack of integrated and robust monitoring, reporting and verification system following a national and sub-national framework that integrate all mitigation and adaptation policies in one holistic roadmap. GHG inventory at the state and local level needs to be strengthened to support the monitoring gap at the national level.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	Limited access to climate data, spatial information, and projections with no central database. Several CSOs have raised doubts achievement of emission intensity reduction[29]. Carbon trading and offset needs better transparency and accountable especially for States that already engaging voluntary carbon markets. Improvement of disaster related data needs to be improved.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	Public-private green partnership has increased and grants under UK-Malaysia partnership used to fund climate change projects. More collaborative actions among private sectors such as formation of Join Committee on Climate Change (JC3)[30]. Increasing local governments collaboration with international technical experts[31].

[28] 92% of young people in Malaysia think that climate change is a crisis based on results of National Youth Climate Change Survey (NYCC) in report of Change for Climate by UNDP and UNICEF.

[29] Report of Party Sosialis Malaysia: Reduce Greenhouse Gases: A Green Alternative For Malaysia

[30] The JC3 is a platform established in September 2019 to pursue collaborative actions for building climate resilience within the Malaysia financial sector. The JC3 is co-chaired by Jessica Chew Cheng Lian, Deputy Governor Bank Negara Malaysia and Datuk Zainal Izlan Zainal Abidin, Deputy Chief Executive Securities Commission Malaysia with members comprising senior officials from Bursa Malaysia and 19 financial industry players as well as relevant experts.

[31] Kuala Lumpur prepares their Climate Action Plan through parentship with C40 group; and Melaka Resilience Strategy was fully assisted by the Rockefeller Foundation in 100 Resilient Cities programme.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	More roundtable discussion held by ministries with stakeholders. But no formalised platform containing representative of main stakeholders (e.g. private sectors, academics, local government, key experts, youth, women and vulnerable communities) to influence policy decision making and support MyCAC.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**26/50**	

SDG 14: Life Below Water

"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	No overarching policy on ocean resources and governance that encompass all marine aspects to address cross-cutting issues. Policies and institutional frameworks established in line with international instruments such as Port State Measures (PSM), IPOA-IUU, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), etc. The Fisheries Act 1985 is the main legislation for management and conservation of maritime and estuarine fishing, protection of large marine species and establishment of marine reserves; alongside other supporting legislations[32].
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Marine biodiversity is incorporated into policy and regulatory framework for several National Plans of Actions[33] are currently in implementation. National Marine Litter Roadmap are in midst of development. Allocation and budgets for marine ecosystem conservation are often less than terrestrial ecosystem., if any.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available and operational	3	Department of Fisheries is responsible for the overall aquatic natural resource management. But maritime management has fragmented institutional framework and overlapping jurisdictions between 10 ministries and 31 maritime-related agencies. No centralised entity to coordinate all maritime affairs.

[32] Territorial Sea Act 2012, Continental Shelf Act 1966 and amendments Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1984 and amendments, Baselines of Maritime Zones Act 2006

[33] National Agriculture Policy (2011-2020), DOFM Strategic Fisheries Plan (2011-2020), National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in Malaysia, DOFM Capture Fisheries Management Strategic Plan (2015-2020), DOFM Extension Strategic Plan 2018-2030 and eight (8) National Plan of Actions including NPOA-IUU

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Implementation challenges of various coastal management plans due to competing priorities and lack of resources. Targets of marine protected areas is not met[34] and fish stocks are yet within biologically sustainable levels. Work has begun in Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) but still not adopted nationwide in holistic manner except for few local projects[35]. Fisheries management plan (FMP) that focus on management by target species has begun implementation.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Not all policies at national level including National Biodiversity Policy are translated state and local level in all States except in spatial planning. Large scale reclamation projects and conversion of coastal habitats for development still occur in some States that is direct conflict with national policies. Not all States in Malaysia adopted the new fisheries zoning system[36] while trawling activities in Zone B fishing zones yet to be banned and have been postponed several times.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational	3	DOFM has over 23 education and interpretive centre operational. No nationwide Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme carried out on SDG 14. But awareness activities on marine biodiversity are usually embedded in the annual plans of government agencies in partnerships with private sector and NGOs but its effectiveness are unknown.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure available and operational	2	Partnership with NGO such as Reef Check Malaysia to monitor coral reef health via citizen science method. National monitoring of fish stock assessments has increased. But data on 20% of SDG14 indicators are not available and 40% need further development. Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU fishing) is still ongoing in marine and coastal areas of Malaysia.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and	1	Lack of accountability and transparency by State governments in addressing environmental and social impacts from several large-scale reclamation projects and sand dredging in some areas. Small-scale artisanal fishermen

[34] Marine Protected Areas (PA) stand at 5.3% of marine areas which has not met the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and National Policy on Biological Diversity targets of 10% by 2020.

