



Sri Lanka

VOLUNTARY PEOPLES REVIEW

On the SDGs
to UN HLPF 2022



Sri Lanka

VOLUNTARY PEOPLES REVIEW

On the SDGs
to UN HLPF 2022



Global Sustainability Solutions



📍 253/10 Stanley Thilakaratne Mawatha, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

☎ +94 11 2768459

✉ slsdgplatform@gmail.com

CONTENT

List Graphs

Abbreviations

Acknowledgements

1	Chapter 01: Introduction to the Voluntary Peoples Review.....	11
1.1	Background & Introduction.....	11
1.2	Process & Methodology.....	13
2	Chapter 02: Issues Impacting the Progress of Implementing the SDGs and Achieving the Transformation.....	18
2.1	Impact of Covid19	18
2.2	Impact of the National Crisis	20
2.3	Impact of Marginalisation of Subnational Level Governments	23
2.3.1	Economic:	24
2.3.2	Environment:	25
2.3.3	Social:.....	26
2.3.4	Governance:.....	27
2.4	Impact of a Shrinking Space for Stakeholder Engagement	28
3	Chapter 03: Report on the Progress of an Inclusive Transformation Towards Sustainable Development.....	32
3.1	Context of Implementing the SDGs.....	32
3.1.1	Governance.....	32
3.1.2	Economic.....	33
3.1.3	Social.....	34
3.1.4	Environment.....	36
3.2	Assessment of the Transformation.....	37
3.2.1	Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review.....	37
3.2.2	Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review	38
3.2.3	Progress Appraisal: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review	39

3.2.4	Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review	40
3.2.5	Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review	42

4 CHAPTER 04: Macro-Micro Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals45

SDG 01: End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere.....	51
SDG 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	57
SDG 03: Good Health & Well-Being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.....	63
SDG 04: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	69
SDG 05: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls	75
SDG 06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	81
SDG 07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	87
SDG 08: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	93
SDG 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	98
SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities within and among countries.....	104
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	110
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production pattern	116
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	123
SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.....	129
SDG 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	135

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	142
SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	148
CONTRIBUTORS & COLLABORATORS	153

ABBREVIATIONS

AMDP	Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme
AR&NOU	Air Resources and National Ozone Unit
BCG	Bacillus Calmette–Guérin
BDS	Biodiversity Secretariat
BIOFINSL	Biodiversity Finance Initiative in Sri Lanka
CBSL	Central bank of Sri Lanka
CCCRMD	Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department
CCS	Climate Change Secretariat
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CKDU	Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology
COP26	United Nations Climate Change Conference
COSTI	Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation
CRIWMP	Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DA	District Attorney
DCS	Department of Census and Statistics
DFAR	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
DHS	Department of Health Services
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DRMF	Domestic Resource Mobilization Framework
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDB	Export Development Board of Sri Lanka
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EP	Eastern Province
EP&ED	Environment Planning and Economics Division
FARAD	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIAN Sri Lanka	Food First Information & Action Network of Sri Lanka
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FM	Finance Minister

FO	Fisheries Officers
FR	Fundamental rights
GCE	General Certification of Education
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GLOSS	Global Sustainability Solutions
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
GSMB	Geological Survey and Mines Bureau
HC	High Court
HEC	Human - Elephant Conflict
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HWC	Human – Wildlife Conflict
IACCCC	Inter Agency Coordinating Committee on Climate Change
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGP	Inspector General of Police
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMER	Mechanism- Independent Monitoring, Evaluation & Review Mechanism
INGO	International Non Governmental Organisation
IPS	Institute of Policy Studies
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
Lanka QR	QR system for local currency payments
LDRRS	Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
LKR	Sri Lankan Rupee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEFR	Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up and Review
MEPA	Marine Environment and Protection Authority
MKGMPDP	Moragahakanda - Kalu Ganga Multi - Purpose Development Project
MMDE	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
MOAREALDI	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation
MOE	Cabinet Ministry of Education

MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Means of Implementation
MOI	Ministry of Irrigation
MOPAHAPC&LG	Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government
MOSD	Ministry of Sustainable Development
MOWFRC	Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation
MOWS	Ministry of Water Supply
MSWM	Municipal Solid Waste Management
NAP	National Action Plan
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCPC	National Cleaner Production Centre Sri Lanka
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NECCA	National Expert Committee on Climate Change Adaptation
NECCCM	National Expert Committee on Climate Change Mitigation
NEO	National Environmental Organisations
NPF	National Policy Framework Vistas of Splendour and Prosperity
NPP	National Physical Plan
NPPD	National Physical Planning Department
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NSWMSC	National Solid Waste Management Support Centre
NWP	North Western Province
O/L	Ordinary Level
OAP	Overarching Agriculture Policy
OCM	Office of the Cabinet of Ministers
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PA	Protected Area
PDE	Provincial Departments of Education
PEA - NWP	Provincial Environmental Authority - North Western Province
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PHI	Poverty Headcount Index
PPAEB -WP	Provincial Alternative Electricity Bureau - Western Province
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PSC	Peoples Scorecard
PTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
PUCSL	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka

PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
ROL	Rule of Law
SDCSL	Sustainable Development Council Sri Lanka
SDG16+	SDG16+ Spotlight Report
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Sustainable Energy Authority
SLCF	Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Limited
SLS-SDG Platform	Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform
SLTB	Sri Lanka Transport Board
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TAP Network	Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
TPA	Terrestrial Protected Areas
UDA	Urban Development Authority
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHLPF	United Nations High Level Political Forum
UNICEF	United National International Children’s Emergency Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VPR	Voluntary Peoples Review
VSR	Voluntary Subnational Review
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organisation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The **Sri Lanka Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) on the SDGs to United Nations High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) in 2022** was a large effort of over 200 reviewers and 260 organizations through consultation conducted across the country. The contributions have come from a larger number of representatives representing Government Institutions, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, CSO, Business, Academic, Local Government, Associations, Unions and all other stakeholders. Experts, Activists, Entrepreneurs, Academics, Scientists, Professionals, Children, Youth, Women, Elders and all other Major Group representatives.

The **Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS-SDG Platform)** was supported by the **SDG Transformation Lab** for content facilitation and capacity building for active engagement. The **Centre for Environment and Development (CED)** and **Global Sustainability Solutions (GLOSS)** provided the secretariate and facilities for the process. **Food First Information & Action Network of Sri Lanka (FIAN Sri Lanka)** assisted in coordinating government and stakeholder consultations in 07 Provinces and the **National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC)** provided their offices for numerous review sessions. While the VPR was a voluntary initiative, the resource support received by the **TAP Network (for the SDG16+ Spotlight Report)**, **Action for Sustainable Development (for the People Scorecard on the SDGs)**, and the **United Cities & Local Governments (for the Voluntary Subnational Review)** are appreciated. All these initiatives contributed to a collective '**Independent Nation Review**' process in Sri Lanka.

A large number of experts and researchers provided input to all the reviews. Many **Government Officials, Subnational Level Authorities and Stakeholders** who have been marginalised in the formal SDG process of the country joined the VPR and other independent reviews as way of expressing their opinion and providing their recommendations. Special appreciation is extended to the Chief Secretaries and Senior officials of the **Northern Provincial Council, North-Western Provincial Council, Central Provincial Council, and Eastern Provincial Council** for hosting stakeholder consultations and providing information for the VPR. Also, the **University of Jaffna, Uva Wellassa University, Rajarata University and University of Ruhuna** hosted Expert Review Workshops during the subnational consultations. While thanking them for their contributions, we also have committed to supporting the proposed **Provincial Sustainability Plans** and the **Thematic SDG Reviews** in the coming months.

The main **Review Facilitation and Editorial Process** was coordinated by a young group of professionals who worked tirelessly for nearly 06 months and around the clock. **Sudarsha De Silva, Sajith Wijesuriya, Avishka Sendanayke, John Wilson, Chiranthi Senanayke, Shamla Saleem, Rukshana Abdeen, Sharukesh Sekar, and Kusheshi De Zoysa** comprised a dream team. The review process was Mentored by **Uchita de Zoysa** also as the Editor-in-Chief.

Our gratitude is extended to over 1000 individual and organizational contributors engaging in the process, and to the inspiration provided by the **Youth of Sri Lanka** for leading a **Peaceful Resistance** to ensure a free Sri Lanka. Together, we firmly believe in and resolve that a Transformation towards Sustainable Development is the way forward in bringing happiness, wellbeing and prosperity back to our nation.

We appreciate the establishment of a **United Nations High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF)** and

request it to provide greater space for **Inclusive Voluntary Reviews (INR)** like the VPR to be part of the annual deliberations. The relevance of HLPF is if it can encourage governments to engage in an inclusive transformation and recalibrate the context for an honest partnership between the state and non-state actors with greater intensity and urgency. We present the VPR 2022 as a methodology that can be adopted by countries across the world towards ensuring an **Inclusive Transformation** towards Sustainable Development.

CHAPTER 01:

Introduction to the Voluntary Peoples Review

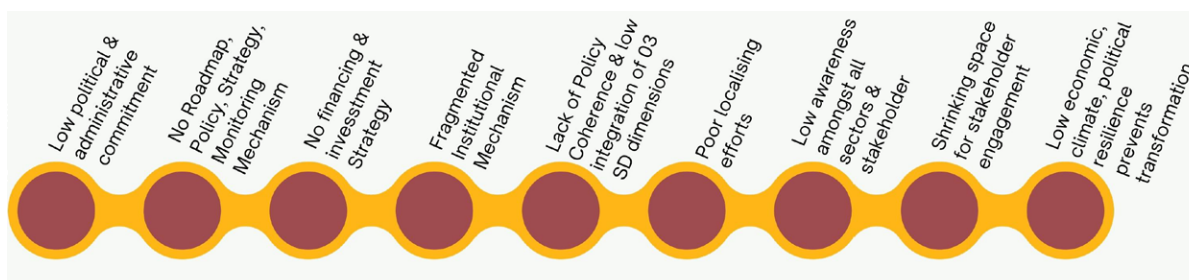


CHAPTER 01:

Introduction to the Voluntary Peoples Review

1.1 Background & Introduction

Sri Lanka is undergoing its worst political and economic crisis that has impacted all aspects of life and livelihood, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not a focus of the government. Far before the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis, the process for an Inclusive Transformation was derailed since the last **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** by the government in 2018. To date Sri Lanka has no National Roadmap, Policy, Strategy, Action Plan, Financing Plan, Monitoring Mechanism, and a Reporting Process for the SDGs. The lack of a proper process put in place by relevant authorities has kept the political hierarchy far away from adopting a transformative agenda. If Sri Lanka had adopted a transformative process as planned in 2016, the current multiple crises could have been averted. The absence of an inclusive national process for the SDGs has also resulted in extremely low stakeholder interest and action at both national and sub national levels. Sri Lanka has moved away from the promised transformation and sustainable development now appears a far distant reality. 2030 is no longer a possibility and reclaiming the country back from corrupt and authoritarian political grasp is the hope of the people.

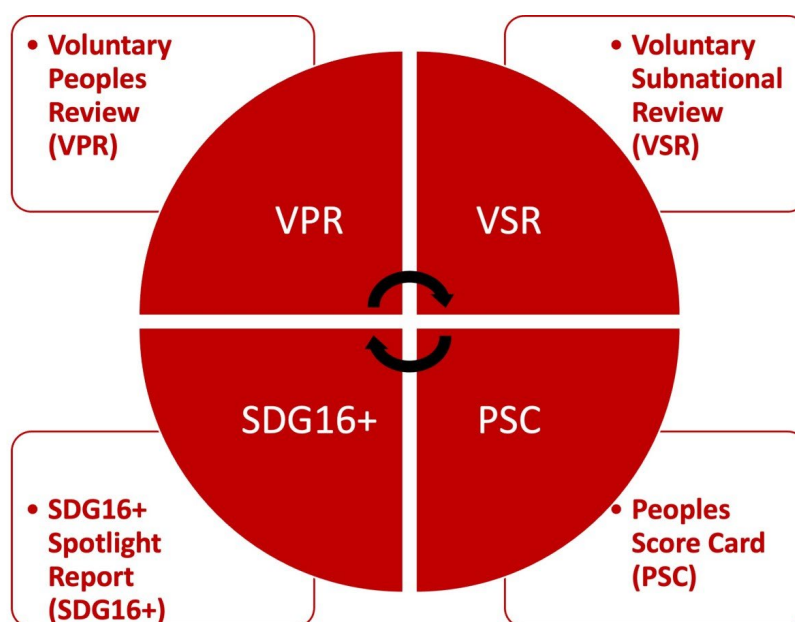


In realization of bureaucratic marginalization of stakeholders and the dismantling of the process set in place in 2016, the **Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS-SDG Platform)** was established in 2018. Since then, it has conducted an **Independent Monitoring, Evaluation & Review Mechanism (IMER Mechanism)** for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in collaboration with key partners. This IMER Mechanism has resulted in many outcomes including a **Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) in 2018, a Domestic Resource Mobilization Framework (DRMF) in 2020, and a Peoples Scorecard (PSC) in 2021.**

Amidst such a crisis, the authorities in Sri Lanka had decided to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the United Nations High Level Political Forum (UNHLPF) on Sustainable Development this year. They had appointed a steering committee of selected government entities and several international organizations leaving out all stakeholders. The VNR process also did not present a whole of government and whole of society-based methodology for conducting a national review on the SDGs. Stakeholder engagement is one of the most important components of the national review on the SDGs. The objective of the stakeholder engagement should not merely to bring selected stakeholder representatives to workshops and claim participation. A proper VNR should ensure that “no one is left behind” in all aspects of the process from planning to implementation & monitoring to Review. In

the absence of a proper engagement process for an inclusive transformation and the lack of rationale methodology for a information and data based review, the SLS-SDG Platform and partners decided to conduct an intensive process for a Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR).

This year, 2022, we are conducting a second **Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR)**, plus adding a **Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR)** and a **SDG16+ Spotlight Report** as well. We believe that this process will help a more informed and Inclusive National Review on the progress of the Transformation in Sri Lanka. The SLS-SDG-Platform coordinated the stakeholder engagement process, while a six-month living lab was conducted by the **SDG Transformation Lab** for content facilitation and knowledge building for active engagement. The **Centre for Environment and Development (CED)** and **Global Sustainability Solutions (GLOSS)** provided the secretariate and facilities for the process.



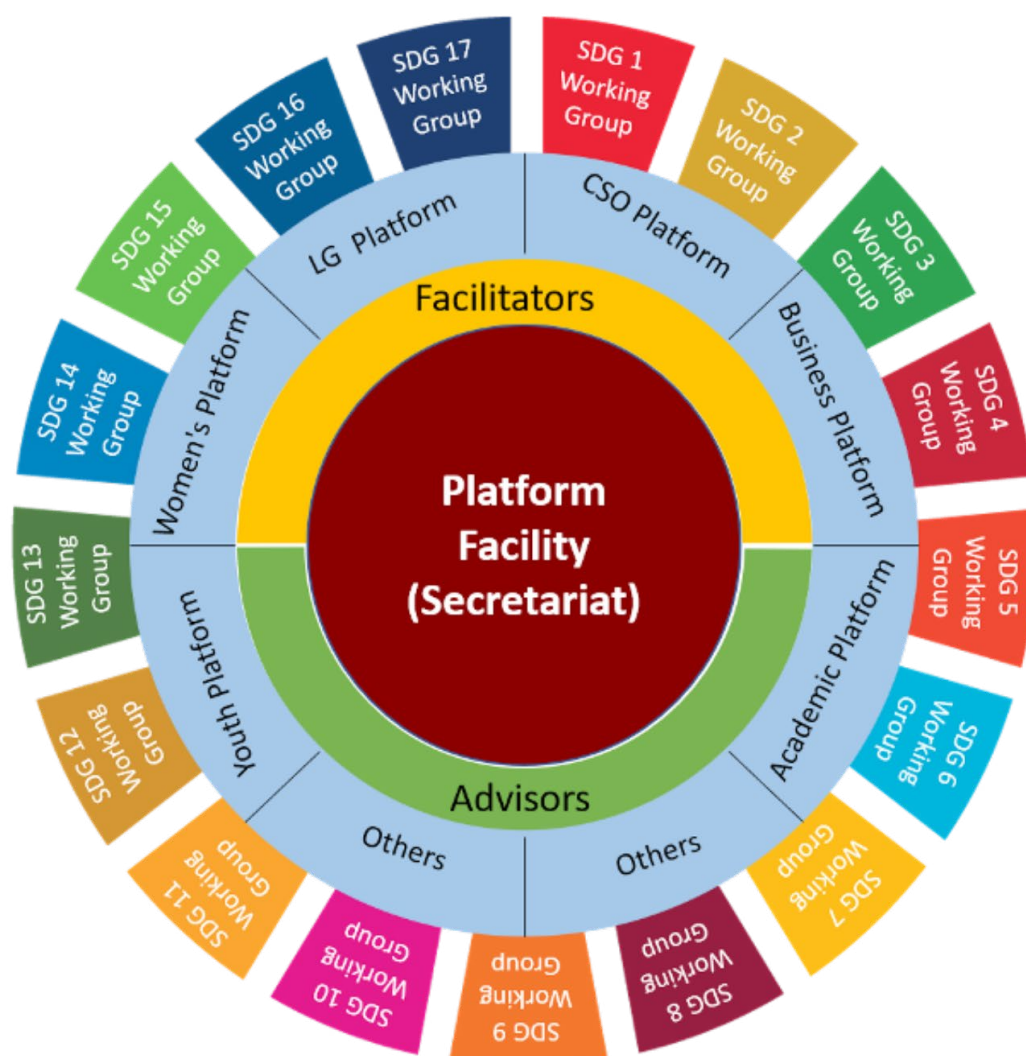
This year we have conducted one of the most intensive, inclusive and methodologically driven “**Independent SDG Reviews**” of the world. We have developed a process and methodology that can be emulated and replicated by any entity including governments and subnational governments across the world. A formal “**Guidance Manual on how to conduct Independent SDG Reviews**” will also be published as a follow-up and we look forward to collaborating with other country partners in building capacity.

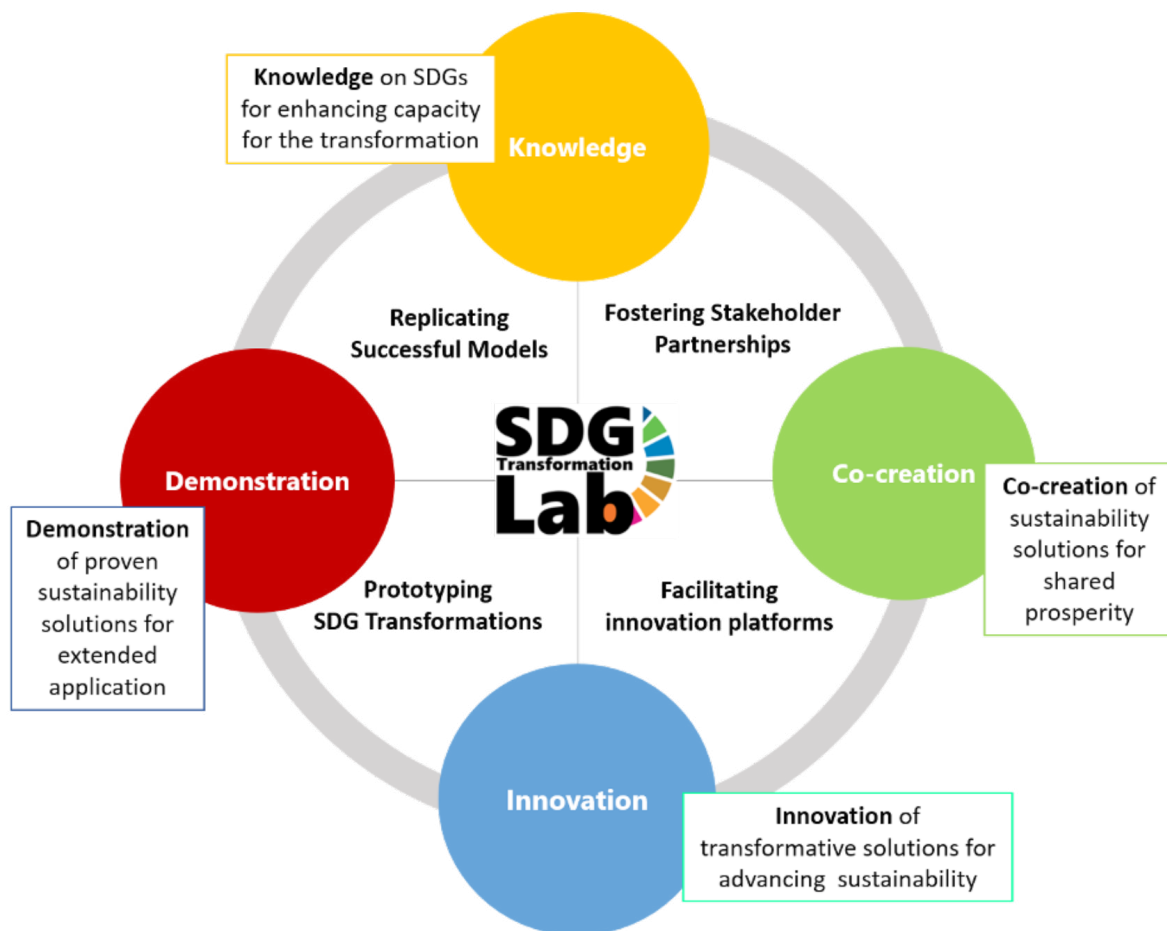
1. **GOAL:** Updated status on the SDGs and the transformation towards sustainable development for 2022
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Independent monitoring, evaluation and review on the SDGs
3. **STRATEGY:** Inclusive and methodological review
4. **Methodology:** Inclusive engagement, data democracy, methodological assessment, transformative dialogue, collective expert assessment, etc.
5. **OUTCOME:** Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR), Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR), Peoples Score Card (PSC), SDG16+ Spotlight Report (SDG16+)

1.2 Process & Methodology

Once the decision was made to conduct an independent review, as there was no space for collaboration with the official VNR, the first act was to establish a broader partnership for engagement and then to define a methodology for conducting the reviews.

Partnerships for goals and thematic reviews were invited from CSO, Business, Academic, Local Government, Associations, Unions and all other stakeholders. Experts, Activists, Entrepreneurs, Academics, Scientists, Professionals, Politicians, Administrators Children, Youth, Women, Elders and all other Major Group representatives. We had also extended our collaboration and partnership to all relevant Government Institutions and authorities as well as International and Multilateral institutions engaged in supporting the advancement of the 2030 Agenda in Sri Lanka. The process led institutional and engagement partnership from over 260 organizations. They helped organize government and multi-stakeholder consultations, collect data and review them, and some helped in resourcing the activities.



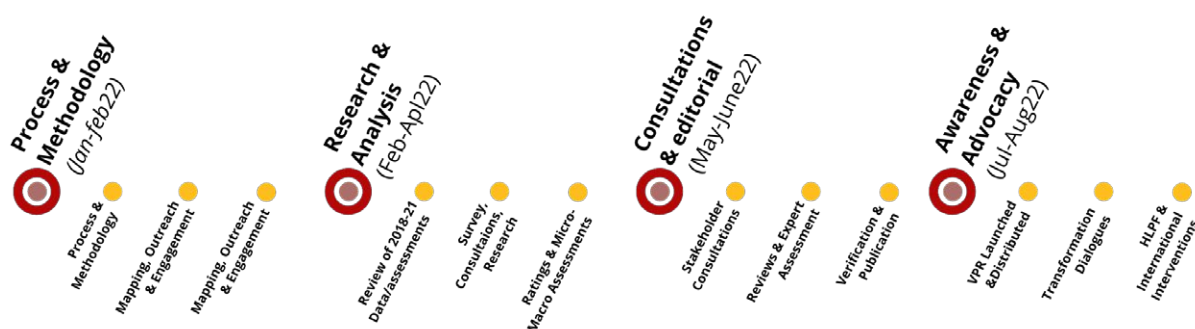


The original plan in 2018 to establish 17 working groups and sectoral platforms was mooted again. As an initial step 17 SDG based Working Groups inclusive of expert, stakeholder representatives and researchers were established. The reviews were facilitated by a group of young professionals guided by mentoring process established through the SDG Transformation Lab drawing senior experts.



A clear timeline was defined for the entire process initially for a period of six months. During this period a fulltime data and information collection and analysis team of researchers were appointed guided by senior thematic experts. The Platform Secretariat in collaboration with partners organised consultations with national and subnational level authorities and stakeholders. Extensive consultations

were held in 07 of the 09 Provinces; 03 of them were hosted by the Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils. Over 100 review sessions for the 17 thematic SDGs were conducted. The follow-up will be designed through a series of Transformation Dialogues conducted in the weeks and months to come.



Most importantly, a methodology was defined and verified. The 17 SDG Reviews are conducted through two main tracks and assessed. Firstly, the **Micro Assessment** is based on measuring the progress of the **169 Targets through the 244 UN Global Indicators** and Localised Indicators if available and relevant. Secondly, the **Macro Assessment** is based on **30 Key Aspects under 05 Main Areas** relevant to the broader transformation. The five transformative areas identified for the Macro Assessment includes (i) Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review (ii) Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review (iii) Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review (iv) Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review, and (v) Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review. Each SDG’s progress therefore, is assessed based on the performance on the SDG Targets and Key Transformative Aspects.



Grade	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Scale	Very large Reduction	Large reduction	Medium Reduction	Small reduction	Very small reduction	No progress	Very low progress	Low progress	Medium progress	High progress	Very high progress
Explanation	Very High Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	High Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Medium Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Low Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Very Low Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	no impact	Very Low Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Low Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Medium Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	High Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Very High Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement

The methodology included both a process that defined an inclusive review and micro-macro assessment approach. The reviews were conducted by over 200 experts and researchers representing different sectors of stakeholders using the adopted methodology. Each review team also engaged in a collective rating; where diverse ratings were available, the editorial team took into consideration all facts presented to resolve a more commonly representative rating that resonates also with the data and information.



The **Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) on the SDGs to United Nations High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) in 2022** is only a summary of a larger report that contains detailed review narratives on each of the Micro Assessment covering 169 Targets & 244 Indicators and the Macro Aspects Review covering 510 Aspects (30 x 17). This extensive review narratives run into several hundreds of pages. The comprehensive VPR will be available for free access as well upon request. The full VPR will be handed over to the Government, Authorities and Stakeholders at national and sub national levels and to stakeholders. It is expected that the VPR will help Sri Lanka in its worst crisis to better understand the gaps in the transformation towards planning for a more sustainable future. We extend our services to all parties moving forward into planning for a Transformation towards Sustainable Development.

CHAPTER 02:

**Issues Impacting
the Progress of
Implementing the
SDGs and Achieving
the Transformation**



CHAPTER 02:

Issues Impacting the Progress of Implementing the SDGs and Achieving the Transformation

Chapter 02 provides an initial understanding as the challenges faced by Sri Lanka in implementing the SDGs and achieving the intended transformation towards sustainable development. Here, four key issues impacting the progress of the transformation are presented: COVID-19, the national crisis, marginalisation of subnational level governments, and the shrinking space for stakeholder engagement

2.1. Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 Pandemic had affected Sri Lanka like all other countries of the world. The Government had been significantly responsive, and according to the World Health Organization (WHO), Sri Lanka had made significant progress towards protecting its citizens against the COVID-19 Pandemic. Some early measures by the government included; aggressive “social distancing” guidelines implemented throughout the country, the issuance of travel bans to similarly affected countries via the closing of ports and airports, country-wide lockdown style curfews, encouragement of private sector and others to assist households with emergency supplies, emergency health and economic measures, and several economic relief measures for the poorest segments of society and the most vulnerable sectors of business. This combined with an increase in government spending on vaccination, healthcare and public safety measures are among the measures which were effectively used co-ordinate health and containment, quarantine and contact tracing efforts. Currently, in mid 2022, Sri Lanka appears to have developed a certain level of herd immunity for COVID-19 and movement of the public is seen to be free and near normal.

Early into the pandemic, the World Bank (WB) had warned that the COVID-19 Pandemic has weakened Sri Lanka’s economic outlook as it has exacerbated an already challenging macroeconomic situation, consisting of low growth rates and significant fiscal pressures. The warnings included that growth will be negatively affected as the outbreak dampens export earnings, private consumption and investment. It was assessed that the slowdown in economic activity could trigger job losses as well as a significant loss in earnings. Informal workers comprise about 70% of the workforce and are particularly vulnerable as they lack employment protection mechanisms and/or paid leave.

While faced with ongoing economic challenges, the government had to act well beyond its comfort zone and standard operational nodes. However, the Pandemic also exposed serious deficiencies within the public service delivery system and exposed the lack of political and administrative trust in decentralisation. Centralized control of public services through the District and Divisional Secretariats were enforced. In this situation, the usual public and private service delivery systems and associated structures were frozen to enable a ‘command and control’ approach to enforce a health focused strategic lockdown. The food and essential services distribution networks, public-private health services (including medical services), industrial and economic activities, all were at a virtual standstill

till the centre could take control and reorganise the country's fragmented and inefficient public service delivery mechanism. While the inevitable focus on managing direct health effects had led to low human fatalities, social wellbeing and economic progress were inevitably affected, with forecasts painting a dismal economic picture; the growth of the economy that took a major hit from the 2019 Easter Bombings, was forecasted to slow further and possibly edging into negative territory. The lack of response to signals of a high potential economic breakdown scenario, has led the country to its worst financial and economic crisis that has now grown into a full scale national crisis impacting all aspects of livelihood.

Meanwhile, the Pandemic had brought forward renewed concerns for self-reliance and self-sufficiency; biophysical realities and constraints that were fully integrated and observed in traditional agricultural societies had been neglected under the current market-growth oriented-consumerist societies. The challenges of ensuring a continuous food supply, nationwide interest in home gardening and urban agriculture. From a national perspective, the restrictions on imports also made the government, the private sector and even members of the general public placed a greater focus on locally produced food and products. The pandemic suddenly established a situation in which people were compelled to appreciate and accept obvious realities including the importance of having local food production and distribution systems, the importance of traditional healing methods and their role in the prevention of diseases and increasing immunity, the importance of traditional socio-cultural tools such as self-isolation mechanisms, which were in effect for a whole range of viral diseases, the importance of traditional greeting methods of zero contact, being the most appropriate method in a humid tropical context where the diseases spread rapidly, and the importance of values of life, the fundamental meaning of life, ideas of sharing, caring and helping when placed in a death row. Such recalled realities have obligated society to question those market induced necessities, opening previously closed gates for true transformation. With traditional value systems being suppressed in the current dominant value paradigms, a new wave of appreciation for these traditional value systems has resurfaced in the context of a new normal.

While appreciating the actions taken by the government during this unprecedented crisis, it is important to draw critical lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and orient such lessons towards assisting the recalibration of policy and strategy planning mindsets to foster foresight driven strategies. As living with the COVID-19 Pandemic is expected to continue, Sri Lanka will need to refocus its approach from a narrow foreign direct investment and loans driven economic development mindset towards localized sufficiency models of economics. Implementing the SDGs and evolving towards a sustainable development approach could have become a COVID-19 learning experience. In this aspect Sri Lanka has failed and is trying to place the blame on it as a cover-up for the inaction on implementing the SDG. The reality is that, well before the pandemic hit Sri Lanka, the SDG process had started to be dismantled from around 2018 by responsible authorities and the political commitment had significantly dwindled. The subsequent administration of the new government coming into power had continued to pay low focus to planning for transformative action and misguided the political hierarchy into a complete lack of vision, foresight, strategy and action.

To date, Sri Lanka does not have a national roadmap, policy, strategy, action plan, financing plan, monitoring mechanism and reporting structure for the implementation of the SDGs. With positive initiatives to manage the pandemic, the blaming of lack of progress of the SDGs on it by responsible authorities further demonstrates a continued lack of responsibility and accountability. The lack of

progress for SDGs is a result of lack of the absence of foresight, the deterioration of good governance, the extreme rise of corruption, lack of accountability, low transparency, marginalising the subnational governments, and non-inclusion of stakeholders in the transformation. Sri Lanka is in a full-blown crisis including all aspects of governance, economy, social and environment. The country is completely derailed from the path towards an inclusive transformation that was put in place in 2016 by the government and stakeholders in a joint effort. Sri Lanka is now declared Bankrupt by the Government itself and yet refuses to adopt sustainable economic prosperity approaches towards recovery and building back better.

2.2. Impact of the National Crisis

Sri Lanka is currently going through multiple crises and the SDGs are not a focus of the government. Far before the pandemic and the national economic crisis, the lack of administrative commitment to an inclusive transformation had kept the parliament, cabinet and political decision makers in space of extreme low awareness, comprehension and appreciation of the SDGs. An already derailed process since 2018, the lack of a proper plan and strategy put in place by relevant authorities has kept the political hierarchy far away from adopting a transformative agenda even in the crisis.

Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis since independence as a result of excessive foreign borrowings and crude mismanagement of monetary resources. Sri Lanka accumulated foreign debt of about \$51 billion (64% of GDP) in 2022 before defaulting on foreign currency sovereign bond payments. The collapse of the Sri Lankan Rupee has increased the import bill for essentials like fuel, food and medicines causing inflation to increase rapidly into a food, energy and humanitarian crisis. Sri Lanka was already facing potential food shortages from chemical fertilizer import ban reducing crop yields and raising prices of staples further. Power shedding is now a part of life in Sri Lanka owing to insufficient fuel stocks to run its power plants. The aforementioned factors have culminated in a political crisis with peaceful protests erupting on the streets with people from all over the country ranging from all religious, ethnic, socio-economic backgrounds uniting in an unprecedented way calling for the President, Government and the 225 members of parliament to resign and for a just system to be established in place.

Taking on new loans to pay back previous loans became Sri Lanka's de facto policy at addressing the looming **debt crisis**. Sri Lanka has consistently run fiscal and current account deficits relying on excessive money printing and foreign loans to finance them. The 2019 tax policy proved to worsen the situation even more, causing a drop in government revenue convincing the international markets of Sri Lanka's insolvency risk which cut off access to further foreign market borrowings leaving dwindling reserves to pay for imports (SDG 17). The implementation of regressive taxation in 2019 disproportionately benefited higher income earners thereby increasing the gap between the rich and the poor over the past two years, and the soaring inflation resulting from the ongoing **economic crisis** in 2022 has increased the cost of living and eroded people's purchasing power further increasing inequality in Sri Lanka (SDG 10). During the economic crisis, sustainable consumption and production may also be overlooked if the economic benefits are greater. However, due to the decline of people's purchasing power, consumption may decline as well due to certain pockets of communities being unable to afford essential items (SDG 1 and SDG 12). Going forward, government's ability to fund certain essential services during a time of crisis where many are already suffering: will there be adequate funding for services and programs such as welfare assistance (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), and clean water and sanitation programs (SDG 6) has become a major concern.

In 2021, as it became apparent that Sri Lanka would not have sufficient foreign currency, the Government made the damaging decision to switch the entire nation's crop cultivation to 100% organic farming which yielded adverse outcomes in 2022, as 4.9 million people, majority residing in major cities and towns are currently in need of food assistance culminating in a **food security crisis**. Farmers had to abandon unproductive land that was damaged by the disastrous implementation of organic farming (SDG 15), which also contributed to the loss of income for large scale farmers, but also the decline in average incomes of small-scale food producers (SDG 8). In addition to the fall of Sri Lanka's agricultural output, food security is further threatened by the 57.4% increase in food inflation as of May 2022, which jeopardizes the progress Sri Lanka had made in terms of improving nutrition and reducing undernourishment prior to the current food crisis (SDG 2). As a result, 70% of households have already reduced their food consumption and as many as one in two children required some form of emergency assistance. The potential shortage of nutritious food will directly impact people's health and wellbeing (SDG 3). Rural communities residing near protected areas are inclined towards illegal poaching primarily for income revenue and a miniscule component for consumption, due to their inability to purchase food at high prices caused by inflation. The lack of cooking gas will also contribute to poorer people reverting to unsustainable firewood consumption patterns which could increase illegal logging in our forests (SDG 15) but more importantly negatively impact health from the emissions (SDG 3). Farming and the ability to transport harvest to consumers is also negatively impacted by the fuel crisis adding more strain to the agricultural sector and farmers all over Sri Lanka. Food loss in Sri Lanka was already above the global average prior to the current food crisis, but post-harvest losses due to the lack of fuel will worsen this factor in 2022 (SDG 2 and SDG 12). Further impacting our food supply is the lack of fuel disrupting fishermen and their ability to engage in fishing regularly, which has lessened our consumption of fish due to low supply (SDG 14).

The **forex crisis** has made it difficult for Sri Lanka to purchase imports of fossil fuel-based oil (heavy fuel, diesel, petrol, and kerosene) resulting in CEB having to ration electricity throughout households in many areas of the country (SDG 7), with power cuts ranging from 2 to 8 hours a day, and 13 hours a day at its peak in late March. The shortage of fuel has also impacted the productivity of the workforce (SDG 8) as people spend hours of their day queueing for the limited supply available. As of the end of June, ten people have died waiting in fuel queues, some for as long as five days of waiting. The impact of the power shedding and the inability to access transportation services has also been felt by students all over the country who had to sit for their GCSE and A-Level examinations as of May, with many lower income students struggling to study at home without electricity or kerosene oil for lamps, and the majority struggling to find transport to test centers on the day of their exams (SDG 4). Overall, forex crisis has caused shortages in many services across the board.

It is important to note the significant impact of the **energy crisis** on Sri Lanka's largely tourism driven economy, making the road to economic recovery that much harder. The lack of fuel impacts transportation, including coastal tourism (SDG 14) and businesses in the tourism industry such as restaurants, hotels and water sport centers from functioning regularly. Limited electricity supply has made it uncomfortable for the tourists to stay at hotels and bungalows. Many self-employed transport workers, including food delivery drivers are unable to sustain their average incomes thereby reducing their purchasing power and worsening their standard of living (SDG 8). On a positive note, however, the current energy crisis has highlighted Sri Lanka's dependence on fossil fuels making our government shift their attention towards renewable energy which was never mainstream before (SDG 7). If the

government can use this situation to expedite renewable energy projects, this will positively impact our climate action projects and increase the energy security of the country (SDG 13).

The shortage of foreign currency reserves has also contributed to the unfolding **humanitarian** crisis in Sri Lanka due to the government's inability to pay for imports of essential medicines and medical supplies. Sri Lanka imports over 80% of its medical supplies forcing doctors to postpone life-saving procedures. Doctors have stated that the humanitarian crisis will have severe impacts on many as the government is unable to purchase imports of injections of dialysis, certain cancer drugs and medicines for patients who have undergone transplants. There were several instances reported where patients who required urgent care couldn't be brought to the hospital on time due to the lack of transportation options available.

The multiple crises have led people all over the country to the streets in peaceful protests since late March. Citizens have demanded that the president resign and that the government address systematic corruption and usher in political accountability. Despite the government's attempts to disrupt these protests, hundreds of thousands have joined demonstrations across Sri Lanka daily in a revival of peaceful civil disobedient. The massive public mobilization and sustained pressure had prompted mass resignations from the government. Sri Lanka's **political crisis** scaled to a peak point with the prime minister resigning and a revolving door of ministers who were resigning and being reassigned to other government positions. There were significant changes made in administrative positions because of public voices against questionable decision making. However, the unaccountable practices of governance continue through different political appointments and strategic maneuvering (beginning of July).

Meanwhile, peaceful protests were met with excessive force by the police and military personnel who responded with tear gas, water cannons and arbitrary arrests of protestors (SDG 16). The President responded on April 1st by imposing a State of Emergency to quell protests, which essentially allowed police to arrest and detain suspects without warrants and restrict fundamental rights such as freedoms of expression and assembly (SDG 16), and under the first State of Emergency the government imposed a 36-hour island wide curfew and shut down access to social media networks the following day (SDG 17). On the 06th of May, under the pretext of maintaining law and order the President imposed the second State of Emergency, deployed the military and imposed a nationwide curfew from the 09th to the 12th of May. These "emergency regulations" lacked due process rights such as the right to be informed of the reason for an arrest, and the issuance of an arrest receipt at the time of arrest informing one's family where they would be detained and access to legal counsel was subject to conditions. Further, the President was emboldened with the powers to shut down public processions, restrict access to public spaces and restrict the right to freedom of expression including the right to information, freedom of movement and peaceful assembly (SDG 16).

The introduction of the 20th Amendment of the Constitution in October 2020, set the stage for the current **constitutional crisis**. The central feature of the 20th Amendment is the concentration of powers in the Executive President, and thereby eroding several of the democratic reforms introduced by the 19th Amendment. By doing so, it has weakened the Legislative Branch and politicised the Judicial Branch. In the case of the latter, it is explicitly stated in Chapter VII, Article 33, Section (f) that the President shall be responsible for "the appointment of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, the Chief Justice, other Judges of the Supreme Court and both the President, as well as other Judges of the

Court of Appeal". Additionally, the constitutional checks and balances vested with the Independent Commissions (Elections, National Police, Judicial Service to name a few), were virtually crippled and two Independent Commissions (namely the National Audit Service and the National Procurement), were abolished altogether. Another significant alteration brought about by the 20th Amendment of the Constitution was the abolishment of the Constitutional Council, and its replacement by the Parliamentary Council (see Article 41 A for reference). Article 41 A ensures that only Members of Parliament (MPs) are appointed to the Parliamentary Council and thus are effectively subordinates to the President, regardless of how much advice and how many recommendations they provide. Effectively, members of the Council owe their appointment to either the incumbent Administration or the Main Opposition, with no independent members (as was the case with the Constitutional Council) being appointed (politicisation of the Council).

With the then Prime Minister having to resign owing to public pressure, on the 12th of May 2022, a new Prime Minister was appointed by the President. Within days of the new Prime Minister's appointment, official discussions were held regarding the possible repealing of the 20th Amendment and the re-enactment of the 19th Amendment. However, due to the ongoing **political crisis**, a political deadlock emerged, prompting the main opposition to expedite and submit a Bill of Parliament pertaining to the Proposed 21st Amendment of the Constitution. However, this was not well received by the incumbent Administration, which responded with a Bill of Parliament pertaining to the Proposed 22nd Amendment of the Constitution. The farcical nature of the Proposed 22nd Amendment is that it does not limit the overwhelming power of the Executive Branch, which is the reason as to why the current constitutional crisis emerged in the first place. The tug-of-war reality between the Proposed 21st and 22nd Amendments to the Constitution provides evidence to that Sri Lanka's governance structure is a chaotic state of nominal constitutional supremacy, actual executive supremacy and directionless legislative operation stemming from decades of individual dominated political rule. This calls for a complete transformation in the governance structure in Sri Lanka in order for a transformation towards sustainable development be possible.

In a time of an unprecedented crisis, Sri Lanka's government continues to ignore potential alternatives through sustainable development pathways. Guided by political appointees without requisite experience and expertise on the subject, the political hierarchy amounts to a group of unguided political rulers minus any comprehension and skills towards foresight planning and skills. The early promise of the transformation towards sustainable development in Sri Lanka had been gradually defused through the last 5 years, and it is all about mere survival on a day-to-day basis both for the government and citizens of the country. In a greater crisis of disillusion, youth and even elders are leaving the country and leading to a larger brain drain and skill gap in the medium to long term. The promise of prosperity has turned into an agony of suffering and the nation is lost in direction and the future is uncertain.

2.3. Impact of Marginalisation of Subnational Level Governments

Sri Lanka has not demonstrated faith in the principle of subsidiarity and Provincial Councils and Local Governments, which have not been empowered adequately to plan and implement SDGs at subnational levels. Insufficient financing, lack of technical support, and keeping them away from the national planning systems has marginalised provincial and local level governance from the SDG process so far. Provincial and Local Sustainability Plans have been proposed and discussed since early 2016 without follow-up from the relevant central government institutions. Substantial efforts must be made towards localising the development planning based on the SDGs and provincial, district and local development

plans need to adopt a transformative format approach and address the recommendations of the 2030 agenda. While it is globally recognised that local governments have a unique role to play in planning, executing and monitoring of the SDGs, in Sri Lanka, they are handicapped by a lack of clearly devolved and decentralised authority, diffused institutional and legal frameworks, limited human and financial resources, and weaknesses in data systems hindering effective target setting and monitoring.

While 09 Provincial Governments and 341 Local Government Authorities exist, they are directly controlled by the agenda and direction of the Central Government of Sri Lanka. The Ninth Schedule of the Constitution provides three lists of thematic subjects, that are either Reserved (Central Government), Concurrent (shared between the Central and Provincial Governments) or Devolved (09 Provincial Governments). There is an additional list of further Devolved Subjects that exists between the 09 Provincial Governments and the respective Local Government Authorities. Sri Lanka's political landscape, wracked by primitive ethnic, religious and social divides, is oriented towards centralised control through governance. This means that the 09 Provincial Governments are heavily dependent on the centre for policy, legislative, regulatory, statutory and by-laws guidance, monetary resources and are unable to advance the critical discussion that is needed for such Provincial Governments and operate freely from the control of the Central Government. This in turn causes further complications and is detrimental to the localisation process, which is vital towards the complete achievement of the SDGs in Sri Lanka.

Consultations conducted in 07 of the 09 Provinces in Sri Lanka reveals that the current limitations and instabilities at the subnational levels for integrated action on economic, environmental, social and governance threaten the entire development system and progressing across all the 17 SDGs. The Provincial Council and Local Government authorities and stakeholders highlight that the main issues for lack of progress include the lack of identification of national and subnational targets, insufficient funding for implementation, insufficient coordination between national and provincial agencies, and a lack of a framework for implementing the SDGs.

Following are some of the main highlights drawn from the public sector and stakeholder consultations in the 07 provinces of Sri Lanka; clustered under economic, social, environment and governance aspects.

2.3.1 Economic:

In the Eastern Province there is a gap between the international poverty line and the local poverty line (SDG 1). 6.5 % of the population live in absolute poverty while 44% receive Samurdhi benefits from the government. Eastern province was unable to carry out even 20% of the scheduled activities due to a shortage of agricultural funds, and the absence of preplanning and execution procedures for organic farming has also had a severe influence on agricultural productivity, reducing output by more than 50%. Despite the high unemployment rates (SDG 8) in the **Southern Province**, there haven't been any initiatives to support rural communities in their entrepreneurial/ start-up endeavors. Additionally, in the Northern Province, the price of all goods has increased by three times due to the shortage of essentials, which has lowered people's purchasing power, increased rates of malnutrition particularly in children, and decreased job opportunities.

North Central Province is currently experiencing a shortage of basic food production (SDG 2, SDG 12). Fertiliser restriction is directly linked to this issue. As a result, the province could only support a

limited amount of rice and vegetable production and had to find other ways to meet the population's food requirements. This has led to a sharp decline in marketing and sales of the products in other provinces. There has also been a considerable decline in the province's income levels, transportation facilities, financial resources, technological know-how, irrigation infrastructure, information support for government agencies etc. Therefore, the cost of living has increased causing public dissatisfaction and conflict, which has also contributed towards the high rate of poverty.

In the **North Western Province** despite having strong medical facilities (SDG 3), the lack of affordable medicine has become a key issue. Moreover, in the **Central Province** access to public transportation, availability of road infrastructure, high cost of construction materials, transportation facilities for construction facilities, budget allocations to carry out the SDGs, public participation in construction projects etc. must be improved. Additionally, there is a significant wage gap, and there are no EPF or ETF facilities for employees as reported from Central Province. As a result, communities are heavily reliant on microfinance loans, and high debt rates have contributed to an increase in suicides and have forced many people to abandon their homes and relocate to other cities. Further, in addition to the high rates of poverty brought on by the low wages offered to plantation workers, **the Uva Province** is also experiencing a severe food scarcity.

2.3.2 Environment:

Since 2019, deforestation and illegal sand mining in the **North Central Province** have escalated due to governmental intervention and a lack of adequate plans/policies to safeguard the environment and ecosystem (SDG 15). In the **Northern Province**, Local Government Authorities currently employ poor waste collection practices, and there are no provincial statutes, regulations and local standard by-laws addressing the release of hazardous substances into the environment for larger businesses. Therefore R&D is necessary to identify new environmental conservation methodologies.

In terms of sustainable solutions for environmental protection, following the Sri Lanka Government Circular controversy (No. 01 of 2020, No.04 of 2020) large stretches of wilderness under the authority of DWC and DFC were negatively affected. PAs, OSFs, SFLs and ESAs in the **Eastern Province** despite receiving tentative recognition from the provincial government of the eastern province have been subjected to a wide variety of environmental crimes. Similarly, in the **Uva Province** several protected areas as well as key OSF's were exposed to illegal deforestation and illicit land grabbing. Wilderness encroachment in particular areas (Peak Wilderness, Knuckles and Pidurutalagala) is a major issue in the **Central Province**. Moreover, Natural disasters such as floods and landslides, a lack of adequate recycling and waste management methods etc. are also major concerns in the Central Province. As a result, garbage has flooded into the homes of plantation workers and have created unsanitary environments. Furthermore, while the National Grid currently provides both hydropower and traditional energy sources (fuel & gas) for the Central Province, the ongoing economic crisis has highlighted the shortage of reliable, renewable/sustainable energy sources (SDG 7). Despite the lack of commitment to renewable energy, the **Southern Province** is building biogas facilities to support the energy demand and as a solution to lack of energy availability. Ineffective irrigation channel maintenance systems are major concerns in the **North-Western Province**. There were limited reforestation or conservation initiatives (localized mangrove reforestation projects conducted by DFC in collaboration with the private sector). Despite the presence of 5600 irrigation cascades (legally protected through irrigation watercourses) the concurrent protection of land-based ecosystems is urgently needed. The impact of disasters on livelihoods in the North -estern Province is high.

2.3.3 Social:

Eastern Province has reported an unusually high demand for health services due to a variety of issues such as price increases, a lack of medical supplies, COVID-19 outbreaks (SDG 3). There was also a substantial shortage of labour, transportation facilities, patient housing alternatives, and fewer facilities are available in rural areas for patient treatment and preventative care. Therefore, infrastructure and other amenities must be upgraded within the province. Furthermore, while the provincial education administration provides primary and secondary education to 1,115 schools in the Eastern Province, the scarcity of personnel in some fields, and insufficient budgetary allocations make it impossible to meet all the educational system's expectations (SDG 4). Moreover, with regards to higher education, there is a shortage of materials and resources, as well as a lack of operational strategic monitoring and evaluation processes, particularly for online learning. While the government intends to incorporate subjects with direct links to the eastern region, such as fishing, packaging, private sector participation in industries like fisheries and construction remains relatively low. Even though nearly 44,000 families in Eastern Province have a woman as the primary breadwinner, Provincial Council budgets have not been set aside to address women's issues. Furthermore, while the province works with government officials to arrange support for women's issues when executing initiatives within the, they do not consult the province council.

Residents in rural regions of the **Southern Province** have pointed out that they do not have adequate access to food, furnished housing, formal and informal primary and secondary education, and reliable water supply and sanitary facilities, particularly in schools, due to multidimensional poverty. Although the Nilwala River provides drinking water to the province via the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, water availability is limited during the dry season due to seawater infiltrating the Nilwala river (SDG 6). Furthermore, due to a lack of sanitary facilities and a scarcity of water in the **Northern Province**, tube wells and deep wells have become the primary sources of water supply. Although the level of education within the province has risen over the years, the availability of scholarships for O/L and A/L students has declined. Furthermore, while free health care was offered to some extent the system faced numerous threats, primarily from the private sector and large corporations. Moreover, despite advancements in gender equality within the province, cases of violence against women are still reported.