[35] Community-based resource management initiatives through EAFM implemented in some areas such as Sabah, Sarawak, Perak, Kedah, Selangor, and Terengganu. DOFM established two (2) refugia sites under the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project for the management of lobster in Tg. Leman, Johor and tiger prawn in Kuala Baram, Sarawak through the EAFM process.

[36] In 2014, a new zoning system (right) was introduced to reduce the number of trawlers and their encroachment activities in the traditional fishing areas and to enhance the protection of coastal areas to protect juvenile fishes. Currently, the new zoning systems were adopted only in the states of Perak, Selangor, Penang, Perlis, and Kedah.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	procedures available and operational		access to marine resources impended by licensing issues and encroachment by trawlers. Lack of engagement between government authorities and fishermen at local level.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships available	3	Malaysia is a member of the Coral Triangle initiative at international level and DOFM joined the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC). Few successful models of partnerships and co-management exist in marine reserves in Sabah[37]; but the concept is still obscure in Peninsular Malaysia. Silo and low coordination between government agencies results in ineffective maritime enforcement.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	3	Local community participation in marine ecosystem management has increased in some areas such as Pulau Tioman and Tun Mustapha Marine Park but still not institutionalised and mainstreamed across the nation.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**26/50**	

SDG Scorecard - SDG 15: Life on Land

"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss."

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	Policy target of maintaining 50% of forests out of land area started since 1992. Various sectoral policies and legislations on natural resources, forestry, biodiversity, land, wildlife[38]. Some of the legislations are outdated and currently being revised e.g. National Forestry Act 1984, Environment Quality Act 1974.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Several national plans on biodiversity, REDD+, forestry, wildlife in place. Shortage in financing since revenue generation from natural resources are largely derived from extractive industries and tourism. Aggregate direct

[37] Reef Guardian Sdn. Bhd. with Sabah State Government to manage the 46,317 ha Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA) and Tun Mustapha Marine Park in Sabah is biggest natural park (898,762.76 ha) and the first multi-use marine park that was established through participatory decision-making involving state government, local authorities, NGO, and local communities.

[38] Example: National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025, National Forestry Policy and National Environmental Policy; National Forestry Act 1984, Wildlife Conservation Act 2010, Access to Biological Resources and Benefit Sharing Act 2017, Environmental Quality Act 1974

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
			allocation for environment and biodiversity of total annual budget is low. Innovative and sustainable biodiversity financing mechanisms are not fully explored.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	Robust institutional framework for natural resources management in place. Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources is the federal ministry tasked to spearhead sustainable natural resource management in Peninsular Malaysia while Sabah and Sarawak possess respective governing structures for forest and biodiversity. Various institutions and agencies with specific mandates are established.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	Limited financing, capacity, technical resources and gap between implementation framework envisaged on policies and actual implementation[39]. Other issues are lack of mainstreaming across sectors and governance level, poor understanding of ecosystem value, policy conflicts and frequent personnel rotation among civil servants.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Not all policies at national level are trickled down trickled down into the state level[40] and accompanied by enactments of relevant laws except for physical planning. Implementations are further constrained at state and local level due to lack of resources (capacity, finance, technical expertise) and federal-state fiscal arrangement.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	CEPA activities have increased but no nationwide CEPA programme and public awareness remains low[41]. Current CEPA efforts are uncoordinated and not targeted at specific sectors and decision-makers at government level. New areas e.g. Biosafety and Access and Benefits Sharing requires more expertise.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting	2	Progress on Global Aichi Biodiversity Targets reported in submission of CBD National Reports. 7.1% of data are not available for SDG 15 indicators while 50% are partially available and requires further development. While

[39] Example: The National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 has a National Steering Committee that have only convened once since 2016 while various other coordinating platforms are not established.