Although the **Uva Province** has 800 schools, a lack of textbooks and computers to teach IT, a lack of Tamil instructors to teach science and mathematics etc. have contributed to a high proportion of high school dropouts. Other challenges include poor female participation in decision-making, and malnutrition is a major worry. Furthermore, despite the fact that Gramah Niladhari Officers and plantation enterprises are isolated, there are language barriers in fulfilling their basic necessities. On the other hand, the **North Western Province's** primary challenges include rising medical costs and shortage of medical facilities. **The Central Province** is grappling with issues such as child marriages. Receiving a proper education in this province has proven difficult due to a shortage of teachers and other educational resources. Moreover, high rates of malnutrition among children, particularly in the estate sector, and linguistic barriers between patients and doctors have also been observed. Furthermore, incidents such as unskilled practitioners providing first aid and treatments at general dispensaries, 500+ people waiting in queue to consult two doctors in a general hospital, and so on demonstrate a medical personnel shortage. Water scarcity is also a major issue, and the Pinus plantation has been identified as the primary source of the scarcity. In addition, the lack of adequate drinking water had resulted in health issues and has also destroyed vegetation in the province. The fundamental right

to education has also been infringed within the province where schools lack infrastructure and basic facilities. Since leading schools in the province were reluctant to accept children from the plantation sector, teenagers and youth are less interested in completing their education and more interested in becoming three-wheel drivers and minor job holders. It has been commonly observed that certain districts of this province lack tertiary education centres to develop their skills. Furthermore, while the estate sector and Grama Niladhari divisions frequently lack access to library facilities, the lack of education facilities overall for differently abled children, as well as sexual education is not prioritized at educational institutes situated in both the provincial and local levels. Gender inequality in the province has been heavily influenced by cultural factors. A working woman, for example, does not have the right to spend her own money which highlights the fact that women in this society lacks the freedom of decision making. Moreover, due to unequal remuneration women are leaving the Central Province to explore opportunities overseas and in other provinces as well (SDG 5). Low education among schools is a key issue in **North Central Province**. Early marriages and drug abuse among youth are key social challenges commonly observed in North central province as well.

2.3.4 Governance:

In the **Southern Province**, there is a lack of liability and accountability has been observed, thus adequate governance systems must be developed to solve these issues. Moreover, while the **Northern Province's governance growth** is hampered by low levels of public participation and the postponement of the provincial and local government elections, trade unions and complex legislative, statutory and regulatory processes have also made SMEs hesitant to sell goods and services to large scale enterprises. On the other hand, the Militarisation of provincial government operations, a deterioration in overall government personnel services, and a lack of effective social development and outdated legislation are seen as the most serious concerns in **North Western province**.

While the 20th amendment is problematic for **all provincial** operations, and residents are unaware of the legal services available to them, the RTI Act has been effective in gathering information regarding top-level provincial leadership and local government officials (directly applicable to the **Central Province**). However, in the Central Province Local Government Authorities also do not engage public awareness campaigns on critical issues such as the right to information, sexual abuse, and domestic violence etc. Furthermore, although the civic struggle significantly increased commitment to SDG 16, other serious concerns include a lack of land rights, discrimination in services provided by Urban and Divisional Councils within the Province, and overly lenient parliamentary legislation in terms of child abuse and punishments for child abusers. Moreover, estate communities are not eligible for government subsidies under the 1983 Constitution, hence they have not received subsidies or aid from Divisional Councils. As a result, methods to impartially distribute the Samurdhi benefits among the plantation communities are required. In the **Uva Province** (as is the case with many other such provinces) the plantation sector is divided between the state (SPC) & the private sector. In private sector plantations, the superintendents of each plantation division are vested with complete powers of authority over the labourers in their respective divisions. As such, when central, provincial and local government officials related to duties in the plantation sector attempt to carry out their mandated work they are regularly obstructed by these powerful plantation superintendents. In the **Eastern Province** (as is the case with all the other provinces) provincial budgetary allocations are dependent on the Central Government. Unfortunately, this means that every year insufficient allocation is disbursed to the 9 provinces. In the case of the Eastern Province this has badly affected provincial administration planning and projects/ activities implementation. The lack of Awareness and Education on the topic

of governance is a major setback for provincial and local administration in the **North Central Province**, resulting in a lack of knowledge about government entities, as well as a misunderstanding of the duties of the technical staff in the province.

2.4. Impact of a Shrinking Space for Stakeholder Engagement

The collective demand resonated by all groups of the 2022 civic struggle of Sri Lanka: system change, proves not only the desire of the common man to contribute to Sri Lanka's sustainable development transformation but also the need for the engagement of the Sri Lankan 'people' in this process. It must be noted from the onset that, though the people who are represented by the civil society of Sri Lanka, are both the actors and recipients of national sustainable development, the state structures have monopolised the intended transformation without the commitment, capacity and vision to achieve it. This has led to disintegrated initiatives in the name of sustainable development which do not link the existing silos of the national development sector: the state, the non-state and the civil society. Needless to say, such a disconnect which was worsened by the mismanagement of Sri Lanka's transformation since the global adoption of the 2030 agenda, has brought about the current national crisis; the effects of which will be felt long after the year 2030.

The civil society representing the major groups, other stakeholders and the people in general, is undoubtedly a key actor of Sri Lanka's sustainable development transformation. The issue lies not with such a recognition but the actual spaces for engagement and opportunities for effective contribution provided to the civil society. There are four main realities proving why this issue must be immediately addressed if Sri Lanka is to achieve the intended sustainable development transformation. The first reality is that major groups such as women, children & youth, and persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka are looked upon as mere inclusion exercises as opposed to key stakeholders who must actively contribute to all stages of Sri Lanka's sustainable development transformation. This has not only created a toxic dependency culture amongst such groups to rely on "benefits" provided by state and non-state entities but has also led to a disillusionment that Sri Lanka's transformation is merely an unattainable ideal often spoken of but rarely seen. Another major group is underrepresented in the Sustainable Development Transformation are the Academia inclusive of the research community. It was observed that the Academia in the National State Universities were not included in the National Process of implementing the SDGs. The second reality though the civil society is able to engage with local government mechanisms for the provision of basic multi-dimensional poverty alleviation and equality promotion services, they are not incorporated into the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes of Sri Lanka's transformation. Such an exclusion has led to a disconnect between organised efforts for development and the ground level development needs in Sri Lanka; a missing linkage which is at the core of the envisioned sustainable development transformation. Moreover, Sri Lanka has systemically excluded the indigenous communities in the transformation planning as well as in implementation.

The third reality is the shortcomings in the Civil Society Registration and Management Processes which are administered by the Governance Structure. The Voluntary Social Service Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Act (No. 31 of 1980) is the primary piece of parliamentary legislation that deals with NGOS, CSOs, VSSOs, and NEOs (amongst others). The national focal point for this piece of legislation is the National Secretariat for Non – Governmental Organisations (NSNGO), which is under the direct authority and purview of the internal affairs division at the cabinet ministry of defense. Due to ultra nationalist sentiments towards NGOS, CSOs, VSSOs, and NEOs the incumbent administration has

effectively militarized the oversight applicable to the NGO secretariat under the pretext of “National Security”. Such an arbitrary transparent of the CSO management processes to the Ministry of Defense has deteriorated the relationship between the Non-State Development Sector and the State because the Civil Society has become an issue of national security.

The fourth reality is the shrinking civil society and civic spaces in Sri Lanka due to continuous fluctuations in the commitment of the central government to the ‘leaving no one behind’ agenda. The lack of continued commitment of the government structures to engage civil societies in the sustainable development transformation has limited the spaces available for CSOs to effectively contribute in SDG panning process. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, changes in the approaches in Central Government through this transformation has changed with every governance cycle and cabinet reshuffle. Such changes in the Sustainable Development Planning, Maintenance, Integration and Development processes have taken place with Nominal Participation of CSOs. An example of nominal CSO participation are the processes that the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of 2022 where handpicked officials and representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Major Groups and other stakeholders were only brought to a room without an effective review methodology for their active participation in the VNR reporting process. In the absence of any process for an inclusive transformation, the authorities have adopted a mere report focused stakeholder participation approach which adds little or no value to a holistic transformation process.

When commenting on shrinking civil society spaces, one may note the reducing responsiveness amongst state structures to collaborate with civil society entities. This is seen from the minimal room for operation of district committees and provincial CSO committees in steering the efforts of the state in the execution of sustainable development transformation at a community level. Contributions of social workers, women’s society representatives and farmers associations are merely recorded in the minutes of provincial and local government meetings, often never to be integrated into a regional action plan for realising the transformation. Two key reasons for such shrinking civil society spaces in Sri Lanka is the basic services trap; where state structures adhere to archaic mandates of social welfare service delivery, and the belief that civil society is a consultative actor who does not deserve an equal seat at the table. To understand shrinking civic spaces, one must look no further than the response of the present political administration to the civic struggle of Sri Lanka led by the youth. The open shooting of protestors in Rambukkana, the 09th of May attack on ‘Gota-Go-Gama’, arbitrary arrests and detention of frontliners of the civic struggle, alleged torture of protestors at the start of the Galle Face unrest, are proof that the protection of the Article 14 fundamental right to protest and access to civic spaces are at the discretion of the political administration of Sri Lanka.

The fifth reality is the monopoly of data and information by state data collection points has led to a reduced data democracy in Sri Lanka, which in turn is negatively impacting civil society activism and people led development. The data collected by civil society actors are not integrated into the macro data reporting structures of Sri Lanka which are essential for sustainable policy processes in the Country. These four realities together highlight that the civil society possess a nominal standing as an actor of Sri Lanka’s transformation, which does not materialise into actual engagement and effective contribution in achieving the Country’s sustainable development from policy coherence, systemic mainstreaming, and cross-sectional integration dimensions. This shortcoming must be addressed as a first step for Sri Lanka to achieve its transformation under any agenda by any given deadline, because the civil society must act as a check and balance on a state structure lacking accountability

frameworks, beginning with the controversial role of the executive presidency which violates the basic norm of necessary power.

Since youth and representative youth movements are core groups of the civil society space in Sri Lanka, it is essential to share across a few reflections from the youth consultation organised with the participation of representatives from thirty-five youth organisations and voluntary social service organisations operating in Sri Lanka. Youth are discouraged by low opportunities provided to them to actively contribute to policy processes and the sustainable development transformation journey of Sri Lanka. It was also noted by the youth participants that the state sector lacked multi-stakeholder collaboration to implement coordinated and continuous development efforts in essential services such as education, healthcare, energy and gender equality. Another factor acting as a barrier to youth participation in transformation is the absence of a permanent ministerial portfolio for youth and the lack of a timely youth policy since the adoption of the last national youth action plan in 2014. Youth also call for the diversification of the Sri Lanka economy and adoption of economic systems which suit Sri Lanka's development needs. It was further noted that youth civic participation is strongest in metropolitan areas due to activism hubs operating in these localities. However, the same advocacy spaces and an enthusiasm for contributing to Sri Lanka's sustainable development transformation cannot be seen amongst the rural youth, who often contribute to human development through social service projects. Therefore, youth believe that they are still recognised as leaders of the future of Sri Lanka as opposed to actors of the Country's present transformation.

Whilst noting the, a shrinkage in the actual spaces and the effectivity of the opportunities provided to the civil society and the people to engage in Sri Lanka's transformation, it must also be noted that the civil society has a long way to go in terms of taking ownership over the Country's sustainable development transformation. Concerns exist on whether the civil society and the average citizen of Sri Lanka possesses sufficient knowledge, capacity and experience on the intended sustainable development. There is also an apparent inclination for civil society actors to work in silos driven by development sector agendas. Many of the initiatives carried out in the name of sustainable development do not adopt an 'inter-linkages' and 'continuity' approach necessary for such a development. Therefore, considerable onus also falls on the civil society and the people to commit to building the necessary capacities, environments and processes to serve as active contributors of the Country's transformation.

CHAPTER 03:

Report on the Progress of an Inclusive Transformation Towards Sustainable Development



CHAPTER 03:

Report on the Progress of an Inclusive Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Chapter 03 is a report on the progress of an Inclusive Transformation Towards Sustainable Development. It provides a summary and further expands in Chapter 04: Macro-Micro Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective of this chapter is to provide an overview of status of implementing the SDGs and achieving the intended transformation.

3.1. Context of Implementing the SDGs

This overview expands on the **'Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDGs'**. In the absence of a comprehensive localised indicator framework in Sri Lanka, the Micro Assessment was conducted using the 244 UN indicators for the 169 targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For process objectives of the Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR), the reviews have considered SDGs 06, 07, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as **'Environmental Oriented Goals'** and SDGs 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08 and 10 as **'Social and Economic Oriented Goals'**. SDGs 16 and 17 were kept independent for overarching purposes and considered SDG 16 as the **'Governance Goal'** and SDG 17 as the **'Means of Implementation Goal'**. The assessment below is provided under governance, economic, social and environment dimensions and their interlinkages for an integrated review on the performance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.1.1 Governance

Although Governance is primarily attributed to SDG 16, as a thematic subject, Governance cuts across all 17 of the SDGs. In the context of SDG 16, governance is reported as having made very low progress overall. Historically, the politicisation of both administrative and bureaucratic processes by the political elements of governance has led to corruption, political interference, weaknesses in judicial processes and constitutional amendments that are unfavourable to the public (amongst other issues). Additionally, successive Administrations have overlooked such deficiencies in overall governance, preferring to further erode the integrity and efficiency of the public sector, through political appointments and misuse of Cabinet and Non – Cabinet Ministerial mandates. Theoretically speaking, while clauses/sections exist within pieces of Parliamentary Legislation allowing the relevant subject Ministers to formulate and release Regulations in support of the aforementioned pieces of Parliamentary Legislation, the final decision process and making and formulation of annual budgets is carried out by the heads of the relevant Government Entities. There is a lack of understanding, as to how pieces of Parliamentary Legislation, Regulatory Extraordinary Gazettes, Sri Lankan Government Circulars, National Policies, National Action Plans and Strategies, and other similar such Government Documents are supposed to be used, in order to advance all governance related processes for the benefit of the general public. There is also a lack of understanding about the relationship between such Legislation, Regulations, Circulars and Government Documents. In turn, this has affected the overall achievement of all 17 SDGs in Sri Lanka.

As far as the **Environment** Oriented Goals are concerned, they display the lowest level of achievement overall. Starting with SDG 14, corruption in the Fisheries sector has severely hampered the degree to which Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries activities have been combated. Fisheries Officers (FOs) attached to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) regularly abandon their mandated duties (partly due to political interference), leaving the fisheries sector at risk of exploitation. This threatens the long-term sustainability of the fisheries sector and puts associated communities at risk of losing out from the economic dividends that sustain their livelihoods. As a direct follow-on, achievement of SDG 15 is being threatened on all fronts. This is obvious through accelerated deforestation, which is occurring as a result of development, industrial, agricultural and natural resource extraction related activities. Between political interference and corruption, officers attached to the relevant Government Entities (applicable to SDG 15) are either threatened into abandoning their mandated duties, paid off for their silence or given monetary incentives to participate in such damaging activities. Similarly, in the case of SDG 07, high level political interference and participatory lobbying by Government Trade Unions attached to the relevant Government Entities, blocked the implementation of renewable and/or sustainable energy projects for decades (the consequences of which are being felt presently through the ongoing Power and Energy Crisis). Competitive Bidding and Tender Processes are marred with allegations of heavy commissions, which benefit both the political elements and corrupt central government officials. On an even more worrying note, SDG 13 does not have any legislative and regulatory frameworks in place. At present, all that exists is a basic policy framework, and commitments to International Treaties and Conventions.

The **Social And Economic Oriented Goals** display low and medium levels of achievement. In the case of SDG 11, while the percentage of citizens living in urban areas has decreased, proper planning, addressing populations inhabiting slums, the accessibility of all components of society to convenient public transportation and the establishment of participatory planning mechanisms for citizens have all been hindered by corruption and short-sightedness in the public sector (relating to SDG 11). Government Entities such as the Urban Development Authority (UDA), the National Physical Planning Department (NPPD) and the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB), amongst others, are usually assigned to the most senior and politically powerful members of the Cabinet of Ministers. This only serves to weaken the mandated duties of such Government Entities, which instead end up becoming tools for political campaigning and ideologies. This has had a grave impact on SDG 01, with many households in Urban Areas being denied access to essential commodities and utilities (safe drinking water being one notable exception to this). Such administrative and bureaucratic crookedness has also hindered the overall progress of achieving SDG 04, despite the positives that have been highlighted from the sheer human tenacity in ensuring education for all in Sri Lanka. As for SDG 10, reducing inequalities has been hampered by the lack of capacity and comprehension by State Officials, who are restricted by thought processes, systems and structures that have been established during a period in which the country was very negatively oriented towards the idea of inequalities (lack of empathy in a nutshell). Discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation/gender identity has plagued Sri Lanka in recent decades, highlighted by a brutal, thirty-year Civil Conflict and the continually bad treatment of the LGBTQ Community again showcasing the severe deficiencies in governance.

3.1.2 Economic

Sri Lanka is currently battling an economic crisis that puts serious strain on implementing the SDGs. The crisis caused by a foreign exchange shortage has led to shortages of food (SDG 2), fuels (SDG 7) and medicines (SDG 3) among other essentials. Shortages have led to price hikes with headline inflation

climbing to over 50% in June, the highest in Asia (SDG 8). The newly appointed Prime Minister has declared the country bankrupt with no means to import essentials going forward. The economic crisis has worsened food insecurity which is on the rise with 70% of households across the nation reducing their food consumption (SDG 1). Food inflation was over a staggering 80% in June contributed by sharp declines in agriculture output threatening food availability (SDG 2). An annual drop of about 30% is expected in the coming year according to agricultural experts. The government's shift to import the shortfall comes at a time of rising global food prices straining public finances further.

Sri Lanka also imports over 80% of its medical supplies and essential medicines such as cancer drugs, injections for dialysis and medicines for transplant patients. A lack of finances to pay for imported medicines have threatened the medical sector from procuring lifesaving drugs and forcing doctors to postpone lifesaving procedures. Apart from maternity and emergency operations, all nonessential surgeries have also been postponed towards the end of this review period (SDG 3). Furthermore, the ongoing economic crisis is clearly hindering the access to education in Sri Lanka as a result of depleting means of implementation (SDG 17). For instance, the University of Peradeniya, one of the largest universities in Sri Lanka and island wide schools have closed at this very moment due to the lack of availability of fuel in the country (SDG 4). Closing schools robs children of their basic right to education and for many takes away the free school meals children receive (SDG1). Although decent progress was seen during the pandemic preparing online learning systems, these facilities are yet to take hold in the rural areas where many don't have access to the internet.

Sri Lanka has shown some progress in reigning in unemployment. Legislations have been strengthened giving more power to labour unions and establishing a minimum wage and keeping unemployment to 5% during the pandemic. Youth unemployment continues to climb however, owing to the mismatch of skills between what new graduates have and skills employers are seeking (SDG 8). In times of high inflation, the minimum wage will also do little to improve living standards of those in the lowest income groups (SDG 1). There is also a comparatively low transference of female graduates into the active employment stage despite the high number of female degree holders in Sri Lanka, which limits the productive potential of the country going forward (SDG 5; SDG 8; SDG 10).

Strengthening global partnerships will be central to getting out of the economic crisis. To do this Sri Lanka must commit to greater fiscal discipline. Total government revenues have consistently fallen over the review period and currently sits at 8.7% of GDP. With limited foreign inflows from FDI and an inability to issue more debt, funding for development purposes in the future will be extremely limited (SDG17). Timely policy transformation and serious commitment by the government to rationalise expenditure will be needed to achieve the broader goals.

3.1.3 Social

Although the social domain of the Sustainable Development Goals consist of SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10, there are social factors of influence across all seventeen goals. The primary social goals have seen low to negative progress of their targets under the respective goals, apart from SDGs 3 and 4 that have seen the most progression of their respective targets. Irrespective of levels of progress that have been observed, the national budgetary allocation for welfare programs (SDG 1; SDG 10), health (SDG 3), and education (SDG 4) have seen a decline in funding from 2020 to 2022. It has also been observed that the funding for women's development programs is largely reliant on foreign financing mechanisms (SDG 5). Similarly, funding for improving nutrition, food security and supporting the agricultural sector has

been largely supported by foreign financing mechanisms over the past few years from the World Food Program, the World Bank and other international agencies, which continues to be true even today during the current food crisis as Sri Lanka has received aid from the United States, Australia and the World Food Program to help fight food insecurity (SDG 2).

Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, disempowerment, poor quality of work, the threat of violence, and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous, among others. Multidimensional poverty in Sri Lanka increased from 12.4% in 2016 to 16% in 2021 and the intensity of poverty also increased from 37.5% in 2016 to 41.6% in 2021, which shows no progression in these aspects since the 2030 Agenda was introduced (SDG 1). Even more concerning is that estate areas have more than half, 51.3%, of all people living in poverty and rural areas have eight out of every ten, 80.9%, people living in poverty. The lack of political or administrative attention to marginalised urban settlements and the estate sector remains to be a concern during the current economic and financial crisis. Many of those who reside in rural and estate areas are limited to few job opportunities and mainly rely on the agricultural sector for their income, which is a seasonal sector. It is also apparent that the access people have to quality education and healthcare services depends on whether they live in urban areas, which have a high concentration of these essential services, or if they reside in rural or estate areas (SDG 10; SDG 4; SDG 3). The current crisis is likely to worsen multidimensional poverty levels which would lead to the most vulnerable in our society unable to access necessities thereby impacting the level of consumption in Sri Lanka (SDG 1; SDG 12).

Further contributing to multidimensional poverty levels is food inflation which had risen to 57.4% as of May 2022 leaving people being unable to purchase adequate amounts of food, resulting in nutrition being an afterthought amongst the poorest in our society which threatens the progress Sri Lanka had made prior to the food crisis in reducing undernourishment and improving nutrition with the assistance of nutritional programs funded by the government (SDG 1; SDG 2). Around 70% of households across the island have already reduced their consumption of food and the World Food Program states that there are 6.29 million people currently facing food insecurity. This is a dire issue as it can have several consequences such as contributing to social unrest hindering the safety of the communities (SDG 16), impacting labour productivity (SDG 8) which can also impact our export industries (SDG 10; SDG 17), and the health and wellbeing of society (SDG 3), amongst other factors.

In relation to gender equality, Sri Lanka has appreciable gender parity statistics in terms of literacy, universal school enrolment and access to tertiary education; there are qualitative realities which are not reflected by such aggregated data. One such reality is the impact of socio-cultural norms at a communal level which discourages continuing attendance of female children in schooling. Another factor is the comparatively low transference of female graduates into the active employment stage despite the high number of female degree holders in Sri Lanka (SDG 5; SDG 8). Moreover, Sri Lanka is biased towards the empowerment of biological women and often leaves out the empowerment of those who identify as women which has led to the marginalisation of those who identify as female and are part of the spectrum (SDG 5; SDG 10). It is apparent that the Government of Sri Lanka has to take action to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all, as the current system marginalises and excludes several communities, whether it be by race, ethnicity, religion, income, place of residence etc., which does not offer equal access and opportunity for all.

3.1.4 Environment

The Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) identifies SDGs 06, 07, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 as the Environmental Cluster. Environmental Cluster of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicates moderate to low progress overall. The political commitment varies across the Goals, and certain Goals such as 06 and 13 display higher levels of political commitment than the rest. Consecutive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have promised to achieve the Targets related to water and sanitation, with domestic budgetary allocations and policy frameworks in place. Similarly, acting on Climate Change has also been prioritised with a basic policy framework, action plans and strategies in place, as well as being politically committed to International Treaties and Conventions such as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Sri Lanka needs to improve on disaster risk reduction, and there are several action plans and strategies in place to achieve it along with the monetary allocations. There is continuous commitment from the public sector on climate action in Sri Lanka. While Sri Lanka takes pride in the significant renewable energy contributions made to the Power (Electricity Generation) sector through Hydro Energy generation, the political will and institutional incoherence needed to facilitate the establishment of much cleaner Renewable Energy projects such as Solar and Wind is seriously lacking. Additionally, long term energy generation plans still indicate the need for conventional Energy sources including Coal for Power Generation. However, the current economic and financial crisis is forcing the Government to rethink the need to prioritise cleaner Renewable Energy projects to address the existing Fossil Fuel-based Power Crisis.

Sri Lanka shows great political commitment with regards to SDG 09, infrastructure development, as it is believed to indicate prosperity but lacks a policy framework. However, the sustainability aspects of infrastructure have not been a priority, existing national plans are not implemented, leading to unplanned, unnecessary, environmentally destructive, socially disruptive projects across different industries. Some of the Private Sector companies adhere to the sustainability standards required for these projects. Natural resource extraction in Sri Lanka for construction is not sustainably managed and has already impacted ecosystems in certain areas. Moreover, some of these projects were politically manipulated and handed over to specific international contractors over local companies which are also concerning factors for preservation of natural resources. Further relating to SDG 09, is the lack of implementation of available national action plans for sustainable green cities and human settlements (SDG 11). There has been no progress on investing and implementing sustainable transport options in Sri Lanka, which could have benefitted the country during the ongoing Power Crisis and reduced overall greenhouse gas emissions. The lack of a proper solid waste management plan for cities and human settlements has led to several environmental and social issues. For instance, there are reports of wildlife consuming garbage in landfills bordering Protected Areas (PAs), pollution in water bodies, and incidents of loss of life due to garbage explosions and garbage landslides in Sri Lanka.

The lack of waste management plans in SDG 11 interlinks with the lack of solid and hazardous waste management issues related to SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, which has received very little to no political commitment in recent years. The National (Central), Subnational and Local Governance components have yet to fully comprehend SDG 12. Sustainable production has not been a priority for the public or private sectors in Sri Lanka. Ad hoc attempts have been made to incorporate sustainability, but many such efforts appear to be greenwashing projects aimed at nothing more than misleading the consumers. Recycling rates will plummet as a result of the ongoing crises as many small-scale recyclers struggle to keep their facilities operational. Sri Lanka also has an above average food loss index, which stems from household mismanagement and post-harvest losses among others. The

short-sighted political decisions such as banning chemical fertiliser also had an impact on food security in the country. While there is a basic policy framework available for SDG 12, it is poorly implemented, lacking in legislative and regulatory elements/support and currently not mainstreamed.

Political commitment towards achieving SDG 14 and SDG 15 has been extremely poor with intangible verbal promises and no implementation. Both these Goals have very comprehensive legal and policy frameworks, as well as moderate regulatory frameworks, but are ranked low on annual budgetary allocations. The Fisheries Sector has been severely impacted by plastic pollution and geopolitics. The best example is the recent MV X-Press Pearl Maritime Disaster and the total lack of transparency and accountability by the Government for the impacts it had on the Marine Environment, the Coastal Zone and dependent fishing communities. The present political instability coupled with the economic and financial crisis has paved the way for further destruction of Sri Lanka's Terrestrial Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Habitats. Human needs such as agriculture, firewood and poaching will take precedence over preservation of Protected Areas (PAs) and other wilderness areas. Illegitimate political decisions such as the handing over of Other State Forests (OSFs) and State Forested Lands the District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats for agriculture purposes have already removed pristine pockets of wilderness. Biodiversity in Sri Lanka will face the brunt of the impacts as communities neighbouring Protected Areas will exploit natural resources out of desperation.

3.2. Assessment of the Transformation

The following overview expands on the 'Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of the SDGs conducted'. The assessment was conducted covering 30 Key Aspects under 05 Main Areas relevant to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.2.1 Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

Sri Lanka has so far not been effective in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, environment-social-economic, and in mainstreaming the SDGs across national policy frameworks. In the absence of a cohesive national SDG policy, strategy, roadmap, action plan, financing strategy, monitoring mechanism and an integrated institutional mechanism, different ministries and agencies in Sri Lanka have been left to making sporadic and fragmented initiatives to engage in the SDGs.

Sri Lanka's main challenge is the lack of an overarching policy framework which could guide sustainable development that reinforces the policy integration between environment, society, and the economy. Across the SDGs, a large number of policies can be found, most of these policies are comprehensive on their own but some of the latest policies have attempted to map sectoral interlinkages as well. Overall, even within individual goals, policy coherence is minimal. Reasons for the lack in coherence remains to be due to siloed approaches when developing sectoral policies coupled with fragmented and unstable institutional frameworks. Mainstreaming of existing policy frameworks is slow but there are attempts being made by certain sectoral government entities to improve mainstreaming of policies, status of those attempts since the crisis is unknown. For example, climate change is currently being incorporated into different existing sectoral policies as an update to address resilience for the relevant sector. Integration of policies becomes a challenge without a coherent policy framework for the country. There is no process in Sri Lanka which guides proper integration of policies within the existing governance structure. The implementation of existing national policies is weak, while very few national policies are utilised in the decision-making processes, the majority of the comprehensive sectoral policies are

ignored or forgotten. Sri Lanka has failed to use available policy frameworks to guide implementation of mega infrastructure projects across the country impacting sensitive ecosystems through unplanned resource extraction and land use change, removing settlements of local communities and disrupting income sources.

In terms of subnational and local level implementation of available policies, action plans and strategies, there is a major disconnect. National level policies, action plans and strategies are rarely localised at the subnational and local level as there is no official process to integrate. Lack of coordination between national to subnational and local level creates a gap in communication which negatively impacts implementation. There are subnational and local level action plans and strategies for some thematic areas but they are implemented in an ad hoc and siloed manner without required guidance from a policy framework. Subnational/Provincial Development and Adaptation plans are currently said to be in the development phase and until such time these plans are finalised and published, Sri Lanka is not on track to achieve sustainable development.

When looking at Sri Lanka from a holistic perspective, planetary boundaries are yet to be surpassed. In terms of freshwater use, atmospheric aerosols, stratospheric ozone depletion, climate change emissions, biochemical flows, Sri Lanka is fairing well and not contributing towards any exploitation or an increment. However, in terms of land use change, Sri Lanka's lack of proper land use plans and strategies are leading to increasing exploitation of protected areas with sensitive ecosystems. Moreover, lack of concern towards the marine environment at all levels have created significant space for issues such as ocean acidification, chemical and solid waste pollution to occur without any mechanisms in place to address these issues. Sri Lanka having approximately 6.7 times more ocean area compared to the land area, is yet to effectively utilise and preserve marine resources.

Since the last Voluntary National Review (VNR) was submitted to the High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2018, Sri Lanka has not made any significant progress towards achieving sustainable development. Any positive progress previously made has also been severely impacted by the ongoing political and economic crisis as well as the COVID 19 pandemic. Ad hoc attempts at implementing SDG related projects were conducted but no overall policy, action plan or strategy to ensure prosperity for the environment, society and economy in Sri Lanka.

3.2.2 Political Commitment – Policy and Institutional Coherence Review:

Since formally committing to the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Sri Lanka has not been consistent in its belief in change, conviction in chartering new pathways or committing to act out of the prevalent system. SDGs continue to be approached as another international project within the exclusive policy circles that does not appear to reach the stakeholders and public at both national and subnational levels. In fact, political engagement in the policy process has been limited even at national level while provincial and local government levels are quite marginalized and the civic space for engagement has been shrinking. Sri Lanka continues to operate its development programmes and projects creating contradictions, confusions, compromises and confrontations between environmental, social and economic policies and regulations. Lack of policy coherence planning has prevented proper integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic), while mainstreaming the SDGs into existing national policy frameworks has been through the siloed approaches of subject ministries. The acute lack of policy and institutional coherence in Sri Lanka demonstrates an inability and commitment to a true transformation towards sustainable development.

Sri Lanka's political commitment towards the achievement of the 17 SDGs is minimal devoid of any coherence. In terms of overarching policy frameworks, while such frameworks do exist for most of the SDGs, this certainly does not apply to all 17. An example of this is SDG 10, which displays no physical Government Documentation that resembles National Policy Documents and instead, prefers to approach macro-economic and physical policy through theoretical, conceptualisation. Separately, in the case of SDG 13, there is a minimalistic policy framework that is occupied by a single, outdated National Policy Document. Having said that, specific and more recent National Policy Document Drafts in SDG 02 are attempting to formulate policy coherency, through the development of the relevant interlinkages between SDG 02 and SDG 13. On a different note, SDG 15 is an example of a goal that does have a moderate number of National Policy Documents available, that cover multiple aspects within the broad thematic areas of Biodiversity Conservation, Protected Area (PA) Administration and Sustainable Forestry Management.

However, once again policy coherence is lacking, with the National Policy Documents mentioned above having been developed in siloed conditions, and provides no feasible interlinkages between them, hindering the overall achievement of SDG 15 in Sri Lanka. It must be noted that in the case of SDG 07, that the formulation, approval and release of the detailed Government Document titled **“The National Energy Policy and Strategies of Sri Lanka (2019)”** was a moderate step towards the displaying of basic political commitment, that is needed in order to at least attempt to achieve SDG 07 in Sri Lanka. However, this is contrasted by the almost complete lack of institutional coherence amongst the various Government Entities that are affiliated with this SDG. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) highlights just show state corruption, monopolisation and political affiliation weakens the institutional coherence with the other Government Entities that are equally important as CEB, in order to achieve SDG 07; such government entities include the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and the Lanka Electricity Company Private Limited amongst others. Similar such institutional deficiencies can be highlighted through SDG 01, where the responsible Government Entities operate in silos, with minimal communication and are also forced into submission as nothing more than politically manipulated tools, to launch and implement arbitrary National Programmes and Activities that do not aid in strengthening institutional coherence, nor assist in achieving SDG 01. From a broader perspective, SDG 11 is the ultimate example of how both political and institutional coherence has failed, in the absence of legitimate political commitment. Government Entities such as the National Physical Planning Department (NPPD), the National Planning Department, the Urban Development Authority (UDA), the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) are supposed to operate through transparent, coherent policy frameworks, to affect institutional coherence. Instead, administrative rivalries, bureaucratic deficiencies and siloed operational procedures have caused more damage to policy and institutional coherence, damaged the socio-economic-environmental landscape and mostly hampered the achievement of SDG 11.

3.2.3 Progress Appraisal – Monitoring, Evaluation and Follow-Up Review:

Sri Lanka is yet to establish a clear national SDG monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and review (MEFR) mechanism. While some proxy indicators have been introduced during the past two years, Sri Lanka is yet to localize the indicators fully and comprehensively. The greatest challenge in reviewing Sri Lanka's progress in achieving SDGs is the limitations in disaggregated data, both in terms of availability and frequency of compilation. In 2017, the Report titled 'Status of SDG Indicators in Sri Lanka' issued by the Department of Census and Statistics reported data availability for only 46 SDG indicators out of the 244 SDG indicators proposed by the SDG Global Framework. Since then, the Sustainable

Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL) has taken the initiative to strengthen SDG Data Governance and Management Systems. SDCSL has been analysing data requirements of SDG indicators in line with the UN Meta-data Guidelines. They have (a) conducted initial assessment to compile Baseline Data available with government institutions, (b) been verifying and validating the Data as official government statistics. The National SDG Data Portal launched by SDCSL is an integrated platform that links all government institutions to a central platform promoting a whole-of-government approach to data compilation and dissemination. According to the SDC (2021), data is currently available for a total of 104 SDG Indicators out of the 244 SDG Indicators in the Global Framework. In this regard, the initiative of the Finance Commission to develop guidelines for annual and medium-term planning is noteworthy. The results frameworks for Annual Development Plans as well as Medium-term Sectoral Development Plans require the identification of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) at the outcome and output levels. While these KPIs do not constitute indicators to measure localized SDGs, the initiative constitutes a first step in developing an indicator base at the subnational level.

The components of monitoring, evaluation and follow-up are critical in ensuring the progress needed towards achieving the SDGs in Sri Lanka. To do this, Independent National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) need to be formulated and established at each of the designated National Focal Points assigned to each of the SDGs. A relatively successful example of this occurred for SDG 14, by means of a written agreement and partnership, between the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) and the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) in February 2021, which resulted in the establishment of the SDG14+ National Secretariat. Such a National Coordination Mechanism was an extremely valuable addition to any and all monitoring, evaluation and follow-up for SDG 14. Aside from this exception however, as of July 2022 no other NCMs have been established for any of the other SDGs in Sri Lanka, despite their being existing legislative provisions in many of the relevant pieces of Parliamentary Legislation to set up and operate Independent Entities for the purpose of ensuring monitoring, evaluation, follow-up, and review across all the SDGs. Government Documentation also has a fundamental role to play in assessing the status of monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up for the SDGs in Sri Lanka; these elements are based on the information, data and statistics contained in the Annual Performance Reports, Annual Accounts Reports, Annual Statistical Reports and other such similar Government Documentation, released by the relevant Government Entities on a yearly basis. However, since August 2020, the official release of such Government Documents has effectively diminished; with limited information, data and statistics having been publicly released since 2020, an honest monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and review of the SDGs realistically becomes impossible. This has led to reports, including the Voluntary National Review (VNR), being published by public authorities without any accountability and relevance to a true transformation.

3.2.4 Leaving No One Behind – Localising, Subnational Government Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review:

Subsidiarity is lacking among the intuitions in Sri Lanka due to the constitutionally mandated centralisation of governance in Sri Lanka. An example of this is observed in SDG 06, where although Water Supply is completely devolved to the 341 Local Government Entities, the actual implementation and local policy formulation is minimal. This is since the Government Entities that are applicable to SDG 06 are not devolved to or concurrently shared with the 09 Provincial Governments, let alone the 341 Local Government Authorities. National Water Supply and Drainage Board and the Water Resources Board are mainly geared towards centralisation, despite limited attempts to interact with and consult the local government authorities. Another relevant example is SDG 07, where although

the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity is technically a devolved subject as per the Ninth Schedule of Constitution. The monetary resources, political lobbying and associated corruption of specific, powerful Central Government Entities such as the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) have prevented the devolution of the Power, Energy and Renewable Energy Thematic Sectors. However, there is one Provincial Statute that directly applies to these thematic sectors, as well as a Provincial Government Entity, namely the Provincial Alternative Electricity Bureau - Western Province (PPAEB - WP). Interestingly, while Education is technically fully devolved as a thematic subject area with no Central Department of Education, the 09 Provincial Departments of Education (PDEs) are still subject to the direct authority of the Cabinet Ministry of Education (MoE) as opposed to their respective Provincial Education Ministries. Overall, the institutional coherence and the subsidiarity measures are important to ensure no one is left behind.

Covering a broad cross section of sectors and thematic areas, CSOs have also played a vital role in keeping the sustainable development agenda alive in Sri Lanka. However, the complexity of SDGs has become a barrier for transformative and critical action by most CSOs. As the donor conditionalities grow towards integrating SDGs in their funding criteria, greater interest of related activities is seen to grow amongst CSOs. However, CSO action appears to be project oriented and not long-term and transformative. Most of the project financing is viewed as distributed amongst international development agencies and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO); even those funds do not appear to advance a localised agenda for sustainable development and concentrates around a few selected thematic sectors of the SDGs, driving further fragmentation. CBOs are far from being engaged in the SDGs as the related dialogues continue to be in urban areas and in the English language rather than local languages.

The private sector, predominantly the larger corporate business and industry, continue to engage in SDGs as an extension to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Many in the business sector still continue to be unaware, disregarding the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their business practices. While, regular corporate sustainability and CSR awards are being carried out by sector associations, there is no systematic assessment of transformative action to show true shifts in business processes for production and services that advances the nation towards Sustainable Development. While environmental and social compliance has increased, unsustainable consumption and production patterns continue to grow in Sri Lanka. At the same time, the policy environment for business to transform into sustainable practices within a competitive market has not been facilitated by the authorities. A lack of effective engagement in national policy and sectoral strategy processes keeps the business sector stakeholders away from playing their critical role as partners in the transformation.

While the big businesses are yet to find more meaningful engagement in the transformative agenda, the SMEs, micro enterprises and cottage industries need to find their way into the SDGs. Seen as a critical agent of the national prosperity drive, the smaller and local entrepreneurs need to be supported properly in domestic resource mobilisation. With a smaller ecological footprint and greater potential for a circular economy, smaller local entrepreneurs need to be centrally engaged in the SDGs for transformation towards sustainable development in the country. The business case of SDGs has not been addressed well in Sri Lanka. Strategies to incentivise businesses through policy mainstreaming should be present across all development sectors and programmes of the government. In the meantime, businesses are expected to proactively engage sustainability systems and processes to advance prosperity through circular economic strategies.

If Sri Lanka was to truly make legitimate inroads towards accomplishing the principle of subsidiarity and ensuring the localisation of the SDGs, then by default stakeholder engagement would increase dramatically, due to the lack of control by the centre, which would ultimately allow all levels of governance, as well as CSOs, NGOs, the Private Sector and other such stakeholders to truly participate in a transformative for SDG achievement.

3.2.5 Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

Sri Lanka has not conducted a proper assessment on the financing and domestic resource mobilization for the implementation of the SDGs; this showcases the low-level commitment by the political and administrative hierarchy to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Besides the Central Bank of Sri Lanka launching a Sri Lanka Green Finance Taxonomy report this year, the country does not have a clearly defined sustainable development financing architecture. The current economic crisis demonstrates the lack of foresight by the government that prevents the country from seeking external financing support for the implementation of the SDGs. Without sustainable financing strategies and investments at national and subnational levels, seizing the potential for financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to provide equitable access to finance is not possible.

Generally, Sri Lanka has very limited allocations of **financing** for transformative action. There are very little targeted budgetary allocations for SDGs across the board. Due to the decline of the economy this has even worsened over the last few years. The reasons for the decline in the economy has been further reflected in the assessment of SDG 17. A series of decisions taken over the review period has reduced the government income drastically. The excessive printing of the local currency has diminished its value. The delayed action to responsibly utilise multi stakeholder partnerships has reduced the resilience of the economy. In addition to this COVID 19 pandemic has also caused redirection of finances towards different priorities driven by the health emergency. This has prevented many SDGs from progressing and resulting in stagnant behaviour. SDG 13 has shown progress in the context of the financing because of allocations attracted due to Sri Lanka's vulnerability to the climate change impacts. Furthermore, budgetary financing for the WASH sector has driven the progress made in SDG 6. Overall, it has been observed that Sri Lanka's recent governments have exhausted financing channels for a development model with limited alignment with sustainability, the priority should be to realign the national policy frameworks and strategies to propagate inclusive prosperity as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Given the current economic crisis Sri Lanka must immediately assess its domestic resourcing needs for implementing the SDGs and must calculate the long medium-short term benefits of such an investment towards the recovery. Sri Lanka should think about impact investments in order to protect the natural resources, increase energy security, and trickle-down benefits to the vulnerable groups.

The lack of resources allocation and availability has also hindered the advancement of technology. There is a lack of scientific approach towards understanding the holistic view of transformation. Therefore, technology has played very little part in SDGs implementation in Sri Lanka. While attempts to advance technology have been observed, they have not been scaled up to the national level, and they remain scattered. During the COVID 19 pandemic Sri Lanka effectively implemented the restrictive measures but did not invest adequately on responsive measures assisted by technology and innovation. As a result, during the peak of the pandemic the communities suffered immensely. This short sightedness again can be related to the lack of understanding of transformative action. Data democracy amongst the relevant central government entities is a barrier towards holistic implementation and accountability.

At the National (Central) Level, the Department of Census and Statistics is the national focal point for collated information. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) also collates data and statistics into its databases and remains as a secondary source at the national level. At the subnational level, very few databases exist, and they are predominately vested with local government entities creating a bottleneck where the timely data vital for decision making is absent. Furthermore, there is a lack of access to the public information on sustainability and inclusive budgeting. As a result, there is a parity between what is needed for the society and the implementation action taken. In many instances the decisions made on transformative action are not scaled and not thought through leading to adverse outcomes and in some cases resulting in reversal of the decisions. Sri Lanka, therefore, should include and enforce accountability mechanisms at least now to expect a path of recovery to emerge at some point.

CHAPTER 04:

Macro-Micro Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals



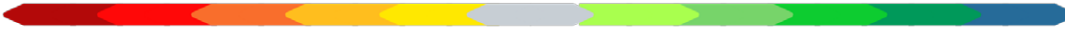


MAIN AREAS FOR	KEY ASPECTS FOR ASSESSMENTS	
A. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review	1	Policy Coherence including mainstreaming integration
	2	National Policies Implemented on a regular basis
	3	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the sub-national/ local level
	4	Planetary Boundaries
	5	Progress since last VNR (if applicable)
B. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review	6	Political Commitment
	7	Public Sector / Administrative Commitment
	8	Legal/policy framework available
	9	Legal/policy framework Implemented
	10	National action plan available
	11	National action plan Implemented
	12	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate available
	13	Institutions and agencies with clear mandate operational
	14	Institutional Coherence

MAIN AREAS FOR	KEY ASPECTS FOR ASSESSMENTS	
C. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review	15	Monitoring, evaluation, follow-up & review mechanisms and procedure available and operational at national level
	16	Monitoring, evaluation, follow-up & review mechanisms and procedure available and operational at subnational/local levels
	17	Implementation of the policies, action plans and strategies at the sub-national/ local level
	18	Data available at national and subnational levels (disaggregate)
	19	Inclusion of CSOs & Stakeholders in M&E
D. Leaving No One Behind: Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review	20	Knowledge and capacity building including in education systems and processes
	21	Multi-stakeholder partnerships available
	22	Private Sectors awareness and engagement
	23	Citizen participation and civil society engagement
	24	Public awareness and capacity building activities available and operational
	25	Delivery by CSOs & Stakeholders


MAIN AREAS FOR	KEY ASPECTS FOR ASSESSMENTS	
E. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability	26	Financing the transformation
	27	Inclusion in National Budget and domestic resources mobilized
	28	Allocation of budget at subnational/local levels
	29	Transparency and accountability mechanisms and procedures available and operational
	30	Science, Technology & Innovation advanced

Overall Rating Mechanism (Micro & Macro Assessments)



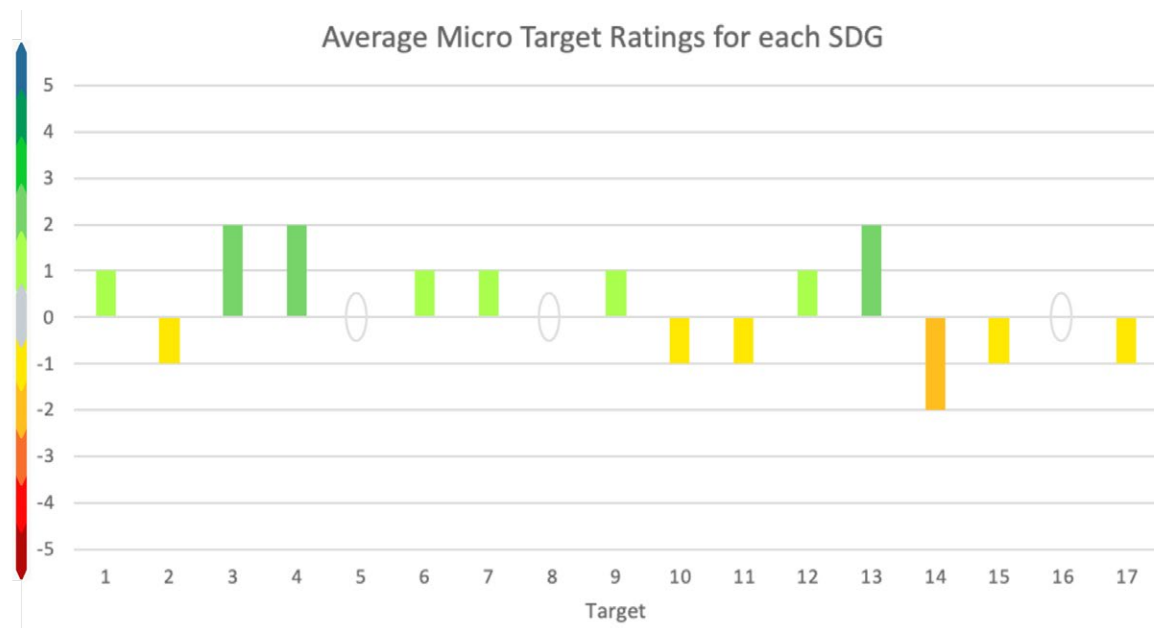
Grade	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Scale	Very large Reduction	Large reduction	Medium Reduction	Small reduction	Very small reduction	No progress	Very low progress	Low progress	Medium progress	High progress	Very high progress
Explanation	Very High Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	High Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Medium Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Low Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	Very Low Negative impact level on the commitment/achievement	no impact	Very Low Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Low Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Medium Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	High Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement	Very High Positive impact level on the commitment/achievement

Each assessment is carried out through a combination of data, information and expert knowledge and rated from a -5 to +5 scale of performance. The rating is conducted by a group of thematic experts and researchers facilitated by the editorial team. A group decision is taken after all aspects are considered by the group. Any difference of rating within the selected thematic group will finally be resolved by the editorial team considering their arguments presented. Some of the ratings will therefore represent an average score and some will also be presented as a range within the rating scoreboard. Following is the Overall Rating Mechanism adopted for both the Micro and Macro assessments.



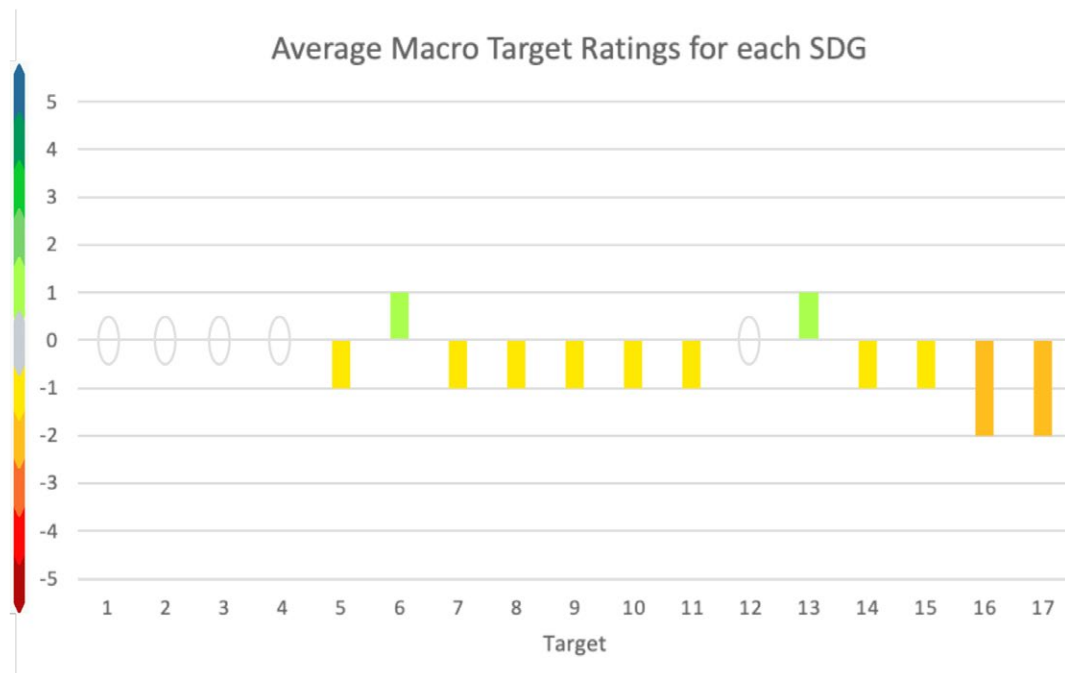
Grade	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Scale	Very large Reduction	Large reduction	Medium Reduction	Small reduction	Very small reduction	No progress	Very low progress	Low progress	Medium progress	High progress	Very high progress

Following is the **Overall Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of the 17 SDGs**



Overall Micro Average Rating: 0

Following is the **Overall Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of the 17 SDGs**



Overall Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 01: End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere

A. Context of Implementing SDG 01: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

There has been considerable progress made on **SDG 1** in Sri Lanka prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the current economic and humanitarian crisis. Most of the data obtained for Sri Lanka's progress on poverty reduction is from 2019 but the impact of the events that occurred post 2020 threaten the immense progress Sri Lanka has made in poverty eradication over the past few decades, especially given the decline in funding for social protection schemes that act as a safety net for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Worsening this matter is the Sri Lankan government's default on its foreign debt payments meaning it's very likely that austerity measures will be implemented making less funds available for the available welfare programs which will greatly impact the number of people who live below the national poverty line and the percentage of multidimensional poverty and intensity of poverty in Sri Lanka.

Data from the Department of Census and Statistics shows a positive trend in poverty reduction as the Poverty Headcount Index (PHI) decreased from 16% in 2016 to 14.3% in 2019, which could be threatened by the impact of Covid-19 and the current crisis. **SDG 1** also has impacts on other **Social** factors such as multidimensional poverty, which encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, disempowerment, poor quality of work, the threat of violence, and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous, among others. Multidimensional poverty in Sri Lanka increased from 12.4% in 2016 to 16% in 2021, meaning one in six people are multidimensionally poor. Additionally, intensity of poverty also increased from 37.5% in 2016 to 41.6% in 2021, which shows no progression in these aspects since the 2030 Agenda was introduced. Even more concerning is that estate areas have more than half, 51.3%, of all people living in poverty and rural areas have eight out of every ten, 80.9%, people living in poverty. Many of those who reside in rural and estate areas are limited to few job opportunities and mainly rely on the agricultural sector for their income, which is a seasonal sector. It is also apparent that the access people have to quality education and healthcare services depends on whether they live in urban areas, which have a high concentration of these essential services, or if they reside in rural or estate areas (**SDG 10**). On a more positive note, however, Sri Lanka's population using safely managed drinking water and basic sanitation services is significantly high with 91.6% and 95.8% of the population respectively (**SDG 6**).

Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst **Economic** crisis. This has negatively impacted everyone irrespective of their income group, but it has undeniably affected the poorest in our society the most. Firstly, inflation in 2022 has soared to unprecedented levels with many people being unable to afford essential food items and opting to eat only one meal a day, if anything at all (**SDG 2**). In 2022, consumer prices increased from 29.85% in April to 39.1% in May. Food inflation increased from 46.6% in April to 57.4% in May, while non-food inflation increased from 22% in April to 30.6% in May. After months of rising prices of essential items such as rice, sugar and wheat flour, the government, on June 10th, finally imposed a price control on white/red raw rice at Rs. 201 per kilogram but has made no other indication of providing price controls of other essential food items. Secondly, the fuel crisis has negatively impacted many of Sri Lanka's transport workers, including the large number of self-

employed three-wheeler drivers in the country who are now unable to sustain themselves as they can no longer achieve their usual daily revenue. Moreover, the fuel crisis has also caused a shortage of cooking gas. This has led to long queues of people waiting to purchase the limited supply of cooking gas cylinders, and some to even look at other alternatives such as firewood or inventing alternative cooking methods with scrap metals, while the wealthy were able to switch to alternative cooking methods such as purchasing hot plates. Additionally, despite the progress made in previous years to ensure that nearly 100% of the population had access to electricity, the current foreign currency shortage has made it difficult to import fuel resulting in the CEB rationing electricity with Sri Lankans having to experience power cuts every day: around 7 hours a day in February 2022 which increased to 10 hours a day and eventually 13 hours a day by the end of March. As of July, Sri Lankans are still facing 2-3 hours of power cuts a day (SDG 7).

In relation to **Governance** decisions that have impacted **SDG 1**, it is important to note that there are various social protection schemes available that act as a safety net for vulnerable communities. Sri Lanka has Universal Education (SDG 4) and Universal Healthcare, including a ‘Free medicine for All’ program (SDG 3). The “Thripasha” program and the “Poshanna Malla” program are targeted towards improving the nutrition of women, including pregnant and lactating women and infants. The morning meal for preschool children, including other educational welfare programs such as free textbooks, free school uniforms, grade five scholarships, and shoes for students in difficult areas are programs aimed at assisting the educational and nutritional needs of children. Older persons are assisted by the assistance for elderly persons program. Assistance for disabled persons consists of two programs: assistance for disabled soldiers and assistance for differently abled persons and kidney patients. “Samurdhi/Divineguma” program is the main social protection initiative to assist low-income families. However, the Samurdhi program has issues regarding targeting and these payments have not been adjusted to inflation which reduces the effectiveness of the program today as living costs have risen sharply. Additionally, there aren’t any unemployment schemes/benefits even though Covid-19 resulted in widespread job losses which resulted in 500,000 people falling below the poverty line, and the current economic crisis resulting in rising unemployment (SDG 8). Lastly, the proportion of government spending during 2020 to 2022 for the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and on Welfare programs each was nearly 2.5 times less than the allocation for the Ministry of Defence despite the absence of war in Sri Lanka.

To progress **SDG 1**, the GoSL must also build resilience of the poor and vulnerable to climate related disasters. It is the poor that are more likely to live near **Environmentally** hazardous areas and in shelters likely to be damaged by natural disasters even though the poor have much smaller carbon footprints than the wealthy. In Sri Lanka, the poor are impacted by the effects of heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and strong winds, which resulted in 64,608 people (18,840 families) being affected, with two persons reported dead, 62 houses fully damaged and 1,463 houses partially damaged in December 2019 and 111,659 people (33,316 families) being affected across 14 districts, 106 houses fully damaged, and 3,783 houses partially damaged as of December 2020 (SDG 13).

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 01

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

There are no overarching pieces of legislation related to **SDG 1**. As far as National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans are concerned, there aren’t any relevant ones available for **SDG 1**. Poverty eradication has been attempted through programs rather than through national policies. Since there is a minimal

number of pieces of Parliamentary Legislation, as well as zero examples of National Policies and National Strategies that exist, implementation though frequent is extremely unstructured with the above Government Entities engaging in intragovernmental conflict on a regular basis, due to territorial disputes despite the prioritisation and availability of financial resources. Moreover, there is no decentralisation of Government Entities associated with **SDG 01**, yet still is an unsatisfactory implementation of existing National Policies and Strategies at the National (Central) Level. This is even more apparent, as you travel further down the devolution chain in both the Subnational (Provincial) and Local Governance Mechanisms, where zero Provincially oriented National Policies or Strategies exist. Additionally, there has been a lack of focus on the SDGs the past couple of years due to other concerns such as the Easter Sunday Bombings in April 2019, Covid-19 and now the economic crisis, which shows a lack of prioritization for poverty eradication as other crises come up.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

There are a range of policies and legislation in place such as the President’s Fund Act (No. 7 of 1978), Welfare Benefits Act (24 of 2002), Divineguma Act (No. 1 of 2013), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 2 of 2017) and a range of social protection schemes. However, more needs to be done in terms of providing other avenues to complement these welfare and social protection programs. For instance, Samurdhi Beneficiaries and other similarly labelled low wage earners, must not only be given the relevant financial support, but also educated and provided with the skills to lift themselves out of poverty, in collaboration with both the relevant governance mechanisms and the private sector. Despite the range of policies/legislation and social protection schemes, Sri Lanka is lacking in terms of implementation. Sri Lanka is also lacking legislation regarding physical and mental disability, children, elderly care and mental health. Additionally, spending on the available services is inadequate, which shows a lack of attention to these issues. Despite the current economic crisis which is likely to negatively impact poverty rates, the GoSL has no contingency plan that has been introduced. Fortunately, the interlinkages of the SDGs will assist in reducing poverty but there must be more direction for achieving **SDG 1**. Moreover, there are over a hundred government entities that conduct work in relation to reducing poverty, however, there is very little communication and cooperation between these ministries and agencies which highlights the fragmented policy and institutional planning that exists in Sri Lanka. A more coordinated effort can lead to better results due to a more efficient and complementary legislation, policies and action. The limited cooperation or coordination between these institutions prevents institutional coherence in implementing policies that progress the **SDG 1**, or the sustainable development goals, as a whole.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Firstly, none of the indicators under **SDG 1** have been localised, which must be done to accurately reflect the Sri Lankan context. The main reporting mechanism related to **SDG 01** in Sri Lanka is led by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), which conducts their Household and Expenditure Survey (HIES) only once every three years. This made it difficult to assess the poverty rate as the last HIES was conducted in 2019. In addition, Multinational Financial Entities such as the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) internally monitor **SDG 01** indicators in Sri Lanka. In terms of transparency and accountability there has been a lack of reporting on **SDG 01** and many sectors remain weak, particularly sectors like the plantation sector. Additionally, there is no disaggregated data on child poverty; we do have a child poverty index in the 2019 HIES, but it is not updated, nor is it comprehensive enough, and the available disaggregated data is not satisfactory. Moreover, Sri Lanka does not conduct evaluations on a regular basis, which should be done much more often to have a robust system and tracking on the local/subnational level is even less than what happens on

the national level. In terms of involvement of CSOs and other partnerships, there aren't any official mechanisms that engage CSOs and stakeholders in a structured and coherent manner.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

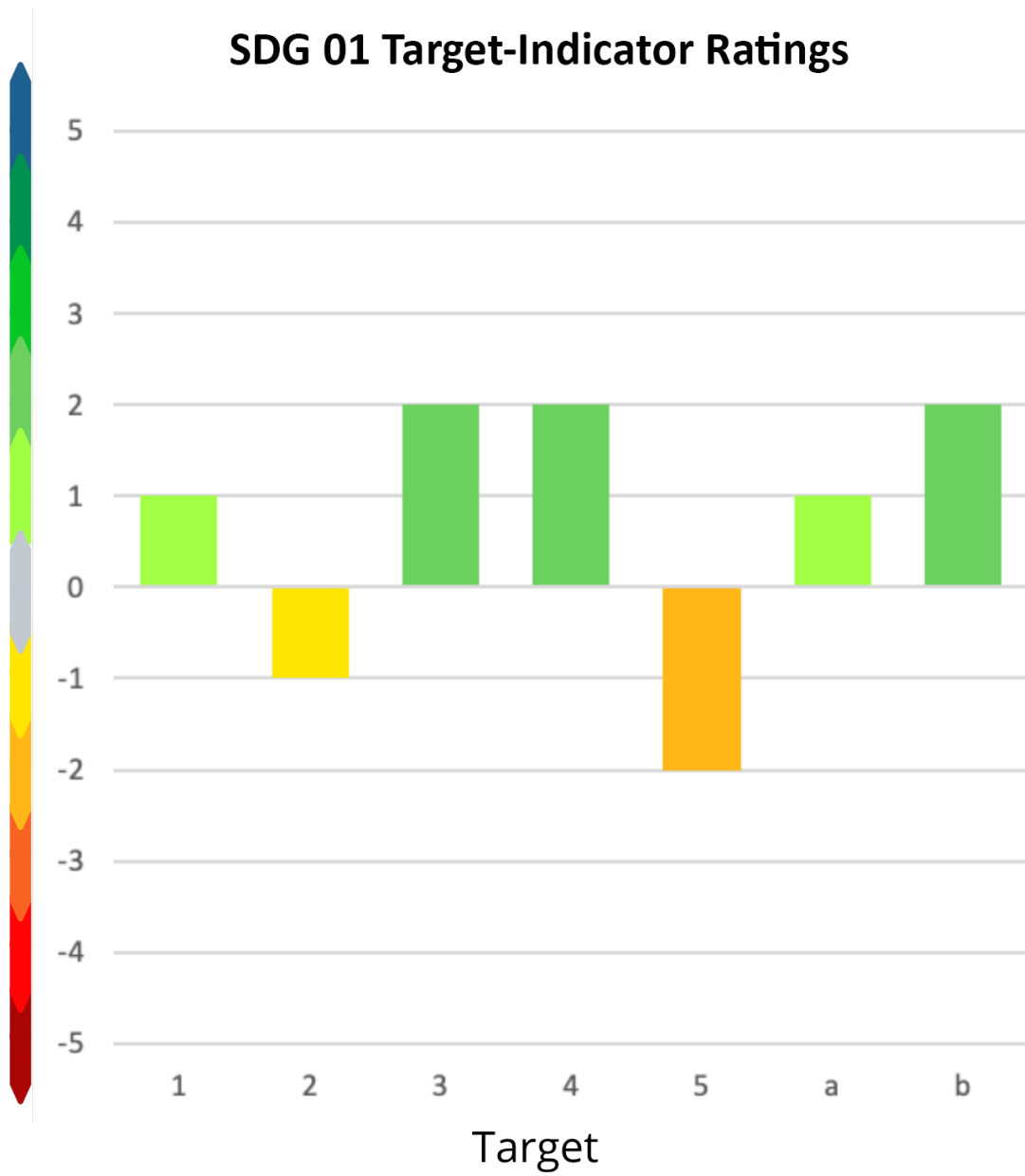
There is very little knowledge of the SDGs amongst the general population. In the school system there is limited information and knowledge circulated regarding the SDGs and where there is, it is mainly taught on an overview basis with no further discourse on the topic. Furthermore, private sector awareness and engagement on **SDG 1** is low despite that there is private sector engagement in CSR programs which ultimately do not have any transformational impacts on poverty eradication. Moreover, there is considerable CSO and citizen participation in relation to **SDG 1** and alleviating poverty from a multidimensional poverty aspect - in education, healthcare, relief - which has positively contributed to **SDG 1**. While CSOs and stakeholders engage in poverty eradication programs, their efforts are fragmented as they do so with limited understanding of the SDGs and implement their efforts in an unstructured and uncoordinated manner that is not sufficient for the transformation that is needed. On the other hand, there is a considerable amount of public awareness and capacity building in relation to **SDG 1**, but in terms of delivery, their work on poverty eradication is also conducted with a limited understanding of SDGs resulting in fragmented and uncoordinated efforts not sufficient for the transformation that is required.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

Over the past two years, 07 tax cuts passed in December 2019, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic impacting economic growth and Sri Lanka's tourism industry which the government relies on greatly for revenue, followed by the current economic crisis, there is a limitation with regards to financing from the government for SDG implementation or even welfare programs and livelihood support, most of which saw a reduction in funding over the past 3 years. Spending on Defence has been prioritised over other essential services that assist the progress of **SDG 1** such as healthcare and education, in addition to welfare assistance. Moreover, Subnational allocations in the national budget are small and insignificant. Finance commission funding flows are sent to provinces without being earmarked which means spending is not conducted in a prioritised manner. More importantly, there aren't funds allocated to the subnational level specifically for SDG implementation. Going forward, a greater percentage of the National Budget needs to be diverted away from unnecessary infrastructure development projects and directed towards addressing the enormous gaps in poverty reduction, obstacles preventing employment of "unskilled" workers and the lack of support for those citizens classified as "daily wage earners".

In relation to transparency and accountability for expenditure on SDG implementation processes, there isn't any mechanism to provide such an opportunity that we are aware of. Active citizen participation in major decision-making processes (for example the formulation of the National Budget), as well as associated transparency and accountability initiatives must be implemented, in order ensure that the appropriate financial resources that are set aside to address **SDG 01**, are not being syphoned off and utilised for other, less than legal purposes. And, although some steps have been taken to identify technological innovations, there has been no evidence that these are linked to achieving **SDG 1**.

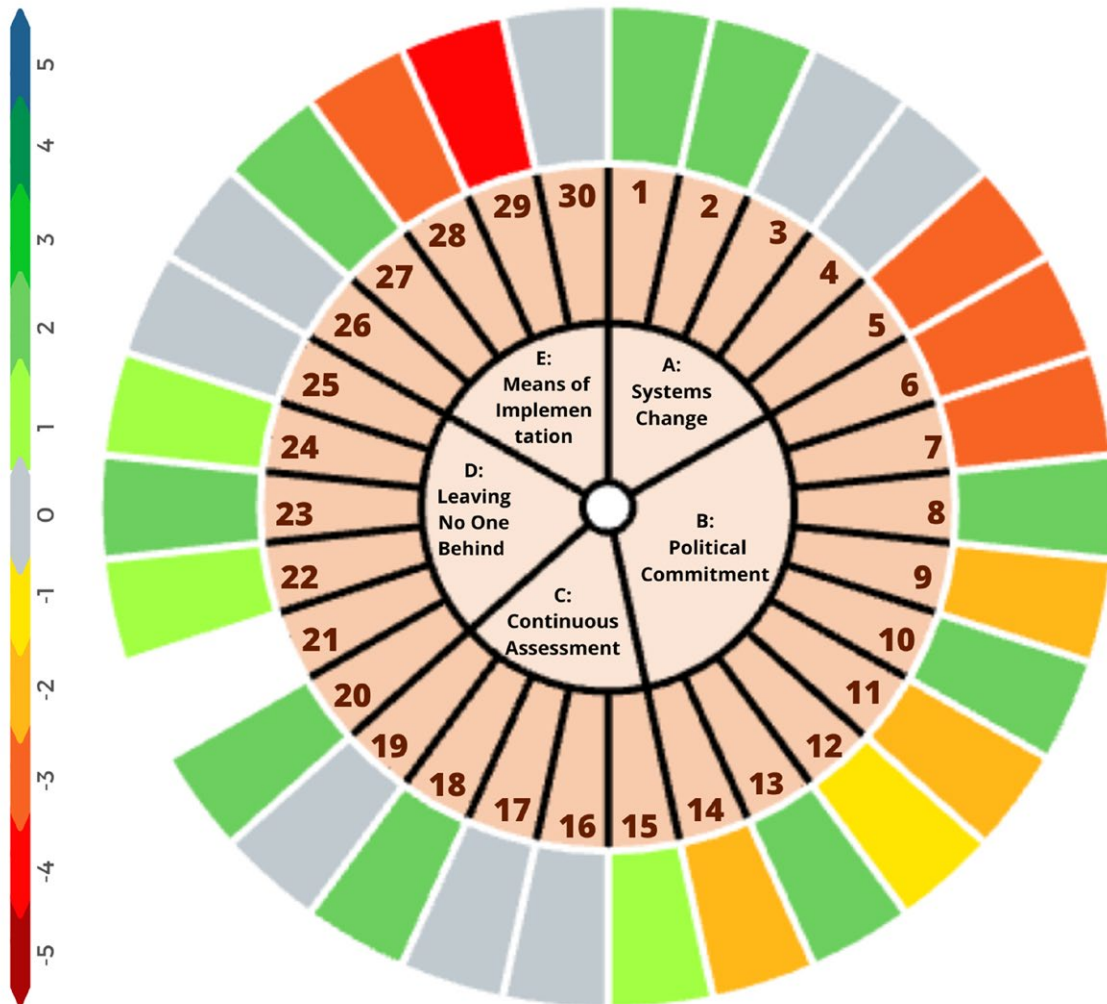
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 01



SDG 01 Micro Average Rating: +1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 01

SDG 01 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 01 Macro Average Rating: **0**

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

A. Context of Implementing SDG 02: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

The progress of **SDG 2** prior to the current economic and foreign currency crisis was significant as the country had been making positive strides in reducing undernourishment, improving food security and exploring climate smart agriculture. However, the shortage of foreign currency has impacted the nation's ability to purchase chemical fertilisers and urea which heavily impacts our ability to manage the food supply and the people who depend on the agricultural sector for their income. Food inflation increased to 80% in June 2022 which has left many unable to purchase adequate food and receive adequate nutrition which can setback the progress Sri Lanka has made in reducing undernourishment. Household food security of farmer families, as well as rural communities have also been affected by the economic crisis with 86% of households having reduced the number of meals a day or the quantity of food consumed per day. There were improvements made in reducing undernourishment in Sri Lanka prior to 2022 but the current food crisis threatens this progress. However, as of June 10th, 2022, the government had issued a Gazette introducing a price control on white/red raw rice at Rs. 201 but has made no indication that they will introduce price controls for other essential foods which is necessary to ensure **SDG 2** is prioritised during this time of soaring inflation. The following governance, economic, social and environmental factors related to **SDG 2** have broad interlinkages with several of the other SDGs.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has made some poor **Governance** decisions with regards to agricultural policies that have negatively impacted the agricultural sector, nutrition and food security in Sri Lanka. The decision to ban chemical fertilisers and force farmers to shift to 100% organic farming resulted in a 30-50% decline in the country's agricultural output, which also affects the average income of small-scale food producers. Many farmers decided to stop production and/or abandon land that was affected, and only continue growing for personal consumption. Moreover, the fuel crisis (**SDG 7**) is also a contributing factor to the drop in agricultural output, especially of small-scale food producers thereby impacting their average incomes and contributing to post harvest losses. As of recent, steps have been taken by the government to allocate more land area to agricultural production, however, it is imperative that the GoSL takes steps to ensure the existing agricultural area is utilised effectively to become more productive instead of solely increasing the proportion of agricultural area which would create a negative impact on **SDG 15**. However, to combat the poor decision making of the GoSL, there have been some attempts to support farmers and the agricultural sector for the government's own poor decisions by providing compensation of Rs. 210 million to 8,768 farmers whose crops were damaged due to the organic farming initiative. However, this monetary compensation does not do anything to attribute for the agricultural output that was lost which is a contributing factor to food insecurity in 2022.

Worsening matters for the progress of **SDG 2** is the current **Economic** crisis and foreign currency shortage which has resulted in an energy and food crisis. Agricultural workers not being able to consume the required quality and/or quantity of food will also hinder labour productivity and put them

below the poverty line (SDG 1). Several agricultural ministries have seen a decrease in funding in 2022 which could likely be attributed to the lack of government revenue and the economic crisis. Similarly, subsidies for (1) replanting tea and rubber; (2) for fertiliser; and (3) for export crop development, also saw a decrease in funding from 2020 to 2021 which negatively impacts the export industries (SDG 8) and showcases a lack of means of implementation available in the country (SDG 17). The economic crisis has also contributed to rising consumer inflation over 50% and food inflation rising to over 80% as of June which reduces people's purchasing power parity and impacts their ability to consume adequate amounts of food and nutrition.

The above governance and economic factors have adversely impacted the bottom 40% of the country exacerbating certain **Social** issues. Food inflation has left people being unable to purchase adequate amounts of food, resulting in nutrition being an afterthought amongst the poorest in our society. The fuel crisis has left many unable to purchase cooking gas, leaving many struggling to find ways to cook their food and having to resort to using firewood or invent alternative cooking methods using scrap metals. Currently, the World Food Program (WFP) estimates that over 6 million people require food assistance due to the current crisis. With many reverting to firewood and many unable to afford to purchase food, this could contribute to a rise in illegal logging and poaching in protected areas (SDG 15). Moreover, the lack of food access can significantly contribute to social unrest hindering the safety of communities (SDG 16). Therefore, immediate action is required to ensure food security in the country.

Sri Lanka does have a Plant Genetic Resource Centre (PGRC) which was established in 1988. PGRC has a mandate to plan and conduct plant exploration, collection, introduction, evaluation, documentation and conservation of the genetic diversity of food crops and their wild relatives for the benefit of present and future generations. The PGRC has done important work over the years in conserving plant genetic resources as part of the plant protection service, with 16,000 registered items in our seed conservation unit as of 2021. However, Sri Lanka has yet to do more to conserve animal genetic resources the way that it does for plants. Additionally, 'the National Red List 2012 of Sri Lanka, the Conservation Status of Fauna and Flora' (SDG 15) is the most recent document available which would note the local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction. This document is essential in ensuring the progress of target 2.5 and other **Environmental** targets. Furthermore, Sri Lanka should ensure the marine environment is safeguarded (SDG 14) as overfishing has been cited as one of the reasons for reduced fish stocks in Sri Lanka alongside microplastics. Climate smart agriculture projects will need to be prioritised as water availability is key to achieving agricultural prosperity. Climate induced natural disasters (SDG 13) can affect water quantity and quality (SDG 6) which affects agriculture. That being said, the unavailability of updated data hinders this progress and impacts food and agriculture in Sri Lanka.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 02

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

There has been a lack of mainstreaming and integration of the SDGs in Sri Lanka. There are no coherent national policies to progress SDG 2. The Overarching Agriculture Policy was not adequately implemented and does not address any of the problems Sri Lanka faces in relation to the rich agrobiodiversity of the country. The Organic Farming Policy was also a catastrophe in terms of promoting sustainable agriculture due to the failure in implementation which destroyed Sri Lanka's agricultural output. Furthermore, the GoSL has not adequately integrated agriculture policies into the subnational level policies. The budget for agriculture on the subnational level is also very low which prevents sufficient action being taken

on this lower level to progress **SDG 2**. It is also important to note that some provinces have statutes and an agricultural authority, however, not all provinces have this in place. Overall, it is apparent that there has been a lack of coherency of policies in relation to **SDG 2**. Regarding the planetary boundaries, many parts of the country are faced with pollution and biodiversity loss. For example, chemicals are over applied in the northern area and the central highlands which has heavily polluted soil due to overuse of chemicals and many farmers are experiencing the effects of climate change on their crops, but the GoSL has yet to update our policies and action plans in line with these realities.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

There was a commitment to progressing **SDG 2** in 2020 with the idea of organic farming but in 2021 there was inadequate advice given to the president on implementation of the policy which has impacted food security in 2022. There was also poor political commitment and a lack of administrative commitment to successfully promote sustainable agriculture. For instance, administrators hesitated with some decisions in 2020 in relation to purchasing Urea when prices were low due to low demand, and there was a lack of commitment to reaching out to agricultural professionals and experts for advice regarding policies directed towards the agricultural sector. It must also be emphasised that implementation of available legislation/policies was done incorrectly. The rush to move towards 100% organic farming can be viewed as the political establishment having other motives for pursuing this policy that was not necessarily to progress **SDG 2**. In addition, the government moving away from price control of essential food such as sugar during the current economic crisis and food crisis results in people from lower income classes not being able to have access to basic food items due to high prices and low supply which impacts another area of **SDG 2**: achieving food security and improving nutrition. There are also no available National Action Plans for **SDG 2**, even during the current food crisis there has been a failure to create an immediate action plan on a way out of the current crisis. Sri Lanka does have an overarching agriculture policy but it failed in terms of implementation. Despite the existence of the agricultural, health, fisheries, and livestock ministries in Sri Lanka, their work is not coordinated and there is a lack of institutional coherence to achieve **SDG 2**. Overall, there has been no direction in trying to progress **SDG 2** in Sri Lanka.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Indicators have not been localised to fit the national and subnational context. In relation to our Monitoring and evaluation processes, there are predictions being made without a consistent framework. Quantitative data for **SDG 2** does exist but qualitative data doesn't exist to assess **SDG 2** in Sri Lanka. However, there has been some progress made as most of the data is available but it is still important to note that there is no frequent data collection process, and not all the available data is from the same year making it difficult to assess the progress of the indicators efficiently. In addition, Covid-19 further exacerbated this issue by creating delays in the existing data collection processes which are yet to recover. There is some sort of involvement of Civil Society Organisations in relation to **SDG 2** but not much effort has been shown in recent years, partly due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. On the other hand, there are nine provincial agricultural departments and local agrarian centres available which provide opportunities for data collection on the subnational and local levels. This means that we have the ability to collect data on the subnational level but we aren't using the available resources to collect data and improve our M&E processes.

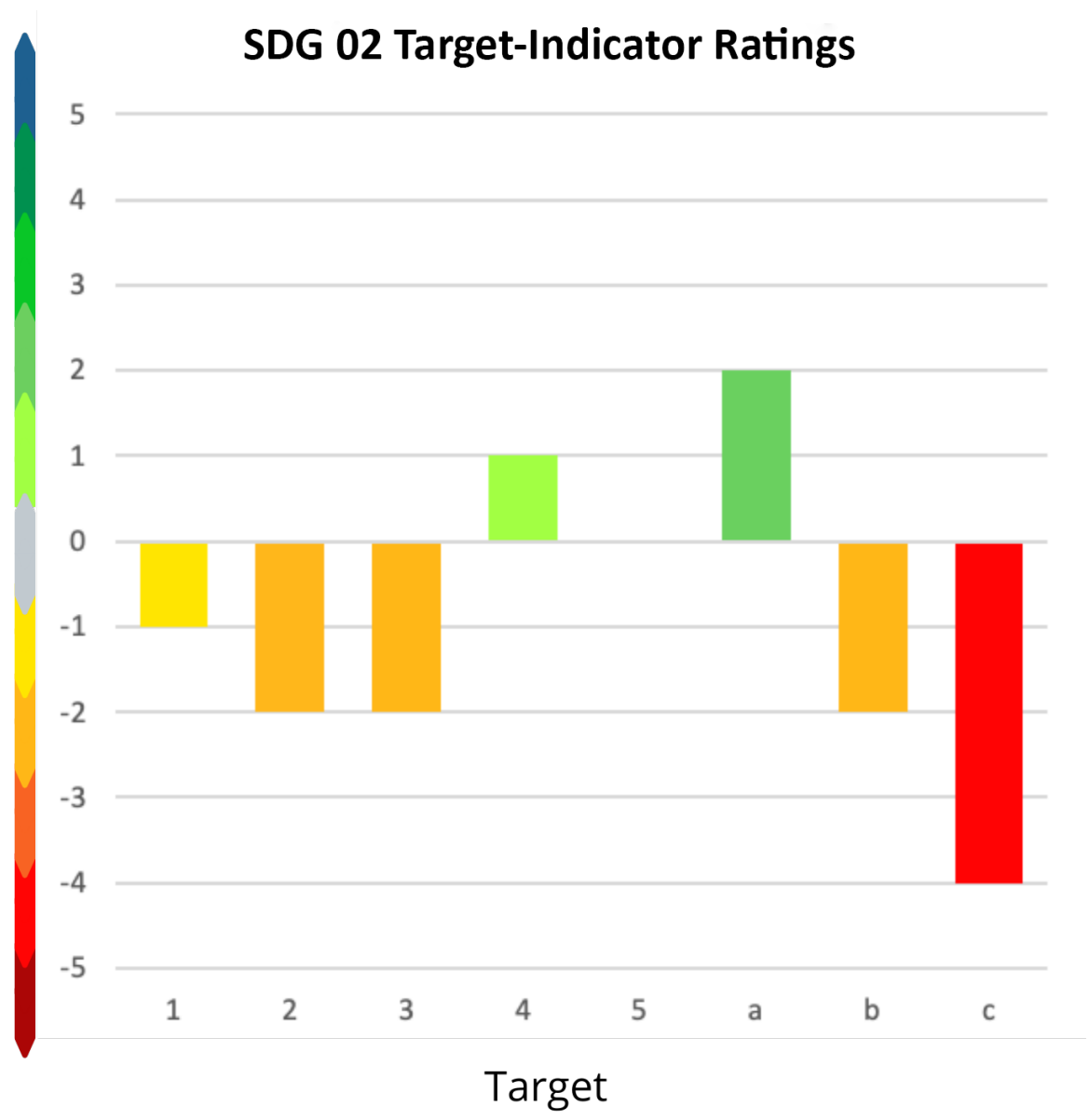
4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

The Government of Sri Lanka has taken measures to include sustainable development teaching in the school curriculum. University students, particularly science students, are taught sustainable development and SDGs. However, the teaching on SDGs is taught on an overview basis and there is no further discourse on the topic. The private sector, on the other hand, does conduct programs in relation to food provisioning and the agricultural sector but these methods aren't necessarily sustainable and more can be done to strengthen these efforts. Additionally, Civil Society Organisations do work on promoting sustainable agriculture in Sri Lanka, which is a positive step in progressing **SDG 2**, especially given other attempts from the education system and multi-stakeholder partnerships not being as effective. Despite this, it is imperative to highlight that the public, including most farmers, do not have a positive outlook on organic farming methods due to the disastrous implementation of the organic farming policy in 2021 which has impacted food security in 2022. Overall, the public awareness on sustainable agriculture processes is low and the lack of capacity has led to the potential of transforming to sustainable agriculture and food systems not happening. That being said, more steps will need to be taken to increase awareness on sustainable agricultural methods going forward.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

To transform the country to organic farming, there was funding allocated but there was no return on investment due to the lack of productivity and the inadequate mechanisms to implement the plan. This led to systems collapse of food and agriculture; the effects of which Sri Lankans are currently experiencing. Due to the tax cuts that were put forward in December 2019, government revenue has decreased significantly since which has resulted in the lack of financing for certain subsidies that impact the agricultural sector and agricultural export industries. The fiscal management report for 2021 shows that subsidies for the agricultural sector such as subsidies to farmers and subsidies for tea/rubber planters decreased from 2020. On the other hand, during the year 2020, the government was able to subsidise funding for fertilisers to farmers which was likely supported by foreign financing loans. Despite the lack of government revenue, Sri Lanka has received foreign assistance to improve food security and support the agricultural sector. In 2021, the World Bank provided Sri Lanka with a \$500 million financing agreement for climate resilient farming and in 2022 India has provided Sri Lanka a \$55 million credit line to purchase fertiliser and very recently the United States has offered \$32 million in aid to subsidise nutritional programs for women and children, including providing assistance to approximately 30,000 farmers.

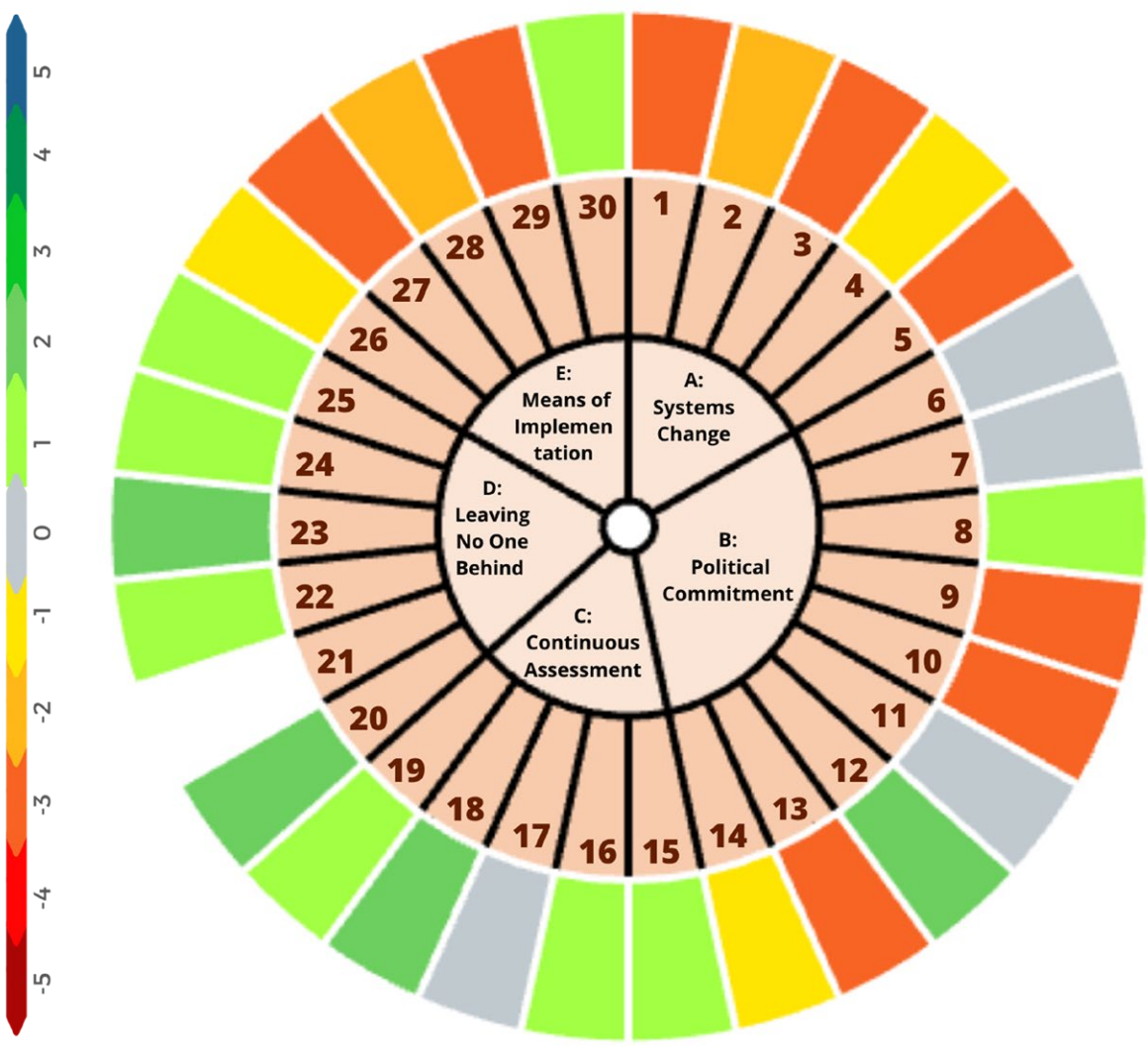
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 02 Micro Average Rating: **-1**

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 177

SDG 02 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 02 Macro Average Rating: **0**

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 03: Good Health & Well-Being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

A. Context of Implementing SDG 03: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka has maintained a strong healthcare system over the review period. This reflected through many measures. Specifically, the low Maternal Mortality Ratio, nearly 100% of skilled birth attendance, low under-5 mortality, and decreasing neonatal mortality rate demonstrate exceptional Maternal and Newborn Care provided in the country. Sri Lanka has a low-level of HIV epidemic, with HIV prevalence estimates below 0.1%, which is lower than in most South Asian countries. Sri Lanka is considered as a low prevalent country of Tuberculosis infection with a high BCG vaccination coverage in the South-East Asia Region. Sri Lanka reported a significant achievement that according to the Anti-Malaria Campaign, the country is maintaining zero indigenous Malaria incidence. It had been reported that Malaria was eliminated in Sri Lanka from 2012 and it received WHO certification of Malaria free status in 2016. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease has also shown a decline in Sri Lanka over the review period. However, Sri Lankan population remains in risk towards Dengue fever (mainly driven by the high precipitation events), Rabies, Lymphedema, Leprosy, and Leishmaniasis. Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population) in South Asia was reported at 11.2 in 2020 and Sri Lanka remains at a higher level of suicides relative to the South Asia figures. This could be concerning given the recent severe economic crisis Sri Lanka is facing and related societal crisis. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka shows a decline in alcohol consumption towards 2020 which may be driven by the economic difficulties faced due to the COVID 19 pandemic and decline in access to purchase alcohol. Sri Lanka has shown progress on family planning satisfied with modern methods for the women in need. However, Sri Lanka shows stigma in discussing related issues effectively in public domain and in need of creating more awareness on the topic. Notably, Sri Lanka allocated government spending to vaccinate more than 50% of the population for COVID 19 pandemic. The access to universal health care in Sri Lanka is a highlight in the context of achieving **SDG 3** by year 2030.

The **Environment** is not a regularly considered aspect in Sri Lanka in the context of **SDG 03**. Safeguarding the environment would lead to better health of the communities. While Sri Lanka provides a very high standard health service, ensuring environmental safety can reduce the burden on the health system. Even related to the COVID 19 pandemic, the most vulnerable were the people with pre-existing health conditions. Sri Lanka should keep strengthening the preventive measures while keeping the existing health sector strong. Increasing the forest cover (**SDG 15**), reducing the emissions by increasing the clean fuel consumption at the domestic level (**SDG 7**), protecting the marshlands and the coastal environment, and reduction of plastic consumption are some of the key steps that can be taken in Sri Lanka towards creating healthier communities. Furthermore, hospital and human waste disposal mechanisms should be restructured and thoroughly monitored. Especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people have been wearing masks and the irresponsible disposal of masks has serious environmental and health impacts.

Due to the ongoing economic crisis in the country, a **Societal** crisis has also emerged. The severe mental health burden is a great concern towards the overall health of the people. While Sri Lanka provides

an exceptional care system for physical health related illnesses, the attention towards mental health is still lacking. This becomes extremely important in a crisis such as this. More access to mental health facilities will add further safeguards to the communities. The health and social impact assessment of development initiatives are not adequately considered (there is no legislation as well) in Sri Lanka and needs further improvement.

The Sri Lankan **Economic** crisis has now created a social crisis in society. Continuous protests, violence, and social insecurity have an adverse impact on achieving **SDG 03**. Social disruption was observed due to the covid-19 pandemic. The prevailing economic crisis in Sri Lanka is unsatisfactorily affecting the health sector and achieving **SDG 03** that disrupts health service provision in both government and private sectors. The country experiences inadequate essential medicine and medical equipment because of the economic crisis. Due to the crisis, not only low-income families but all levels in the social stratification are affected and impacts on health increase negatively. Food insecurity in the country causes malnourishment, especially in children. People are struggling with less food availability as the food supply chain is disturbed and poor affordability as food prices increase. Energy crisis interrupts health service delivery including ambulatory services, surgeries, and all the other hospital and MOH services.

In the context of **Governance**, over the years Sri Lanka has created a substantial health service and strived hard to respond to the health concerns through it. Great effort has been taken to eradicate diseases and ensure the health safety of the people. However, in recent times the country's political instability and changing subject ministers frequently have resulted in disruption and shock in the health sector. For an instance, during Sri Lanka's COVID 19 responses, there has been lack clarity from the governance perspective on the which protective medicines should be used, while the vaccinations were given priority in the end there were several untested drugs that were advocated by prominent government officials and politicians which created confusion in the people. Some measures taken in response to the COVID19 crisis such as creating temporary care centres across the country, vaccine procurement and distribution were progressive and helped to control the spread of the disease in the early stages of the outbreak. Towards the end of this review period Sri Lanka showed signs of extreme medicine shortages due to the lack of monetary resources to purchase medicine (**SDG 17**). There needs to be timely governance intervention to ensure that the healthcare system does not crash due to this ongoing crisis.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 03

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for **SDG 03** is extremely comprehensive, but still lacking in terms of overall structural coherence. The Ministry of Health is trying to mainstream the targets into the national action plans but at provincial level mainstreaming on **SDG 03** targets is difficult now. Although there is a disconnect between the large number of pieces of Parliamentary Legislation and the moderate number of National Policies, Action Plans and Strategies exist, implementation is strong and continues moderately unhindered, with the Government Entities engaging in intragovernmental conflict on a daily basis, due to territorial disputes despite the prioritisation and availability of financial resources. Comprehensive national policy has been drafted but is relatively lacking in the public domain to achieve **SDG 03** due to covid19 impacts as it is not accessible for the public. Therefore, in a practical manner progress is slow. Policies not available at local languages, community participation is lacking for policy formulation. Due to the

decentralisation of Government Entities associated with **SDG 03**, there is strong implementation of existing Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies and Strategies. This is equally apparent, as you travel further down the devolution chain in both the Subnational (Provincial) and Local Governance Mechanisms. Interestingly, although no comprehensive, overarching Provincial Policies or Strategies exist, eight of the nine Provincial Governments (currently inactive with elected members), associated with their respective Provincial Councils, maintain “Health” Portfolios. In addition, as per the devolution of certain Government Entities through the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the Sri Lanka, are devolved to the Subnational (Provincial) Government Mechanism, namely the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Ayurveda (DA). The policies not been placed in local languages for implementation at sub national level, The policies not been communicated with sub national level for implementation.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (**SDG 03**) is extremely comprehensive, but still lacking in terms of overall structural coherence (as per dialogue with the relevant Sectoral Experts). As far as Parliamentary Legislation is concerned, there are no overarching pieces of legislation. As far as National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans are concerned, there are two key overarching documents. The first of these documents is the vision document of the Central Government – Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This overarching policy document, however, was developed specifically for the current Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), and prior to their election a number of National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans were approved and released/in the draft stage and awaiting release, including the second overarching policy document, the Policy Repository of the Ministry of Health (MoH) (Unspecified Date), which lists 28 National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans, including specific policy documents such as the National Health Policy (2016 – 2025) (Draft), the National Nutrition Policy of Sri Lanka (2010). The inclusion of a Policy Repository of the Ministry of Health (MoH) is a positive indicator of an attempt to coordinate and cohesively implement such National Policies and Strategies through endeavoured direction and legislative means. Historically successive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have devoted enormous percentages of the overall National Budget towards the unstructured implementation of **SDG 03**. There is no fragmentation within the current Central Government’s Institutional Framework where **SDG 03** is concerned. A single Cabinet Ministry, namely the Ministry of Health (MoH), is directly aligned with **SDG 03**, and the institutional structure of this Cabinet Ministry is annexed for reference (document - section 1.3), due to the extent and associated devolution (as per the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka of the current structure: Although there is a disconnect between the large number of pieces of Parliamentary Legislation and the moderate number of National Policies and Strategies exist, implementation is strong and continues moderately unhindered, with the aforementioned Government Entities engaging in intragovernmental conflict on a daily basis, due to territorial disputes despite the prioritisation and availability of financial resources. Due to the decentralisation of Government Entities associated with **SDG 03**, there is strong implementation of existing Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies and Strategies. This is equally apparent, as you travel further down the devolution chain in both the Subnational (Provincial) and Local Governance Mechanisms.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

The Ministry of Health Sri Lanka has national-level monitoring and follow-up mechanisms and reporting systems. However, data has not been shared, unavailable, outdated and/or not collected

for several **SDG 03** indicators. Furthermore, health professionals have concerns that national data does not represent the ground level health situation and inequalities. Covid 19 pandemic had an impact in data collection and data sharing within the country. The Ministry of Health Sri Lanka has local-level monitoring, follow-up, review mechanism, and reporting systems in line with most of the **SDG 03** indicators. Real-time data entering systems have also developed for collecting local health data. Routine data collection used to assess monitoring on SDG targets. However, data has not been shared, unavailable, outdated and/or not collected for several **SDG 03** indicators. Furthermore, health professionals have concerns that national data does not represent the ground level health situation and inequalities. Covid-19 the pandemic had an impact in data collection and data sharing within the country. Sri Lanka is using the same indicators as the **SDG 03** global indicators, except for a few **SDG 03** that have been localised to the national level. However, no indicators have localised at the subnational/regional level. Recently published National Action plan on **SDG 03** the indicators have been localised at national level but sub national level indicators have not been localised. The Ministry of Health Sri Lanka publishes data for almost all the **SDG 03** indicators at the subnational or regional level. However, there is a considerable delay or a time gap. No real time data available other than public health. When monitoring health service delivery or effectiveness of an intervention, local community representation is not much considered. However, there are gaps in inclusive M&E as not every program does not consider community representation and not invite a representative sample from the community. There should be more perceptions and attitude changes on policy makers and more civil society representation needed.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

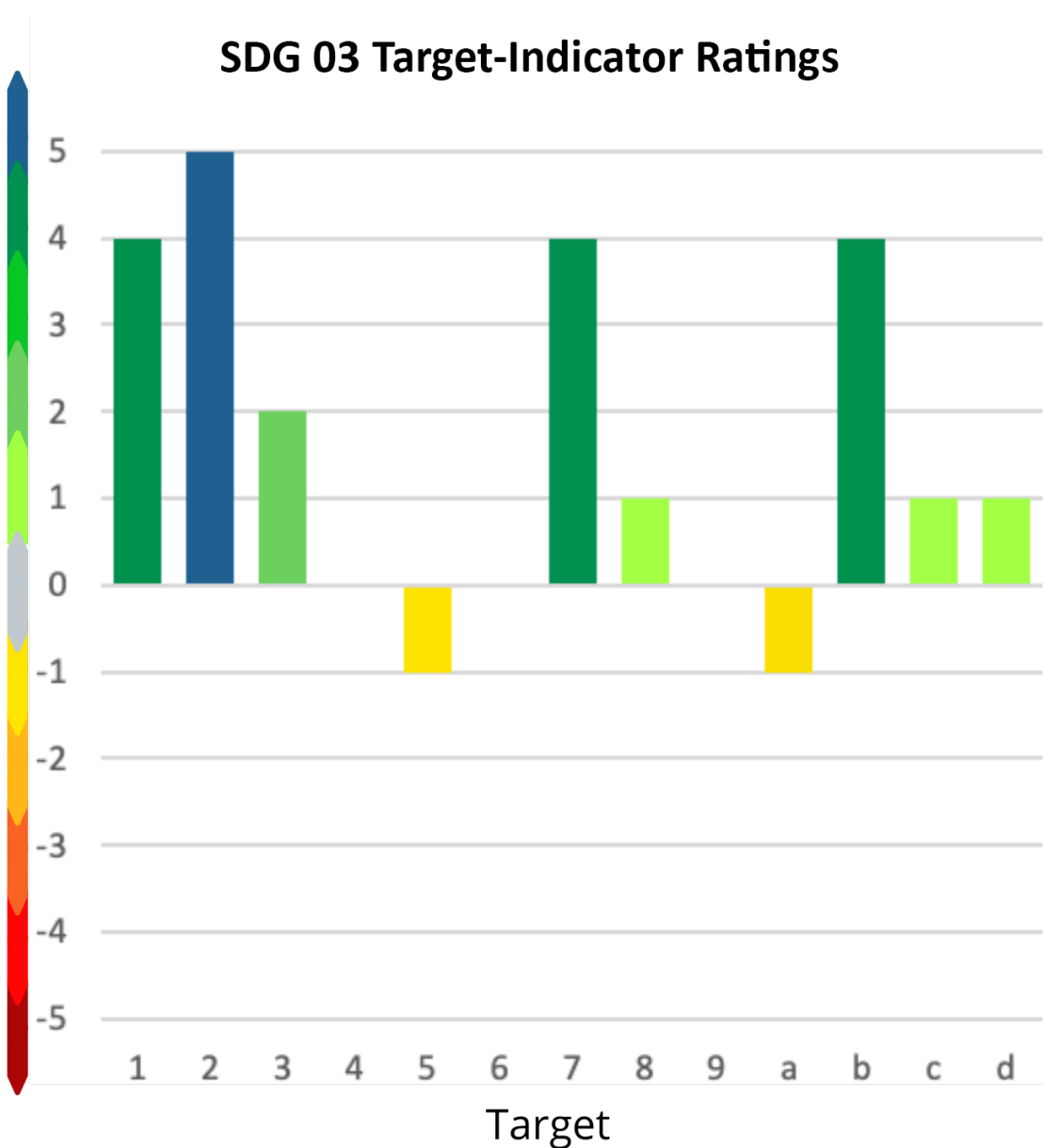
Sri Lanka has done well to reach its population through its health services. Universal healthcare and effective vaccination programs which includes the COVID-19 vaccination program are examples for this. It was revealed that there are existing auditing mechanisms are in place to monitor healthcare delivery transactions. Experts in the sector have raised on the transparency and practicality of mechanisms in place to monitor these transactions. There are recent reports that created a broader discussion for whether adequate accountability mechanisms exist to monitor spending on development projects in **SDG 03**. In addition, there are no mechanisms in place to monitor individual level funding received by the medical practitioners. In the context of COVID19 there has been a lack of transparency in decision making, which is evident from the current difficulties the country is facing due to the third wave of the pandemic. The Hospital Committee (HC) is identified as a citizen participation, and awareness building mechanism but has not been implemented widely. There is a need for a mechanism to take the ground level inputs on health sector into consideration. In terms of multi stakeholder partnerships, COVID has demanded urgent partnerships especially with defense and the social services in Sri Lanka. It was suggested by the experts that social media may be a good avenue to create more awareness and also to get further feedback and inputs. Sri Lanka Health Promotion Bureau has disseminated consistent COVID data on its social media platforms further justifying this fact. There are signs that media literacy related to healthcare has increased during the pandemic even with the threat of false information being spread related to vaccines and COVID medications. There is a need to create a dialogue and educate people while they are at home regarding exercise, food, smoking, and checking their own blood pressure at home. It was also highlighted in the consultations that the country could have planned properly and prepared better, as apparent when looking at the third wave in other countries.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability

In 2021 due to the pandemic Rs.18 billion was allocated from national budget during 2021 for

covid pandemic. This was the biggest allocation for the health sector ever received but during 2022 the allocation declined to Rs.6 million only. There has never been a budget allocation for **SDG 03** and its indicators since 2015 though there was no proper plan to work on targets and indicators. It is Questionable on how much inclusion of budget given for **SDG 03**. In sub national level only a small allocation was provided to achieve **SDG 03**. Since no allocation is made specifically for **SDG 03** implementation there is minimal data on mechanism and procedures. However, the public has limited access to health sector budgets, decision making processes and accountability. The health system is gradually adopting Information Technology, especially in M&E, epidemiology, and disaster management. There is a gap between the Scientific evidence and policy, and novel technologies are not being utilised to maximum.