[40] Matters related to land, forestry and biodiversity in Malaysia falls under the jurisdiction of State government

[41] The Baseline Study on Biodiversity Conservation indicated that nearly 90% of general public doesn't know what biodiversity is.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	mechanisms and procedure		monitoring process is available internally, information less accessible to stakeholders. 50% of forested area may not represent the true picture on the ground.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	1	Lack of mechanism for transparent forest governance – particularly on limited access to information, public consultation on gazettement of forest reserves[42] and accuracy of official forest records. Not all Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents of development projects are publicly accessible.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	3	Several platforms for multi-stakeholder partnerships were established[43]. Existing challenges include breaking down silo-nature of government entities, lack of legal provisions to formalise Ingenious and Local Community Conserved Areas (ILCA) and lack of negotiation and communication skills among government agencies.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	Public participation and CSO consultation are available in some forms[44] but no enabling framework for public participation in policy and law-making related to land, forestry and biodiversity. Lack of general public, CSOs and local community participation in degazettement of forest reserves and some development projects.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**26/50**	

[42] Only state of Selangor has made it mandatory to hold 30-day public display and consultation for degazettment of Permanent Reserved Forests.

[43] National Biodiversity Roundtable (NBR) that contains members from private sectors, CSOs, community-based organizations and academia to support NBPD implementation.

[44] Public display of draft structure and local plan (under Town and Country Planning Act 197) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for some prescribe activities; engagement with stakeholders during formulation of policies, strategies and action plans by Consultants appointed by government.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	3	• The formation of The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) in 1999. Human Rights referred to fundamental liberties as enshrined in Part II of the Federal Constitution.[45] • Malaysia ratifies 3 conventions[46] but did not ratify some major human conventions[47]. • Amendment to several legislation[48] • Rectification of United Nation Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). • The establishment of MACC is a government agency in Malaysia that investigates and prosecutes corruption in the public and private sectors. • Stalled progress in institutional reforms and a lack of political will to fight institutional corruption. • Money politics is still rampant in the country
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	2	Ministry of Economic Affairs are effective in incorporating SDGs into the development planning agenda, but very little impact on the Ministries at the Federal, State, and local levels. Lack of SDG awareness program and a capability-building program for both state and non-state actors. Lack of disaggregated data and undertake periodic assessments. Need to foster the intuitional mechanisms for the greater appreciation of the cross-cutting nature (gender mainstreaming, climate change, poverty, and inequality agenda from a very strong human rights perspective).
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	2	Official Secrets Act (OSA) breeds a culture of secrecy in the civil service since they are unsure about the future of the practice of information management and disclosure.

[45] Denison Jayasooria (2020) Human Rights Priorities for Malaysia: 2016 and Beyond

[46] Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities

[47] Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), International Convention against Torture (CAT), International Convention of Economic, Social Culture and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

[48] Penal Code, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2007, Domestic Violence Act of 1994, Employment Act of 1955. Adoption of the National Women's Policy and Action Plan 2009 – 2015.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
			Current Access to information also included Indigenous People's needs, People with disabilities, refugees, migrants, and the stateless who are most often is left behind.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	2	Laws and policies (CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, UNDRIP, Mariage and Divorce Act) in place to investigate the grievances of special groups[49] but lacks political will, implementation and clear strategies and enforcement. Some policymakers and legislators in Malaysia lack universal human rights values and norms and fail to address the needs of migrants, refugees, and victims of trafficking. No safe migration law and policy on migrants which makes these groups more vulnerable with no access to justice, protection, health care, proper jobs, and risks being abused by employers.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	Implementation and monitoring of localisation of SDGs is taking place at the local level through the All-Party Parliamentary Group on SDG. For 2020, a pilot study of 10 parliamentary constituencies has been selected. Operation of Institutions at the sub-national level suffers due to the over-centralization of decision-making power and authority at the federal level. Public participation at the local government level remains low.
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	2	Lack of information and dialogue about development projects that affect the indigenous, communities at the rural, the refugees, undocumented migrants and the stateless on health, what is available and type of assistance from the government, protection against human rights violation, providing legal aid assistance is not made available to these communities.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	2	NACP needs to be implementated and the Chief Secretary to the Government should be empowered to lead the action and be held accountable with monitoring and disclosing its progress on a public dashboard. The APPGM-SDG has developed a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to study and analyze the impact and challenges in undertaking the exercise of localising the SDG at the ground level. DOSM figures show that [50] of the 24 indicators for SDG 16, 65% partially available and need further development, 12.50 % no data available, and 25 % data available.
8	Transparency and accountability	2	Human rights in Malaysia are at risk with recent incidents of attacks on media freedom, free speech, refugees and migrants, and the LGBT community. The Government of the day has diluted efforts to hold a long-abusive

[49] children without birth registration, child marriage, gender violence, people with disability, denied access to the right to education, indigenous people, migrant workers, refugees, and asylum seekers, trafficking In persons and women's rights

[50] Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (2019) Department of Statistics Malaysia