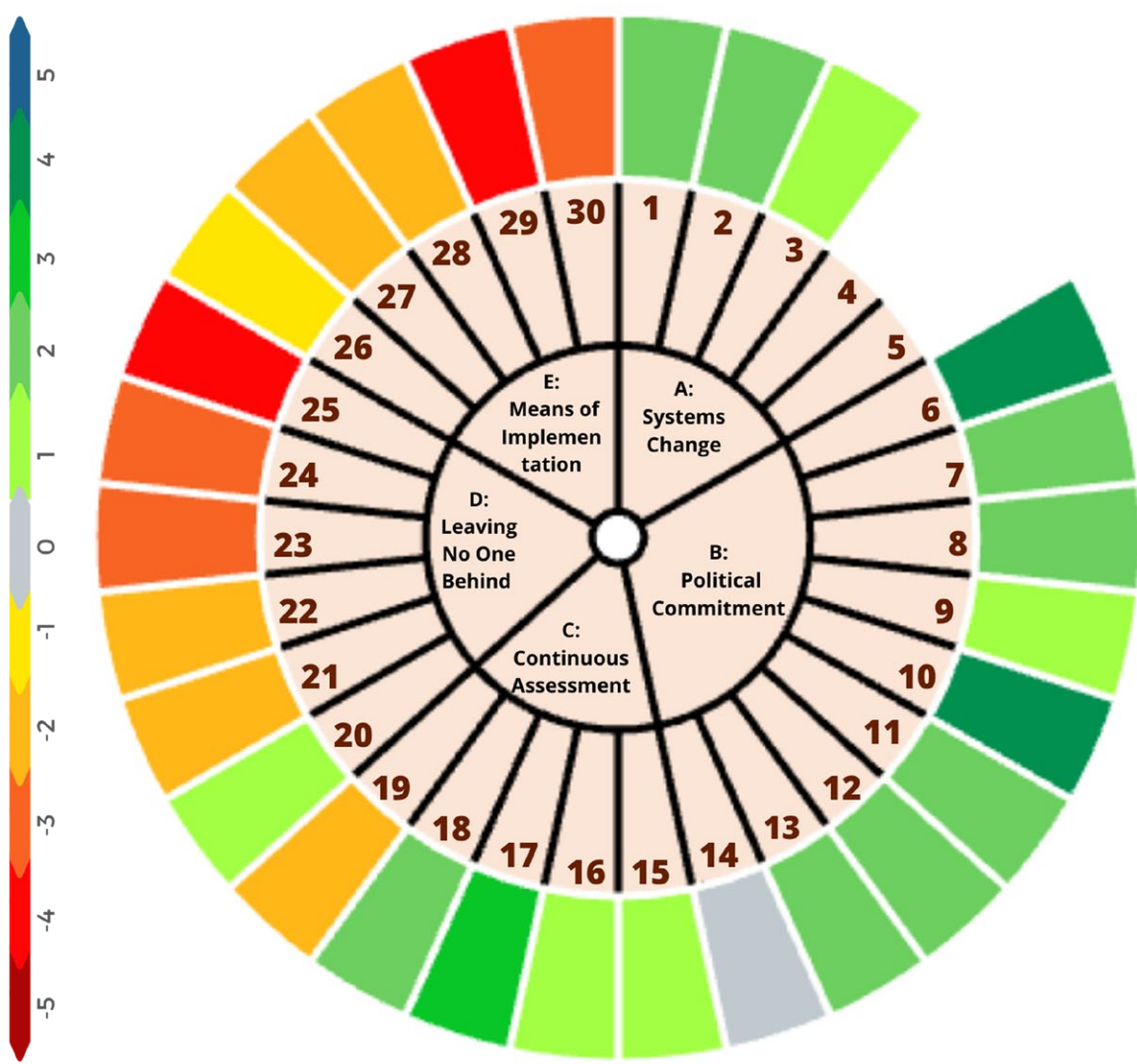
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 03 Micro Average Rating: +2

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 03 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 03 Macro Average Rating: 0

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 04: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

A. Context of Implementing SDG 04: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka has achieved education access among primary and secondary students while enabling access to key subject areas with a record of completion rates above 90%. This has led to Sri Lanka achieving a high literacy rate. However, gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education for the country is comparatively very low with the primary and secondary education. This causes many dropouts from the formal education system after the completion of the upper-secondary level. On the other hand, Sri Lanka has improved access to youth and adults on information and communications technology (ICT) skills over the last few years by adding key subjects to the curriculum and including ICT subjects in study streams. Furthermore, Sri Lanka showcases a high percentage (75% - 85%) of teachers satisfying minimum qualifications in primary and secondary levels. In some subjects there has been a shortage of experienced teachers mainly in remote provinces from the western province. While Sri Lanka needs to strengthen the non-formal education, it provides access to education through the existing systems in place. Moreover, while there has not been a change in the gender parity characteristics, the gender gap in secondary education is observed to be greater than the primary education sector (SDG 5). It is noteworthy that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are left out of the formal education process and are not provided with inclusive learning environments (SDG 10). And, although there is an attempt to include citizenship education through the local curriculum, the integration of global knowledge components and the sustainable development goals education has been lacking. Additionally, schools across the country have provided basic services to the students in general, Sri Lanka needs to improve rural school sanitation because many schools still lack hygienic toilet facilities and safe disposal (SDG 6).

SDG 04 is subjected to be influenced by the environmental, social, economic, and governance factors. Focusing through the dimension of **Environmental** perspective, it's important to notice that education is a high necessity with its major role being in creating the adequate awareness among all towards Environmental protection in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Environment has created programs to spread environmental awareness and, there are further higher education programs offered by several institutions which could support SDG 14 and SDG 15 achievement. However, Sri Lanka lacks awareness of severe environmental crises and concepts like planetary boundaries. Furthermore, Sri Lankans electricity supply is closely associated with the hydro power generation, and therefore heavy droughts can impact the electricity supply and with the observations during the COVID-19 pandemic access to online education had been resulted to show high dependency on SDG 7. It is important to highlight the impact of SDG 4 on **Societal** factors. The high levels of literacy in Sri Lanka have contributed to greater human capital in the nation which will positively impact economic growth and provide better opportunities for upward mobility (SDG 8). The ability to access education, including at the university level, irrespective of one's socio-economic background provides equal access and equal opportunity for all which greatly contributes to reducing inequality in the long run (SDG 10). Access to education will aid in eradicating poverty in the long run (SDG 1), and reduce the number of people who are food insecure or undernourished by providing them with the purchasing power parity to consume adequate amounts of nutritious food (SDG 2). Moreover, society benefits from an educated populace.

For instance, the number of people in recent months who were educated on the government structure and the constitution for the first time, were able to identify the injustice that was embedded into our political structure and identify their fundamental rights to expression and peacefully assemble, and in doing so this created greater civic engagement for a more prosperous future for our nation (SDG 16).

In addition to the COVID 19 pandemic, the current **Economic** crisis is clearly hindering the access to education in Sri Lanka where the means of implementation has been depleted (SDG 17). The lack of foreign currency has caused the fuel crisis due to the inability to purchase imports of fuels. For instance, the University of Peradeniya, one of the largest universities in Sri Lanka and island wide schools have closed down at this very moment due to the lack of availability of fuel in the country (SDG 7). During the ongoing energy crisis resulting in power cuts every day - which was at 13 hours a day at its peak - students all over the nation, especially from low-income families (SDG 10), were unable to study for their exams while at home due to the lack of light powered by electricity, the lack of kerosene oil for oil lamps, and the shortage of candle wax. Moreover, as students all over the country prepared to take their GCE and A/Level examinations in May, the majority struggled to find transportation to the test centres on the day of their examinations. Furthermore, the lack of resources available to educators across the country has restricted the provision of online education as well. Although the level of primary and secondary education access is high in Sri Lanka, the current crisis situation has restricted this access. Sri Lanka needs to promote the non-formal education to establish more awareness in the society on the economic situation, and the recovery process.

Finally, the **Governance** system plays a key role in shaping the education system in Sri Lanka, as well as enhancing the access to quality education. There is a higher concentration of quality education services in urban areas whereas most rural and remote areas are neglected. This factor needs to be improved to ensure all students have equal access to a quality education (SDG 10). Moreover, the current education system does not account for paramount historical events being taught in history classes such as education on the creation of the constitution and the matter of representation of majority and minority groups in parliament post-independence. The current system also does not educate students on the events, spanning decades, which led up to the civil war that lasted nearly thirty years, nor does it educate students on the events that transpired during that period of wartime in the nation. The lack of knowledge on these important events in our nation's history contributes to racial and ethnic hostility which continues to exist in today's society despite the end of the war over ten years ago (SDG 16).

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 04

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 04 is advanced (though significantly less for National Policies), but still lacking in terms of overall structural coherence (as per dialogue with the relevant Sectoral Experts). As far as Parliamentary Legislation is concerned, there are no overarching pieces of legislation, with specific such legislation including the Education Ordinance (No. 31 of 1939), plus all Amendment Ordinances, Laws and Acts, the Higher Education Act (No. 20 of 1966), plus all Amendment Acts and several more. As far as National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans are concerned, there is a single key overarching document, National vision document – Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This overarching document, however, was developed specifically for the current Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), and prior to their election a number of National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans were approved and released/in the draft stage and awaiting release namely the National Policy on General Education

in Sri Lanka (2016) (Draft), the National Policy on Preschool Education (2019), the National Policy Framework on Higher Education and Tertiary and Vocational Education (2009), the National Policy on Tertiary and Vocational Education (2018) and the National Policy on Higher Education (2019) (Draft). Historically successive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have devoted only moderate percentages of the overall National Budget towards the unstructured, fragmented implementation of **SDG 04**. It is important to consider that, while most UN conventions ratified but not reflected in overarching legislations. Discussing this in detail in means of the mainstreaming and integration of **SDG 4**, its clearly transparent that with all the existence of national policies along with the lack of coordination and lack of clarity due to overlap in the policies in mainstreaming and integrating into sustainable process, the achievement of progressing had faced a downfall with a failure in those policies by themselves been not implemented properly. It's important to appreciate the provincial level good practices in means of initiating a systemic approach to achieve a progress level in educational sector whilst been critical to analyse the downfall of the process in means of mainstreaming and integrating Sustainable process for a system change. Meanwhile it's important to appreciate some urban councils & provincial councils' initiative to develop a progressing state by achieving a good implementation status in means of adapting yearly plans with effective strategies.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

Draft National policy for SDG2030 remains yet to be officially adopted and with the observance of many defragmented approaches by several stakeholders with no cohesiveness among the relevant actors, transparently supports the statement derived from the analyzation and evaluation of the Political commitment in implementing SDG 4 is that there are no genuine political will to implement these plans. As per the study conducted its observed that a circular has been issued by the presidential secretary asking all the government departments and institutions to include and adhere to the SDGs when they develop their action plans and further this could be recommended that such integration must extend to the budgetary allocations as well. It's important to be attentive that the National Action Plan was developed in the year of 2020 and remains as not being officially adopted. It was also observed that the SDC had made the effort to disseminate the information but not adequately in the current context and a clear mandate had been circulated with institutions and agencies. Appreciating the initiative to adapt the SDGs to be implemented in the National Action Plans and critically analysing the practicality of how well the circular had created the change reflects the situation of downfall in its implementation whereas the overall progress cannot be observed.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

With the disaggregation of data and lack of coordination between the relevant authorities and agencies it has been observed that a level of adequate assessment process has a low capacity. Meanwhile, the required level of data to have an inclusive assessment considering all the citizens especially for minority segments of the community has experienced a drawback. Although it was identified that some indicators have been adapted at a local level, the process of localization requires a more systemic approach. The localization proposed currently are based on availability of data rather than the effectiveness. Sri Lanka must consider nutrition programs for students within their assessment processes due to the ongoing severe economic crisis. The negligence of continuous assessment could be considered as one of the main elements to the drawback of all the policies, structures, and framework. The existing review mechanisms have shown that the education system needs to be transformed to leave no one behind. However, the remedial action has not been observed.

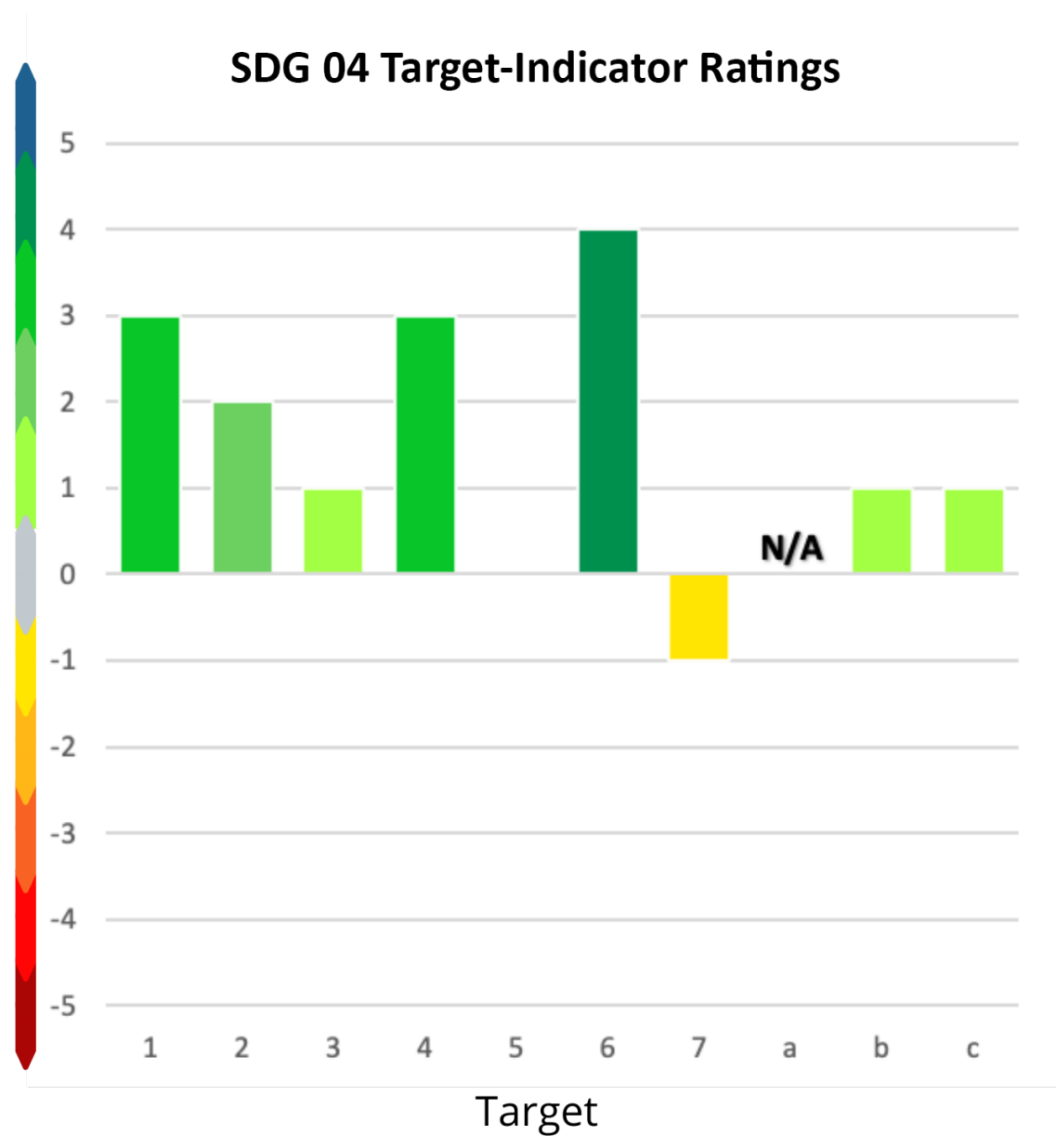
4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

As per the Constitution, Chapter VI, Article 27, 2(h) it clearly explains that, “the complete eradication of illiteracy and the assurance to all persons of the right to universal and equal access to education at all levels.” Education being the basic need and the right of a citizen of the country, it’s never an exceptional excuse for the country, to have any citizens being left behind in decision making, resource allocation, and the right to enjoy the benefit. The access to free education is has been a great support towards leaving no one behind in the context of the SDG 04. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic hindered this progress since 2020. Due to the lack of internet access, computers/mobile devices, the students across the country faced great difficulty to access the classes. Therefore, during this review period leaving no one behind happened often. As per the research conducted, evaluated and analysed awareness of SDG 4 had been positive in Sri Lanka for past years, but the awareness programs had been observed to be regular with the limitation of comprehensive formal education system in Sri Lanka. Sustainable Development Council being a responsible governing authority to establish a progressive nature of the country aligning the relevant authorities with the SDG framework integrated to the system, they had conducted programs for officials but considerably the participants are highly limited in means of resources and audiences failing to have an inclusive group of audience.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

National budget and support provided by development actors/INGOs has been observed during this review period. But due to the ongoing economic crisis these have not contributed to the progress of the SDG4 due to the lack of resources faced by the country. With regard to the National budget, the allocation is not sufficient. There are also reports of budget not being fully utilized in Sri Lanka due to lags of implementation of the initiatives. This might further hinder the budget allocation potentials. The resources allocation has been not equal for a long time in Sri Lanka. The schools located at the remote regions in Sri Lanka remains underdeveloped. Recent heavy rains had left students sitting to their GCE O/L exams under horrendous conditions. Sri Lanka should create a framework where the underdeveloped schools to be brought into a decent condition to operate continuously. The technology use at the education system is still at a primary state. Under resourced schools have very limited access to technology. This was evident during the COVID pandemic where resources were inadequate to provider inline education from the school premises apart from few schools.

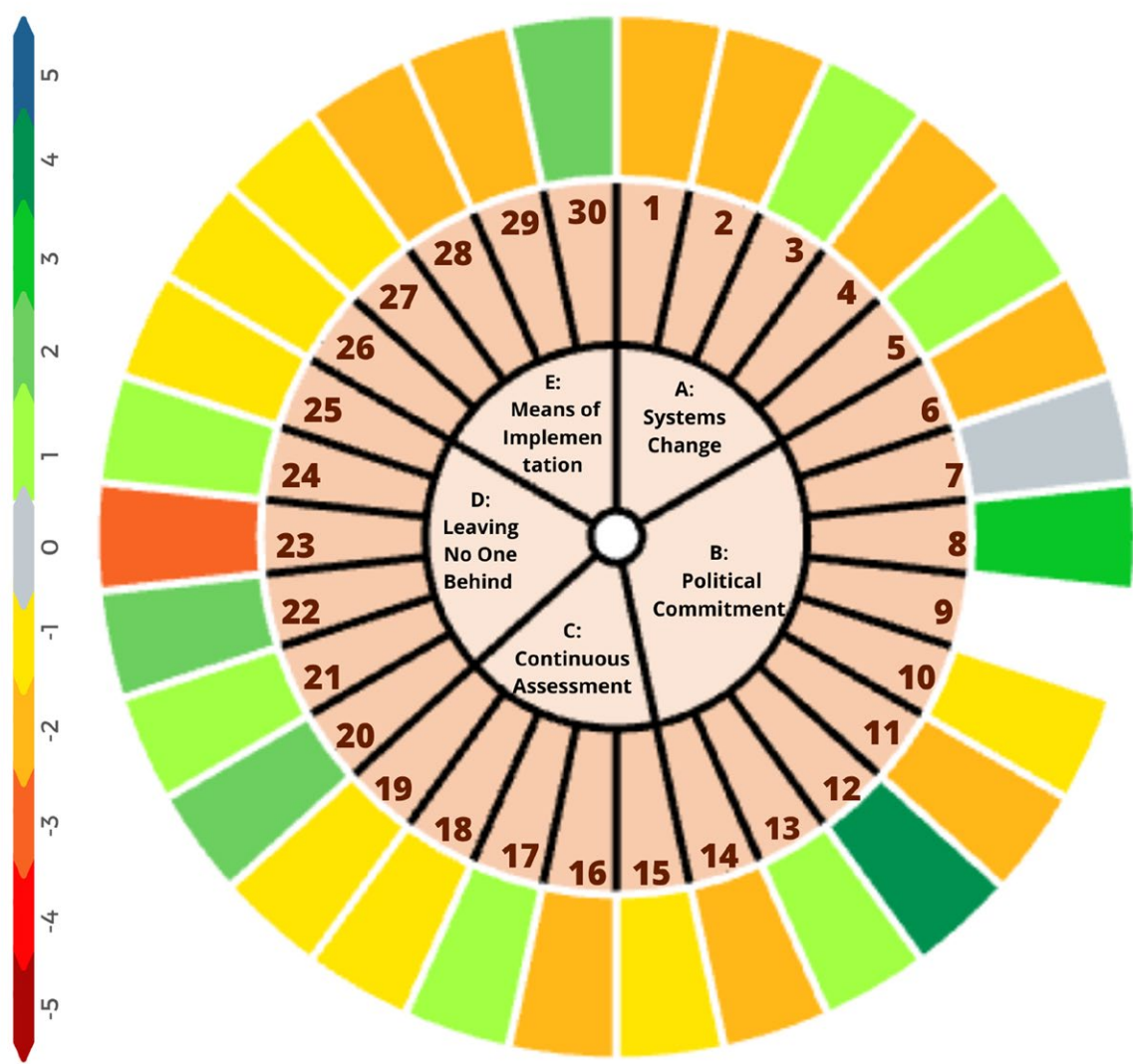
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 04 Micro Average Rating: +2

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 04 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 04 Macro Average Rating: 0

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 05: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

A. Context of Implementing SDG 05: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka's fundamental rights (FR) framework provides legal protection to the Article 12 right on non-discrimination on the basis of gender, though there are concerns on the Access to Justice (A2J) to this framework due to the high costs of litigation and limited knowledge on the FR petitioning process at a rural level. The report on the Women Wellbeing Survey 2019 by the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka reports that 14.5% of women aged fifteen years and older have reported experiencing violence from intimate partners. The Survey also reveals that 0.4% of women have reported facing sexual violence outside of an intimate partner relationship. However, since this was the first WWS which was conducted and no other survey was conducted since this time, it is difficult to make a comparative analysis on changes in the reported numbers. Though Sri Lanka has a minimum age of marriage stipulated by the law, the Demographic Health Survey 2016 reveals that 0.9% of women are married or in union by age of 15 and 9.8% by age of 18. This is due to the occurrence of child marriages in tightly knit communities following orthodox practices. Sources such as the Ministry of Health and WHO categorically reports that female genital mutilation does not exist in Sri Lanka. The Time Use Survey 2017 which was conducted by The Department of Census and Statistics, indicates that Sri Lankans invest 16.9% of their time on average, on unpaid domestic and care work. Apart from this finding there is an absence of big data processes in Sri Lanka which permits an accurate assessment of the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka reports that 5.8% of women representation in parliament and it is at 1.9% in local authorities, whilst alternative stakeholder data reports that 5% of the leadership in the Provincial Councils are held by women. There is a discrepancy in the levels of managerial positions held by the public sector versus the private sector, with the former leading the inclusion of women in top positions. It must be noted that there are concerns regarding the localisation of indicators such as indicator 5.6.1 and 5.b.1 which prevents accurate reporting on such indicators.

Women accounting for 51% of the Sri Lankan population makes **SDG 5**, a cross cutting goal which must be regarded as central to the 2030 SDG transformation agenda. It must be noted from the outset that dialogue, planning and mainstreaming initiatives in Sri Lanka under this goal are biased towards the empowerment of biological women and often leave out the empowerment of those who identify as women. From a **Social** dimension, this has led to a marginalisation of those who identify as female and are part of the spectrum. Though the Country has appreciable gender parity statistics in terms of literacy, universal school enrolment and access to tertiary education, there are qualitative realities which are not reflected by such aggregated data. One such reality is the impact of socio-cultural norms at a communal level which discouraged continuing attendance of girl children in schooling. Another factor is the comparatively low transference of female graduates into the active employment stage despite the high number of female degree holders in Sri Lanka. This reveals that the **SDG 5** data mapping processes are unable to account for the transformative nuances under the 2030 agenda. Sri Lanka leads the South Asian region in maternal health performance and equal access to healthcare under the state sponsored healthcare system. However, reductions in the "Thriposhna" and nutrition packs supply programmes, coupled with low stocks in medicine and medical equipment in the Country

has increased child and maternal mortality in the country (SDG 3) as reported in journalistic sources.

The Country's performance in terms of bridging gender differentials in poverty has been weakened by the impact of COVID-19 and the current **Economic** crisis in the country. Though women are the chief financial managers of households, their earning capacities are restricted by factors such as limited access to factors of production, low employment opportunities in labour intensive local industries (SDG 8 and SDG 9), burdens of child and domestic care, and gender pay gaps in the informal sector (SDG 10). The haphazard decision of the government to ban chemical fertiliser had a detrimental impact on women farmers who account for over 30% of the agricultural labour force in Sri Lanka. Access to decent working conditions are mainly prevalent in the city areas of the country which has coerced young women to leave their homes and temporarily migrate to the cities to live in unsafe environments.

The priority provided to gender empowerment in the **Governance** dimension has been restricted by constant changes in the ministerial portfolio on women empowerment and only five percent of parliamentarians being women. These two realities have limited the governance and policy spaces provided to gender issues. Though the public sector and administrative officers, especially those serving at a sub-national and local level are committed to providing emergency services and safety nets for women in need, they lack knowledge and capacities to streamline their work in line with the SDG 5 transformative agenda.

Sri Lanka's **Environmental** protection structures underestimate or ignore the gender dimensions of climate change and environment degradation. Women and young girls are extremely vulnerable to natural and manmade disasters experienced by Sri Lanka. However, disaster risk reduction planning in the Country does not account for gender dimensions. Women also serve as key actors for community level environment conservation as opposed to their male counterparts. Yet this civic activism and advocacy energy is not harnessed and directed towards environment conservation and governance in the Country.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 05

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

Though Sri Lanka is no stranger to international gender development due to the Country's appreciable performance under the gender targets of the Millennium Development Goal Framework, it has been struggling with integration and mainstreaming of the SDG 5 transformative agenda due to two key problems. The first problem is limited state level knowledge and capacities on systemically approaching gender empowerment, where both the political leadership and the public administration approach gender from an issue-based point of view. This has restricted their service to providing emergency services and safety systems for women who require them. The second problem is weak inter-linkages amongst the various state agencies overseeing gender empowerment matters. An apt example of this is the apparent disconnect between the Women Desk operated by the Ministry in charge of women's affairs and the Women and Children Desks run by the national police. Such weak inter-linkages has led to the operation of various initiatives in silos under the patronage of international development sector agencies. Sri Lanka should establish stronger frameworks which link the various state actors overseeing gender empowerment, to streamline policy and advocacy efforts with the transformative requirements of SDG 05.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

There is a notable difference between the political commitment and the administrative commitment of the Sri Lankan system to women empowerment which has affected the strength of the policy and institutional coordination to achieve the SDG 5 transformative agenda. The varying political commitment to push forward the gender empowerment agenda is evident from the absence of a permanent ministerial portfolio which remains unchanged with periodic changes in the political leadership of Sri Lanka. This volatility at the supra-governance level has been a main challenge against achieving policy and institutional coherence under SDG 5. Though Sri Lanka's female representation in the Parliament is only 5%, the 2018 implementation of the mandatory 25% quota for women leadership in sub-national and local levels, has had a positive impact in improving the political and public sector commitment to gender empowerment at such levels. It must also be noted that Sri Lanka has a considerable number of policies on SDG 5 dimensions such as the 'National Action Plan of Action to address SGBV in Sri Lanka' (2016-2020) and 'the National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (2018)', there are concerns regarding the overall coherence of such policies.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Sri Lanka's shortcomings in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) stems from unsatisfactory data mapping processes to support the achievement of the SDG 5 transformative agenda. Data is periodically collected at various state agency levels in the form of raw data. It is noteworthy that the data collected in this manner is aggregated and hence cannot assist the intersectional planning and reporting required by SDG 5. Such data are not shared amongst the agencies and invested for data driven policy formulation, policy review and planning. The public access to such data is also considerably limited due to the absence of an open digitised information portal containing interpreted data for M&E processes regarding the SDGs. In terms of follow-up and review, it is observed that the primary data collection processes under SDG 5 do not support data continuity and run on a model of data replacement. Considerable investment is made to collect new data with each reporting cycle adopted by the various agencies. Hence, there are breakages in the M&E, evaluation, follow-up and review processes under SDG 5 which results in the organising of projects based on narratives, donor agendas and political will.

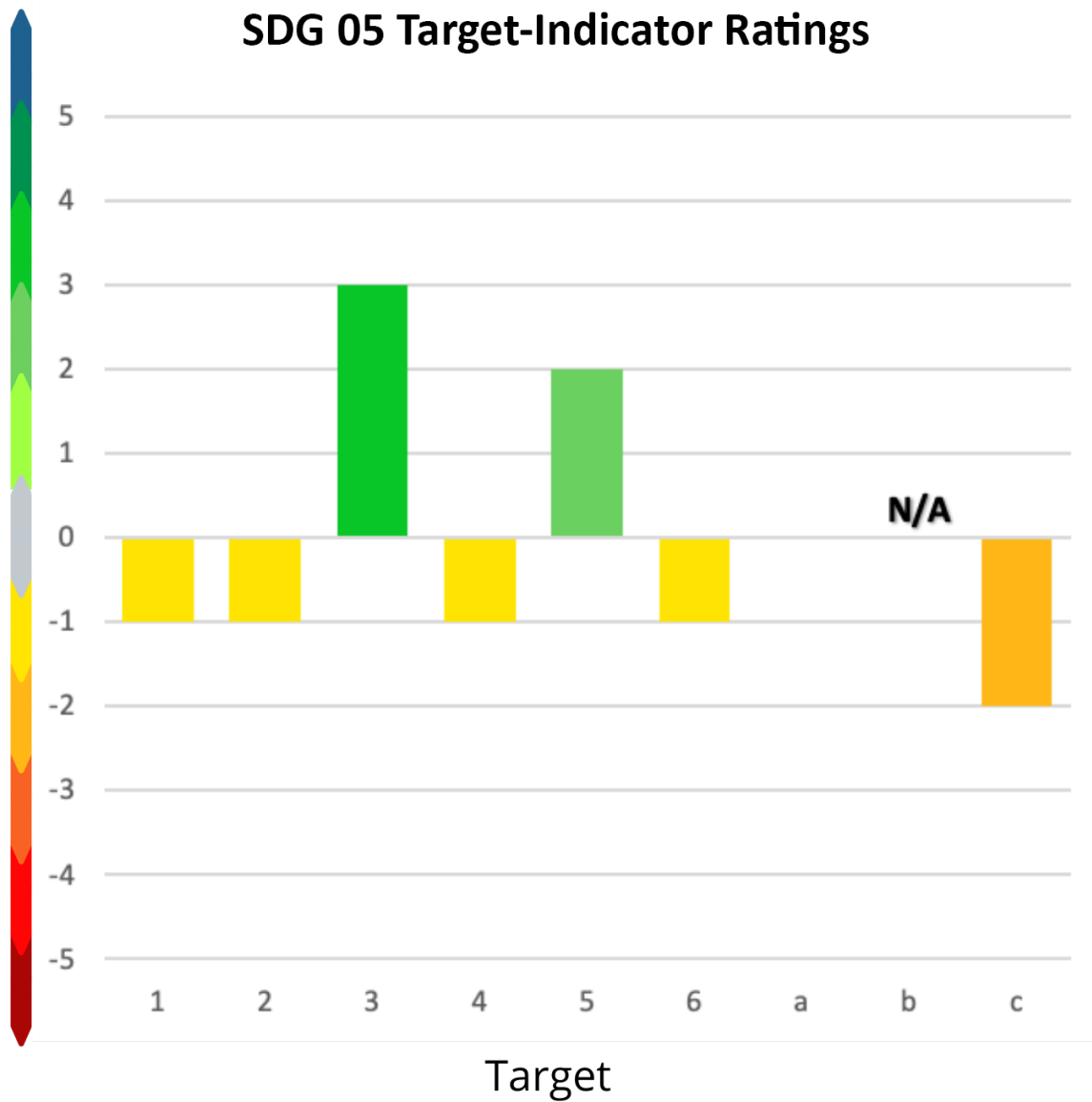
4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

SDG 5 is one of the leading goals which attracts multi-stakeholder participation due to the priority placed by the post-World War II international development system on holistic gender empowerment. This is also the reality in Sri Lanka, where one may observe the active participation of state and non-state development actors, as well as private sector entities in the promotion of gender equality. Yet three key concerns exist regarding this macro dimension. The first is the difference in commitments between the central government and the sub-national governments to work with CSOs and advocacy groups. Sub-national and local levels are more inclined to work with the non-state development actors due to their dependence for logistical and financial support on such actors, for the delivery of basic gender empowerment services. Secondly, there is an absence of a participatory framework for continuous engagement of CSOs and other major groups in the SDG 05 planning and reporting process. The third concern is low knowledge and capacities amongst the state, non-state and private sector actors to streamline their SDG 5 initiatives in line with the transformative expectations of the goal. All three of these concerns serve as barriers for the effective engagement of public and private development agents in achieving the SDG 5 transformative agenda.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

Since gender empowerment is a cross cutting dimension, national budgeting processes do not separately reserve funding for its mainstreaming and integration, apart from allocating funding for ministerial portfolios and attached state agencies. This practice provides evidence to the absence of sound gender inclusive budgeting practices at a central government level. Another concern is the absence of publicly accessible data to determine the practical allocation of funding for **SDG 5** related initiatives. This lack of transparency aggravates possible financial wastage and reduces accountability of state agents to transfer resources to the intended beneficiaries. In terms of financing at a sub-national level, Provincial Councils are required to allocate a portion of the national budgetary allowances for the functioning of their women portfolios. The absence of a national action plan for the setting up of uniform women portfolios across the Country, has provided the Provincial Councils with complete discretion to fund and operate such portfolios. This also negatively affects the financial transparency and accountability in terms of implementing **SDG 5** projects at a sub-national level. The use of technology for achieving gender equality has been slow in Sri Lanka. A key reason for this is the gender gap in digital literacy and the dependency of women on offline services and methods.

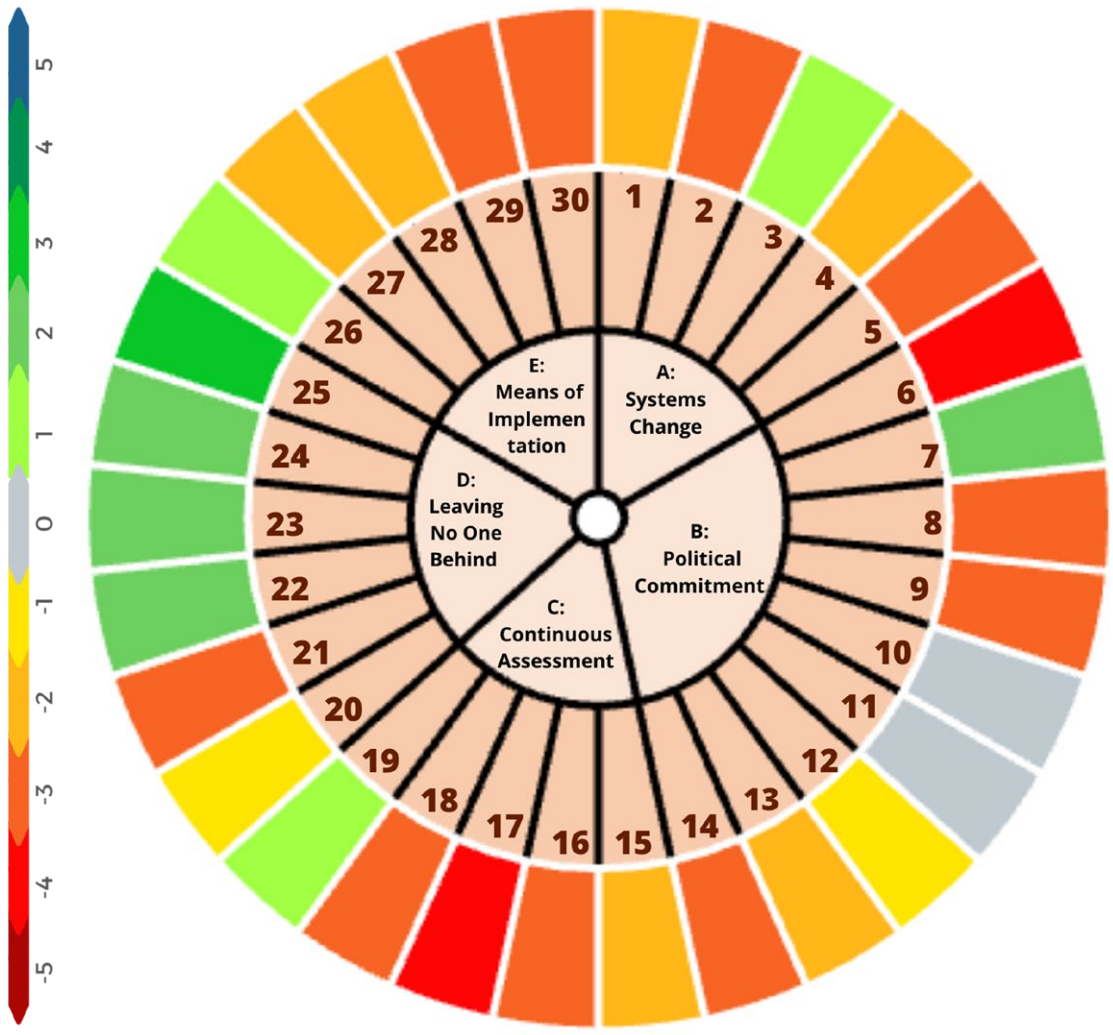
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 05



SDG 05 Micro Average Rating: 0

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 05

SDG 05 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 05 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

A. Context of Implementing SDG 06: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka’s population using safely managed drinking water and basic sanitation services is significantly high with 91.6% and 95.8% of the population respectively. There is no data for hand washing facilities but following the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an observable increase in such facilities across the country in most public places. However, there are still major improvements required in both drinking water services and sanitation services in certain areas of the country such as urban settlements and the estate sector. Sri Lanka’s updated Targets in the water sector presented through the Nationally Determined Contributions in 2021, are already in the process of being implemented. Blessed with a variety of natural water sources across all eco-climatic zones, Sri Lanka is water secure, freshwater withdrawal has not crossed the planetary boundary. However, there are seasonal variations in water security, which is also further impacted by extreme weather events. In addition, water use efficiency has also improved in Sri Lanka from 05 USD/m³ in 2015 to 06 USD/m³ in 2018 due to better water related infrastructure and awareness of less water intensive food crops for example. Sri Lanka needs to improve data collection for most of the indicators while localising indicators that do not apply to Sri Lanka. A major gap is the lack of safe wastewater treatments at domestic and industrial levels. The water and sanitation sector has been receiving funds from international donors as well as domestic funds through the Government at the National level and small contributions from the private sector.

SDG 6 is a crucial goal for the **Environment** sphere. Ensuring the progress and achievement of **SDG 15** is crucial for **SDG 6** as all the major natural water sources are within the Terrestrial Protected Area (PA) Network and any destruction to these pristine and fragile ecosystems would directly affect the quality, availability and associated ecosystem services of the island’s overall fresh water supply. Clean water ways ensure clean seas. Most of the plastic and chemical pollution that enters the sea starts from inland rivers and streams, therefore it is extremely important to develop an effective waste management system and freshwater pollution management system in Sri Lanka which would directly contribute to the progress of **SDG 11** and **12** and indirectly benefit SGD 14 as well. Climate change can have significant impacts on water availability and water quality with high intensity and frequent flooding and prolonged droughts.

In terms of **Social** interlinkages with **SDG 6**. Water is the most important natural resource for all life on Earth. Quality of water directly affects **SDG 3**, for instance, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a common issue in some provinces, the reasons of which are still undetermined. It has been aptly named Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown Etiology (CKDu) but is said to be due to the presence of heavy metals in water. Water quality is therefore, crucial to ensure **SDG 3** progress. Sanitation has improved due to the COVID-19 pandemic which shows direct positive linkages between **SDG 3** and **SDG 6**. Moreover, freshwater withdrawals are not uniform across the island, causing significant disparities between areas with readily available natural sources of freshwater and areas which depend on manmade water storing systems highlighting the interlinkages with **SDG 10**. This disparity could be exacerbated due to climate induced disasters (**SDG 13**), leading to water scarcity issues and lack of access to sanitation in

certain areas.

The **Economic** and **Governance** aspects of **SDG 6** are interlinked. Most of the destructive political and bureaucratic decisions taken to improve the economy have had negative impacts on natural water sources and manmade water sources. The decision-making process at the national level does not understand the importance of ecosystem services provided by clean water sources when developing economic proposals that could impact **SDG 6** targets. There are many policy gaps to strengthen **SDG 6**, while some of these gaps are being addressed currently, the political commitment towards it is fading due to the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka. Water resources in Sri Lanka need to be protected by the Government for the people but there are instances where certain water bodies have been politically promised as bilateral deals with other countries.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 06

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (**SDG 06**) is very comprehensive, but still lacking in terms of overall structural coherence. As far as Parliamentary Legislation is concerned, there are no overarching pieces of legislation, with specific such legislation including the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law (No.0 2 of 1974), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 13 of 1992) and the Water Resources Board Act (No. 29 of 1964), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 42 of 1999), the Irrigation Ordinance (No. 32 of 1946), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 37 of 1973, No. 01 of 1951, No. 48 of 1968, No. 23 of 1983), and several more listed in table below under Parliamentary legislation. As far as National Policies are concerned, the overarching vision document is the Framework of the incumbent Central Government, titled “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025)”. This overarching document, however, was developed for the current Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), and prior to their election a number of National Policies were approved and released/in the draft stage and awaiting release, including the National Rainwater Policy and Strategies (2005), the Sludge Management Policy for Water Treatment Plants (2012).

The National Policy on Strategies and Institutional Framework for Water Resources Development, Conservation and Management was published in the public domain in March 2019 by the then Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MoAREALDI&FARAD) and it is still at the draft stage (i.e. yet to receive approval from the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers). However, this Draft National Policy Document does address the need for sustainable management of water resources due to the current deteriorating status of natural water reservoirs. It also recognises the importance of groundwater and the increasing demand by the growing population in Sri Lanka, the policy aims at developing plans, conducting regular monitoring as well as promoting sustainable management and development of ground water. Additional National Policies include the National Drinking Water Policy and the National Policy on Private Sector Participation. Sri Lanka has a National Policy for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector (2001). The inclusion of a Proposed National Action Plan and Strategy within the last National Policy, is an indicator of an attempt to comprehensively implement such action plans and strategies through proper policy direction and legislative means.

Freshwater consumption is one of the planetary boundaries defined by the Stockholm Resilience Centre. This is an assessment of to what extent we have exceeded these planetary boundaries. The two

components; green water consumption and blue water consumption are considered in this indicator. However, data on green water consumption for Sri Lanka is not available. Annual freshwater withdrawal of Sri Lanka in 2017 is 12.9 billion cubic metres while the total renewable internal freshwater resource in the same year is 53 billion cubic metres. Therefore, it could be assumed that the planetary boundary of blue water consumption is not exceeded yet.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

There is significant fragmentation within the current Central Government’s Institutional Framework where **SDG 06** is concerned. Two Cabinet Ministries, namely the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) and the Ministry of Irrigation (MoI) are directly aligned with **SDG 06**, and the institutional structure of these Cabinet Ministries, due to the extent of the current structure. Although several pieces of Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies, Actions Plans and Strategies exist, implementation is moderate at best, with the above Government Entities engaging in intragovernmental conflict on a daily basis, due to territorial disputes and fighting over limited financial resources. These Government Entities also focus on the siloed implementation of their own, specific mandates and duties without engaging in the cross – entity cooperation required to ensure a combined approach and overall strategy geared towards **SDG 06**.

Despite the centralisation of Government Entities associated with **SDG 06**, there is surprisingly significant implementation of Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies, Action Plans and Strategies. In contrast, as you travel further down the devolution chain in both the Subnational (Provincial) and Local Governance Mechanisms, the less overall implementation occurs. Interestingly, although no comprehensive, overarching Provincial Action Plans or associated Strategies exist, five of the nine Provincial Governments (currently inactive), associated with their respective Provincial Councils, maintain “Water Supply” Portfolios while six out of the nine aforementioned Provincial Governments maintain “Irrigation” Portfolios.

In Sri Lanka there is a risk of currently decentralised systems being transformed into centralised systems. This has led to lack of availability in representative and timely information related to **SDG 06**. This is a disadvantage for a country that has many irrigation and water resources sites distributed. Private sector commitments so far haven’t been genuine in serving the water sector. Although water scarcity has not been raised as an issue at the country level, water quality, pollution concerns are common in the country. Due to lack of knowledge, removal of ground water by the community and some industries will cause concerns in creating land instability.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on **SDG 06** needs coherence in Sri Lanka. There is a national plan in motion to create public awareness where civil society has also been engaged. Moreover, there is a need for more local level awareness highlighting the importance of preservation of waterways and water resources. There have been many examples of garbage pollution of waterways in Sri Lanka which have been addressed in decentralised manner but effectively in some cases. However, in certain cases there is political involvement and therefore it has become difficult to mitigate the adverse effects. Experts highlighted several such instances that have put the communities at a great risk.

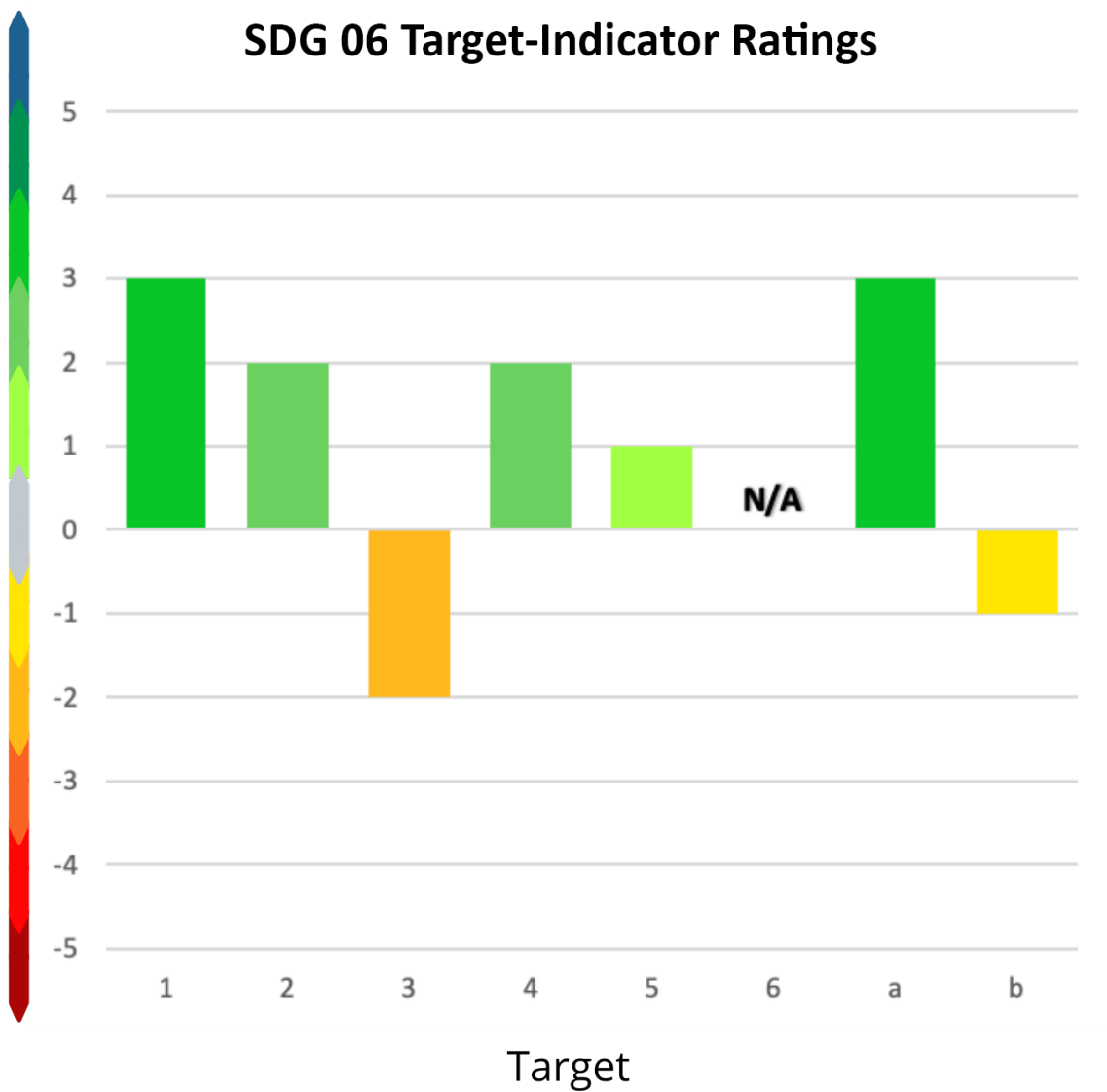
4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

National water sanitation coordination meeting was one example indicated by experts as a successful multi-stakeholder-platform in [SDG 06](#). However, this program has been discontinued recently. Pandemic has further declined the stakeholder engagement spaces. These collaborations are currently at risk due to the pandemic and there needs to be extra effort taken to convene using online platforms to ensure the continuity. UNICEF led processes work on creating awareness on sanitation in rural sectors of Sri Lanka. Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project (WaSSIP) aims to extend access and improve hygiene behaviour for nearly 700,000 people in Sri Lanka across 7 districts as COVID-19 has reinforced the necessity for safe drinking water, hygiene and proper sanitation facilities. WaSSIP is Sri Lanka's third project financed by the World Bank since 1998 to provide drinking water and sanitation. On other stakeholder support with funding, U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program is to fund pilot projects to minimise the flow of plastic pollution to the ocean in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has taken actions to reduce plastic consumption through its single use plastic ban, however the awareness about adjusting to these policies and alternatives should take place. WAT- SAN Committee is a good multi stakeholder initiative but due to the pandemic the committee is yet to meet physically.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

Successive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have devoted significant percentages of the overall National Budget towards the implementation of [SDG 06](#). The actual budgetary expenditure from 2015 to 2019 in the WASH sector had increased significantly at an annual growth rate of 14.9%, reaching LKR 49.5 billion in 2019. The commitment towards the WASH sector in Sri Lanka has been stagnant due to the political instability in the country. Foreign financing contribution towards the WASH sector is considerably larger than domestic financing. Between 2015 and 2020, foreign financing contribution accounted for approximately 78.5% of the WASH sector budgetary expenditures while domestic financing accounted for only 21.5%. However, an interesting change can be observed in the 2021 estimates, as 46% of the WASH sector budgetary expenditures are expected to be funded through domestic financing. This shift towards domestic resources could likely be explained by the government's overall shift since 2020 to domestic financing over foreign financing of the budget. There are projects such as the Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project worth \$40 million, funded by the World Bank.

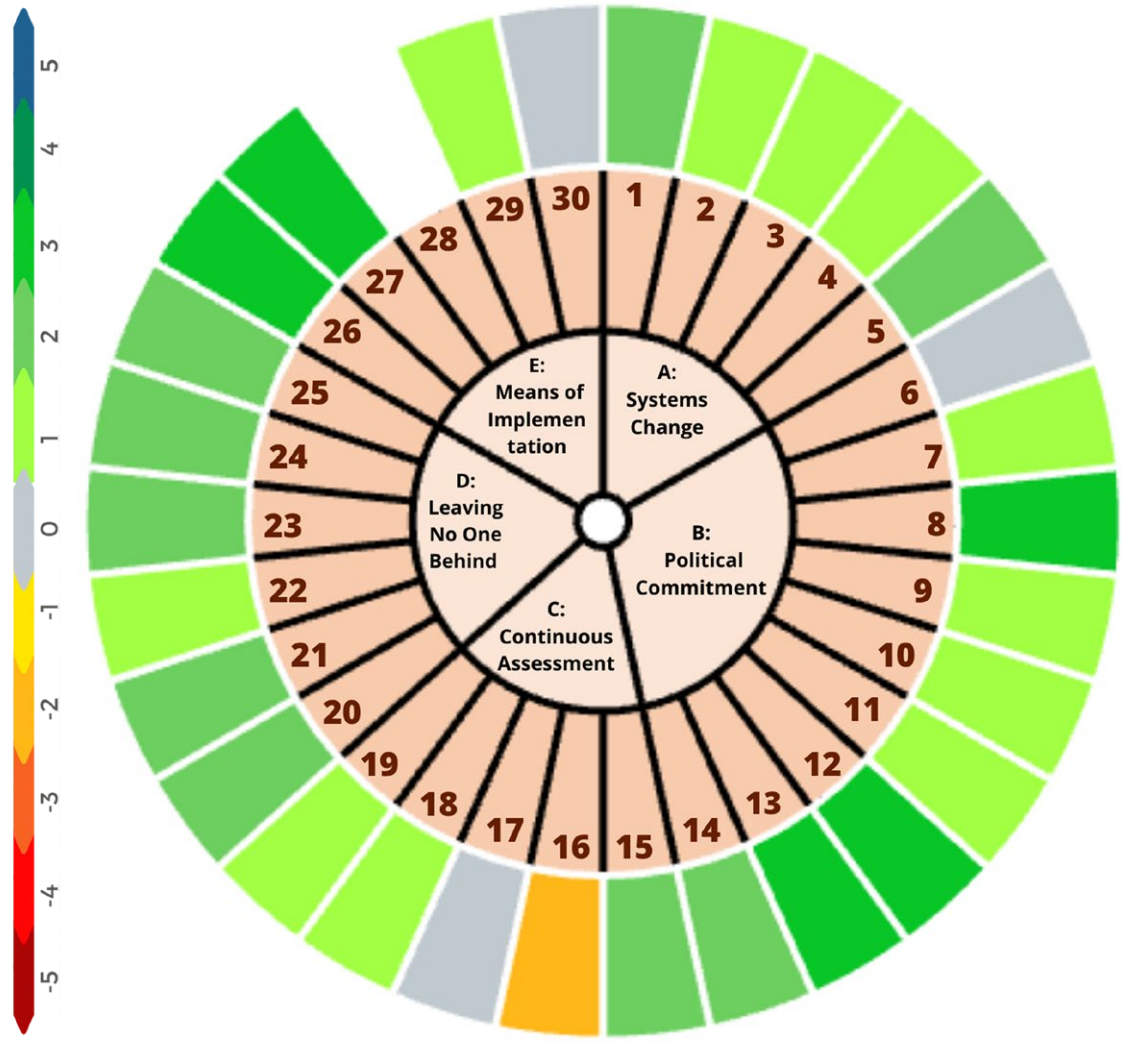
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 06



SDG 06 Micro Average Rating: +1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 06

SDG 06 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 06 Macro Average Rating: +1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

A. Context of Implementing SDG 07: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka has achieved nearly 100% in access to electricity for its people. This is a notable achievement in the context of providing universal access to energy. However, the proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology remains low at 31.7% (2019). Although there is renewable energy generation added through wind, rooftop solar and small-scale solar panel usage by the do-it-yourself users, unregulated biomass use has also increased because of the liquid petroleum gas shortage and the power shedding in the recent months. Under the proxy indicator used by the SDCSL, the “renewable energy share in the total electricity generation by source” has been 48.5% in 2015 and because of coal power generation addition, this has reduced to 34.5% by 2019. During the period of 2015-2019 the energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP in Sri Lanka has shown a steady decline. This decline is owing to the energy efficiency initiatives as well as the GDP growth in the country towards 2019. However, since 2020 energy intensity as well as the GDP has shown a decline therefore, the current indicator measures might not be representative of the actual crises. Installed Renewable Energy-generating Capacity (Per capita Watts) has increased from 88.7 in 2015 to 107.0 in 2019. This is mainly driven by major hydro power availability in the country for the grid electricity generation. There have been further steady additions of solar and wind power leading to this slow but continuing progress. The affordability of the energy supply remains at a great risk due to the ongoing economic crisis. Therefore, Sri Lanka needs to continue to add modern renewable generation in a timely manner to ensure the energy security required.

SDG 7 has strong interlinkages to environmental, social, economic, and governance aspects in Sri Lanka. Energy generation almost always has negative impacts on the **Environment**. Renewable energy generation does significantly less harm to the environment when compared with fossil fuel energy generation as proven by numerous studies. Sri Lanka should, therefore, focus on managing environmental impacts of renewable energy generation, in the context of hydro, wind, solar, waste related projects while reducing the dependency on fossil fuel sources which will support **SDG 13** directly. An example of this is the Mannar wind farm commissioned in 2020 where environmental CSOs have been involved in mitigating impacts to the wildlife. The ongoing energy crisis is leading the communities to depend heavily on biomass which is not sustainably obtained in Sri Lanka. If Sri Lanka is to promote sustainable firewood use as a method of cleaner energy solution, it needs to specify firewood types, stove types, and best practices in operating the stoves to safeguard **SDG 15**. Sri Lanka has shown signs of oil exploration ambitions which could be hugely detrimental to the sensitive coastal environment of the island and would have a negative impact on **SDG 14**. Meanwhile, the government decision to stop building coal power plants has been a progressive step while Sri Lanka hasn't shown concrete commitments to increase renewable energy generation in the country.

SDG 07 has close ties to the **Society**, which is evident by the immediate community reaction to the lack of access to energy in the last year of the review period. The electricity shortage as well as shortages of almost all fuels except biomass has created an immense public response. Lack of energy access

leads to increased vulnerabilities in day-to-day life. The inability to provide necessary meals, inability to travel to the place of work, lack of access to the communication media can create panic within the society. Moreover, the energy access safeguards the people from the harsh weather conditions like heat waves, it provides the safety for the communities travelling at night, and most importantly is linked to the earning and living capability of the community which supports **SDG 1** and **SDG 2**. Therefore, having more reliability in our energy supply is of utmost importance to prevent societal crisis.

About the **Economy**, Sri Lanka's highest import is mineral fuels & oils which amounted to 2,333 million USD in 2020. Therefore, when the economy declined, fuel supply was impacted quickly, which was observed during the early months of 2022. The intertwined nature is observed here where due to fuel unavailability, the economy is further adversely impacted. A key solution is to push Sri Lanka towards becoming more energy independent. Sri Lanka needs to campaign for the backing of foreign funders to add renewable energy generation in its grid and further off grid solutions. It should be noted that the renewable energy generation costs per unit is relatively low in comparison to fossil fuel generation costs at the global level. Furthermore, there should be timely implementation of new generation plants. Implementing energy efficiency measures and off-grid renewable energy generation measures should also support the economic recovery.

Finally, **SDG 07** implementation is strongly dependent on the **Governance**. The energy mix, and the grid generation structure is dependent on the decision making of the government and how the institutions support the policies to enable the implementation (**SDG 16**). In Sri Lanka, linkage between implementation of **SDG 07** and the governance has been extremely weak during the review time period. This has been reflected by the ongoing energy crisis in the country. Particularly, the Ceylon Electricity Board has been hindering the implementation of renewable energy projects leading to a failure of governance. The Government of Sri Lanka also failed to harness transparent offers to implement energy generation in a timely manner. The governance also assists raising finances to buy the fuel required. Both these needs have not been met towards the end of the review period. Therefore, Sri Lanka needs immediate and sensible policy changes to address the current crisis, transparent pathways to add more renewable energy to the system to enhance energy security, and strong collaboration of the responsible institutions towards the recovery.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 07

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

There is relative coherence within the current Central Government of Sri Lanka's existing institutional framework. As of June 2022, the Subject Ministerial Portfolios, (namely "Power" and "Energy") were combined and constituted as a single Cabinet Ministry (the Cabinet Ministry of Power and Energy), which is directly aligned with the Targets and Indicators listed out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 07. The justification for the combination and constitution of such Subject Ministerial Portfolios was due to the onset of the prevailing Power (Electricity) and Energy (Fuel and Gas) Crisis. Such prevalent political alterations highlight the complete lack of effective coordination implementation which occurred when the above-mentioned Subject Ministerial Portfolios were separated between August 2020 and May 2022. Due to the centralisation of the various Government Entities associated with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 07, there is minimal implementation of existing Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies, National Strategies and Action Plans. This is even more evident in the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Governance mechanisms, where less overall implementation has taken place

in the context of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 07. Interestingly, three of the nine Provincial Governments (currently partially inactive from a political standpoint), maintain combined Provincial Ministerial “Power and Energy” Portfolios while one out of the nine Provincial Governments maintains a combined Provincial Ministerial “Electricity and Energy” Portfolio. Furthermore, the National Energy Policy and Strategies of Sri Lanka (2019) sets out national level guidelines that will impact the vast realm of social, economic and environmental spheres and pave the way to realise the national vision of Sri Lanka, in achieving carbon neutrality and completing the transition of all the energy value chains by the year 2050. The 2022 Annual National Budget emphasises the need to reach a target commitment of Power (Electricity) Generation of approximately 70%, through Renewable and Sustainable Energy sources, within the framework of overall country energy mix. The integration and mainstreaming that is required to reach these target commitments has not been established as of year 2022.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

Historically, Sri Lanka has been heavily dependent on biomass to supply its energy. When grid electricity was introduced in Sri Lanka, the country soon became a heavyweight in major hydro energy generation driven by the political, administrative, and the social commitments. By 2019, Sri Lanka reached nearly 100% grid electricity access based on official data. This is a great achievement for an middle income country while this status could be subjected change based on the ongoing crises. Since the grid electricity supply is majorly a centralised system there is political engagement on a regular basis which has been conducive in extending the electricity grid in the past. Sri Lanka holds a comprehensive legal and policy framework, national policy, and an institutional structure to support the implementation reflecting political commitment towards electrification. Specifically, the general vision document in action now, Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025) has instruments to strive towards high renewable capacity in the electricity grid and the energy mix. Most recently, during COP26 in Glasgow, the Sri Lankan government committed not to build further coal power plants. However, towards the end of this review period the coherence between the central government and the institutional structure to implement these targets has shown significant lapse. This has led to a situation that the committed targets mentioned above, may not be achieved within the expected timeframes.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Academia and civil society have been in the forefront in monitoring, evaluating, and the follow-up of the implementation of energy policies and strategies of Sri Lanka for the last few decades. Sri Lanka energy balance published by the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) can be recognized as a formal publication on the state of energy supply in the country. The last published energy balance of Sri Lanka was in 2019 and the most updated report is yet to be published. Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) monitors daily generation of the grid and the use of energy resources on a temporal basis, which provides an insight for the general population. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka reports information about the petroleum sector and this reporting requires more details. The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) publishes reports on electricity, but beyond that there has not been any statistics accounting for energy sources like biomass (nature of the biomass and the quantification is yet to be done). There is a lack of information on subsidies made available for the fuel purchases in Sri Lanka. This has led to civil society to question transparency in reporting. Sri Lanka also lacks reporting on the energy efficiency measures and energy efficiency standards in place. This presents a challenge when accounting for the consumption level and demand power of electric appliances which makes it challenging to manage the peak electricity demand of the country. Sri Lanka needs to publish its Energy Balance which would give the stakeholders more updated information related to the energy

mix and the grid electricity supply.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

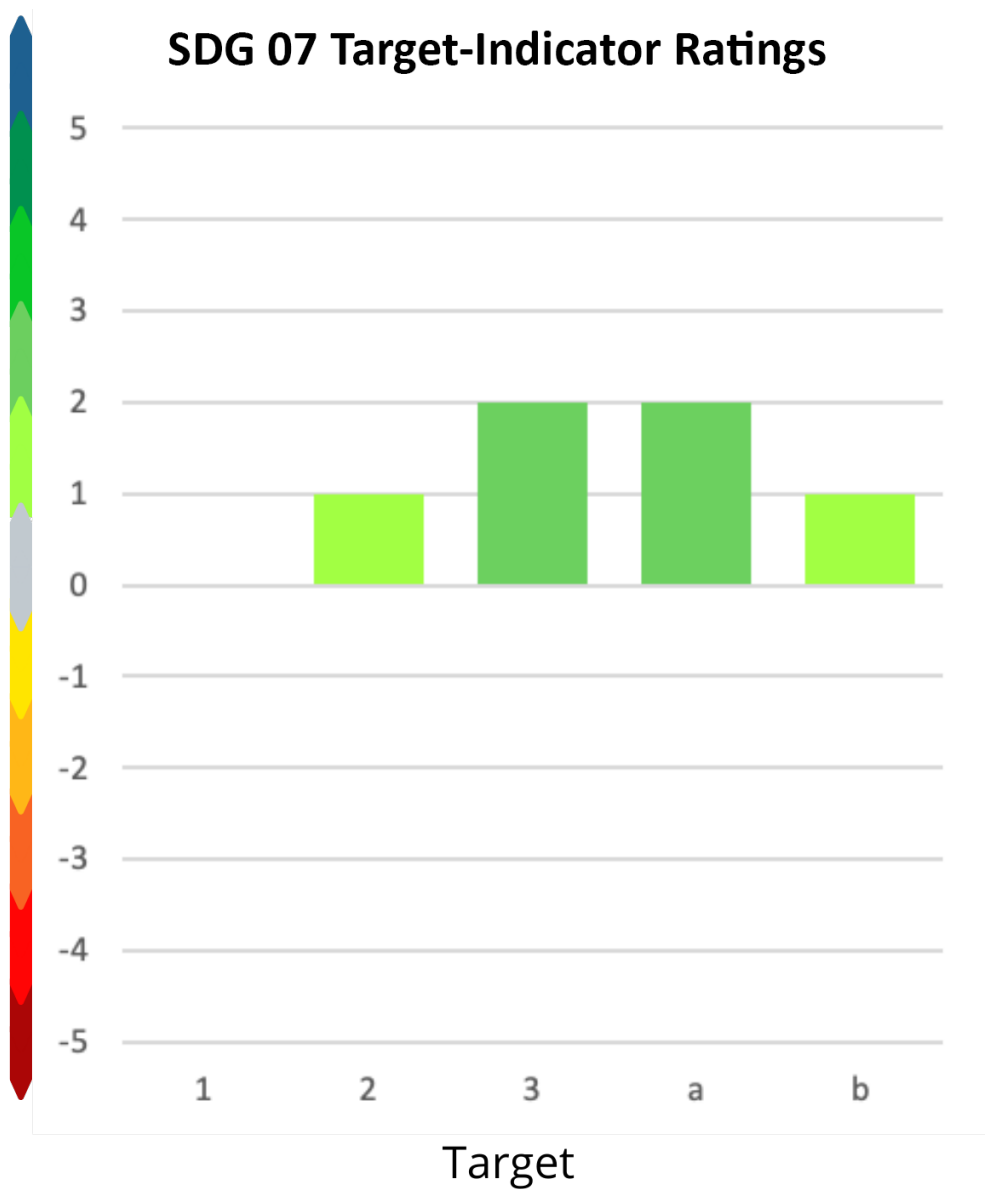
Near 100% electricity access is a strength for Sri Lanka in the context of leaving none behind. This has created the opportunity for small scale industries to operate effectively. Electricity access also ensures the access to media and communication technologies which enables people to be connected. Although there is still a gap in internet access, Sri Lanka is positioned well to expand the access of such services due to the grid electricity access. Having said above, the overall quality of energy remains average in quality because of heavy use of unsustainable biomass, petroleum, and coal in the energy mix. Due to the ongoing economic crisis, there is significant power shedding and other fuel shortages starting from early months of 2022. Therefore, Sri Lanka is in decline in terms of leaving no one behind in the last stage of this review period. Accountability is lacking in Sri Lanka's energy generation plan. There has been a lack of clarity on Sri Lanka's long term electricity generation strategy during the recent years where the plans were amended regularly. Overall, there is a lack of accountability on the transformation pathways towards the 70% renewable energy goal stated in the 2021 budget of the government. Regarding public awareness, there is a lack of reliable information available on the transformation process. The 70% renewable energy pathway is still to be defined and information disseminated about energy sources used in the energy mix is quite misleading. Multistakeholder partnerships are mostly oriented toward project basis coalitions rather than continuing engagements of key stakeholders. The technical knowledge is disseminated in a far too complex manner so the stakeholders, mainly from the civil society are discouraged to engage in the dialogue.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

Sri Lanka is heavily dependent on foreign aid to establish its power generation. Sri Lanka has adopted fossil fuel power generation largely from oil and coal. After 2005 there has been development of renewable power generation other than major hydro. Major hydro generation was funded mainly by countries like Great Britain, West Germany, and Japan. Oil power generation was funded mainly by the private sector. Coal power generation of the country has been funded by China through related ownership companies. Several renewable energy generation plants have been constructed with the funding of international agencies, private sector, and member states. Therefore, the ownership of the renewable power generation is government owned, private sector owned, or mixed in Sri Lanka. During the period of 2018-2022 the financing that was intended for the increase of the power generation has not come through to the country owing to the failures in the implementation process. Historically, Sri Lanka has utilised external technical expert bodies like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the USA to do renewable energy generation potential assessments. This indicates the signs of commitment towards making science backed decisions to increase the renewable energy share of the country's national grid. However, as far as technology assessments go there have been several conflicts reported over the last couple of decades in determining the energy mix. Sri Lanka needs an independent technology assessment process to determine the energy future of the country. The accountability from the responsible entities has been extremely poor in the context of the current energy crisis the country is facing. This is reflected by the changes in ministerial positions as well as

institution secretaries and chairpersons being replaced frequently during 2022.

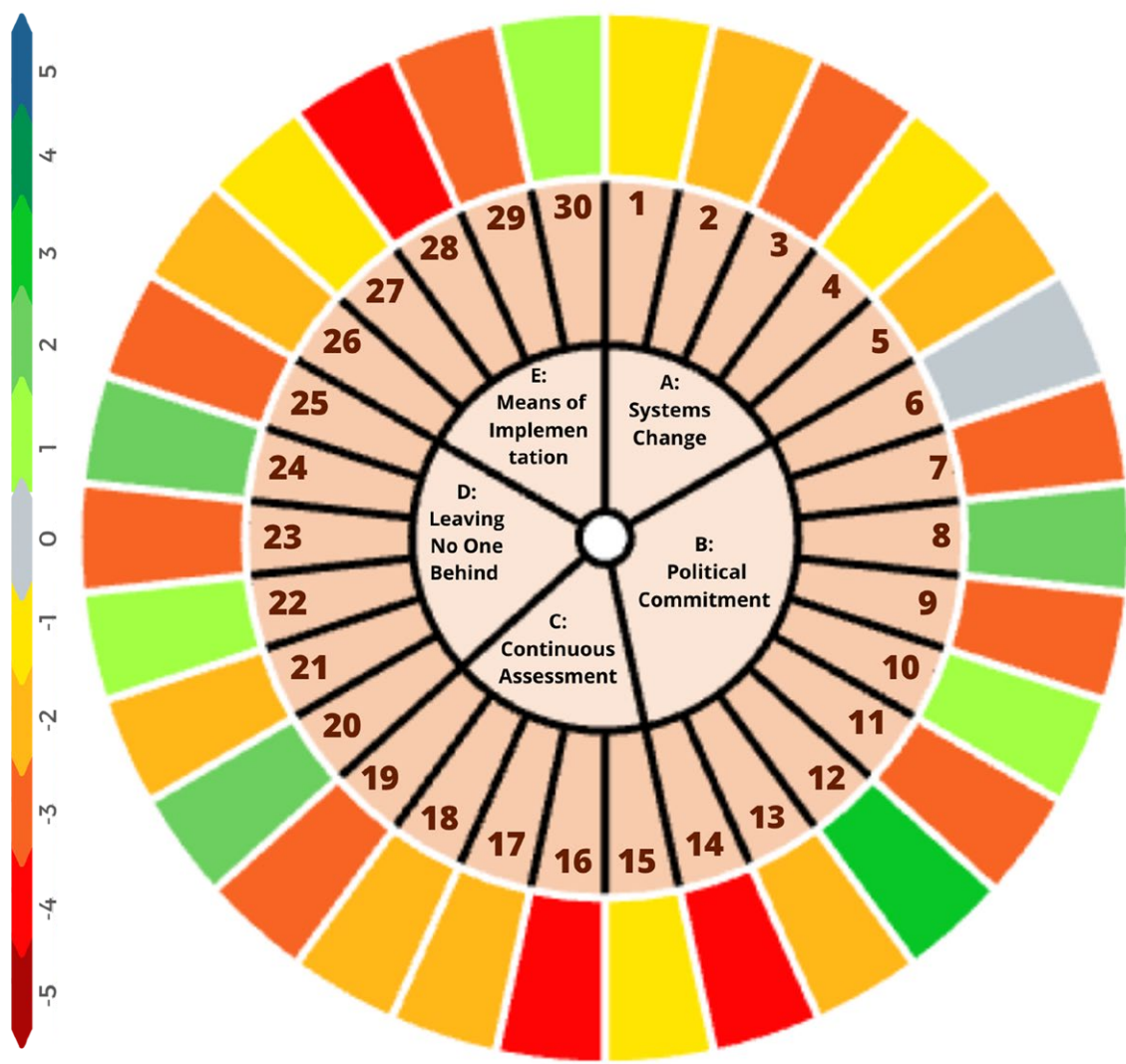
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 07



SDG 07 Micro Average Rating: +1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 07

SDG 07 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 07 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 08: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

A. Context of Implementing SDG 8: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka's economy has shown signs of recovery after the pandemic but is expected to contract sharply in 2022 with incomes falling and the cost-of-living soaring pulling the country into a recession. The lack of foreign reserves to import production inputs, waiting times in fuel queues that take hours to days to purchase, and unavoidable daily nationwide power cuts have resulted in unproductive households across the country, business foreclosures as well as a rise in unemployment. While incoming austerity measure implementation would likely set the economy on needed course correction, this would slow growth and increase unemployment in the short term. On the labour front, up until the economic crisis, Sri Lanka has done well to reign in unemployment sitting at 5% for 2020. Youth unemployment however is continuing to rise mainly attributed to a mismatch of skills between the youth workforce and what the market requires. Continuing to absorb unemployed youth graduates into the public sector is unsustainable, lowers the quality of public services, and a drain on already bloated public expenditures. Great progress has been seen on reducing child labour measured at less than 1%.

Sri Lanka is facing an unprecedented **Economic** crisis in 2022 that affects all facets of achieving progress for **SDG 8**. Broad tax cuts during a time of a growing fiscal deficit proved disastrous (**SDG 17**) and prevented Sri Lanka from receiving further loans to tap into international capital markets to finance ballooning government expenditure. The lack of funding and a shortage of foreign reserves to pay for essential imports, impaired sustainable economic growth and development prospects. Sri Lanka saw its highest inflation rates in 60 years in 2022 mainly through higher prices of imported products. High inflation has deteriorated purchasing power and lowered costs and standards of living (**SDG 1**). The higher costs together with shortages of fuel, cooking gas and frequent power cuts (**SDG 7**) have lowered the productivity of the workforce, forcing many businesses to shut down which will cause the economy to contract moderately in 2022.

Sri Lanka's **Social** landscape saw mixed results over the review period. Unemployment was around 5% over the period which is not a cause for concern but this is projected to rise in light of the current economic crisis (**SDG 1**). Youth unemployment in particular is significantly high and has jumped during the pandemic with a quarter of the youth population reporting that they cannot find work despite actively seeking a job. Despite Sri Lanka making great strides in education access and quality up to the secondary level (**SDG 4**), a mismatch of skills that employers demand and what young graduates possess drives youth unemployment. While the National Youth Policy enacted in 2014 aimed to address this issue, progress has been marginal. There have also been great strides in tackling child labour recorded at less than 1% of the population of those less than 16 years working. The minimum age for work was also raised from 14 to 16. Importantly, the lack of employment opportunities can cause decline in the mental health of the youth in the country which also needs to be addressed (**SDG 3**).

In the context of **Governance**, progress on policy and legislation to achieve **SDG 8** has been lacklustre. The National Youth Policy enacted in 2014 aimed to address the issue of high youth unemployment

but progress has been marginal and the Ministry it was enacted under has been split up leaving no clear government entity with an updated youth employment policy (SDG 16). Sri Lanka does, however, have strong legislation protecting labour rights and a rich history of labour unions promoting collective bargaining agreements. However, the government’s de facto policy of absorbing unemployed graduates into the public sector, and giving lifetime pensions, contributes to a bloated and unproductive public sector and strain on government finances.

In the context of the **Environment**, Sri Lanka has a low material footprint and low domestic material consumption compared to global standards (SDG 12). These figures are expected to decline as well considering the pandemic and current economic crisis. Tourism, which plays a major role in Sri Lanka’s economy, is also shifting towards sustainable practices with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority offering certifications to establishments that adhere to sustainable tourism guidelines. However, reporting on progress on these figures and environmental figures is poor or non-existent overall and more can be done.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 08

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The government’s national framework, Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour presents an overall vision document for the legally formulated policy documents of the country targeting economic growth and development, as well as human resource development. Financial autonomy at the subnational level is extremely limited so it becomes harder for the policy implementation that almost solely takes place at the national level. Some implementation of policies at the local level are seen in terms of collecting council or authority taxes used to fund infrastructure projects. Moreover, Sri Lanka’s development policies are completely disconnected from the environmental pressure we face as an island nation. Although we do have some safeguards in terms of environmental protections, they are minor and environmental assessments aren’t always taken into consideration when implementing development projects which shows a higher priority for economic development over sustainable development. To make matters worse, since the last VNR in 2018, Sri Lanka has been affected by a series of events such as the constitutional coup of 2018 which distracted policy makers from charting a plan for sustainable growth, the economic fallout of the Easter Sunday Bombings in 2019 which created anxiety amongst foreign creditors and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Sri Lanka’s tourism sector which contributes to a large portion of the nation’s economy, all of which has had a negative impact on decent work and the economy which has culminated in the current economic crisis: the worst in Sri Lankan history. Although the health response for the pandemic was effective, there was a failure in targeting assistance measures as the monetary assistance provided by the government was not sufficient and did not reach everyone that needed it. Moreover, the tax cuts that were implemented in 2019 derailed the availability of finance and financing development projects while contributing to the widening gap between the rich and the poor over the past two years.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

Political commitment to SDG 8 is extremely low in Sri Lanka. The country lacks a clear plan for sustainable economic growth and equitably distributed prosperity which is revealed through the ongoing economic crisis. During the pandemic, essential services were centrally organised by the Presidential Secretariat which showed social welfare and protection systems are critically dismantled and the citizens are left to find their own ways and means for livelihood. Public sector delivery mechanisms for services have been seriously influenced and interfered by the political hierarchy. Further, the public sector

administration has demonstrated extremely low commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of the citizens and facilitating the most vulnerable and poor. The role of the public sector in the economic crisis including the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance have been a key reason for the financial crisis in the country, although some progress has been seen with the appointment of the new Central Bank governor. However, the absence of a national action plan for **SDG 8** weakens the transformation and the stated objectives of the government for prosperity. Even during the current economic crisis, there is no clarity or initiative to plan for long-term sustainable economic development and inclusion in any future prosperity and planning.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

There is no existing national framework to consistently monitor and evaluate the progress on the SDGs. In some cases, but not all, it was proving difficult to find data that was up to date, from recent years. Without consistent monitoring of household income and expenses, and other similar data, it is difficult to create evidence-based legislation and/or national policy frameworks, or an annual budget for the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) which allocates funds efficiently. The data available has been mainly based on the national level, however, data collection has been done according to provincial and/or district levels, but the province or district itself does not seem to have any SDG implementation and related transformation process. Labour statistics are well reported as it is conducted on a quarterly basis and done according to international standards. However, tourism related data could be improved, as the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority mainly relies on estimates without any clear indication on how the estimates were calculated. There is very little knowledge of the SDGs amongst the general population

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

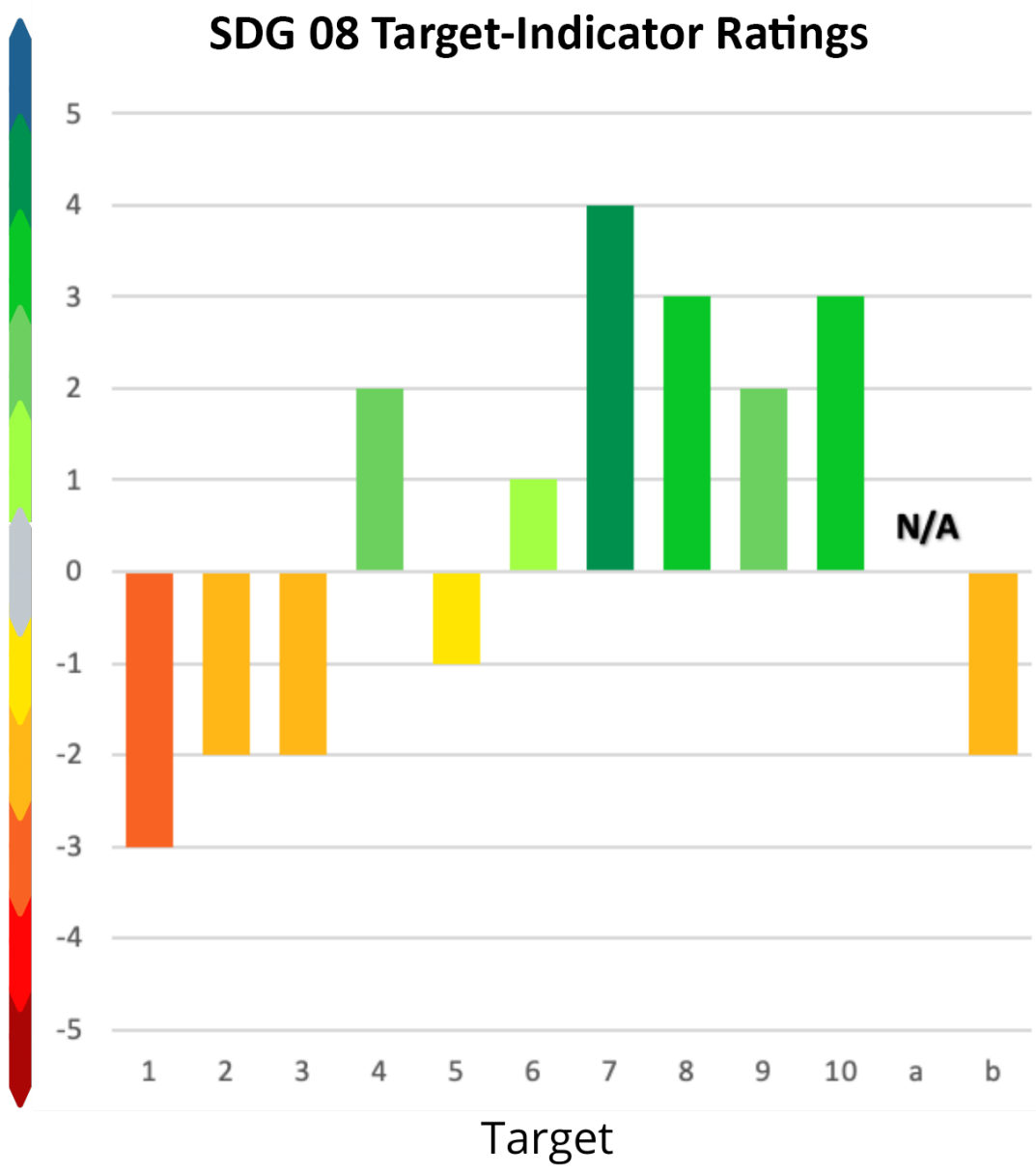
There is very little knowledge of the SDGs amongst the general population. In the school system there is limited information and knowledge circulated regarding the SDGs and where there is, it is mainly taught on an overview basis with no further discourse on the topic. Vocational skills in the development sector have progressed for **SDG 8** which has linkages with **SDG 4**. However, there aren't many multi-stakeholder partnerships available for the implementation of **SDG 8**. The National labour advisory council exists; however, it does not look directly into SDG implementation. There is a lack of information but the private sector as well as CSOs do engage in smaller level partnerships with authorities and as well as between them. The formal private sector and large industrial associations do have awareness on SDGs. Most importantly, there is no state mechanism available to increase public awareness of the SDGs in Sri Lanka which should be utilised to increase awareness and engagement on sustainable economic growth

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

The current economic crisis mainly attributable to mismanagement of public finances demonstrates a lack of commitment by the government to implement **SDG 08**. There is no long-term viable strategy to enhance sustainable economic growth and full employment through finances raised by the government. The overall decline of ODA commitments over the review period underscores this trend. Poor management has kept multilateral donors away from supporting Sri Lanka as well and the overall decline of ODA commitments over the review period underscore this trend. Domestic resource mobilisation for **SDG 8** is poorly demonstrated and is in its worst shape in the economic crisis. The government in this situation does not show intention to enhance its capacity for ecosystem services based sustainable economic growth. Even though aspects of addressing employment targets

through education and training allocations are present, there is no system to enhance capacity for ecosystem based sustainable growth. For example, Sri Lanka being an island nation has not developed a blue economy policy to make use of vast ocean resources that can be harnessed to make goods and services. Budget allocation is poor at the subnational and local level to finance the transformation. Regarding transparency and accountability mechanisms, Sri Lanka fares poorly evident with widespread corruption. Tacking means of implementation through science, technology and innovation is seen mostly through the private sector with little advancements in public sector investments. While a National Innovation Agency was established recently, and previously as COSTI, there has been limited science, technology and innovation intervention on sustainable economic growth and creating distributed wealth and prosperity.

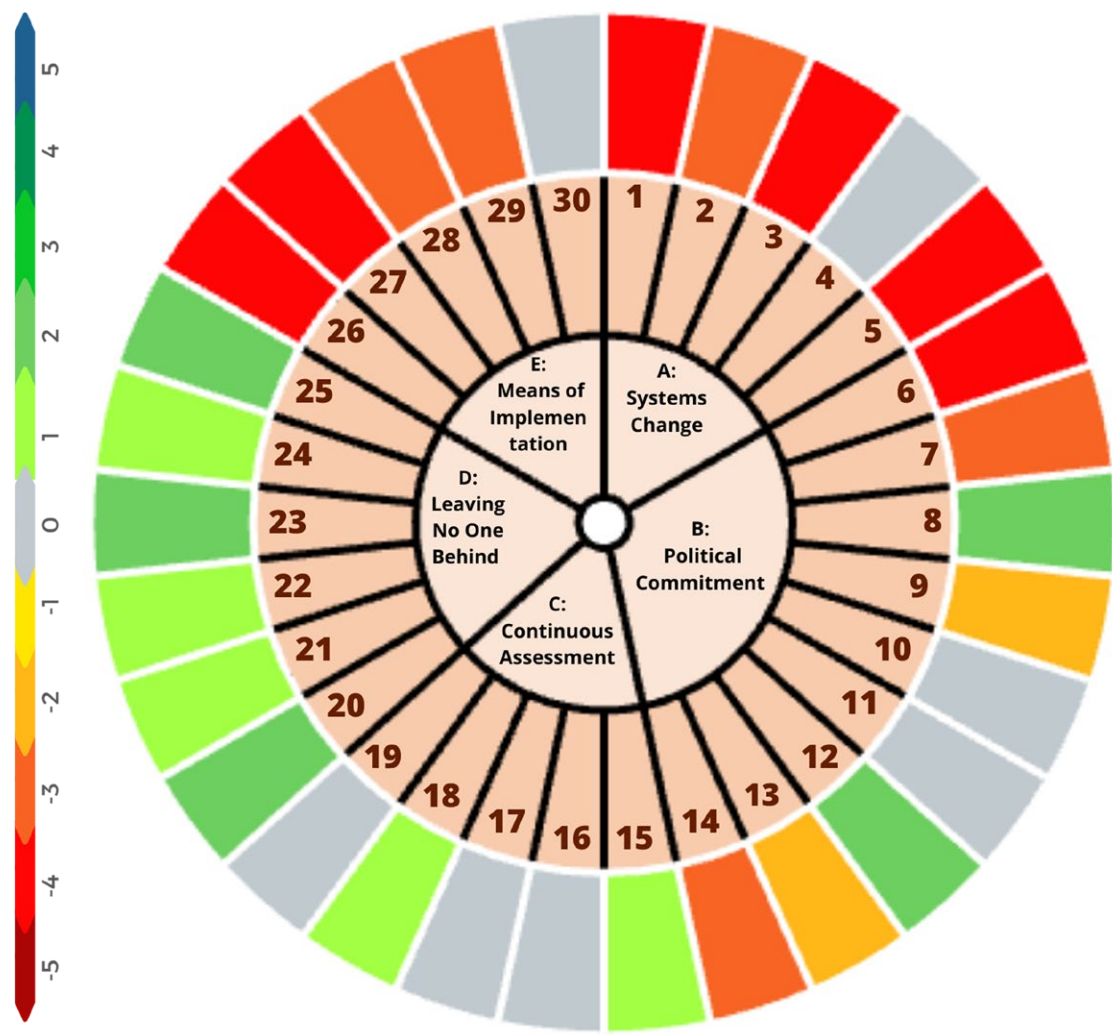
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 08 Micro Average Rating: 0

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 08 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 08 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

A. Context of Implementing SDG 09: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Over the review period, the proportion of rural population has not changed significantly in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has expanded its road infrastructure significantly. This has increased the road accessibility to the rural population and showcased signs of progress. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, travelling has been restricted and therefore, passenger transport through public transportation showed a rapid decline in 2020. COVID pandemic adversely affected freight transport as well. However, data indicated that there were reductions of both passenger and freight volumes between the years 2018-2019 as well. Currently this issue has worsened even more due to the ongoing economic crisis. Due to the lack of fuel availability, the ability to transport passengers and goods is severely restricted. Manufacturing value added products have shown some progress in Sri Lanka over the review time period. COVID 19 pandemic driven economic shifts have driven manufacturers to adopt innovative approaches. At the same time many manufacturers had great difficulty in getting their products to the market due to the COVID pandemic and the economic crisis that followed. The fuel crisis has severely impacted the manufacturing industries across the country. Medium and high-tech value-added manufacturing (% of value-added manufacturing) has been stagnant and has not seen great improvements. Owing to the COVID 19 pandemic and the fuel shortages, Sri Lanka has seen reduction in its overall emissions. With further additions of renewable energy at the manufacturing sites, Sri Lanka has a potential to further improve its emissions levels. State sector research and development expenditure remains extremely low in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, there hasn't been progress observed in the number of researchers available as well and in fact, there is a great brain drain occurring in Sri Lanka at the moment. With regard to the communication technologies, Sri Lanka has seen increase in access to mobile networks even though COVID 19 pandemic caused a brief interruption to the progress. Sri Lanka needs to promote innovative thinking in its industries to recover from the dire crisis it is facing now. **SDG 9** therefore, can play a key role in a sustainable recovery.

SDG 09 interlinks with environment, social, economic, and governance aspects of development. When implementing **SDG 09** to meet its targets and improve indicators, an **Environmental** toll is observed in Sri Lanka. Major road and infrastructure development projects have been a contributor toward increasing these environmental impacts. This has been pointed out by the public forums specifically highlighting damage done on the forestry (**SDG 15** Infrastructure, transportation, and industry are interlinked with the Social crisis of Sri Lanka as well. The debt burden owing to the rapid infrastructure development related borrowings has contributed to Sri Lanka defaulting on its external debts in early 2022. This has caused the society to respond collectively and against unsustainable infrastructure. Lack of attention to developing public transportation has put the public at risk, further contributing to the social crisis. Industries, mainly small and medium industries which are the backbone of the local economy that help provide employment (**SDG 1**). While Sri Lanka has put efforts in developing the SME sector, more innovation is needed to improve the products and the scale of production to reach the local markets on a regular basis.

With regard to the **Economy**, as indicated above, unsustainable infrastructure development

investments have caused the debt burden to increase heavily in Sri Lanka. This infrastructure development related decisions have been questioned by the society through various channels including the right to information act and a clear pathway forward to avoid such decision making has not been made clear yet (SDG 16). Meanwhile, innovation from industrial sectors like apparel, tea, information technology, and healthcare has attracted foreign income towards Sri Lanka to mend the economic wounds and enable the country to provide means of implementation (SDG 17). Therefore, industry is a cornerstone to strengthen the economy. Timely utilisation of innovative methods in product customization and value addition can help Sri Lanka to recover from its current economic situation.

Governance related to **SDG 09** has been generally weak where the bias towards infrastructure development has yielded adverse outcomes for the economy of Sri Lanka. Relative lack of importance placed on developing the transportation sector has left the communities struggling to find adequate transportation and production facing a bottleneck. Due to the fuel crisis caused by the foreign reserves shortage, transportation and industrial sectors have further suffered towards the end of this review period. There has been focus on innovation in the industrial sector, but this has not fully integrated into the vocational training and education system and therefore there is a portion of graduates from the local universities struggling to find employment with the skills they obtain. Small and medium industries in Sri Lanka also require further support to incorporate innovative technologies and stay competitive in a resource depleting environment. Furthermore, interventions are needed to increase the manufacturing value addition. Creation of more manufacturing related employment could shift the heavy burden of a large public sector towards a more manufacturing-oriented workforce supporting the recovery from the current economic downfall. Creation of innovation parks and sector ministries has been a notable step forward. Overall, Sri Lanka could greatly benefit from a sound industrial policy, and implementation of the innovation policy in a timely manner.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 09

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

There is evidence that several sub sectors of **SDG 09** have shown negative trends, and some have shown positive trends. In the context of the environment, the trend has been negative. Industry has not shown a significant change over the review period however remained operational in many sectors despite the COVID pandemic. Infrastructure has expanded but has not shown clear benefits towards sustainable development during the review period. The lack of coherence between the responsible processes is clearly apparent. In the context of implementing the existing policies there are sectors which were given more priority than others. This has led to upsetting the balance. There haven't been strong supportive mechanisms to further the implementation of policies. Furthermore, there has not been a policy focused on innovation although the Sri Lankan community regularly shows signs of innovative approaches. Intellectual property related policies are also not implemented to the expected standards. Sri Lanka has been keen on implementing projects which are not always in line with the policies, or the project implementation has been a biased implementation of the policy. Therefore, there is evidence that the community requirements intended to be fulfilled by the policy have not been met. Circular economy has been indicated within the current government policy document “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” but has not been implemented in action. In some instances, individual local councils have taken initiatives but remain to be standalone action. There are no qualitative assessments for planetary boundaries defined, except for ocean acidification in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka should put further efforts into integration and mainstreaming of **SDG9** implementation.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

The ministry dedicated towards sustainable development has been discontinued (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife) leading into the current review period. In that place SDG council has been operational but the process is still new and has witnessed significant changes of its leadership due to the ongoing crisis causing ministerial portfolio changes. The establishment of innovation parks and establishment of sector ministries have taken the **SDG 09** implementation through a positive trajectory. The Ministry of Environment also has shown positive moves towards promoting environmentally sound practices in industry. The commitments from the public sector and the administration have maintained a status quo in the context of **SDG9**. There has not been significant public sector movement towards improving the transportation and in some cases hindering efforts have also been observed. In general, there needs to be an independent process that incorporates scientific thinking in the national planning so the public sector can play a pivotal role during the implementation stage. Generally, legal and policy frameworks are available and there have been additions to the existing frameworks. Sri Lanka does not directly adopt the international frameworks, but rather localise the legal and policy frameworks to maintain the duality approach. It has been pointed out that, some legal instruments need to be updated to suit contemporary needs. Institutions and mandates have been there and have shown some progress over the considered period in that aspect. However, institutional coherence has been weak and has not shown any progress. In some situations, the incoherent nature has led to hinder the decision-making power and the implementation.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

In terms of monitoring activities and following up, some initiatives have taken place within the responsible entities. Some entities within the **SDG 9** supportive institutional framework have not received guidance on existing monitoring and evaluation processes and therefore there was no conclusive evidence that an overarching monitoring process is in place. There are instances that responsible institutions have initiated feedback processes in an ad hoc manner, but the response from the public has also been inadequate. This has led to lack of completion in the existing monitoring and evaluation procedures at the local level/sub national level. Indicator localization has not been observed in the context of **SDG 09**. Data availability at both the national and local level has been poor. Local level data gathering is almost non-existent. Right to information act has been used by the people to inquire mainly about infrastructure projects showing an increasing trend of public engagement in response to the decision making by the authorities and the central government. Furthermore, there have been mobile applications such as 'MANKIWWA' to engage the stakeholder feedback. Divisional secretaries have been seen using communication channels in some cases to enable more feedback from the community and act upon them. These scattered efforts need to be mainstreamed to achieve success overall.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

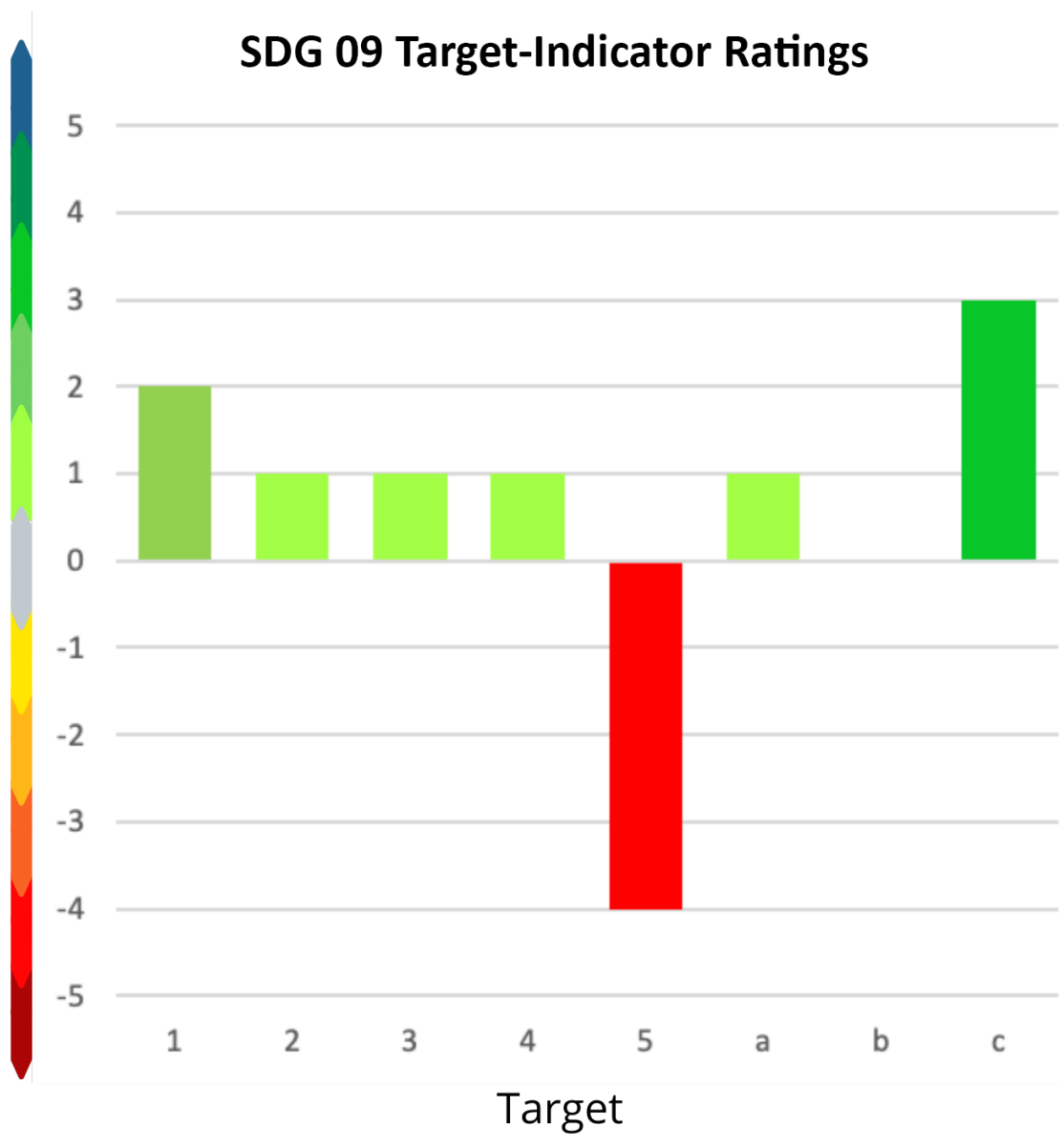
Post graduate courses have been established to encourage more young people to take up related knowledge building exercises in innovation and technology. The GCE A/L academic streams have also been expanded to incorporate technology related subjects. In the innovation sector there have been partnerships involving the private entities and the start-up ecosystem in Sri Lanka to create more awareness on the **SDG 09** targets and improve the indicator performance. Infrastructure sector has also seen multi stakeholder engagements and participation. Private sector has supported sustainability in their operations which has led to sustainability champions to emerge from some **SDG 9** related sectors. Citizen participation has increased over the considered period. Major drivers of

citizen participation have been, (i) concern over the damage on the environment caused by the major infrastructure projects, (ii) decline of the economy caused by the unsustainable borrowings towards the infrastructure development. More and more sector experts in SDG9 have also raised their voices against unsustainable practices and continue to engage. However, public awareness programs from the public sector have been lacking and need improvement. Generally, there is a lack of common understanding in CSOs and stakeholders delivery. This area needs further engagement and effective capacity building.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

There is a lack of allocation in financial resources to STEM fields and school level research and development from the national budget, national level as well as at the local levels, where at the latter level it is even weaker than that of the former. Financial allocations towards research and development have been weak at all levels of national, sub national and local levels although there have been commitments towards establishing related institutions. There is a lack of transparency related to the key projects under the SDG 9 implementation. There is a serious lack of accountability in the decisions taken, some without scientific backing. The National Innovation Agency, enacted by the Act No:22 of 2019, started its operations in the latter part of 2021, of which one of the main objectives is to make recommendations to the Government to formulate national policies in respect of innovation, which is a positive movement taken in this regard. Sri Lanka should create accountability measures on how the development funding is directed to the SDG 09. There needs to be a balance in spending towards infrastructure, transportation industry, and innovation. Shortcoming in one of these sectors could reflect adversely on the economy.

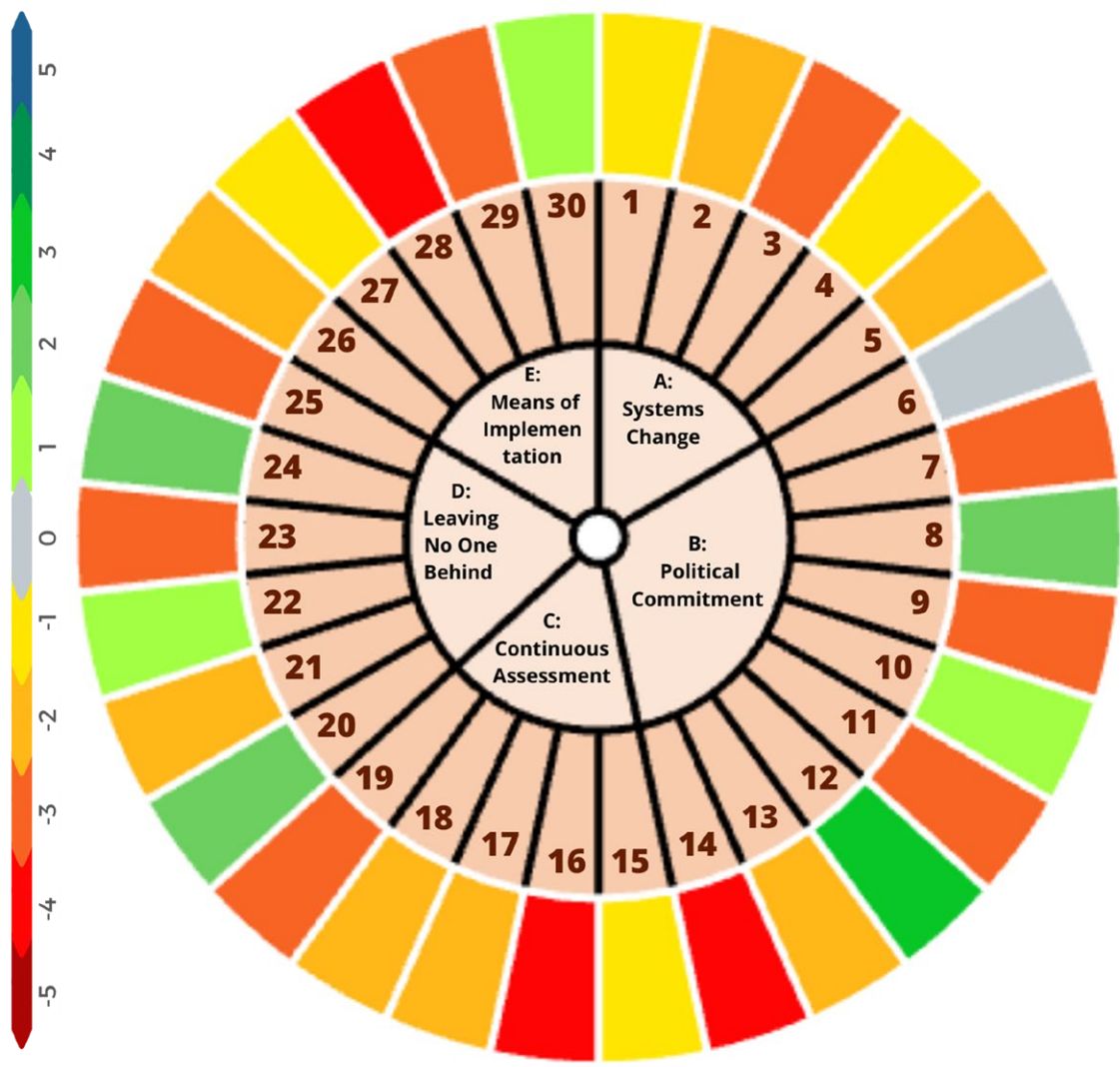
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 09 Micro Average Rating: +1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 09 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 09 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary People's Review

SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities within and among countries

A. Context of Implementing SDG 10: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Income inequality is on the rise in Sri Lanka owing to the 2019 tax cuts that have disproportionately benefited top income owners. Revenue available for social protection programs nosedived and the government has resorted to money printing at unprecedented rates to bridge the gap; causing inflationary pressures which is ultimately a hidden tax on the poor. Food inflation has spiked to 80% year-on-year for June resulting in less purchasing power parity for everyone, mainly for the bottom 40% who will be the most impacted by this rise in prices. Moreover, addressing discrimination has fared poorly with Sri Lanka with the expansion of the Prevention of Terrorist Act in 2021 which allows for two years of detention without trial and a regularly used tool to crack down on minorities and anti-government voices and funding disbursed for Samurdhi, Sri Lanka's main social welfare program targeting low-income families, has not been adjusted to inflation to be effective in the current economic crisis. Overall spending on welfare payments declined from Rs. 155 million in 2020 to Rs. 139 million in 2022, despite the humanitarian crisis Sri Lankans are currently facing, while spending on Defence has increased disproportionately. Progress in facilitating safe and responsible migration has been severely lacking with there being no reintegration policy for returning migrants, nor any permanent resettlement program for refugees who are extremely vulnerable to exploitation as a result. Official development assistance to Sri Lanka has also significantly declined from \$4.7 billion to \$1.3 billion in 2020 despite an increasing need for foreign funding for development to bridge the gap between developed countries. Overall, Sri Lanka has slightly regressed in achieving progress under the targets for **SDG 10** and the following economic, social, governance and environmental factors will portray the situation Sri Lanka is currently facing in terms of **SDG 10**.