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
	mechanisms and procedures		police force accountable. In January 2021, the government used the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to declare a state of emergency, the first in 50 years, suspending parliament until at least August 2021. Covid-19 concerns have also underpinned xenophobic policies to turn away boatloads of Rohingya refugees and round up thousands of undocumented migrant workers.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance has been working closely with the Economic Planning Unit since 2015. While they are part of National Steering Committee (NSC) on SDGs but participation has been consultative and ad hoc. The NSC has only met twice namely in 2016 and 2019. CSOs are calling for regular meetings yearly for review and monitoring of SDGs at all government levels.
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	2	The CSOs resolved in Oct 2015 to establish an Alliance or Network of organizations working on SDG issues drawing together all the interested organisation working on economic, social, and environmental concerns. The amendments to the Legal Aid Act 1971 have expressly precluded non-Malaysians from having access to legal aid services governed by the Act. Legal aid assistance programs do not focus on women's rights nor consider the specific vulnerabilities of women from marginalised communities. There is continue usage of draconian law; Suaram report indicates that human rights defenders and media are being targeted and forced to disappear if they are critical of the government.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**21/50**	

SDG 17: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels"

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
1	Legal/policy framework available	4	The Malaysian Government adopted SDG 2030 in in 2015. Malaysia incorporated elements of the 17 SDGs into the 11th Malaysia Plan (RMK-11) 2016-2020, and it is confirmed that this will be continued with the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK-12) 2021-2025. The Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030) uses the SDGs as its basis.
2	National action plan, budget & strategy	3	Establishment of the National SDG Council with the Steering Committee supported by its 5 Working Committees. Establishment of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG). The strategy of localising SDGs at the Parliamentary Constituency level was formalised through the APPGM-SDG Pilot Project launched in January 2020 and continues in 2021.
3	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate	4	At the launch of SDG2030 in September 2015, the Malaysian Government had assigned the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department as the custodian of SDG implementation. In 2019, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) was established with the mandate to localize the SDGs at the Parliamentary Constituency level.
4	Implementation of policies, action plans and strategies on regular basis	3	SDGs are frequently referenced by the Malaysian Prime Minister and Ministers but lacking actualisation of policies. Social inclusiveness, developmental justice is still downplayed at the national and sub-national government levels. Priority is still given to Economic Development over Socio-Ecological Development. Various outdated environmental-related laws needs reviewed including the Environmental Quality Act 1974. Lack of participation and consultation on Human Rights and justice with all parties especially civil society.
5	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the *sub-national / local level*	2	The establishment of APPGM-SDG in October 2019 has provided a breakthrough in localizing SDGs at the state district, local government, and the grassroots. This is being implemented through a multi-stakeholder engagement where the member of Parliament will be the Champion on localizing SDGs.

No.	Areas for Assessment	Score	Comments
6	Public awareness and capacity building activities	1	SDG2030 remains mainly in discussions at the Federal Government level or as an academic pursuit (degree and masters). As for the Private Sector, Sustainability reporting is a mandatory requirement for companies listed on the First Board of BURSA Malaysia. The Public and Public Servants are quite oblivious to SDG2030 and the 17 Goals. Most publications on SDG2030 and the Goals are in English, which means a great loss to the predominantly Malay speaking and non-English speaking citizens of Malaysia.
7	Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure	3	The mechanisms and procedure were initially focused on the midterm review of the 11th Malaysia Plan. This is very much at a macro-level and top-down approach. The APPGM-SDG has a Research component followed by a Solutions Project implementation at the Parliamentary Constituency level.
8	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures	2	Reporting of SDG implementation are left to the ability of the different Federal Ministries and Agencies. The only official reporting is via the midterm review of the 11th Malaysia Plan. The APPGM-SDG has produced an Annual Report for 2020 activities in both English and Malay.
9	Multi-stakeholder partnerships	4	Through the efforts of the APPGM-SDG with the support of the Speaker of Parliament, Ministry of Finance (MoF), and EPU, there has been advancement in creating multi-stakeholder partnerships between Civil Society Organisations, Academia, Parliamentarians, Government Agencies, and citizens (and non-citizens).
10	Citizen participation and civil society engagement	4	The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance is an umbrella body of nearly 50 Civil Society Organisations, some are themselves umbrella organisations such as the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) and Malaysian Youth Council (MYC), are at the forefront of bringing the SDG2030 conversation to the ground. The Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance acts as the Secretariat to the APPGM-SDG.
	Overall progress on the Goal	**30/50**	