From the **Economic** standpoint, the tax cuts that were introduced by the government in December 2019 disproportionately benefited higher income earners and overall led to a reduction in government revenue since its implementation which resulted in (1) less funds to spend on social protection schemes for low-income earners and other essential public services such as education and healthcare, and (2) the country losing access to international capital markets financing in 2020 after ratings agencies downgraded Sri Lanka to a CCC and below. The latter inevitably led to Sri Lanka defaulting on her foreign debt payments in 2022 and plans to implement austerity measures which will leave the bare minimum to invest in SDG implementation and further reduce the amount of funding available for social protection schemes, education and healthcare. The above factors contributed to the increasing inequality in Sri Lanka in terms of widening income inequality and reducing equal access to essential services that would provide equal opportunity to all Sri Lankans regardless of their income group. The current economic crisis is further deteriorating the situation especially for the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Due to the overall economy contracting, average incomes will fall resulting in people's purchasing power decreasing during a time of rising costs through inflation and the collapse of the local currency. This will result in the median income amount to fall and lead to more people falling below 50% median income as incomes across the working population group will decrease, just as more people are predicted to fall below the national poverty line in 2022. These economic factors directly hinder the progress of targets 10.1; 10.2; 10.4; 10.5; and 10.b and contribute to increasing inequality within Sri Lanka. On the other hand, data from 2020 suggests that the number of Sri Lankan

goods with tariffs at zero increased, which has a positive impact on target 10.a and assists in somewhat reducing inequality among countries.

Moreover, Sri Lanka is not party to the 1951 refugee convention and does not have any national law and/or mechanism to offer permanent resettlement to any refugees. Sri Lanka only hosts refugees temporarily and does not provide any support in terms of food allowances, housing or other living expenses. Since Sri Lanka does not allow permanent resettlement to refugees, they are not eligible to receive assistance from the UNHCR. To make matters more desperate for refugees in Sri Lanka, the government does not allow them to acquire employment to financially sustain themselves which exacerbates their vulnerability as they have no way to purchase food or other essentials, nor do they have any recourse to legal remedies if they are abused by employers or not paid for the work they have done when they choose to work. The GoSL also made inadequate attempts to identify Sri Lankan forced labour victims abroad and inadequate anti-trafficking efforts even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity. These **Social** factors directly hinder the progress of target 10.7, more specifically indicators 10.7.2; 10.7.3; and 10.7.4

Furthermore, several public policies and legislation currently in place negatively impacts certain minority groups making them more vulnerable. The establishment of the 20th Amendment of the constitution in 2020 significantly reduced the independence of key institutions such as the Judicial Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission as well as abolishing the Audit Service Commission which reduced accountability and transparency in government. There has also been no attempt to repeal and replace colonial laws, one example being the Vagrants ordinance (No. 04 of 1841) which can still be used to intimidate, extort, detain and interrogate individuals whose appearance do not conform to gender norms, in addition to excluding the LGBTQ+ community under Article 12 of the Constitution which grants equal rights to all. There also hasn't been any attempt to ensure women have autonomy over their bodies by criminalizing marital rape and decriminalizing abortion. Moreover, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) is weaponized to arbitrarily detain religious and racial minorities with no due process rights; to extract false confessions through torture. The expansion of the PTA in 2021 (Regulation No.02 of 2021) increased the existing regulatory framework to allow two years of detention without trial, making it easier for the GoSL to target racial and religious minorities, in violation of their basic rights. These **Governance** factors directly hinder the progress of target 10.3 and **SDG 10**.

Lastly, it is important to highlight that the poor contribute the least to the climate crisis while the rich contribute the most by having significantly larger carbon footprints. Despite this it is the poorest and marginalised communities that are likely to live near **Environmentally** hazardous areas and be impacted by environmental disasters such as heavy rain, floods and droughts.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 10

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

There is no overarching action plan to address inequality in Sri Lanka. A number of plans that were implemented over the past four years such as: (1) the Vistas of Splendour and Prosperity (2020-2025) has no legislative backing and no progress being made on the strategies under this document; (2) the Decent Country Work Programme (2018-2022) which includes improving labour rights of migrants and reducing their vulnerability to exploitation (forced labour) but Sri Lanka has yet to do so for refugees who are extremely vulnerable to exploitation; (3) the tax policy (2019) which abolished Pay As You Earn

(PAYE) tax along with six others which disproportionately benefited higher income earners contributed to the increase of income inequality; and (4) the 20th Amendment of the Constitution (2020) which abolished the Audit Service Commission thereby reducing transparency and accountability, and reducing the independence of key institutions relevant to **SDG 10**, examples of which include the Human Rights Commission, the National Police Commission and the Office of Missing Persons. The above decisions undertaken by the government of Sri Lanka in recent years show a lack of mainstreaming, integration and policy coherence to effectively progress **SDG 10**. Moreover, it must be noted that in terms of actual, official Semi - Government Documentation (Policies, Action Plans and Strategies), very little exists at the Subnational Level and most of what exists is either internal documentation or has simply not been released to the general public in the form of Policy, Action Plan and/or Strategy Documentation.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

The introduction of the regressive tax cuts in December 2019 by the current government administration shows a lack of commitment to reducing income inequality in Sri Lanka. Although there is funding for social protection schemes to assist the poor and vulnerable, funding for these welfare programs has decreased over the few years and many of these programs have issues with effectively targeting those who need it the most which highlights the lack of public and administrative commitment. The lack of attempt to repeal colonial laws used to discriminate marginalized groups, or the lack of attempt to decriminalize abortion and criminalize marital rape conveys that there is no political will to reduce social inequalities that continue to exist and unfairly discriminate against a portion of Sri Lankan society. The expansion of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 2021, despite calls on the government from international human rights groups to repeal the above-mentioned legislation, shows a lack of commitment to protect religious and racial minorities. Moreover, the Government of Sri Lanka has not introduced an overarching framework to address the central issue of inequality either, and where there are action plans to address certain issues covered under **SDG 10**, they are fragmented and poorly implemented. Better cooperation and communication between the available government entities which have mandates aligned with **SDG 10** would help progress this goal and reduce inequality within Sri Lanka, but the lack of institutional mechanism to do so is an obstacle for the country.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

The GoSL has failed to set up the monitoring, evaluation follow up and review mechanism after seven years of the 2030 agenda being introduced. Without adequate or timely data it is impossible to have accountability, and the lack of evidence results in less transparency. Moreover, there has also been a failure to localise any of the indicators under **SDG 10**. The existing systems for collecting data in Sri Lanka is infrequent which directly impacts the ability to measure the progress of targets 10.1; 10.2; 10.a and specific indicators 10.7.3 and 10.7.4. The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is only conducted once every three years, and the last publication of the HIES was from 2019. This is an example of the infrequent nature of the M&E process in Sri Lanka and hinders the ability to measure the progress of several indicators using up to date information. Moreover, the HIES does not account for income generated through self-employment which makes it difficult to assess the actual labour share of GDP directly impacting the assessment of indicator 10.4.1. The M&E process in Sri Lanka is a great obstacle in progressing the SDGs as legislators are not able to put forward evidence-based policies for positive development of the **SDG 10**. It's important to highlight that Sri Lanka does have the capacity to have two parallel systems to monitor and evaluate data by implementing a community-based monitoring system through the government monitoring system that is already in place due to

our decentralised administrative system. That being said, it's possible that the lack of such a M&E system is due to the lack of political commitment in ensuring evidence-based policies are put forward and hinder transparency or accountability.

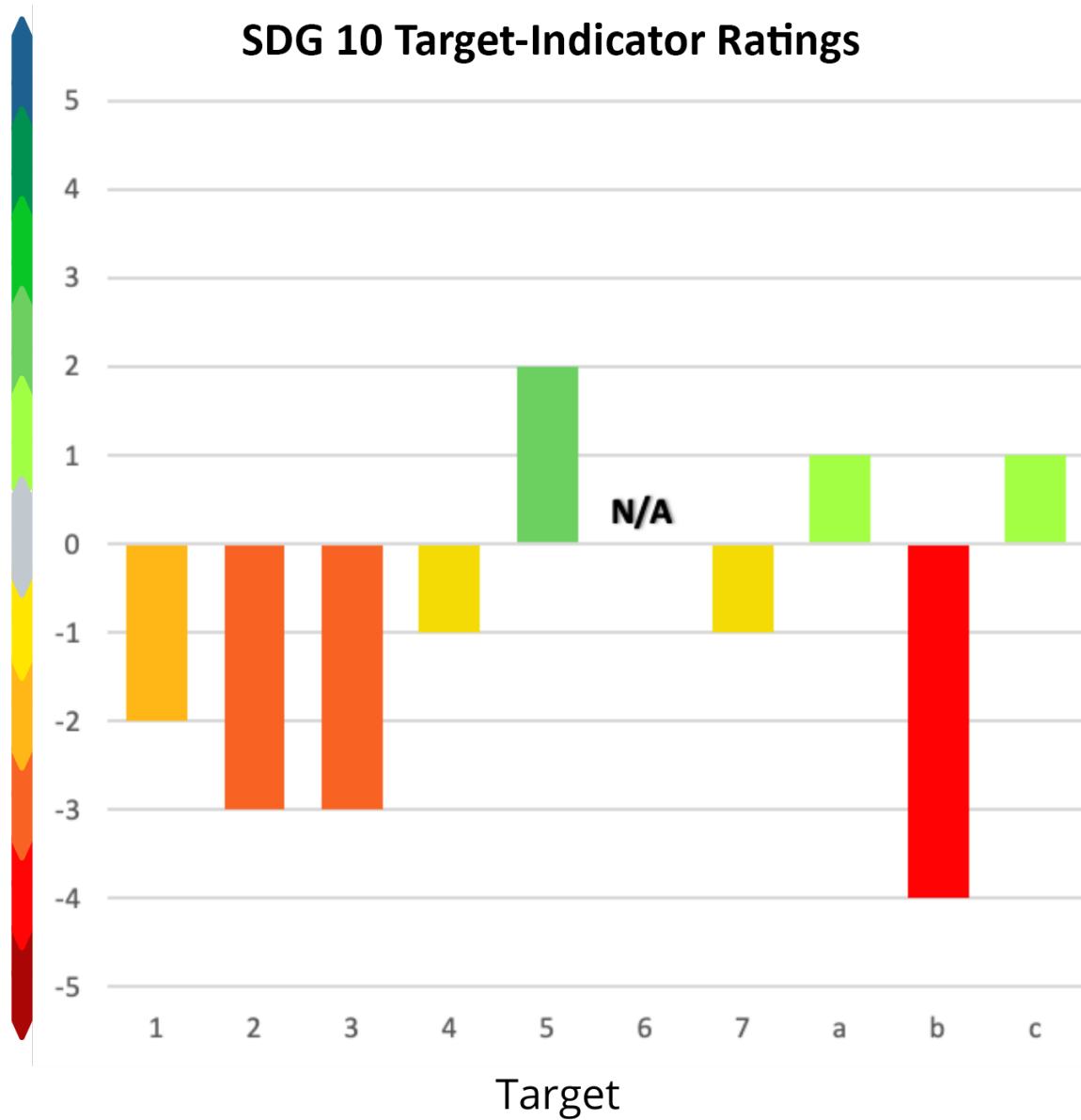
4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

There is very little knowledge of the SDGs amongst the general population. There is no significant knowledge and capacity building including in the formal and informal education systems for **SDG 10**. For instance, issues around disability rights and LGBTQ+ rights are non-existent in the education systems. It is important to view individuals as stakeholders in successfully achieving the SDGs. Without improving the aforementioned factors in Sri Lanka, it will be much more difficult to include everyone in the SDG process and ensure everyone is contributing to a more sustainable Sri Lanka, not just on a large scale but also on an individual basis to ensure equality improves. The inability to do so, or the lack of commitment to reach out to a wide range of citizens over the past seven years since the introduction of the 2030 Agenda means there are communities that are far removed from the SDG process. Public awareness cannot be achieved easily and there must be several channels utilised to spread awareness across to a wide range of people and inform the public on their role in the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation process of the SDGs. There is also very little knowledge regarding sustainability in terms of the governance, social and economic spheres. However, there are several Civil Society Organisations that conduct work all over the country to ensure equality in some of its forms. For instance, there are several poverty eradication programs that take place but the root causes of financial and social inequalities are not adequately addressed by these programs.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

The fiscal management report shows that there is funding available for several welfare programs and additional assistance programs. Despite the availability of these programs, they are not always targeted to those who are the most vulnerable or in need of the assistance and the fiscal report for the past two years shows funding for most of these programs is on a downward trend. The tax cuts introduced in December 2019 contributed to the decline of government revenue over the past two and a half years which resulted in less funding for the available social protection schemes and programs such as universal healthcare and education. Moreover, due to the current economic crisis and Sri Lanka having to default on its foreign debt payment, the Government of Sri Lanka will have to implement austerity measures further impacting the available funding for these welfare and assistance programs. In relation to **SDG 10**, the lack of funding for these essential services creates increasing inequality and access to opportunities. Additionally, there is a concentration of allocation of resources in urban areas, whereas estate and rural areas have less funding for necessary services such as health and education which widens inequality between people based on where they reside, which also reduces the ability to ensure equal opportunity for all. Additionally, the subsequent central governments lack of commitment to the principle of subsidiarity keeps subnational and local level actors from engaging in transformational action towards eradicating inequality across the country.

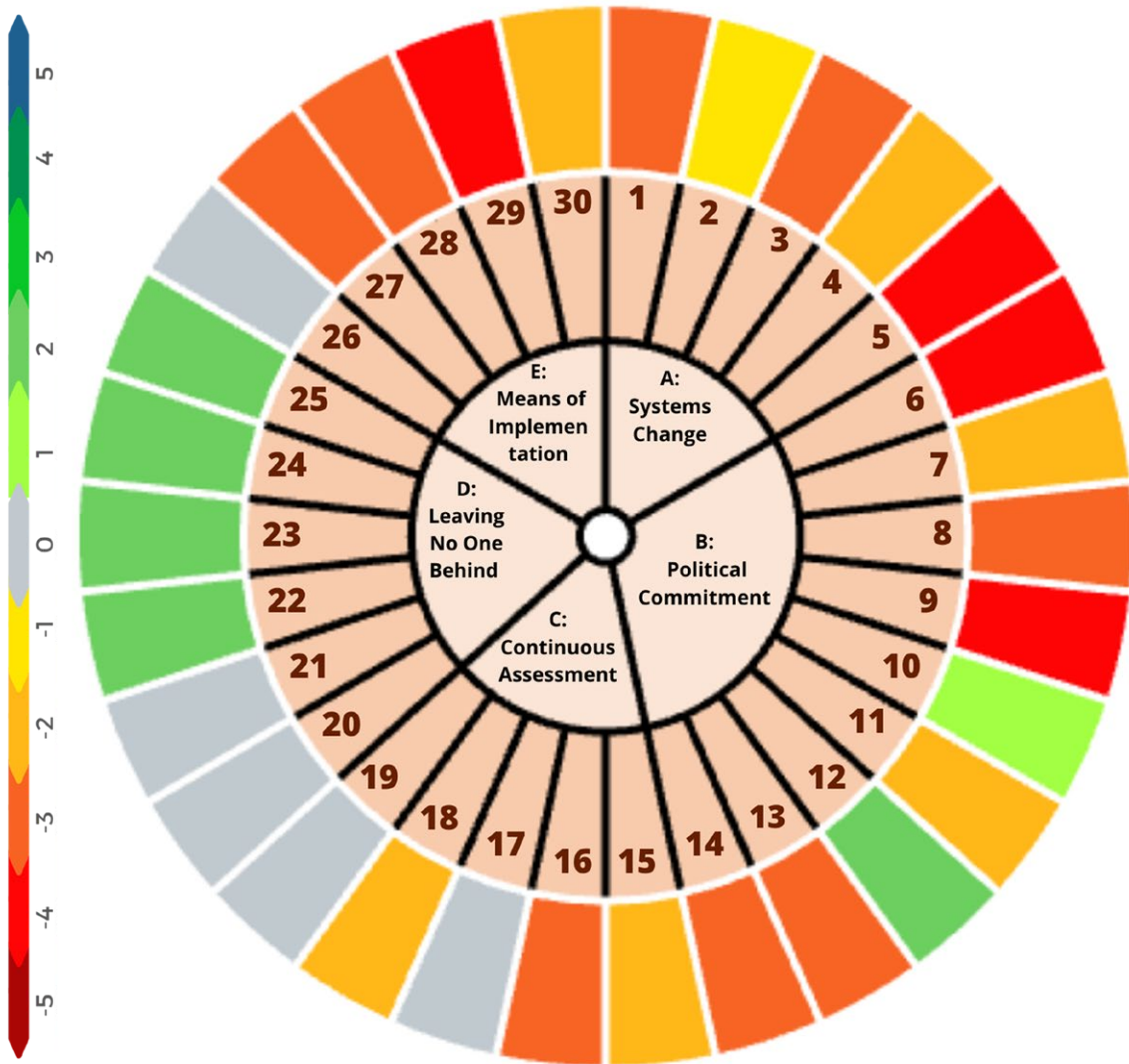
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 10 Micro Average Rating: -1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 10 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 10 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary People's Review

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

A. Context of Implementing SDG 11: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

As a result of initiatives like Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project (SCURP) launched by Urban Development Authority (UDA) to build 5,500 housing units to move people from underserved settlements, Sri Lanka has been observing reductions in people living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing. The movement of urban population caused by this and other variables has reduced the rate of urban population growth in Sri Lanka. Convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities has not shown a progress in Sri Lanka. There has been very little work done to provide safe access to transportation for people with disabilities. Moreover, 90% of the women face physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence in public spaces and in transport as reported in. It should be also noted that, infrastructure development has been given priority over the safe and effective transportation sector development in the country. Sri Lanka has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries towards the impacts of climate change since 2015. In terms of number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters, although the deaths have decreased over the time, the damage caused by the natural disasters has been significant. Furthermore, direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters reported as 688 million USD due to floods and landslides in 2016. While the extent of the damage has been dependent on the severity of the precipitation event, the occurrences have continued each year since then. Effective waste management in the municipalities and urban areas has been a continuous problem across Sri Lanka. Although there is a lack of accurate data available from the local authorities to accurately assess the overall extent of the waste problem, recent research on Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) reveals the greater intensity of the problem in Sri Lankan municipalities. With regard to the emissions, while most studies indicate PM_{2.5} at or below 12 µg/m³ is considered healthy with little to no risk from exposure, some cities like Battaramulla and Kandy has shown exceeding 12 µg/m³ value in Sri Lanka in 2020, mainly driven by the large number of vehicles pouring into these cities. While Sri Lanka has taken great strides to develop the infrastructure related to the human settlements, it has lagged in creating these spaces safe, inclusive, and effective.

Making the cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable takes commitment from all sectors environmental, social, economic and governance. In the context of the **environment**, in a shocking turn of events, in 2018 Sri Lanka reported several deaths caused by a garbage dump landslide which raised concerns of unsustainable urbanisation leading to human losses. Sri Lanka also has a long-standing concern of plastic pollution in urban environments. Furthermore, Sri Lanka has reported many allegations of deforestation during the period of 2019-2021 near to its vulnerable forest reserves. This poses concerns in implementing **SDG11**. Major cities in Sri Lanka like Colombo and Kandy suffer from poor air quality. Overall, emissions levels are not too alarming in Sri Lanka as yet. The reduction of travelling into the cities due to the COVID 19 pandemic caused a reduction in pollution during a limited time. However, due to the dense nature of population in the cities the local emissions may rise with the increased use of biomass at the urban setting due to the ongoing fuel crisis

showcasing linkages to **SDG7** and **SDG 13**.

Societal issues also affect implementation of **SDG11**. Public safety in the urban areas remains a concern. There have been constant reports on harassment and thievery on the streets which has been enhanced by the ongoing crisis (**SDG 05** and **SDG 16**). Although there is infrastructure in place for the society to engage with the urban spaces, such spaces need to be secure and inclusive at the same time (**SDG 10**). Towards the later part of this review period, it has been observed that people's wellbeing is put at risk due to having to wait in long lines for fuel and other essential supplies. This is a negative trend on safety in human settlements and towards resilience of the community.

The ongoing **Economic** crisis is severely affecting the implementation of **SDG11**. Transportation access to the cities is restricted due to the fuel shortage. This has led to people to put a greater risk of catching public transportation which is packed beyond capacity (**SDG 16**). Inability to reach the workplaces would reduce the workforce input towards the economy. Land consumption rate is increasing because of additional crops needing to be planted and there are no standard crop cultivation methods introduced to the public (**SDG 15**). Sri Lanka has done well to improve its road network connecting communities. Although, there has been great effort put towards rapid infrastructure development, the full benefit is yet to be observed due to these developments being short-sighted and shortage of essential resources like fuel.

Governance related concerns have increased towards the year 2022 leading to widespread protests across Sri Lanka which emerged mainly to point out mismanagement of the economy by the current government. The concerns from the people have mainly been driven by unsustainable and rapid development of infrastructure, when compared to other sub sectors of **SDG 11**. There has been a lack of commitment in creating sound public transportation, safer spaces for the public, prioritising environmental protection in major development initiatives, and for coordinated efforts to safeguard sensitive environments from disaster situations like the Express-Pearl ship disaster (**SDG 14**). On progressive trends, Sri Lanka has a National Physical Plan (NPP) already being implemented which has the potential to establish a more sustainable approach towards urban development. Moreover, the initiatives like Ministry of Environments National Action Plan 2021-2030 for plastic waste management in Sri Lanka could provide a solution to the plastic related land (**SDG 15**) and emission (**SDG 13**) pollution concerns.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 11

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The policy framework for urban development is fragmented from sub-national perspectives, as there has been no clear linkages established with the local planning and implementation by Municipal and Urban Councils. The National Physical Plan (NPP) 2050 needs to be implemented at the provincial and regional levels. It covers different dimensions and multidisciplinary aspects. There is a mechanism for the NPP process. However, there is no process of operationalising the NPP 2050 in close coordination and consultation with the local authorities. Although at the local authority level, the approval of Urban Development Authority is sought, there is a mismatch between macro physical plans by Urban Development Authority (UDA) and implementation of them at the municipalities due to lack of required capabilities and resources. The mechanism to roll out at the local authority is not articulated properly. Lack of integrated planning at the sub-national or local level has been neglected as it stands as a top-down approach. In the context of systems change Sri Lanka focuses more on the physical changes than the impact changes. Physical beautification has been in the forefront of the development

in the cities. However, the mainstreaming has not taken place in the context of civilian access to cities which is caused by lack of transportation sector planning.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

Central government has focused mainly on physical beautification of several cities including the cities of Colombo, Galle, and Kandy. These efforts have led to more orderly spaces for the public to utilize. However, the maintenance of these spaces depends on how the central government as well as the local authorities devote resources. The mobilisation of financing to implement urban development plans and associated targets related to **SDG 11** has not been available at the local authority level. The provincial council functions have been weakened for the past five years since no provincial council election was held after the adoption of the new provincial council act. The terms of local authorities were extended beyond their 4-year term without new elections. There is a lack of awareness at the local authority level about SDGs among the local councillors although state officers have been educated about the SDGs. Most of the new projects are external donor driven and hardly any resources are allocated for new programs through its own financial resources. Most of the Municipal and Urban Councils have been lacking a systematic finance and resource generation plans including an effective system to collect tax. This leads to several problems in effectively implementing their regular work such as solid waste collection and disposal.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

At the national level, monitoring, evaluation and follow up exist to a certain level through an ad-hoc process. However, they are not regular and most often donor driven initiatives. Some of the government institutions are reporting the data related to the components in **SDG11**. Yet, due to lack of awareness, they are not aligned to **SDG 11** indicators and targets, hence the process is not effective. Yet, there is no structure or responsibility embedded in the local authority to monitor and report the progress to the provincial and central government entities. There is no systematic monitoring, evaluation and follow up mechanisms and procedures at the sub-national level to assess the progress of the implementation of **SDG 11**. Some of the provincial council state officials have started aligning their work with **SDG 11** indicators. However, they are not localised at national level and even sub-national levels. While the data is available, they are not systematised to make decisions and M&E. Data is also available within some institutions working in relation to the **SDG11** targets. However, the tools are not available to process data/analyse these data to obtain useful insights. The data collection and reporting are also sometimes donor driven and imposed by way of a requirement of projects by donors. Hence, there is a lack of a process to collect, analyse and use the data. CSO are not included in the process of urban planning and therefore there has been a challenge to make the urban planning safe and environmentally sound. The engagement of CSOs is very low, though at local levels, there has been some levels of engagement by some projects, compared to the engagement of CSOs in **SDG 11** at the national levels. In general, CSOs have limited awareness on **SDG 11** targets.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

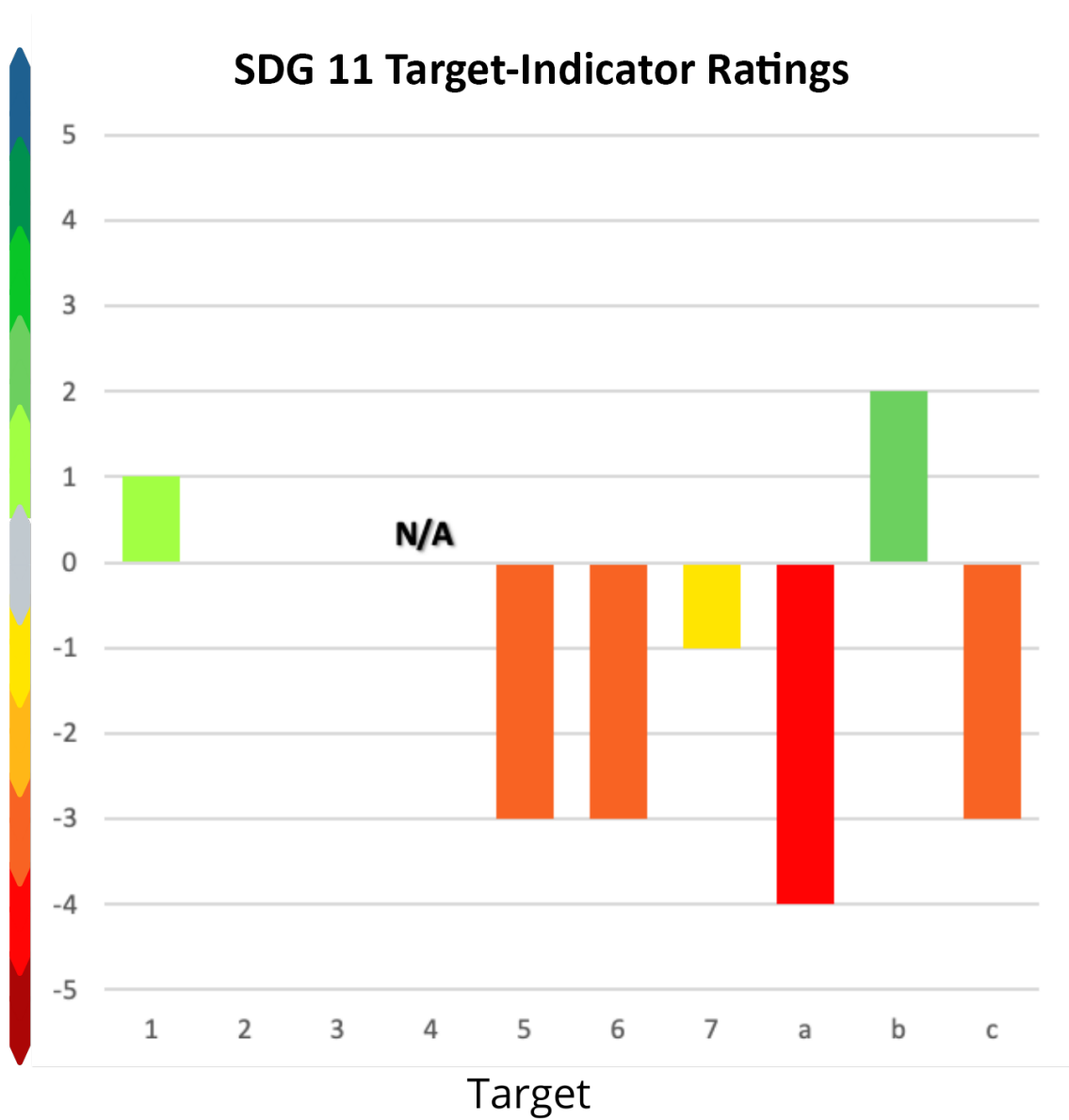
Infrastructure development can contribute to making housing available to citizens living in cities and assist to leave no one behind. There have been several multifamily schemes implemented to move civilians from temporary housing. However, there have been concerns raised on the safety of these communities in the high-rise schemes, mainly driven by the lack of familiarity of the communities in living in high rise multifamily dwellings. From the education and awareness creation point of view, there is no practical incorporation of **SDG 11** in the education system from the schools to the university

levels. At the school levels, **SDG 11** related knowledge needs to be promoted for students to learn about sustainable development and safe urban environments. The awareness raising and capacity building initiatives on **SDG 11** among the public are also very limited. Since there is some level of multi-stakeholder partnerships at the planning level, experts judged that there is a slow progress towards being multi-stakeholder partnerships in other processes. Although, there is some level of awareness on sustainability issues, as SDGs, there is a lack of awareness. This will have limitations in the development of local indicators. The lack of awareness and capacity building of state staff at the local level limit the efforts to localise the indicators. Similarly, the CSO activities are limited to the advocacy role. To leave no one behind, the above concerns need to be addressed.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

The mobilisation of resources and financing is very limited to **SDG 11** targets even at the national level. Most of the state institutions and local government bodies have not allocated resources for aligning their development with the **SDG 11** targets. There have been some initiatives among the youth and young academics as well as professionals to see how science and technology can be modernised to achieve **SDG 11**, for example, finding solutions to solid waste management issues, development of composite materials to support sustainable construction and reduction of cement usage, development of electric vehicles to reduce the city level emissions, development of app services to reduce individual commutes and reduce the congestion in the cities. There has been a lack of accountability in the context of developing public services, including safe transportation in and out of the cities. Therefore, more transparent decision making on creating balance related to the **SDG 11** can improve the progress of **SDG 11** in Sri Lanka.

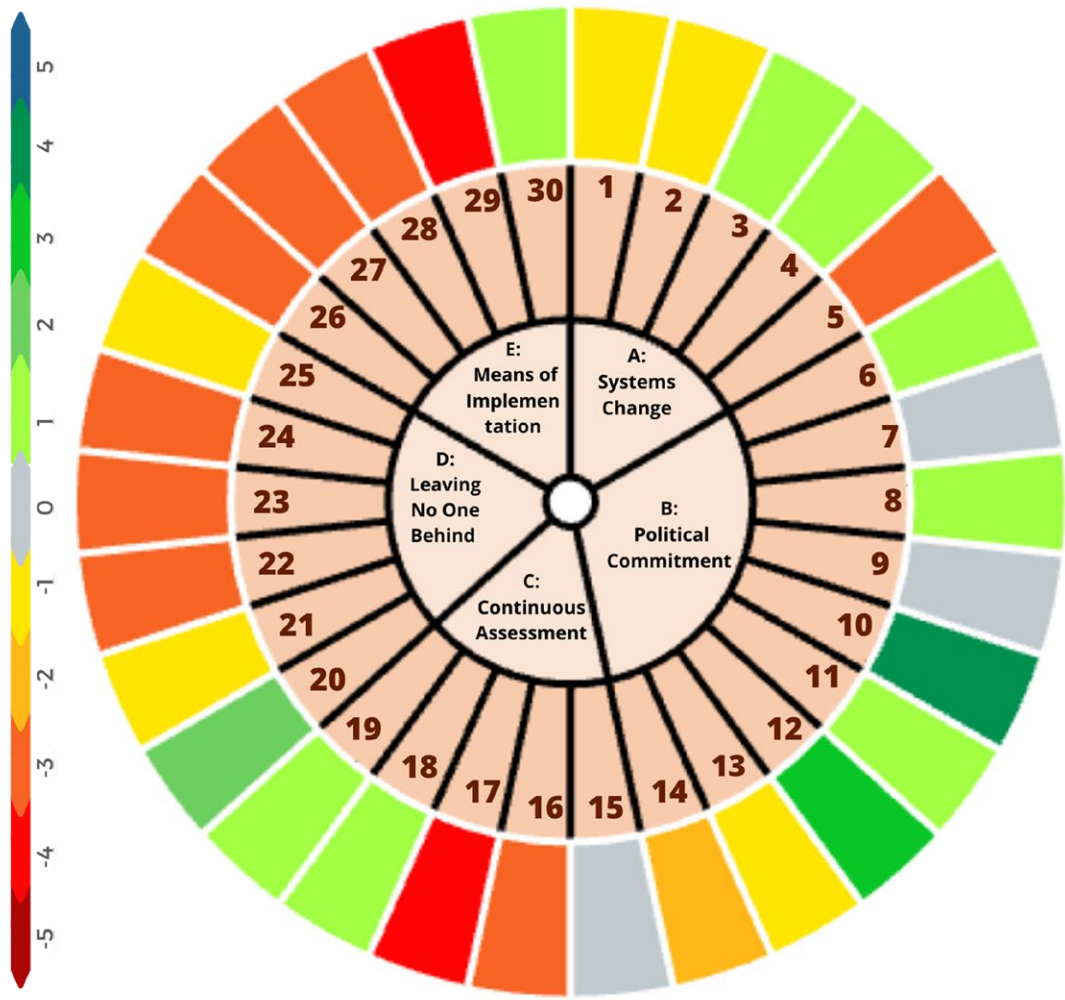
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 11



SDG 11 Micro Average Rating: **-1**

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 11

SDG 11 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 11 Macro Average Rating: **-1**

Voluntary People's Review

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production pattern

A. Context of Implementing SDG 12: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka needs to improve domestic data collection for the indicators attributed to **SDG 12**. Progress of **SDG 12** seems stagnant based on the official and stakeholder data available. The material footprint and the domestic material consumption figures are considerably lower than global average for those indicators based on stakeholder data. This indicates that Sri Lanka is still a developing country, where pockets of severe poverty exist, high income inequality is prevalent but at the same time culturally less materialistic and consumeristic compared to developed countries. Sri Lanka's food loss index is at 76kg per capita per year in 2021 according to the UNEP Food Loss Index report and Sri Lanka is higher than the global average of 74kg per capita per year. In terms of waste management, Sri Lanka is falling far behind, without a proper solid waste management plan and a non-existent hazardous waste management plan. In terms of recycling rates in the country, Sri Lanka is poor, varying rates are coming out of the private sector and no official government figures. The Sri Lankan Government has ratified several conventions relevant for **SDG 12** and even appointed focal points which is a positive but without local regulations to support the conventions, these ratifications are not as useful as they can be. There is also a comprehensive National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production, but it is yet to be fully integrated and mainstreamed at the National level. The key gap in the policy is consumer protection. There is a significant lack of knowledge and public awareness on sustainable consumption and production, which needs to be addressed to progress on all the indicators under **SDG 12**.

Sri Lanka's consumption and production patterns have been drastically affected because of the pandemic and now the economic crisis. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 has strong interlinkages with many goals. Production has been severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, as the three main sectors comprising Agriculture, Industry and Services depict a deceleration in production, the most affected of which was the industry sector in 2020. While it's difficult to understand the change in consumption patterns in Sri Lanka, **Society** and the **Economy** are key components of **SDG 12**. During the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic (**SDG 03**), due to a lack of data, it is safe to predict that consumption rates have reduced due to continuous Containment Measures and now the onset of a Fuel and Gas Crisis (both a consequence of the prevailing Economic Crisis. The economic crisis has affected income sources for many and that leads to spending money on necessary items only and it limits over consumption, but an increasing number of people in Sri Lanka are now not even able to afford necessities. The inequality in purchasing power means that while it seems that as a country Sri Lanka is improving with regards to declining material footprint and domestic household consumption (as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Crisis), the reality is that lower income households will have access to limited necessities as it is, thus not progressing towards achieving **SDG 10**. Recycling rate in Sri Lanka was improving prior to the Pandemic, with figures ranging from 4% to 20% through the existence of small recycling operations. However, with the ongoing Economic Crisis (which followed the Pandemic), the Recycling Sector has been severely impacted and many small recycling centres have closed operations.

SDG 12 impacts different aspects of the overall **Environment**. Increasing unsustainable agricultural production alongside destructive agricultural practices lead to land degradation and deforestation,

impacting the Protected Area (PA) Network in Sri Lanka, which has significant impacts on [SDG 15](#). The negative impact on water resources in Sri Lanka ([SDG 06](#)) can be improved by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising of household waste, corporate waste and hazardous waste into natural waterways and irrigation watercourses. These unfiltered natural waterways and irrigation watercourses empty into the coastal zone and overall marine environment impacting [SDG 14](#). There is a significant amount of macro and micro plastic presence on the beaches and in the ocean neighbouring Sri Lanka’s major urban settlements, which has negative impacts on marine biodiversity and the all-important fisheries sector. The decreasing trend in consumption and production of certain sectors due to the ongoing Economic Crisis has contributed to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, positively contributing to [SDG 13](#).

Governance plays a key role in the lack of proper waste management legislation, regulations and procedures, not only affecting [SDG 06](#) but also affecting [SDG 14](#) and [SDG 15](#) in a severe manner. This is since all improperly managed waste is currently directed to the Indian Ocean without any filtering along such routes, or to landfills. Proper waste management is yet to be prioritised and addressed at the National (Central) Level no effective National Action Plans and Strategies being implemented yet, which is limiting the progress of the relevant Waste Management Indicators pertinent to both [SDG 11](#) and [SDG 12](#). Food security is impacted by unsustainable agricultural practices and ad hoc Presidential Decrees such as the ‘complete ban of chemical fertilisers for agriculture’ without an effective implementation plan to phase out chemical fertilisers, brought about by the incumbent Administration last year, ultimately affecting [SDG 02](#).

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing [SDG 12](#)

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

Integrating [SDG 12](#) in Sri Lanka has been a slow process, as while there were many positive developments, there have also been negative developments. [SDG 12](#) cannot be integrated in siloes as has been attempted so far by both the Public Sector and Private Sector. While there have been attempts at trying to understand and improve sustainable production through various sectors such as the Textile Industry, it has not been mainstreamed into the overall legislative and regulatory framework of the country. Additionally, policy frameworks are not effective if there are no legislative and regulatory frameworks to support it. Hence, sustainable production in all industries is yet to be seen. Sustainable consumption is still not integrated to any capacity at the National (Central) Level, thus individual actions towards sustainable consumption remain to be the only form of commitment which is not significant at all for the progress required on [SDG 12](#). Sustainable consumption is not integrated into the Education Sector, which could play a significant role in improving sustainable consumption. Lack of integration between the Public and Private sectors hinders any significant achievement for [SDG 12](#). Mainstreaming [SDG 12](#) into the Public Sector is simply not enough, it must be a holistic approach which includes all applicable stakeholders.

The National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Sri Lanka (2019) was approved by the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers (OCM), effective from the 29th of October 2019. Similarly, the National Policy on Waste Management (2020) will ensure that both local Government Entities (Authorities) and the Provincial Governments carry out proper waste management techniques and practices in Sri Lanka. The National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Sri Lanka will ensure cleaner production, consumer awareness raising, product design for sustainability, sustainable labels, sustainable supply and chain management and corporate sustainability reporting which is currently lacking in Sri Lanka and is a voluntary and ad hoc process.

Planetary Boundaries (as defined by the Stockholm Resilience Centre) are threatened through unsustainable consumption and production practices with increasing urbanisation, but Sri Lanka has not crossed those boundaries yet. Natural resource depletion is increasing in Sri Lanka due to rapid unplanned infrastructure development as well as uninformed, unsustainable lifestyles though overall Sri Lanka's is still better than most developed and developing countries with regards crossing the Planetary Boundaries related to resource extraction. Due to the ongoing Economic Crisis, many Sri Lankans are observing a reduction in consumption at the National (Central) Level. Similarly, production in most Industries has declined as well. While this is a positive in terms of Planetary Boundaries, this has negative societal implications.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

Lack of political commitment for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 remains the key reason for the slow pace of achieving both the Targets and Indicators of SDG 12. While limited policy frameworks exist for SDG12, no legislative or regulatory frameworks have been developed in tandem. For example, Sri Lanka despite being a signatory to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, has not yet incorporated it into National (Parliamentary) Legislation. Hence the major controversial issue of the United Kingdom sending 242 clinical hazardous waste containers to Sri Lanka between 2017 and 2018, sparked widespread outrage among environmental activists and academics in 2019. However, these containers were sent back to the UK following a Court Order issued by the Court of Appeal (CoA) in 2020, after over a year of continuous pressure by environmental activists. The overall lack of understanding of SDG 12 and the need for sustainability through less consumerism and effective production is also a reason for the lack of political commitment. For instance, Innovation must play a key role in sustainable production and that is something that is hindered thanks to the lack of political commitment.

The fragmented Institutional Framework for sustainable consumption and production in Sri Lanka is not creating an enabling environment to achieve the indicators under SDG 12. The Cabinet Ministry of Environment (MoE) has taken limited steps towards attempting to understand the overall context of SDG 12. An attempt to address components of SDG 12 in a limited manner, the Environment Planning and Economics Division (EP&ED) of the Ministry has entered into a written agreement and partnership with the National Cleaner Production Centre of Sri Lanka (NCPCSL). This written agreement and partnership did establish the Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum of Sri Lanka (funded by the European Union). As of June 2022, no Government Entity has been designated as a National Focal Point for SDG 12 and this situation can partly be attributed to the lack of political and administrative commitment, required for the formulation of a much-needed Sustainable Consumption and Production Bill. However, specific Targets of SDG 12 do have existing Institutional Frameworks available, the most comprehensive of which relates to Target 12.5 (titled "by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse"). For Target 12.5, the overarching concept of Waste Management is a devolved subject on the Devolved List of the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. As such, each of the 09 Provincial Governments is supposed to formulate, approve and release Provincial Statutes that are directly applicable to Waste Management. As of June 2022, only the Provincial Government of the Western Province and the Provincial Government of the Central Province have achieved this and is currently established and operational. A National Waste Management Bill is yet to be formulated. However, from the perspective of the Central (National) Government, the National Solid Waste Management Support Centre (NSWMSC) of the Cabinet Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government (MoPAHAPC&LG), is operational and involved

in programmes and activities that are directly applicable to Target 12.5 (within the Sri Lankan context).

Similarly, the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), also contributes (through Regulatory Extraordinary Gazettes and National Programmes) to the achievement of Target 12.5, as per the legislative provisions of the National Environmental Act (No. 47 of 1980, plus all Amendment Acts). Even just at a national level, national plans attempted at progressing on **SDG 12** have remained stagnant. For instance, the Central Environment Authority (CEA) of Sri Lanka launched the first phase of the plastic ban on March 31st which includes a ban on single-use and short-term use plastics will include disposable polythene and plastic bottles, Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material for packing agrochemicals, lunch sheets less than 20 microns, sachets (non-food and non-pharmaceutical), inflatable plastic toys. However, this ban was poorly implemented and is not being monitored, no change was achieved since the implementation of this ban, resulting in no significant reduction of single use plastic in Sri Lanka.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

There is no overarching monitoring, evaluation, follow up and review for **SDG 12** at the National Level. The only processes that attempted, are siloed and adopted different methods to monitor, evaluate and review the progress of this SDG. Certain sectors collect data relevant for **SDG 12's** Targets and Indicators which can be associated with monitoring. Sri Lanka also grapples with a data sharing issue, which indicates that while there is data available, authorities that collect this data do not intend to share with other relevant stakeholders. There are still several indicators under **SDG 12** which need official, current data which is yet to be made available to the public. There is a certain amount of monitoring in terms of Renewable Energy production, which is positive, but it must be enhanced to achieve the Targets and Indicators set for Sri Lanka such as achieving 100% Renewable Energy Generation by 2050. This hinders decision making processes and results in major drawbacks for achieving **SDG 12**, such as repetitive projects which are a waste of monetary and other resources.

None of the Indicators for **SDG 12** has been localised for Sri Lanka and this poses several issues. Data collected in Sri Lanka is not relevant for reporting on **SDG 12**. Additionally, without localising it is difficult to collect data for certain Indicators due to local level variations and realities. The civil society in Sri Lanka is not included in any monitoring, evaluation, follow up and review process in Sri Lanka, though there are attempts by the civil society to monitor **SDG 12**, but it is not at a National Level and not for all the Indicators of **SDG 12**.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

The lack of an overarching National Action Plan and Strategy, as well as an associated Platform to give awareness on consumption, consumer, and consumerism knowledge, including its legislations, regulations and policies create a barrier to promote public awareness in the country around **SDG 12**. Inclusive participation of children, youth, and pregnant mothers, and other marginalised communities is the key to achieving **SDG 12** through public awareness. Several private organisations have done some work around the country with pregnant mothers, youth, children on food and consumption. Role of Media on consumerism is very low. In reference to **SDG 12.6.1**, the National Green Reporting Initiative has been implemented at a National Level, there are around 25 companies that have submitted reports to the initiative so far. Certain sustainability awards are received by the same groups rather than being recognised by the society. The work of other agencies does a deep analysis and considers all aspects. Even the companies that attempt to have sustainability measures are not being

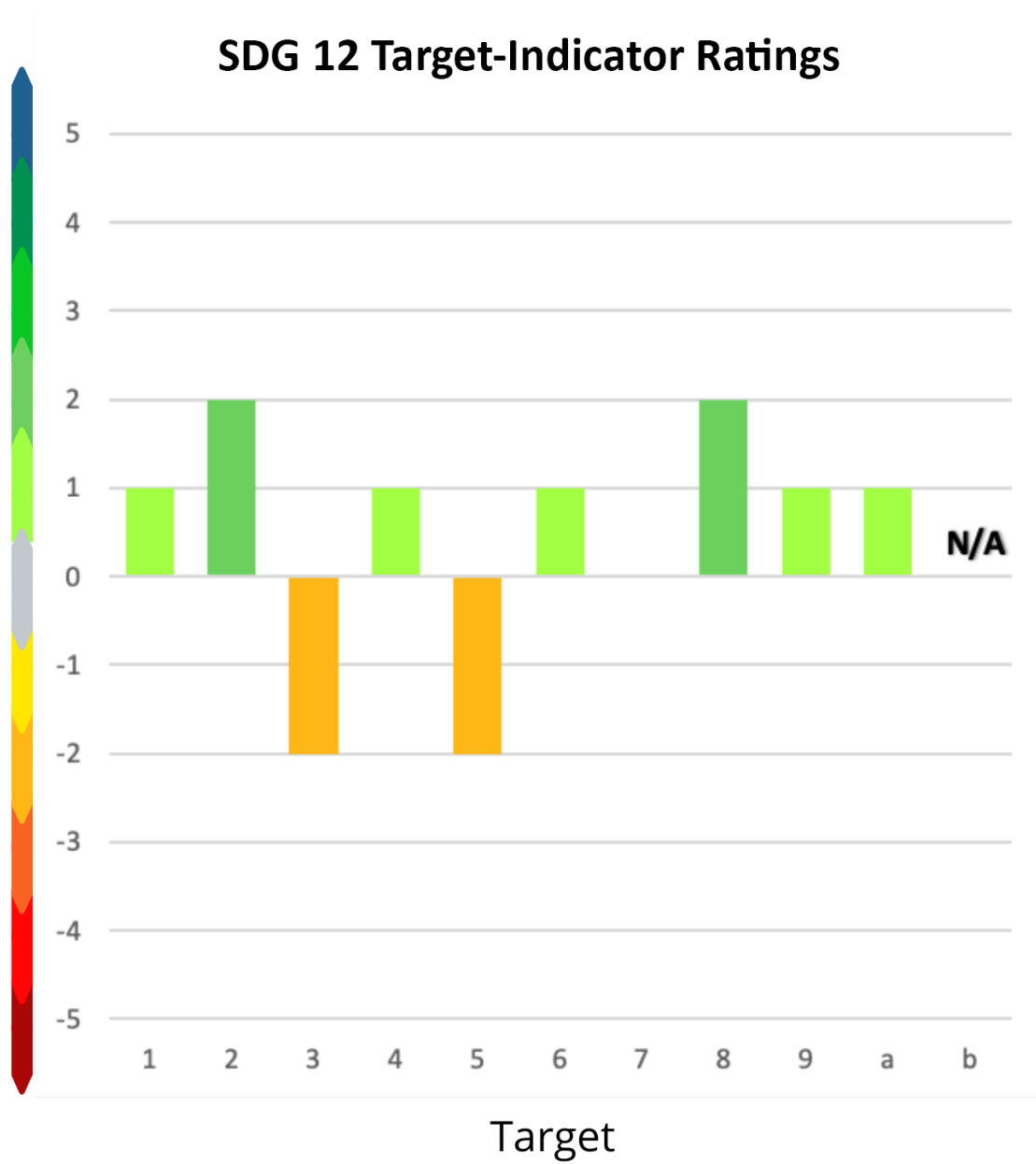
incentivised by such wrongful recognition, there is a lack of accountability even in the private sector. The incident mentioned above with related to importation of hazardous waste containers from the UK is an example of lack of responsibility of the private sector especially. 2 years prior there was an incident where a garbage mountain collapsed on the nearby community. There was an attempt for a polluter pay scheme which is now not active. There is a lack of transparency when it comes to food ingredients labels. Lack of SME participation is a challenge to have an inclusive process in the country.

Training available for the private sector to understand sustainable consumption and production is virtually non-existent. Since the mainstream media give more prominence to the private sector on bad behaviour methods on food consumptions the public is marginalised creating lack of transparency. Social media plays a huge role in educating people on consumerism as recently published on the controversial sub stranded coconut oil issue. In terms of key stakeholder partnerships, waste-energy incinerators and recycling processes have been established by the private sector but not operational right now, however organic composting efforts are still in need of key partnerships.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

There is a significant amount of international funding granted to Sri Lanka towards waste management. Most of that funding is targeted at cleaning up the natural environment, some towards recycling ventures and other waste management processes. However, due to the ad hoc nature of these projects, there is no long-term solution to the waste management issue. Sri Lanka not only needs to invest in innovative technology towards sustainable production and consumption but also need to ensure that there is a framework in place to guide investments to achieve **SDG 12**. There is some financing targeted towards renewable energy, but it is extremely low. In terms of technological advances with regard to sustainable consumption and production, the recycling sector in Sri Lanka has looked at innovative and new technologies, especially with plastic. Accountability is a major gap in Sri Lanka, there is no accountability for failed projects and decisions worth millions of rupees. For example: The latest Maritime disaster in Sri Lanka which was due to the MV XPress Pearl shipwreck which resulted in 76 containers of plastic nurdles being released into the marine environment in Sri Lanka alongside 100s more containers filled with chemicals and other items. Plastic nurdles are the raw materials used to create plastic products and during the year 2019, Sri Lanka imported plastics and plastic articles worth \$581.6 million which amounts to 3.7% of total imports and is the 6th most imported product. This disaster could have been avoided if the right decisions were taken at the right time but instead Sri Lanka is still dealing with the consequences and still has no accountability from government authorities for this disaster.

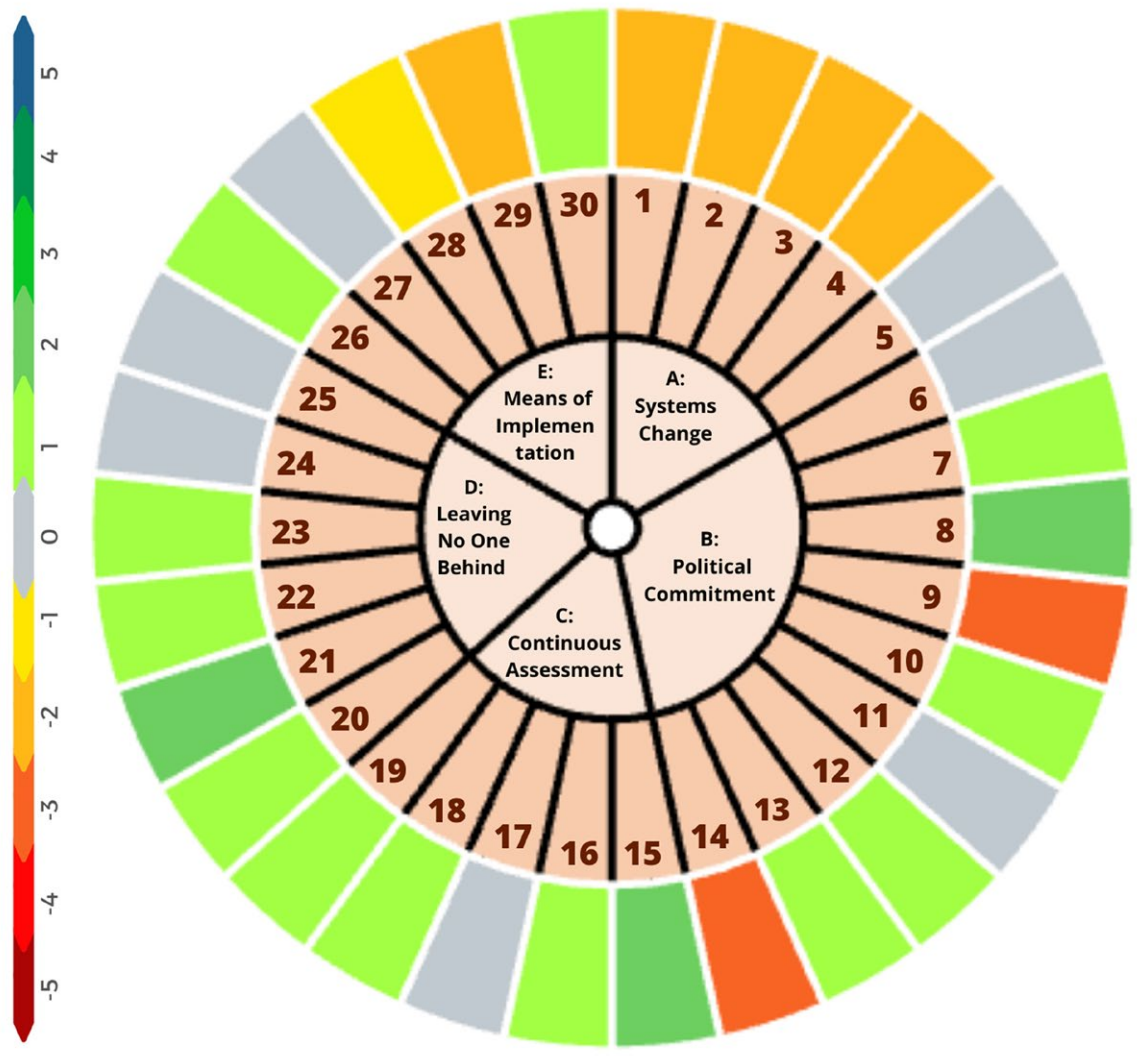
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 12



SDG 12 Micro Average Rating: **+1**

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 12

SDG 12 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 12 Macro Average Rating: 0

Voluntary People's Review

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

A. Context of Implementing SDG 13: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka has been vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and has been recognized as one of the most vulnerable among countries across the world. This has been evident by the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. While there are regular occurrences of such events, the loss of life and damage depends on the severity of the event. During the years where severe events took place, loss and damage have shown spikes. In response to these vulnerabilities Sri Lanka has developed a Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 - 2030) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and is yet to implement it. Furthermore, Sri Lanka has developed a Hazard Profile for the country and a functioning Early Warning Dissemination System. While the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies (LDRRS) have not been officially formulated, approved and released, Local Level Programmes and Activities pertaining to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are happening in a select number of Local Government Entities (Authorities) which enhances its preparedness to an extent. Sri Lanka shows great determination in the context of nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications where, Sri Lanka has published its 1st Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2016 and its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2021. The Third National Communication under the Paris Agreement in 2022 is finalised but it is yet to be submitted. A National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka was also prepared in 2016. In comparison with global CO2 emissions, Sri Lanka's CO2 emissions are low and has also shown curbing/ mitigation of its emissions towards the latter part of the review period. Overall, **SDG 13** progress is admirable and there is a need to localise some indicators to optimally achieve the targets of **SDG 13** in the context of Sri Lanka.

By 2050, 19 million Sri Lankans could live in moderate or severe hotspots according to World Bank (WB) projections. **SDG 13** has interlinkages with all 17 SDGs, as climate change will impact all aspects of sustainable development. The **Environment** is a key topic of discussion in terms of **SDG 13**. Increasing forest cover and protecting remaining natural forest and urban wetlands (**SDG 15**) can build resilience against natural disasters which are being exacerbated by climate change. Deforestation and land use change contribute to increasing greenhouse gases, resulting in worsening change in climate. Water security (**SDG 06**) is directly impacted by climate change, climate induced disasters such as floods and droughts can directly affect clean water availability and can also negatively impact sanitation. There is a strong linkage between climate action and renewable energy (**SDG 07**). Sri Lanka has access to almost all renewable energy types and currently more than 50% of the overall energy mix is through renewable energy sources. By expanding on the renewable energy sector, not only will Sri Lanka be capable of reducing its carbon emissions, it will also be a more reliable energy source during an economic crisis which is the current situation in Sri Lanka. Climate change negatively impacts marine ecosystems (**SDG 14**), causing mass bleaching events, this will worsen with time and even strongly affect the fisheries sector. The ocean is also the largest heat and carbon sink on Earth, which means that limiting climate change will ensure the survival of marine ecosystems into the future. It is also important to have climate resilient infrastructure and overall climate resilient cities to be able to adapt

to the fast-changing climate.

In terms of **Social** aspects, climate change can have a strong impact on food security and agriculture (SDG 02), there are currently projects in Sri Lanka addressing climate resilient agriculture programs which should enhance adaptation to climate change within the sector. Additionally, by prioritising climate education (SDG 04) in Sri Lanka, the impacts can be explained and mainstreamed, improving awareness among the public and would lead to better adaptation and most importantly lead to climate action across the country, with younger generations leading the change. Education can also be negatively affected by continuous disasters if adaptation is not prioritised. Very rarely discussed but equally important to highlight the increase in vector borne diseases due to climate change. Sri Lanka's health sector battles against the dengue epidemic almost every year and due to increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, vector borne diseases such as dengue can worsen, impacting SDG 03. Climate change impacts women and men differently and thereby have strong interlinkages with SDG 05. Women are more vulnerable to disasters than men, since they are financially dependent, more likely to be injured, less access to mobility, information, resources and more.

Climate change has an impact on the **Economy**. If climate action is not prioritised, inequalities in the country will worsen alongside the negative impacts of the economic burden (SDG 08) of climate induced disasters. The economic crisis can exacerbate the vulnerabilities of people that are regularly subjected to climate change impacts. Due to a significant portion (23.73 % as of 2020) of the population depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, climate change impacts coupled with the ongoing crisis results in farmers having no or less income for long periods of time resulting in a whole array of interconnected issues. According to the Children's Climate Risk Index, UNICEF (2021), Sri Lanka ranks at 61 out of 163 countries with an overall score of 5.4. Even though our Child vulnerability is low at 3.3, climate and environmental factors affecting Sri Lanka is at 7, hence the reason for the medium rank. This indicates that climate change impacts are felt differently by children from adults, indicating another form of inequality impacting SDG 10. Impacts of climate change are also felt disproportionately across economic classes, urban poor and rural poor facing the brunt of climate impacts due to the already vulnerable social and economic situations.

Good **Governance** (SDG 16) is key to effectively face the climate crisis, Sri Lanka has shown commitment to work towards climate action through a number of sectors. Sri Lanka has been proactive in submitting the Paris Agreement Communications which highlight country commitments to reduce emissions as well as build resilience. Sri Lanka has also identified the need for multi stakeholder engagement (SDG 17) and financial support to achieve these targets within a short time. Climate change integration and mainstreaming towards the subnational and local level governments is slowly progressing.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 13

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

Prior to even signing and ratifying the Paris Agreement, Sri Lanka established the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS), which is the responsible quasi, Semi - Government (albeit with no legislative and regulatory backing) on Climate Change matters. Upon ratification, Sri Lanka submitted the NDCs in 2016, followed by the NAP in the same year. The updated NDCs were submitted in 2021. In relation to integration, climate change is increasingly becoming a topic of discussion at the national, provincial and local level. There are also policy revisions which are aimed at incorporating climate change into the relevant sector policies. Climate change has also been included in the revised syllabuses of the

secondary and tertiary education tiers. There is a policy framework available which is centered around the National Policy on Climate Change. This policy is currently being updated as well. The policies are not properly implemented but there are attempts across various sectors at incorporating climate change into existing policies. The Provincial Development Plans are currently underway, which include climate action strategies, but the process has been stagnant since 2019, due to the pandemic and economic crisis. There is a lack of studies on the implementation of the national plans and NDCs and their results. Although the proposed methods and policies suggested in the updated NDCs (2021) draw the path for a green and sustainable economy, centered on the wellbeing of people, there is a noticeable lack of implementation of these methods and policies across most sectors in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka remains a low emitter country with its overall emissions contributing to only 0.03% of global emissions in 2019. Therefore, Sri Lanka has not exceeded the planetary boundaries. Sri Lanka also has a large network of protected areas which significantly contributes to the tree cover in the country, alongside plantations. There have been illegal deforestation and land degradation in certain regions of the country, but many were halted due to public pressure. Sea Level Rise (SLR) has also caused the salinisation of river basins, estuaries and lagoons changing the chemical and ecological balance of the said environments.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 is almost non – existent. As far as Parliamentary Legislation is concerned, the overarching piece of legislation is the National Environmental Act (No. 47 of 1980), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 56 of 1988 and No. 53 of 2000), which are implemented by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA). There are also two other pieces of Parliamentary Legislation that are applicable to **SDG 13**, namely the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act (No. 13 of 2005) and the Flood Protection Ordinance (No. 04 of 1924), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 22 of 1955). The Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act (No. 57 of 1981), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011), is also indirectly applicable. However, no specific pieces of Parliamentary Legislation exist that govern the specific subject of Climate Change. The overarching vision document implemented now is the Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This overarching document, which was developed for the current Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), does not mention “Climate Change”, and prior to their election, a single National Policy was approved and released, namely the National Policy on Climate Change (2012). Sri Lanka is in the process of developing the Provincial Adaptation Plans based on the National Adaptation Plan with the support of the NAP readiness project.

There is limited institutional coherence within the Central Government Framework where Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 is concerned. Only one relevant Cabinet Ministry, namely the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is assigned to **SDG 13** as of present. The following Government Entities and internationally funded projects are directly under the authority, management, and purview of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and they are the Central Environment Authority (CEA), the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB), GSMB Technical Services (Private) Limited, the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Limited (SLCF), the Climate Resilience Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative in Sri Lanka (BIOFINSL). Importantly, direct Divisions of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) which have since been unofficially elevated to the role of quasi, Semi - Government Entities (albeit with no legislative or regulatory backing), also play a critical role in achieving **SDG 13**, namely the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) and the Air Resources and National Ozone Unit (AR&NOU). In addition, as per the 2017 Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the

then Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE), a number of National Committees on Climate Change were active, namely the Inter Agency Coordinating Committee on Climate Change (IACCCC), which held expert meetings on the 22nd of December 2016 and 27th of April 2017, the National Expert Committee on Climate Change Adaptation (NECCCA), which held meetings on the 23rd of January 2017, the 04th of April 2017 and 01st of November 2017, and the National Expert Committee on Climate Change Mitigation (NECCCM), which held expert meetings on the 30th of March 2017 and the 24th of August 2017.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

There is no monitoring, evaluation or review process at the national level for **SDG 13**. However, data collection is taking place on economic, social, and environmental aspects at both public and private sector processes in Sri Lanka. Therefore, there is data available, but data sharing remains to be a challenge which results in repetitive projects and waste of financial and other resources. Data on **SDG 13** is evaluated at different capacities based on projects and other activities by all stakeholders but there is no national evaluation and review process for climate data. There have been attempts at collating all climate data to one platform but due to lack of commitment, these attempts have not been sustained. For example: the Sri Lanka Climate Change Knowledge Repository developed by the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) in 2019 aimed at collating all material relevant to climate change in Sri Lanka under one platform, but due to lack of a coordination process, it has not been updated. The civil society and international agencies have been at the forefront of the monitoring, evaluation and follow up review with regards to climate change adaptation and mitigation. A major drawback for **SDG 13** remains the lack of localising the indicators in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka needs local level monitoring to capture the climate vulnerabilities in very sensitive vulnerabilities. The available data on climate change impacts cannot be effectively reflected with the existing global indicators for **SDG 13**.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

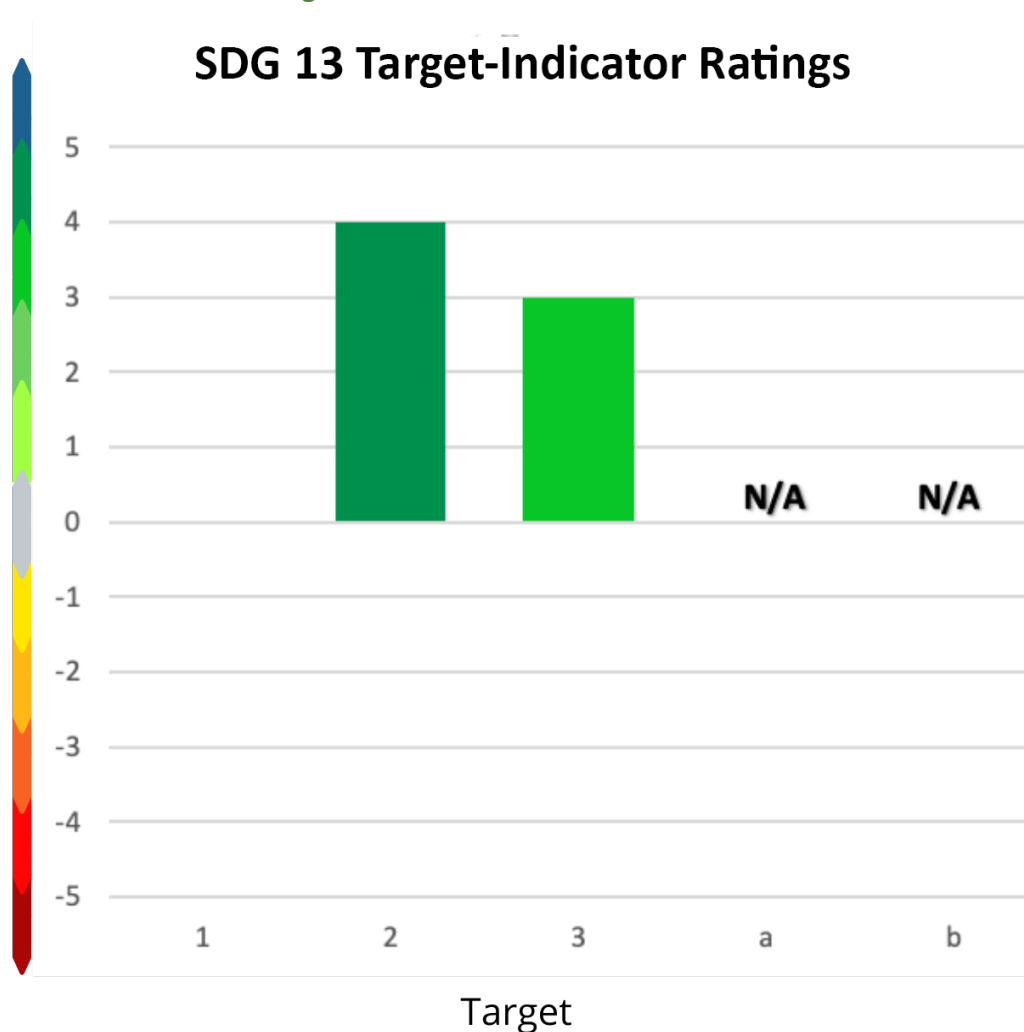
Public Awareness initiatives on **SDG 13** span across the island through different processes but it is mainly highlighted in the Western Province. There is a lack of public awareness among the public and even the corporate sector, which results in ad hoc CSR activities that are not effective or sustainable. Even though we are a high-risk country for climatic impacts, the awareness on these impacts and urgency to mitigate its impacts has not been educated and reached to grass root level communities. The capacity building sessions do not take place in local languages which leaves more youth and other communities from engagement. More attention is needed to bring all communities together to build awareness, as the grass-roots communities do possess indigenous solutions to tackle climate change. Several attempts were made at the district government level to integrate **SDG 13** to their local development plans. But lack of knowledge and capacity to integrate **SDG 13** is a gap addressed by district level officials. Climate Education was introduced to the school curriculum very recently to create public education. Academic institutes tend to be more theoretical than practical in addressing climate change. There is no mechanism to localise **SDG 13** and it's a barrier to engage local government officials due to lack of awareness to implement **SDG 13**.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

In the recent decades, Sri Lanka has been receiving significant grants for climate change adaptation. A few grants for climate change mitigation as well. These grants aimed at improving thematic areas such as agriculture, water, forest cover, etc. Some of the projects implemented have reported increasing adaptive capacity in the relevant regions. For example, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has funded

four projects in Sri Lanka with a total of USD 101.4 million. The projects implemented through this fund include agriculture sector modernization, climate resilient integrated water management among others. The Adaptation Fund is also supporting Sri Lanka through accepted project concepts such as ‘Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu Administrative District of Sri Lanka (2022)’ and ‘Strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Sri Lanka and India to Increased Impacts of Climate Change (India, Sri Lanka) (2021)’. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) also supported Sri Lanka through small grants for projects like Guardians of Sri Lanka’s ‘Knuckles’ range in 2020. Sri Lanka is improving their early warning systems by using technology to reach the masses as mobile network penetration is around 80%. The Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) is also conducting disaster management training in certain areas of the country. According to the DMC, the actual expenditure for the disaster relief grant was around LKR 466,392,000 in 2019/2020.

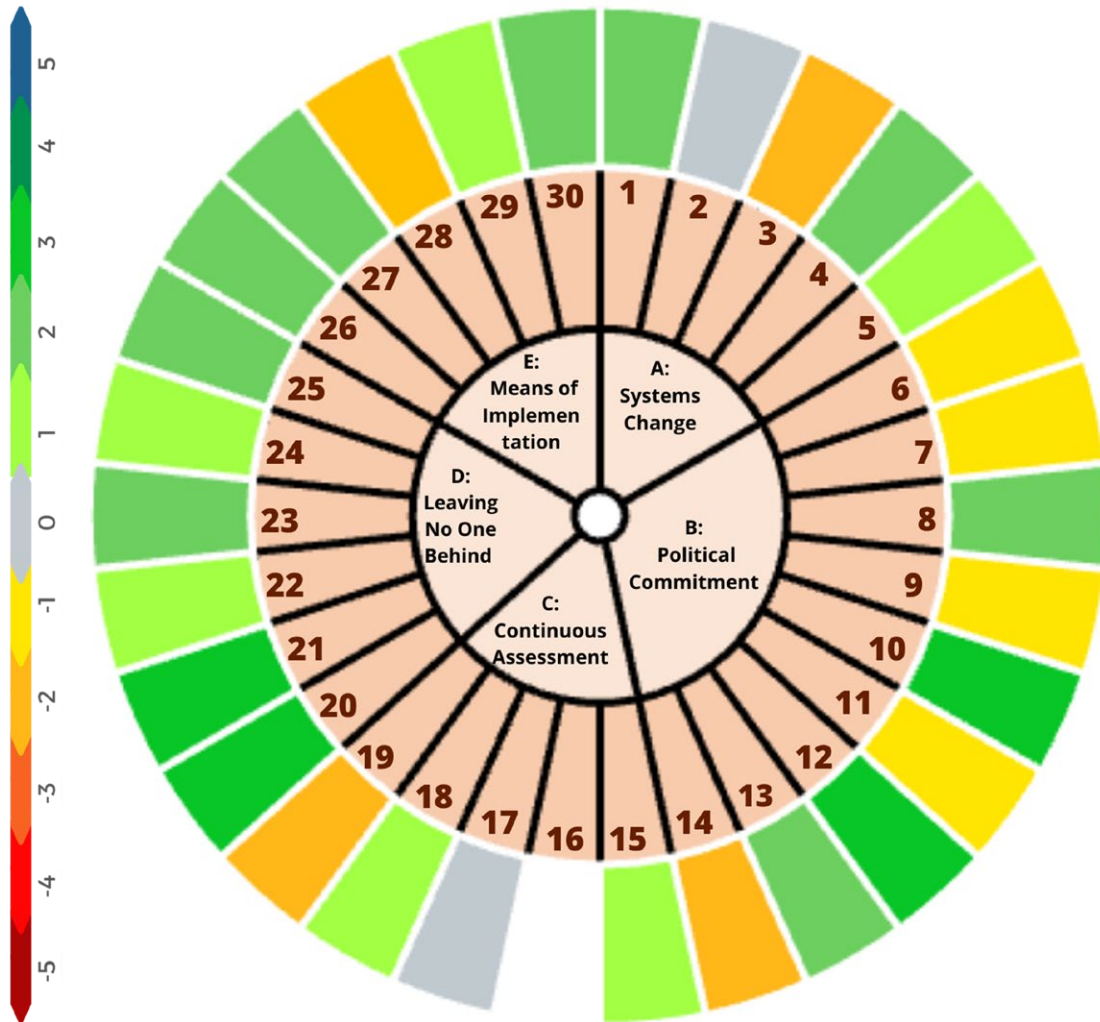
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 13



SDG 13 Micro Average Rating: **+2**

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 13

SDG 13 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 13 Macro Average Rating: +1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

A. Context of Implementing SDG 14: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka has a sensitive coastal environment and can be significantly affected by increased addition of plastic debris. The Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) data shows that there is an increase in marine debris observed during the review period. Sri Lanka's Coastal Zone experiences a large amount of debris coming from inland waters and thus it becomes a challenge in minimising land-based pollution entering marine waters. In addition to this, the MV X-Press Pearl Maritime Disaster in 2021 not only depleted a lot of ecosystems and habitats in the territorial waters, but also released large amounts of plastic pellets to the overall marine environment which created an immeasurable level of damage. Therefore, there needs to be a thorough investigation into the actual extent of the damage caused by the Maritime Disaster. It has been reported that approximately 21% of the country's total Coastal Zone is under the direct authority, management, purview of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, which is not adequate when considering the frequent risks faced by the overall marine environment of the country. Based on the recent research, ocean acidity levels in Sri Lanka have increased in some locations of the country and decreased in some showcasing the existing risks. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is also prevalent in Sri Lanka and an estimated 06 Billion Sri Lankan Rupees is being lost from the National Economy, as a consequence of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries as of 2015. Given the current economic context of the country this is a considerable drawback. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has shown progress in Sustainable Fisheries as a proportion of GDP, as a result of assistance given to the coastal fishing communities. Furthermore, job sustainability and the presence of thriving coastal communities stands at approximately 62% according to the Ocean Health Index. With regard to the research and development, the total research budget allocated for marine technology is virtually non-existent and needs to improve significantly. Ratification of some international treaties and conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea keeps getting delayed by the relevant authorities and these delays have presented great challenges in mitigating the maritime disasters. Therefore, Sri Lanka needs to continue to use its marine resources in a more sustainable way. The overall impact of the indicators on the Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka, cannot be considered as satisfactory, except for a select few Targets and Indicators.

The prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic effectively crippled the existing institutional, legislative, regulatory and policy framework and delayed the overall implementation of **SDG 14**. Due to the Pandemic, the **Economic** activities in the Coastal Zone has declined, impacting the economy in the country, causing a huge income loss for the Fisheries Sector and the ongoing economic crisis also affects the livelihoods of fishing communities. With the lack of availability of fuel, their orderly fishing operations cannot be carried out. This may result in unsustainable fishing practices leading to further economic as well as environmental harm.

When looking at the **Environmental** implications, the MV X-Press Pearl Maritime Disaster depleted a lot of ecosystems and habitats in the territorial waters, there were deaths of marine species due to the disaster. This clearly affected Sri Lanka's ability to significantly reduce marine pollution. The land-based

activities are also adding to the marine debris and nutrient pollution in Sri Lankan waters. Releasing the harmful outputs from hotels and industrial plants to the River Valley Network has caused this. These reasons have caused significant harm to the ability to maintain fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. **SDG 13** can have a significant impact on the overall marine environment, increasing temperatures can cause lasting and irreversible damage to marine ecosystems and habitats. Therefore, it is important to understand the interlinkages between the environmental goals during implementation.

The **Society** has a great responsibility in protecting sensitive marine ecosystems and habitats. Although, there has been recent movements towards environmental protection in general, there hasn't been many focussed movements to protect the Coastal Zone. In Sri Lanka, the consumption of plastic is very high and it was observed that a lot of non-degradable items are left in the beaches and this creates a huge amount of pollution. Land based pollution caused by man-made activities has led to the pollution of our marine waters. Therefore, society should take a collective responsibility to act. After the MV X-Press Pearl Maritime Disaster in 2021, many youth groups were seen acting in a collective manner to create awareness and demand the responsible authorities to act.

In the context of **Governance**, the continuous delays in solidifying political commitment (as opposed to haphazard, short-term corrective measures) are hampering the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and impacting the country. A serious problem that has been identified is the lack of scientific and technological innovation, related to the concepts of coastal resource management, marine biodiversity conservation and ocean affairs. As has been stated multiple times previously, the relevant Government Entities (including State Educational Institutions exist), but implementation is extremely weak. From a political standpoint, the need for an Ocean Affairs Subject Ministerial Portfolio has never been greater, to ensure high-level focus on and support for **SDG 14**. The existing regulatory frameworks and associated state mechanisms need to be constituted and installed throughout the Coastal Zone, to avoid a complete breakdown of waste management. To accomplish this though, strong governance systems need to be conceptualised for sustainable coastal, marine and ocean management. Such a sustainable approach should be inclusive, promote a sense of stewardship and demonstrate social, economic and environmental benefits for all communities in Sri Lanka.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 14

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

All the Government Documents (National Policies, National Action Plans and Strategies), that are directly relevant to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 lack cohesive integration and mainstreaming at present. The associated Subject Ministerial Portfolios are vulnerable to continuous amendment because of existing political instability and turmoil, thus hampering efforts geared towards system change. The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for **SDG 14** is not comprehensive and is lacking in significant components (as has been so rigorously highlighted by the recent and tragic MV X – Press Pearl Maritime Disaster). As far as Parliamentary Legislation is concerned (in contextual alignment to target 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.7 and 14.C), there is no overarching piece of legislation, with both the National Environmental Act (No. 47 of 1980), plus all Amendment Acts (No. 56 of 1988 and No. 53 of 2000) and the Marine Pollution Prevention Act (No. 35 of 2008), serving a secondary overarching focal role in **SDG 14** alongside a primary overarching focal role in **SDG 15**. As far as National Policies are concerned, the overarching policy document is the National Policy Framework of the Central Government – Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This overarching policy document is

nothing more than a Policy Statement and associated Framework developed by the political elements of the current iteration of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL).

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

There is high fragmentation within the current Central Government Framework where Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 is concerned. Multiple Cabinet Ministries, namely the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MoUDH), the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation (MoPSA), the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF), the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation (MoWFRC), the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Foreign Ministry (FM) are directly aligned with [SDG 14](#), and the institutional structure of these Cabinet Ministries is annexed for reference, due to the extent of the current structure. Although several pieces of Parliamentary Legislation and a myriad of National Policies, Actions Plans and Strategies exist, implementation is extremely weak, with the Government Entities engaging in intragovernmental conflict daily, due to territorial disputes and squabbles over the limited availability of financial resources. These Government Entities also focus on the siloed implementation of their own, specific mandates and duties without engaging in the cross – entity collaboration needed to drive a comprehensive approach towards [SDG 14](#). Due to the centralisation of Government Entities associated with [SDG 14](#), a lack of efforts ineffective implementation is observed of Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies, Action Plans, and Strategies, which directly incorporates the Subnational (Provincial) and Local Governance Mechanisms. Interestingly, despite this lack of comprehensive Provincial Policies, Action Plans and Strategies, several of the Provincial Governments (which from a political perspective are currently partially inactive), have Provincial Ministries which contain Provincial “Environment”, “Environmental Affairs”, “Fisheries” and “Transport” Portfolios.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

At present there is a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) that has been formulated and made operational for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 in Sri Lanka. As such, it is very difficult to make an assessment of the monitoring, evaluation, follow - up and review activities occurring through the numerous Government Entities that directly pertain to the above - mentioned Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) in question is the Sustainable Development Goal 14+ ([SDG 14+](#)) National Secretariat, jointly formulated by the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) and the Centre for Environment and Development (CED). This National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) fills (even if only partially), the previously existing gaps that were present in the institutional framework of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Separately, a small amount of monitoring (though not so much in terms of the evaluation, follow-up and review context), does occur through a selected number of Local Government Entities (Authorities). Strangely though, the above statement does not apply to the 09 Provincial Governments (addressed in more detail Subsection 01). Discrepancies in data and statistics (as a consequence of non-existent data democracy), continues to plague the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and this is compounded by the lack of inclusivity pertaining to all relevant stakeholders. Such stakeholders should be fully utilised and encouraged to engage in strict monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and review of all Targets and Indicators of the aforementioned Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

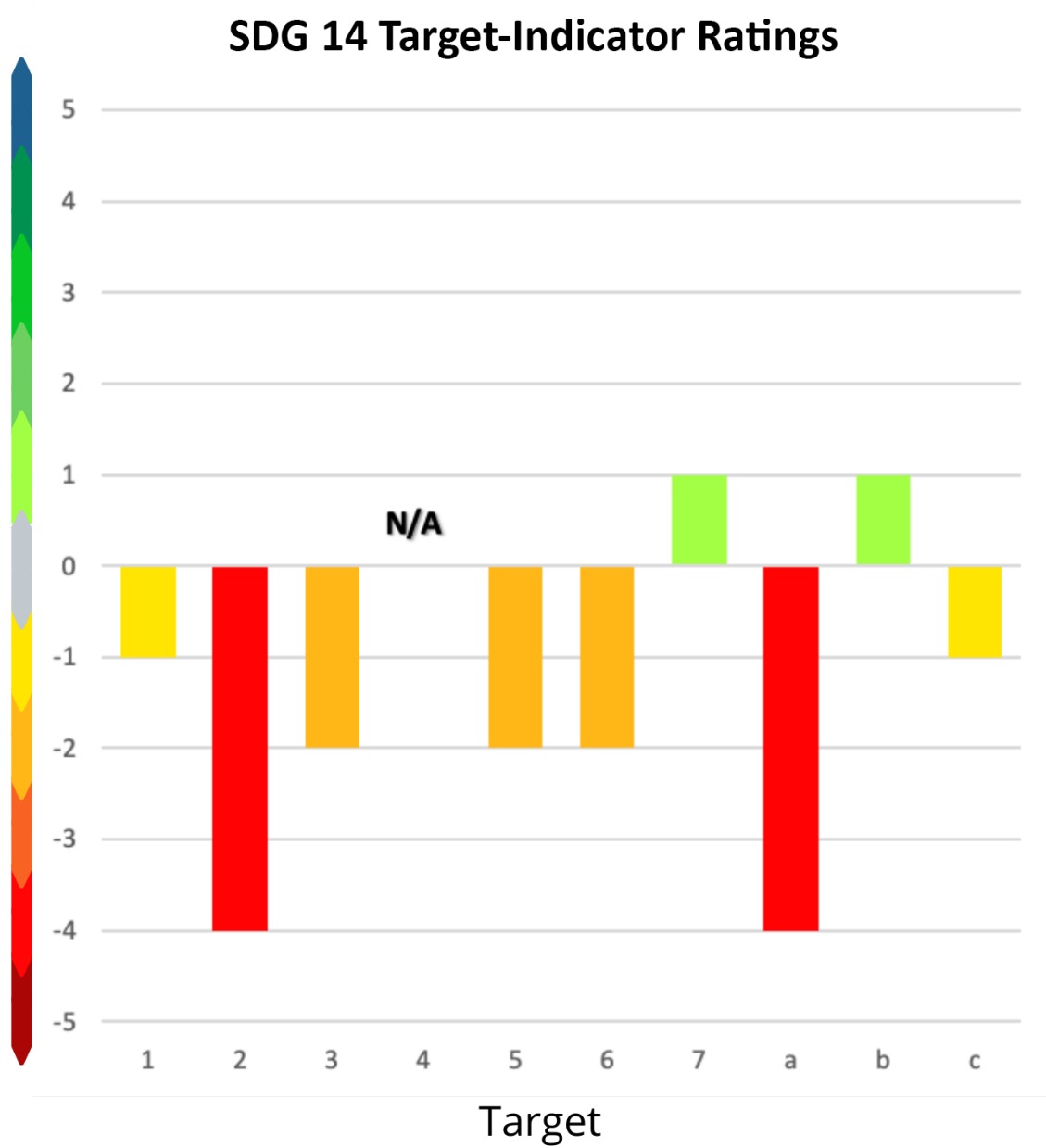
Due to a near lack of technical expertise and capacity building, Sri Lanka faced its worst maritime disaster in its modern history. Education and capacity building on the Indian Ocean and the overall marine environment is very low amongst members of the public. Therefore, public awareness on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 remains at a very low stage. Education on the Indian Ocean and the overall marine environment is required for the Sri Lankan Education System. Certain amounts of work in educating the public do occur from Government Entities, but from a national perspective such programmes and activities are extremely limited. There are also extremely limited numbers of opportunities in Higher Education, including research and development for youth, which is yet another barrier to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, including the challenges present that are limiting the availability of public awareness on this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As an example, the recently approved and released Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act (No. 11 of 2021), which was spearheaded by the current iteration of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), was devoid of important clauses that prioritise the overall marine environment, while promoting short-term economic benefits. Public engagement exists for specific programmes and activities (an example of which is beach clean-ups) which provide short term dividends. Even though multi stakeholder partnerships take place for such short term programmes and activities, at the very least members of the general public are made increasingly aware about the improper pollution disposal and waste management around Sri Lanka's coastline and overall marine environment.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

As far as Means of Implementation (MoI) is concerned, financial allocations towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 have been minimal, over the course of successive iterations of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). This concurrently applies to the Provincial Government of the North Western Province as well (when observing Means of Implementation from a Subnational perspective). In terms of the accountability component, data democracy amongst the relevant Central Government Entities is a significant barrier towards the achievement and holistic implementation of [SDG 14](#), within both the territorial waters and the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of Sri Lanka. Although there are a select few Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and National Environmental Organisations (NEOs) that are utilising technologies within the overall framework of [SDG 14](#), such examples are negligible when viewed from both the National (Central) and Subnational (Provincial and Local) perspectives. An assessment of data availability at both the National (Central) Level and the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level in the context of [SDG 14](#), is primarily based on the existence of the relevant databases. At the National (Central) Level, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the National Focal Point for collated information and does have such databases in existence (albeit with severely outdated information, data and statistics). The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) also collates data and statistics into its databases, thus ensuring that it remains as a viable secondary source at the National (Central) Level. At the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level, what little databases exist are predominately vested with Local Government Entities (Authorities) and (in the case of the Provincial Government of the North Western Province), the Provincial Environmental Authority - North Western Province (PEA - NWP). It must be noted though (in the case of the latter), as a classic example of the deficiencies in data democracy at the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level, that such databases are not publicly accessible. In a rare example of administrative and bureaucratic cooperation with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Development (CED), established the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) and Secretariat

for **SDG 14+** in Sri Lanka in March 2021, the first such multi-stakeholder partnership for its kind that is directly relevant to **SDG 14** in Sri Lanka.

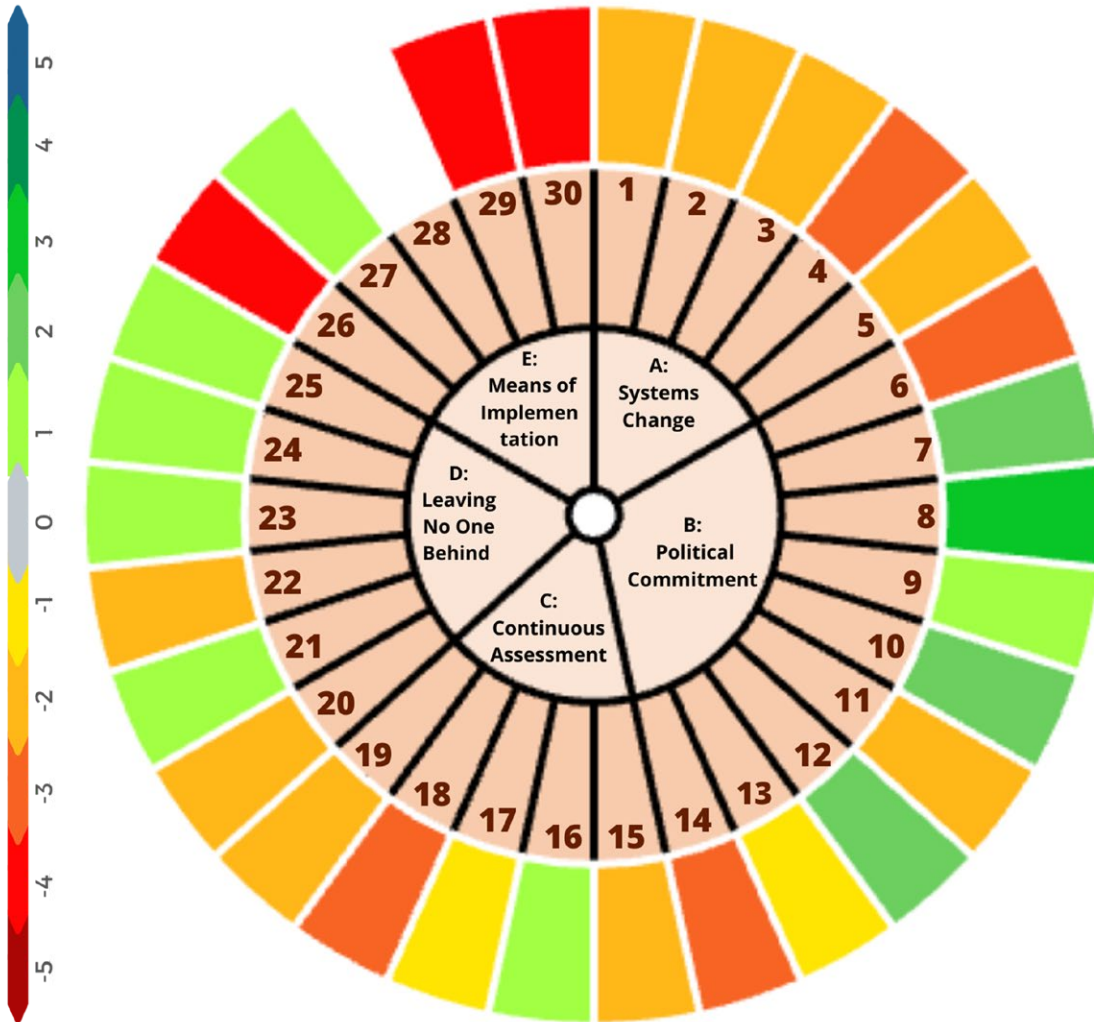
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 14



SDG 14 Micro Average Rating: -2

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 14

SDG 14 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 14 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 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

A. Context of Implementing SDG 15: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka's Forest Cover is extremely vital to maintain the sustainability of its overall biosphere. It was proposed to increase Sri Lanka's existing Forest Cover from 29.7 % to 32 % of the country's total territorial landmass by the year 2030. However, the policy decisions taken during the last three years have not supported this effort. It has been observed that Other State Forests (OSFs) and State Forested Lands (SFLs) are where the bulk of the deforestation that has occurred within the last three years, has taken place leading to a strong public response. The annual rate of deforestation in Sri Lanka in 2015 was reported at 0.39% which showcases small degradation effects over the review time period. Sri Lanka lacks national accounting and reporting systems to integrate its biodiversity into the national accounting and thereby, does not have the capacity to evaluate the extent of the damage in the economic context. Overall, there has been a significant increase in wildlife trafficking in Sri Lanka, particularly targeting kingdoms and families within specific taxonomic groups. The Central Government along with the responsible Government Entities should work on detection and monitoring techniques, combined with a better understanding of the Subnational (Provincial and Local) contexts, towards combating wildlife trafficking. It has been highlighted that Forest Officers, Wildlife Officers, and Environmental Officers, have continued to carry out their duties, despite a significant lack of monetary resources, manpower, vehicular transportation and weapons training which has ensured the protection of existing forestry in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) has broadly classified "Water - Related Ecosystems" in Sri Lanka showcasing an attempt to account for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by Protected Areas (PAs) by Ecosystem Type. Sri Lanka has also worked on adopting relevant National Legislation and National Policy Documents, as well as provided resources to prevent and control Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, within the territorial landmass of Sri Lanka will have significant, positive Social impacts due to the acceleration of Biodiversity Conservation efforts, the streamlining and mainstreaming of Protected Area (PA) Management, an increase in the overall percentage of Forest Cover (a consequence of potential reforestation and afforestation efforts, as well as the declaration, demarcation and gazetting of economically productive, socially beneficial Village Forests). As part of the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme (AMDP), the Moragahakanda - Kalu Ganga Multi - Purpose Development Project (MKGMPDP) was initiated in 2007 and completed in 2018 (SDG 06), with the intention of opening up 100,000 hectares of arable land in the Central and North Central Provinces for commercial agricultural activities (SDG 02). However, in order to accommodate such a Multi - Purpose Development Project, an estimated 12,000+ acres of pristine and semi-pristine wilderness lands were sacrificed, including wilderness lands situated within the declared, demarcated and gazetted boundaries of Protected Areas (PAs) such as Wasgamuwa National Park (Tier II) and the Knuckles Conservation Forest (Tier Ia). Additionally, to strengthen the lower catchment of the above project, several traditional settlements (villages) situated both within and outside the Knuckles Conservation Forest (Tier Ia) were demolished (SDG 11) and the lands they were situated

on, replaced with Irrigation Reservoirs. This created an enormous Social impact, as thousands of rural citizens had to be relocated to the newly constructed Laggala “Green Town” and adjust to a way of life that was completely alien to them. Such rural denizens had previously benefited immensely from the positive Health (Physical and Mental) and social factors (SDG 03), attributing to residing in such isolated, traditional settlements. Such factors were ultimately lost following the mass relocations to the New Laggala “Green Town”, which itself is rife with administrative, bureaucratic, infrastructure related issues and deficiencies, quite aside from that fact that approximately 4,000 acres of pristine wilderness lands was lost in order to construct the aforementioned New “Green Town”.

Achieving SDG 15, within the territorial landmass of the country will have significant, positive **Environmental** impacts due to the reduction in the number of deaths caused by the prevailing Human - Elephant Conflict (HEC), an increase in educational awareness and capacity building (SDG 04) oriented towards the thematic subject areas affiliated with the aforementioned SDG and the stimulation of local small and medium businesses and enterprises through the development and retail of sustainable forestry related industries and products by local communities (SDGS 09 and 10).

Achieving SDG 15, within the territorial landmass of Sri Lanka will have significant, positive impacts on the National **Economy**, the dividends of which will be primarily acquired through Ecotourism based programmes and activities that take place within the administrative boundaries of Terrestrial Protected Areas (TPAs). For contextual reference (although currently not sustainable whatsoever and geared toward mass tourism), Ecotourism earned (as per the Annual Statistical Report formulated by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2019), an impressive total of 4,463,595,733.91 LKR for the National Economy. Combining the above statistic with potential revenue earned from Sustainable Forestry and Forest Resource

Management (including industries and associated products) would significantly boost the currently failing National Economy and also assist in the reversal of the country’s currently dire financial and economic fortunes (SDG 08). As of July 2022, the incumbent Cabinet Minister of Agriculture, Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation has made media statements pertaining to the release of wilderness lands under the Department of Forest Conservation (DFC), within both the Ampara and Trincomalee Districts (Eastern Province), under the guise of facilitating activities that will bolster the Economy (predominantly agricultural in purpose) (SDG 02). This poses a serious threat to the long-term future of wilderness areas (Protected Areas, Other State Forests, State Forested Lands etc), under the direct authority, mandate and purview of Central Government Entities such as the DFC, the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department, with the potential for billions of Sri Lankan Rupees (derived from either Ecotourism and/or Ecosystem Services Valuations) to be completely lost and not added to the National Economy, strengthening it in the process.

Achieving SDG 15, within the territorial landmass of Sri Lanka will have significant, positive impacts on overall **Governance** in the aforementioned SDG sphere, due to the constitution of much needed National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs), increases in levels of transparency and accountability and the facilitation of much needed monetary resources, manpower increases and infrastructure rehabilitation for critical field based programmes and activities by the relevant Government Entities (SDG 16). At present, a complete lack of understanding pertaining to the relationship between pieces of Parliamentary Legislation (Ordinances, Laws and Acts) and Sri Lanka Government Circulars, has

resulted in a total of 08 completely illegitimate Sri Lanka Government Circulars being utilised as an excuse to remove Other State Forests (OSFs) and State Forested Lands (SFLs) from the direct control of the Department of Forest Conservation (DFC), and transfer such wilderness areas to the Operational Arms of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), namely District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats. This is despite the fact that Section 20 of the Forest Conservation Ordinance (FCO) has not been officially repealed/amended, and thus is a blatant violation of the aforementioned Ordinance. It is also a complete failure of Governance and in antithesis of Targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4 (including all relevant Indicators).

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 15

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

To address both the Targets and Indicators in **SDG 15** cohesively and structurally, the following recommendations and proposals have to be taken into account since there is a lack of integration and mainstreaming is observed. Firstly, the Department of Forest Conservation (DFC) must update and release the official definition for “Forests” or “Contiguous Vegetation Types” that is applicable to Sri Lanka. Secondly, the statistics pertaining to the total percentage of Department of Forest Conservation (DFC) Protected Area (PA) coverage (including Types and Tiers of PAs), in relation to the island’s total landmass must also be released. Thirdly, the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department (CCCRMD) needs to update and release the statistics pertaining to PAs under their authority, management and purview. Fourthly, the 6th National Report (Biodiversity Profile) needs critical updating/should be replaced with the Proposed 7th National Report (Biodiversity Profile), which needs to be carried by the Biodiversity Secretariat (BDS) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Simultaneously, the following examples of Government Documentation also need to be updated, in order to remain relevant in the modern context, namely the National Forest Policy (1995), the National Wildlife Policy (2009), the National Wetland Policy and Strategies (2006), the National Action Plan for the Haritha Lanka Programme (2009), the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Palaeobiodiversity (2014), the National Conservation Strategy of Sri Lanka (1988), the National Conservation Review (NCR) - Designing an Optimum Protected Area (PA) System for Sri Lanka's Natural Forests (1997) and the National Green Reporting System of Sri Lanka (2011).

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

As far as National Policies are concerned, the overarching policy document is the National Policy Framework of the Central Government – Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This overarching policy document is nothing more than a Policy Statement and associated Framework developed by the political elements of the current iteration of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), prior to its election into Office and thus holds no legal standing. Separately, a myriad of National Policies were approved and released/in the draft stage and awaiting release, including the National Wildlife Policy (2000), the National Policy on the Management of the Human – Wildlife Conflict (HWC) – Draft (2018), the National Forest Policy (1995), as well as a number of others. Overall, the National Policy Framework touches on multiple targets such as 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6 and 15.8, but lacks the legal backing required to make a significant impact on the holistic progress on **SDG 15** in Sri Lanka, which is a consequence of the fact that National Policies are effectively national guideline documents that are only legally valid when translated into pieces of Parliamentary Legislation.

There is significant fragmentation within the institutional framework of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) where Sustainable Development Goal (**SDG 15**) is concerned. There are two thematically

applicable Cabinet Ministries, namely the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation (MoWFRC). The following Government Entities and internationally funded projects are directly under the authority, management and purview of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), namely the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB), GSMB Technical Services (Private) Limited, the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Limited (SLCF), the Climate Resilience Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative in Sri Lanka (BIOFINSL).

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

At present there is no National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) that has been formulated and made operational for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 in Sri Lanka. As such, it is very difficult to assess the monitoring, evaluation, follow - up and review activities occurring through the numerous Government Entities that directly pertain to the above - mentioned SDG. One way to shore up such deficits, would be through properly assessing the existing monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms, which can be done based on the information, data and statistics contained in the Annual Performance Reports, Annual Accounts Reports, Annual Statistical Reports and other such similar Government Documentation, released by the relevant Government Entities on a yearly basis. It needs to be noted that the institutional factors (primarily centralisation of administrative and bureaucratic frameworks that are directly relevant to SDG 15), have resulted in minimal to virtually zero monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms being available for the 09 Provincial Governments and all 341 Local Government Entities, at the Subnational Level.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

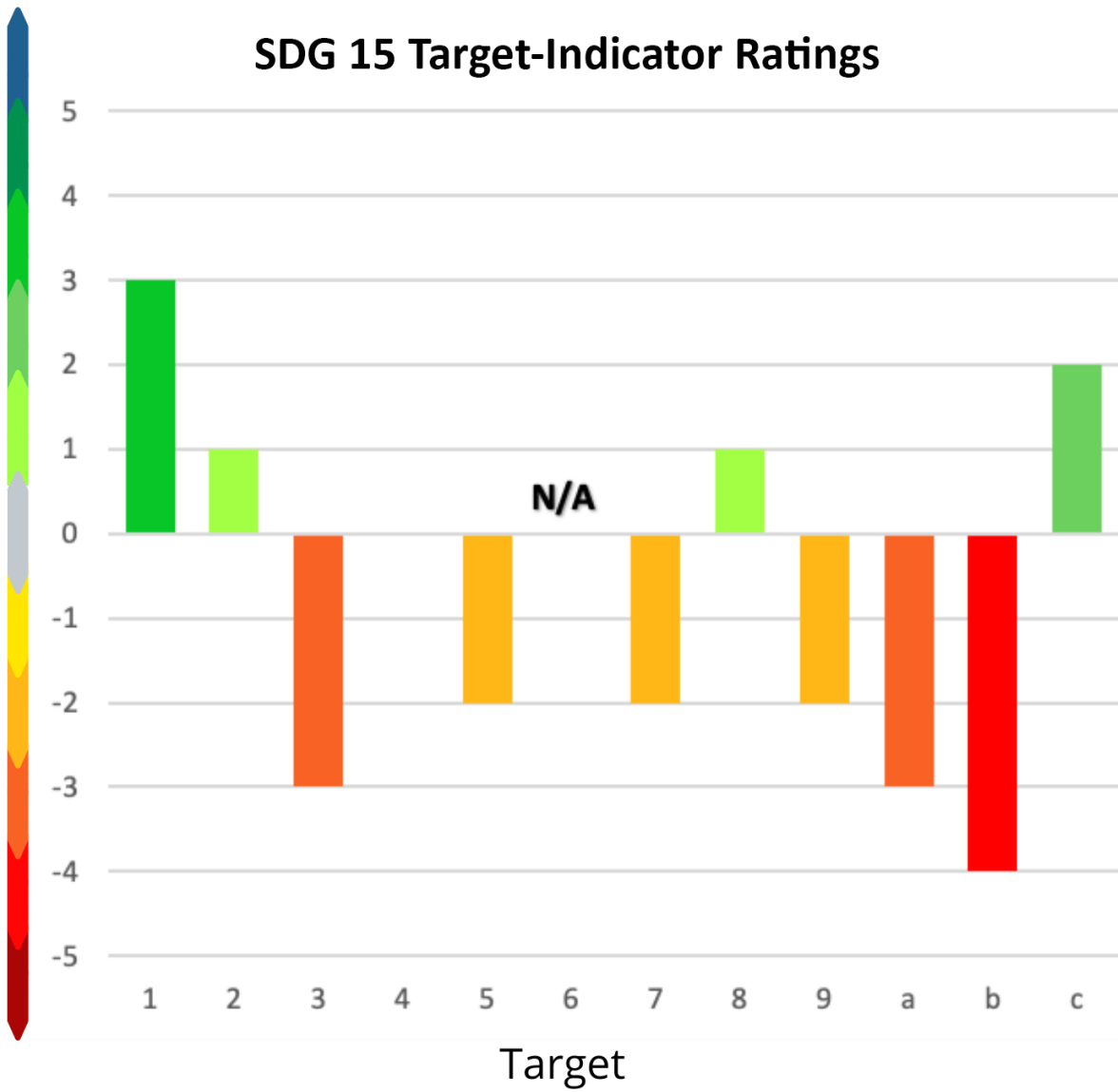
Due to the centralisation of the Government Entities associated with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, there is minimal to no implementation of Parliamentary Legislation, National Policies, Action Plans and Strategies, which incorporates the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Governance Mechanisms. The existing gaps in the Legislative - Regulatory - Policy Framework must be addressed, to effectively promote public awareness, a vital component for the holistic implementation of SDG 15. Even though Sri Lanka's National Action Plans (NAPs) have prioritised capacity building, the primary Government Entities in the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) must be connected and strengthened. The lack of adaptive management strategies in the existing education system needs to be addressed if this is to be achieved in a realistic manner. It is a common factor that members of the public who have this knowledge and have learnt it, do not make serious efforts to implement it, which is a flaw in the current education system and thus hampering the enabling required for a true transformation. The recent incidents of fragmenting Wild Elephant Corridors (WECs), correlated with the initiation of the "Gama Samaga Pilisandara" or "Dialogue With The Village" Programme, highlight how although rural populations maintain a much stronger connection with nature and indigenous knowledge, they are not being educated on how to properly protect ecosystems and habitats, as opposed to reaping short - term economic benefits from them, which is a big gap that needs to be overcome in order to achieve SDG 15. The lack of environmental sensibility amongst Sri Lanka's youth populace is a critical barrier that continues to delay the implementation of SDG 15 effectively, as the youth are only involved passively instead of at the decision-making level. The historical people's participatory frameworks which were functioning for decades are now disappearing at the Local Level and this is directly affecting the implementation of SDG 15. Accurate monitoring and evaluation on SDG 15 is available only as a mandatory element within the existing legislative - regulatory - policy

framework and has not been properly exercised from a practical perspective.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

As far as Means of Implementation (MoI) is concerned, financial allocations towards **SDG 15** have been minimalistic at best, over the course of successive iterations of the Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). This concurrently applies to the Provincial Government of the North Western Province as well (when observing Means of Implementation from a Subnational perspective). In terms of the accountability component, data democracy amongst the relevant Central Government Entities is a significant barrier towards the achievement and holistic implementation of **SDG 15**, within the territorial landmass of Sri Lanka. Although there are a select few CSOs and National Environmental Organisations (NEOs) that are utilising technologies within the overall framework of **SDG 15**, such examples are negligible when viewed from both the National (Central) and Subnational (Provincial and Local) perspectives. An assessment of data availability at both the National (Central) Level and the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level in the context of **SDG 15**, is primarily based on the existence of the relevant databases. At the National (Central) Level, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the National Focal Point for collated information and does have such databases in existence (albeit with severely outdated information, data and statistics). At the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level, what little databases exist are predominately vested with Local Government Entities (Authorities) and (in the case of the Provincial Government of the North Western Province), the Provincial Environmental Authority - North Western Province (PEA - NWP). It must be noted though (in the case of the latter), as a classic example of the deficiencies in data democracy at the Subnational (Provincial and Local) Level, that such databases are not publicly accessible.

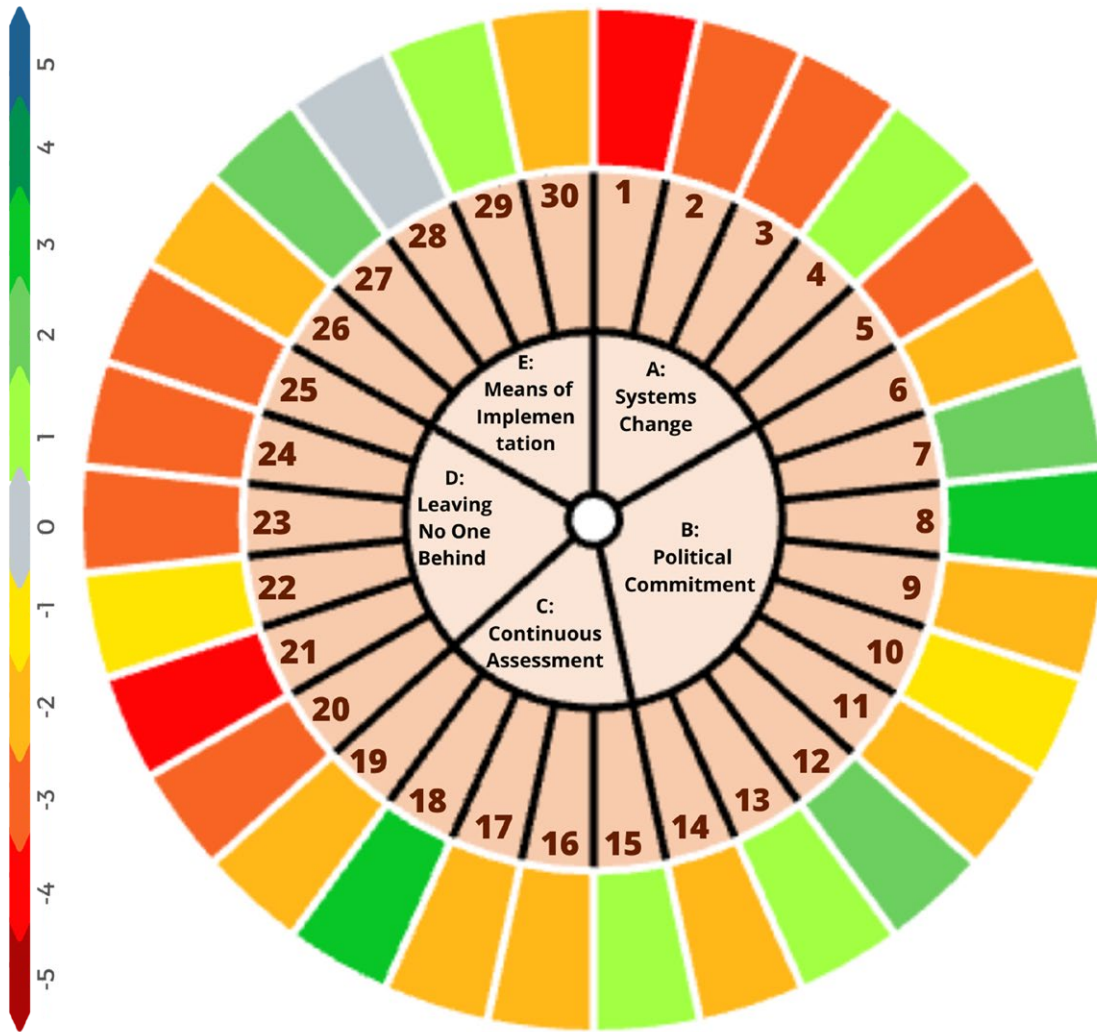
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 15



SDG 15 Micro Average Rating: -1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 15

SDG 15 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 15 Macro Average Rating: -1

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 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

A. Context of Implementing SDG 16: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Reporting on Sri Lanka's indicator performance under [SDG 16](#) is reliant on the data collected through the Country's criminal justice system and peace and security system. The Office of the Inspector General of Police (OIGP) reports an increase in the number of victims of homicide and abetment to commit suicide from 2.37 in 2018 to 3,44 in 2019. There is a limited availability of data on conflict related deaths per 100,000 population due to a drastic decrease in armed conflict related deaths since the end of the civil war in 2009. In terms of the occurrence of violence, the OIGP reports indicate a slight decrease of physical violence from 2018 to 2020. There is a lack of data mapping and reporting on indicators requiring mixed data and information for reporting purposes. Violence experienced by children is mainly reported in the form of physical and sexual violence, and the dimension of psychological aggression by caregivers is not mapped only through offences reported under the former categories of violence. Reported statistics from the 2018 to 2020 period, indicates that there is an increase in reported rape cases, with a slight reduction under the other offences such as sexual harassment. Official reports for 2020 reveal that over 80% of detainees in the National Prison System have not been sentenced. Furthermore, despite the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in 2006 and the adoption of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (No. 05 of 2006), there has not been a reduction of IFF cases reported by journalistic sources.

[SDG 16](#) is a goal which has a cross cutting impact on all other SDGs due to its relevance and importance in creating a conducive environment for the practical implementation of the remaining goals. **Governance** only becomes a possibility where there is sustainable peace, access to justice and reliable institutions in Sri Lanka. This is proven by the current constitutional and political crisis which the country is facing. Though over a decade has passed since the end of the thirty-year civil conflict in Sri Lanka, state structures still approach peace as an absence of war. This has prevented the adoption of policies driven by disaggregated data collection and interpretation under the [SDG 16](#) transformative agenda. Sri Lanka should prioritise the mainstreaming and integration of [SDG 16](#) into its macro governance frameworks to approach peace and good governance from a holistic sense. There is also a need to counter the power imbalance amongst the three main branches of government, by assigning 'necessary power' to the Executive Presidency and introducing systems of checks and balances which permit a constitutional separation of powers. Another concern which must be immediately addressed is the slow or non-existent integration of sub-national governance levels in the SDG transformative action of the central government, through strategic and implementable planning. Such an absence of inter-linked governance approaches has led to a haphazard data collection at ministerial level and sub-national level, the overlap of sustainable development portfolios, and the operation of disintegrated projects at various governance levels with the support of the non-state development sector.

Social justice and inclusive administrations are an inevitable outcome of adopting the [SDG 16](#) transformative agenda. The Country's sustainable development data mapping processes must be

strengthened to permit the collection of disaggregated and multi-dimensional data, without which the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ cannot be achieved. Data pertaining to major social groups are currently found as statistics on the occurrence of criminal offences, and resultant policy action revolves around curtailing violence and approaching equity from a traditional viewpoint. Attention must be drawn to the impact of the back logged court processes, under-funding of local justice processes and politicisation of the judiciary on the country’s access to justice (A2J) and rule of law (RoL).

The current econo-financial crisis triggered by the mismanagement of foreign reserves (SDG 17) and lack of preparation for the impacts of COVID-19 on a country which is dependent on vulnerable sectors for growth (such as tourism, garments, primary product exportation and exporting labour), highlights the importance of SDG 16 for **Economic** development. The Country needs to adopt a continued commitment for the depoliticisation of independent financial governance commissions with a specific mention of the Monetary Board of Sri Lanka. Financial reporting must be made transparent and a single data portal on budgetary spending and fiscal-monetary management must be made accessible to the public. Another pressing matter which needs urgent response is the strong prevalence of bribery and corruption amongst the state sector, which hampers the business environment of the country and dissuades the government to serve as a facilitator of inclusive economies. Though the establishment of the independent commissions to counter state level bribery and corruption must be recognised as a positive step, there is an apparent difference in response of the justice system to allegations of corruption against powerful politicians and cases of lower administrative officers obtaining bribes.

The legal framework is a necessary component of Sri Lanka’s **Environmental** governance. Though the Country has statutes and administrative legal frameworks overseeing the protection of ecological heritages and biodiversity hotspots (SDG 15), it is apparent that such laws and frameworks are not appropriately amended or practically implemented. Politicisation of approval processes can be seen in the case of infrastructure development projects happening within and outside the metropolises, which has resulted in a general disregard for essential processes such as ‘environmental impact assessments’. The situation is worsened by the wide prevalence of minor corruption of environment officers at a sub-national level, where ‘greasing the palms’ strategy is an accepted norm of local industries such as sand mining and timber.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 16

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The Country’s approach to mainstreaming and integrating the SDG framework in the governance and legal justice systems, is adopting/ amending necessary legislation in response to prevailing requirements as opposed to introducing SDG oriented policies which direct macro systems towards the transformative SDG agenda. The adoption of such laws mainly takes place through legal transplantation on the basis of drafting convenience, which has led to a convoluted set of laws with internal contradictions. It is noteworthy that existing data pertaining to SDG 16 is crime dependent and is not disaggregated to understand the Country’s performance under the indicators of this goal. A key reason for this is the absence of localisation of the SDG 16 indicators and the direction of data collection mechanisms to record national data to map the Country’s SDG 16 performance. Furthermore, the data available is unable to provide an outlook on qualitative aspects such as indicator 16.1.4 ‘Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live’. Here the idea of safety cannot be data mapped due to the limited data collection and interpretation processes in the Country. Another concern is the inability of existing systems to collect data pertaining to certain indicators under this goal. For example,

indicator 16.5.1 where data is required on the number of people who had to pay a bribe to a public official cannot be applied to Sri Lanka’s anti-bribery and corruption mechanism, as the public only has access to various individual reports of alleged corruption published by the Commission to Investigate Bribery or Corruption. Therefore, it is noted that the existing peace, justice and strong institutions framework has not experienced an SDG integration and mainstreaming, and that the system is geared towards essential service delivery.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

A preliminary observation is the absence of separation of political processes and administrative processes due to the apparent politicisation of administrative decision making. This is seen from the downgrading of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to a ‘B’ status due to apparent concerns regarding the independence of the body from political influence. Therefore, the administrative system does not serve as a check and balance on the political power structures of the Country, and there is a lack of continuity of existing policies. Though Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to adopt a Sustainable Development Act which authorised the setting up of The SDC as the central government authority for overseeing the mainstreaming and integration of the SDG framework in the state sector, serious concerns persist on the capacity of the Council to fulfil this mandate by working with state and non-state stakeholders. The afore-provided indicator analysis coupled with the absence of localisation of majority of the indicators, demonstrate both a lack of commitment to organise macro governance and legal processes around **SDG 16** and its transformative agenda. Where the indicators have been localised, certain disaggregation characteristics are left out in an arbitrary sense. It is also noted that the ministerial portfolio for sustainable development continuously changes with every governance cycle, and interim cabinet reshuffles or new appointments. This affects the policy and institutional coherence pertaining to **SDG 16** because one political power structure refuses to continue the work of the previous one. In terms of the processes available, it is observed that Sri Lanka does have a codified constitution and a functioning governance and legal system. However, there are concerns about the access to justice and protection of rule of law within such systems; two corner stone characteristics for the prevalence of **SDG 16**.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

Sri Lanka’s state structure led by the Department of Census and Statistics has a system in place to collect data from all parts of the island. Yet this data collection process is able to collect basic, aggregated data. In terms of **SDG 16**, most of the data that is available is with the national police and the data is on the basis of crimes and offences committed. There is an absence of disaggregation and interpretation of such data to help understand the Country’s performance under **SDG 16**. Furthermore, the collected data demonstrates notable discrepancies which affect the capacity for rating the Country’s performance. For example, statistics available from the SDG website differ from other official sources such as the Police and Prisons. Such statistics are also considerably different from figures cited by alternative stakeholders such as the World Bank. This highlights the need for streamlined data collection, reporting and interpretation processes in the Country. Another dimension to consider here is the absence of data sharing and data linkages in the state structure for informed policy making under the SDG transformative agenda. Data is often collected by various institutions at a national and sub-national level. This is especially apparent in the case of child protection and safety where several state stakeholders possess data. Such data is not collected into a single, accessible portal and is rarely shared amongst these stakeholders for coordinated policy making. The existing follow up and review mechanism pertaining to monitoring through data is considerably poor. Much

of the analytical reporting takes place on a year-to-year and geographical comparison. The reviews of data do not connect any reported changes to causal factors such as policy reforms, changes in political and administrative commitment and fluctuations in budgeting. Furthermore, raw data is collected annually without a continuous assessment process.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

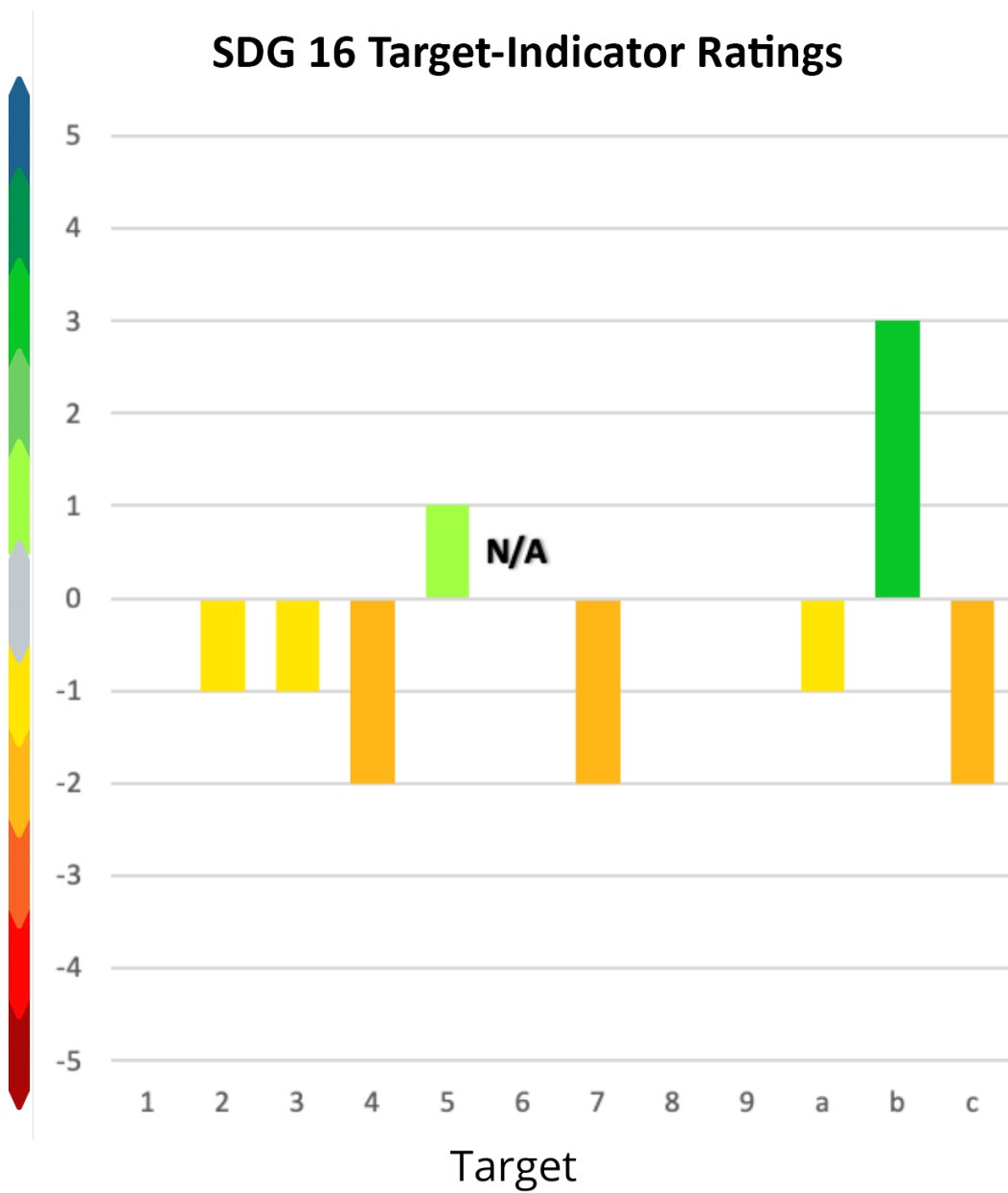
Knowledge and capacity building on the SDG transformative agenda is mainly carried out by the non-state and civil society sectors. A predominant reason for this is the absence of capacities in the state structure to carry out institutional training on the SDGs. When specifically commenting on [SDG 16](#), it is noted that stakeholders do not receive capacity building on streamlining governance and legal processes to achieve the targets under this goal. Policy and systemic dialogue surrounding [SDG 16](#) is not geared towards the sustainability agenda and is more focused on improving basic service delivery. This suggests that the overall politico-legal systems are not prepared to move towards an inclusive agenda involving cross-sectoral engagement of all relevant stakeholders under [SDG 16](#). There are also serious concerns regarding the localisation of the [SDG 16](#) agenda in terms of provincial level policy making and the implementation of the law. The pseudo-power devolution structure brought in by the 13th amendment to the constitution has created practical issues on which authority possesses the responsibility for implementation. Furthermore, it is noted that the existing mechanisms approach inclusion mainly from a post-civil war point of view which prevents the adoption of policies and laws to counter non-war realities, such as illicit trade in weaponry and prevalence of gang violence. When commenting on the commitment of the private sector, it can be stated that corporate social responsibility (CSR) encourages private entities to support SDG implementation processes. This is also the case in relation to capacity building, provision of resources and financial support to stakeholders working in [SDG 16](#). The citizen population has been a key driving force in achieving the SDG 16 indicators. This is evident from the commitment of the people to the ongoing civic struggle in response to the Country's mismanagement by the current political leadership.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

A concern regarding the implementation of The [SDG 16](#) transformative agenda, is the under-funding of stakeholders due to budgetary limitations and financial mismanagement. For example, the justice system of Sri Lanka tackles considerable under-funding in the management of its institutional mechanism. Many of the independent commissions and departments possess finances to maintain basic aspects like core services and human resources. This funding issue has been aggravated by the current economic crisis of Sri Lanka, which has forced the Government to bring in several interim budgets ignoring funding for intersectional activities of these institutions. In terms of funding at a sub-national level, many state stakeholders operating on [SDG 16](#) matters are dependent on the central government for funding. There is no power devolution to the provincial councils to make key budgeting determinations on [SDG 16](#) processes. Hence, the national budget determines the funding allocations for many aspects of [SDG 16](#) and the national budgeting processes do not prioritise the SDG framework. Apart from this challenge, one must note the lack of access to data pertaining to the allocation of budgeting beyond the announcement of the annual national budget and its approval in the Parliament. The public does not have access to information on aspects like sustainability and inclusive budgeting. There is also a lack of data on budgetary spending at a ministerial and sub-national level. This lack of access to data on financing prevents analysis under this macro indicator. Though internal processes may exist for budgetary reporting and justification, such reporting is not released to the public for analysis and determination. In terms of the adoption of technology, the governance and

legal systems generally are recognised as sectors with limited incorporation of science and technology. Where technology systems are incorporated, it is not continued forward by incoming political power structures.

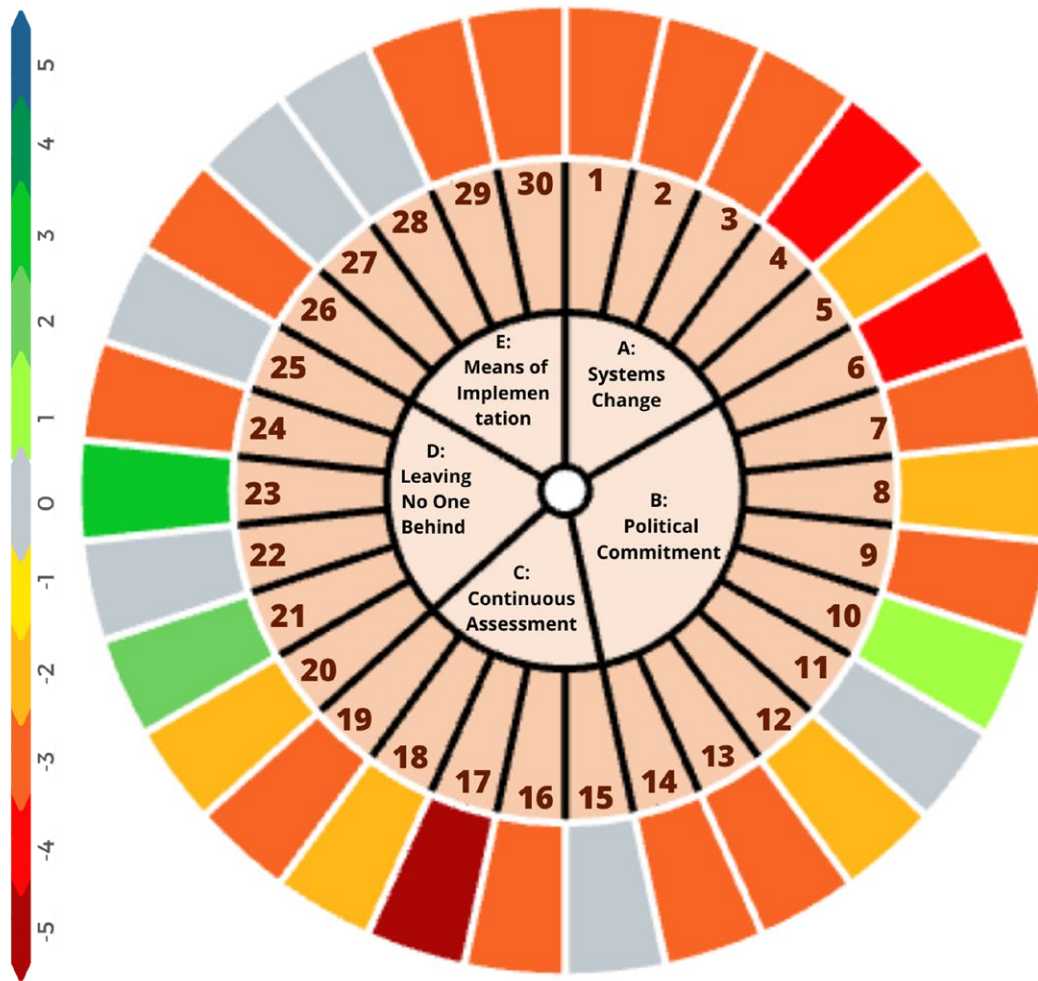
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 16



SDG 16 Micro Average Rating: 0

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 16

SDG 16 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 16 Macro Average Rating: **+2**

Voluntary Peoples Review

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

A. Context of Implementing SDG 17: Issues impacting the Transformation Towards Sustainable Development

Means of implementation holds the implementation of the other 16 SDGs together. In the context of Sri Lanka, the total government revenue to GDP has consistently fallen in recent years. The government revenue to GDP yielded a historically lowest tax to GDP ratio at 8.7% in 2021 and significantly lower than average revenue among emerging markets and developing economies at around 25%. The proportion of the domestic budget that was funded by domestic taxes in 2021 was only 36.9%. This is extremely low for Sri Lanka and underscores the necessity for raising taxes and rationalising expenditures. Foreign Direct Investments were adversely impacted due to the COVID 19 crisis in 2020. In 2021 the FDI values showed a recovery. However, towards 2022 Sri Lanka has been led towards a severe economic crisis and the FDI has decreased again. Worker remittances play a key role in financing Sri Lanka's trade deficit by supplying it with essential foreign currency. On average workers remittances have covered for 80% of annual trade deficit over the last two decades according to the Central Bank. However, this has not been the case in recent years, although there was some recovery of remittance values in 2021 after the COVID 19 pandemic. In April 2022, remittances were down by 52% and in May down by 33% from the year before. Sri Lanka is yet to see a recovery of remittance flows after the floating of the currency which offers a higher exchange rate for foreign earnings. Central Government debt has risen to unsustainable levels at 104.6% of GDP at the end of 2021 and consequently in April 2022 with dwindling reserves, it decided to indefinitely suspend all foreign debt payments. While Sri Lanka showcases strength in data collection through its existing statistical system and distributes at the national level through the existing dashboards, the decision making based on such data has been questionable, which is reflected by the current crisis. Moreover, Sri Lanka has received lending commitments from the IMF 16 times in the past and is gearing for the 17th program because of this recent economic collapse. Despite such a dire situation prevailing, Sri Lanka has managed to maintain its exports. The technology focussed indicators have also shown some progress during the review time. This is proven by the increased internet broadband subscriptions, internet usage, and funding received for the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies. Overall, Sri Lanka needs timely policy transformation and commitment towards SDG 17 to recover from the current crises.

This SDG impacts **Environment** mainly when it comes to the domestic resources' mobilisation. Harmful extraction can lead to negative environmental impacts. Sri Lanka has shown encroachment of its forestry to gather resources. Plantations like palm, rubber and tea have threatened the eco systems regularly. With the severe economic downfall that's been observed in the country in 2022, this might further change towards a negative. Furthermore, there is evidence that Sri Lanka has surveyed the coastal regions for oil exploration, and this indicates a potential risk to the environment if put to action. Decreased fuel supply has led to increased use of biomass and would risk further destruction of forests in the country.

Society participation has impacted SDG 17 as well. With the rising social crisis in Sri Lanka the community has demanded transparency to send remittances to the county. This demand for

transparency and accountability has been awakening for the country. As a result, there has been a reduction of remittances from foreign workers in the time of 2021-2022. Furthermore, the quality of life of the people in Sri Lanka is strongly dependent on the foreign aid. Society has kept a close eye on foreign income raised by Sri Lanka as well as the related multi stakeholder partnerships to ensure there is transparency, which has been significantly lacking during this review period.

SDG 17 has a very strong linkage to the **Economy** of the country. The current economic crisis is partially driven by the decline in tax revenue. The tax rate reductions which took place from 2019 to 2020 has been a major contribution to worsen the crisis. With the signs of impending economic downfall, the foreign workers remittances have also reduced in 2022. With the lack of foreign currency reserves Sri Lanka has found itself in a place where it couldn't purchase its fuel which led to a severe fuel crisis. With the emergence of the fuel crisis, the economic activity has further fallen to its lowest level in years. The government is also facing a rupee shortage to finance local spending as well. As a result, a record level of local currency was printed during the last six months of this review period.

In the context of **Governance**, Sri Lanka Strategy for Sustainable Development (2007), the Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path and the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development (2020) are some of the recent policies at national level that have been introduced or being prepared. Historically, successive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have devoted virtually no percentage of the overall National Budget towards the unstructured, fragmented implementation of **SDG 17**. There is further fragmentation within the current Central Government's Institutional Framework where **SDG 17** is concerned. No cabinet ministry exists directly aligned with **SDG 17**, nor does a relevant State Ministry. The limited institutional structure for **SDG 17** revolves around the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL), Impact on governance from the perspective of **SDG 17** has been negative. There is very little impact of SDCSL observed on the overall **SDG 17** related planning in Sri Lanka. Overall, lapse in governance, has been one of the key reasons of the crises.

B. Assessment of the Transformation: Assessment of Implementing SDG 17

1. Systems Change: Integration and Mainstreaming Review

The system's change in the context of **SDG 17** is driven by the government vision document "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" during the years 2020-2022. Out of the key policies included in this policy document, (i) People Centric Economic Development, (ii) Development of Physical Resources, (iii) Friendly, Non-aligned, Foreign Policy, (iv) Technology Based Society, are some key items on system change that also interlinks with **SDG 17**. Even so, in practice there is a great gap within the current Central Government's Institutional Framework where **SDG 17** is concerned. From the 4 key policies highlighted above, people centric economic development has shown great decline mainly due to the reduction of government income due to tax cuts. Although the mainstreaming efforts showed actions like "Gama Samaga Pilisandara ", such efforts couldn't be continued because of lack of resources. Non-aligned foreign policy has not been visible, and this has led to key economic agreements not being agreed upon and delaying the foreign support. Development of physical resources and creation of a technology-based society has also not progressed as expected due to the lack of resources. Currently, the limited institutional structure for **SDG 17** revolves around the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL). Since there is only one example of Parliamentary Legislation and a few examples of National Policies and National Strategies, implementation is extremely unstructured with the Government Entities associated with all 17 SDGs engaging in intragovernmental conflict daily, due to territorial disputes despite the prioritisation and availability of financial resources. These Government Entities

also focus on the siloed implementation of their own, specific mandates and duties without engaging in the cross – entity cooperation required to even attempt a combined approach, comprehensive and overall strategy geared towards SDG 17.

2. Political Commitment: Policy and Institutional Coherence Review

The existing Parliamentary Legislative and National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 is generally weak and a stronger point has been the commitment towards the vision document of the Central Government – Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour (2020 – 2025). This document, however, was developed specifically for the current Central Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), and prior to their election only a handful of National Policies, Strategies or Action Plan were approved and released, namely the Sri Lanka Strategy for Sustainable Development (2007), the Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path and the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development (2020). Historically successive Central Governments of Sri Lanka have devoted very little of the overall National Budget towards the unstructured, fragmented implementation of SDG 17. Leading up to the year 2022 there has been a lapse in the administrative commitments. institutional coherence, legal and policy framework implementation towards realising SDG 17 targets. As a result, the tax revenue towards the development activities fell significantly. Remittances towards the country declined due to fixed exchange rates, and the rupee currency printing has also affected the economic stability of the country. The policies leading to this adversity were adopted and maintained by governments under amendments 20A and 19A where the former vested more power in the President. Therefore, even though there is evidence of existing institutions with a mandate, the mandates were not implemented as expected. Sri Lanka needs to revise its political commitment in the context of SDG 17.

3. Continuous Assessment: Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up & Review

The government monitoring mechanisms had failed to capture and act the economic downfall and had not been effective in communicating the impending troubles to the country. If the monitoring mechanisms were effective Sri Lanka could have captured the key issues like: (i) the decline of tax revenue, (ii) rapid decline of remittances, (iii) excessive rupee printing and provided correctional action early on and implemented measures to increase the resilience of the country’s economy. The external monitoring mechanisms had already highlighted the revenue decreases in 2020 and yet, very little action was taken. As a result of this lack of activity, Sri Lanka is facing dire economic troubles.

4. Leaving No One Behind: Localising, Subnational Level and Stakeholder Engagement Review

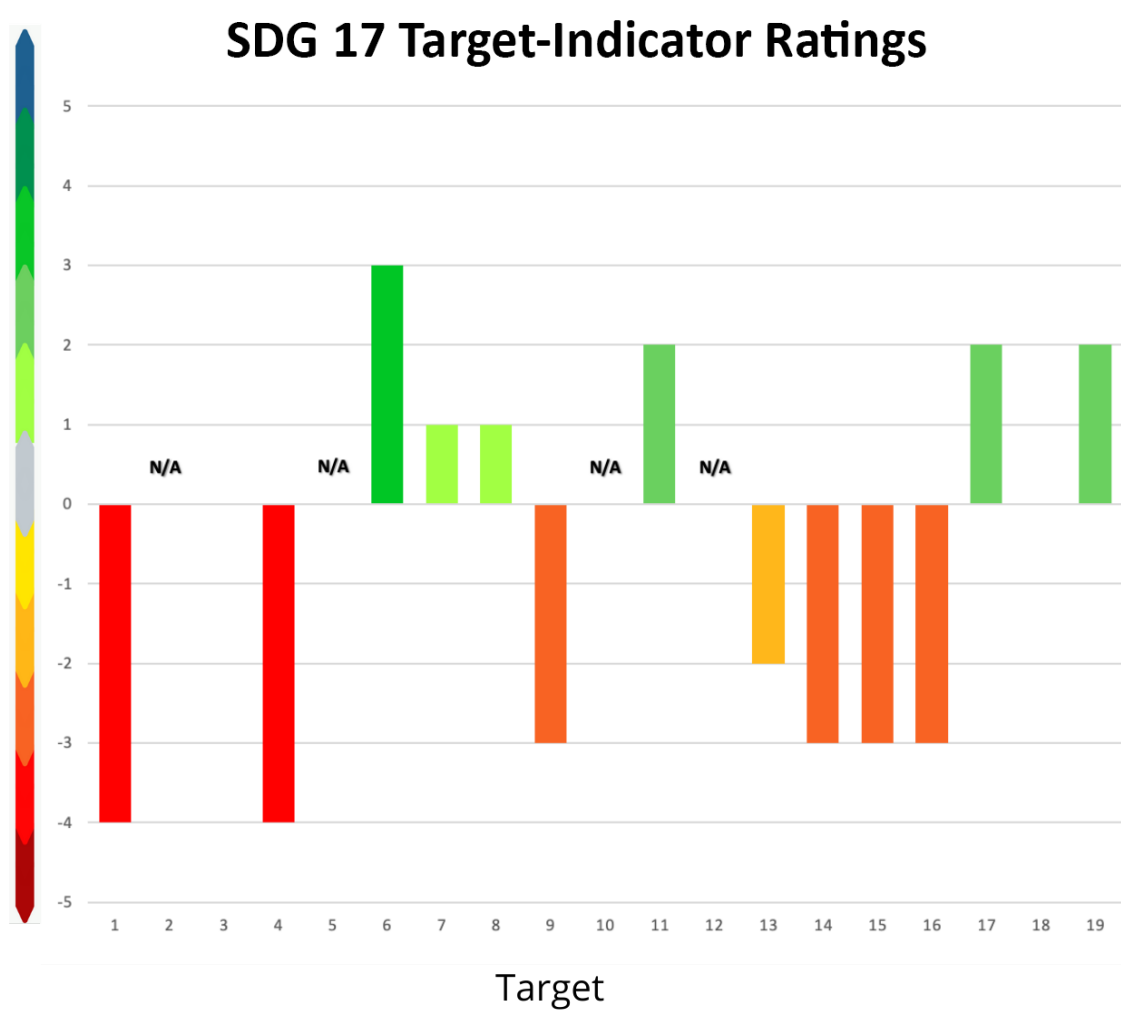
SDG 17 is a vital SDG in ensuring that no-one is left behind. Mainly, the government revenue determines how effectively the other SDGs can be implemented. During the period of 2018-2022 the government revenue has significantly decreased, and the portion of local taxation has also decreased. This has put Sri Lanka in a vulnerable state in the context of leaving no one behind. The reduction of foreign direct investment has also further increased the risk faced by the country. In the light of the COVID pandemic and the economic crisis that followed, Sri Lanka has received significant foreign development assistance. China, India, and the United States are the leading member states who have stepped forward to support Sri Lanka. In addition to this, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations agencies have also stepped forwards to provide development assistance to the country. The foreign development aid supports local stakeholder engagement mechanisms. The assistance given by the member states and UN agencies have contributed to engage local communities and add their voices to the development processes. However, COVID pandemic has hindered these processes during the period of 2020-2022. Sri Lanka needs capacity building programs for not only seeking information

from the communities on adversities that are facing, but also to disseminate knowledge on how the revenues for development are structured. Private sector partnerships can be leveraged to create awareness. Sri Lanka has reported strong start-up ecosystem, which could be leveraged to increase the foreign currency flow into the country. Furthermore, the public-private partnerships should focus on keeping each other accountable for the community of the country. Close monitoring of SDG 17 indicators would have been helpful to identify the economic crisis at very early stages, but the lack of holistic participation with the objective of leaving no one behind led not to take the protective action in due course.

5. Means of Implementation: Financing, Technology and Accountability Review

SDG 17 is the main SDG that focuses on the means of implementation. Over the period of 2018-2020 Sri Lanka's government revenue has decreased owing to reduced tax income. Therefore, even if the GDP of the country is predicted to increase in 2021 and 2022, due to the drop of government revenue, the total government revenue per unit of GDP is at a decline. In addition, there were reductions in other development financing coming from local and foreign sources due to the COVID pandemic. Technology also plays a key role in achieving SDG 17. Due to the COVID pandemic there was an immediate need for internet-based applications for foreign currency transfer, enhancing online communication methods, increasing mobile connectivity, and facilitating export and import industries. There was urgency in creating the related solutions, and the data show that there has been an increased internet accessibility, online apps, and other online tools. However, the resources availability was limited for implementation after a certain level. As a result, these solutions couldn't be made widely available for the general population. Furthermore, due to the lack of government revenue the government couldn't support state employees on operational costs for these solutions (usage costs, costs of updating hardware), even though the internet access/ mobile internet access was available. In the context of accountability, there were questions from the public on how the funding from the "itukama" fund was spent. The fund's purpose was to "strengthen the mitigation activities aimed at controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the country and related social welfare programmes". The fund was financed through donations received from organisations and individuals. By November 2021 only 10.6% (LKR 197.5 million) of the total amount of LKR 1,864 million of this fund had been spent. This amounts to lack of accountability where more of the fund could have been spent to avoid the spreading of the virus and provide essential needs for the sick.

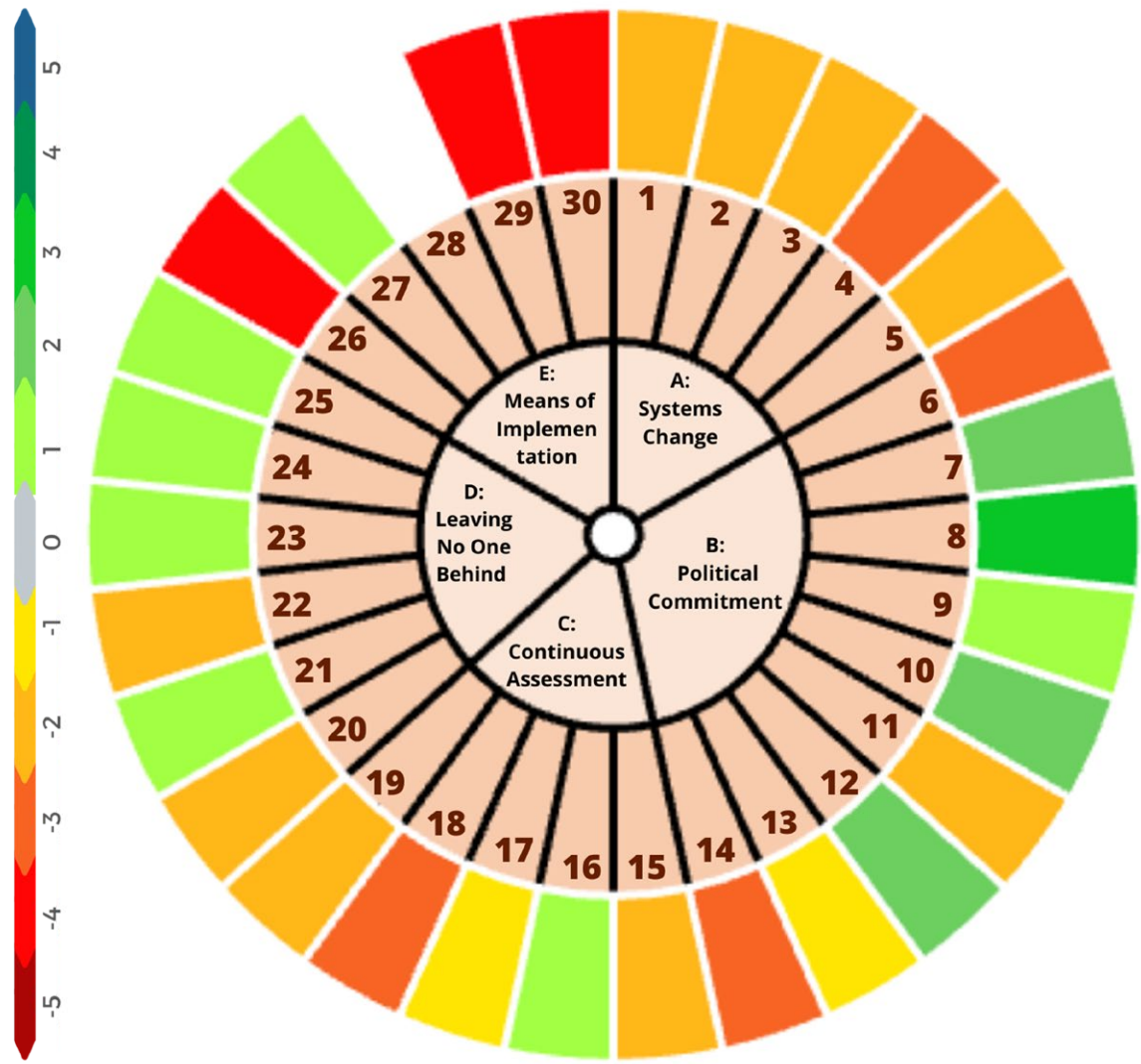
C. Micro Assessment: Target-Indicator Based Assessment of SDG 17



SDG 17 Micro Average Rating: -1

D. Macro Assessment: Key Aspects Based Transformation Assessment of SDG 17

SDG 17 Transformative Aspect Ratings



SDG 17 Macro Average Rating: +2

CONTRIBUTORS & COLLABORATORS



People

Lead Facilitation & Editorial Team

1. Uchita de Zoysa (Mentor & Editor-in-Chief)
2. Sudarsha De Silva (Coordinator – Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform)
3. Dr Sajith Wijesuriya
4. Avishka Sendanayke
5. John Wilson
6. Chiranthi Senanayke
7. Shamla Saleem
8. Rukshana Abdeen
9. Sharukesh Sekar
10. Kusheshi De Zoysa

Key Expert Reviewers

11. Prof. Siri Hettige
12. Prof.Sarath Kotagama
13. Prof Prasanthi Gunawardena
14. Prof.Ruchira Cumaratunge
15. Prof. Buddhi Marambe
16. Prof Ajith De Alwis
17. Prof Mohan Munasinghe
18. Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
19. Prof.Ivan Silva
20. Prof. Thusitha Kumara
21. Prof. Amala De Silva
22. Prof Thilak Bandara
23. Prof./Terney Pradeep Kumara
24. Dr.Sachie Pananwala
25. Dr. Aslam Saja
26. Dr Menuka Ududgama
27. Dr Dinej Chandrasiri
28. Dr.Ramya Jeerasinghe
29. Dr.Locana Gunarathne
30. Dr.Ranil Senanayke
31. Dr..Tanuja Ariyananda

32. Dr.Champa Amarasiri
33. Dr.Sujeewa Amarasekara
34. Dr.Vidura Ralapanawa
35. Dr.Kalpana Ambepitiya
36. Asoka Gunawardena
37. Uditha Palihakkara
38. Jagath Gunasekara
39. Harsha Wickramasinghe
40. Thilak Kariyawasam
41. Samantha Kumarasena
42. Anushka Wijesinghe
43. Gayani De Alwis
44. Ananda Jayaweera
45. Ranga Pallawala
46. Thilini Kasthuri
47. Nisansala Ranundeniya
48. Upekha Kottage
49. Maduka Perera
50. Minoli Malka Lakshani
51. Taranga Sachinthani
52. Chamika Wijesuriya
53. Gamini Senanayke
54. Samantha Gunasekara
55. Ravi Kandiah
56. Imali Manickarachchi
57. Karin Fernando
58. Iresha Gunasinghe
59. Chamika Wijesuriya
60. Harris Pherinam
61. Kamal Herath
62. Shantha Kulathunga
63. Damitha Samarakoon
64. Chathurika Jayalath
65. Rushani Chandrasena
66. Udara Hemachandra
67. Kusum Athukorala

68. Kushlani Dissanayake
69. Yogya Bandara
70. Udeshika Wimalasiri
71. Jeremy De Zilwa
72. Lasantha Premachandra

Research Assistants

73. Sachini Wijebandara
74. Nuwan Samarasinghe
75. Sarasi Jayasinghe
76. Sithara Bandara
77. Upeksha Jayamutuge
78. Anoj Ishara
79. Imara Perera
80. Ranmalee Nanayakkara
81. Shihara Ferdinando
82. Huzna Sheikh
83. Ishara Palatuwa
84. Sachintha Gunaratne
85. Yumna Azeez
86. Chanya Ranatunga

Designers

87. Yasith Perera
88. Hareen Sendanayake
89. Chalsy Singh

Key Government Officials - Central Government

90. Prof Ajith De Alwis – National Innovation Agency
91. Dr.Sachie Panawala – National Innovation Agency
92. Dr.Sujeewa Amarasekara - National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
93. Dr.Dinej Chandrasiri – Department of Health Service – North Western province
94. Jagath Gunasekara – General Manager Marine Environment Protection Authority
95. W Kularathne -Deputy Director National Physical Planning Department
96. Harsha Wickramasignhe – Deputy Director General Sustainable Energy Authority
97. Upekha Kottage - National Physical Planning Department

98. M M Lahiru Premachandra – National Physical Planning Department
99. R M D Lakmali Rathnayake – National Physical Planning Department
100. Udara Hemachandra – Ministry of Agriculture

Key Government Officials - Subnational Government

101. Gamini Rajarathne – Chief Secretary – Central Provincial Council
102. L.J.M.G.Chandrasiri Bandara - Chief Secretary – Northern Central Provincial Council
103. S .M.Saman Bandulasena- Chief Secretary – Northern Provincial Council
104. Thusitha P Wanigasinghe- Chief Secretary- Eastern Provincial Council
105. C Wickramasooriya - Deputy Chief Secretary - Central Provincial Council
106. P.B.Dayarathne- Deputy Chief Secretary, North Central Provincial Council
107. L.P.Madanayake- Secretary to the Governor- Eastern Provincial Council
108. .I.K.G.Muthubanda- Secretary-Ministry of Agriculture – Eastern Provincial Council
109. Kalamathy Pathmarajah- Secretary- Local Government & Rural Development - Eastern Provincial Council
110. Madushani Piyasena – Secretary Road Development, Central Provincial Council
111. Pasan Rathnayake – Secretary Agriculture, Central Provincial Council
112. A K N Wickremasinghe – Secretary Chief Ministry North Central Provincial Council
113. D H M N P Dasanayake – Secretary Ministry and, Irrigation, Road Development, Rural Development, Housing and Women Affairs
114. E M M Ekanayake – Secretary Ministry of Agriculture North Central Provincial Council
115. A K K M R W Kumaragama - Secretary Ministry of Cooperative, Trade & Food North Central Provincial Council
116. W M M Madahapola – Deputy Secretary Administration, Central Provincial Council
117. H M P Punchibanda – Deputy Secretary Treasury – Central Provincial Council
118. K T Thayalan – Deputy Secretary – Ministry of Local Government – Northern Provincial Council
119. K G S Nissanka- Deputy Secretary Planning – Central Provincial Council
120. Eng. S K I Wijewardena – Deputy Secretary Engineering - Central Provincial Council
121. S. Kulatheepan- Deputy Secretary, Finance - Eastern Provincial Council
122. N. Thamilchelvan- Deputy Secretary, Planning - Eastern Provincial Council
123. N Pirgas – Deputy Secretary Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, and Probation, Child Care Services - Northern Provincial Council
124. C P Rajakaruna – Additional Secretary Land District Secretariat, Galle
125. F.Johnson- Director Planning – Eastern Provincial Council
126. A.S.M. Fayis-Director Planning -- Local Government & Rural Development - Eastern Provincial Council
127. N.Manivannan Provincial Commissioner Dept. of Local Government- Eastern Provincial Council

128. U. Kavitha - Provincial Director-Department of Rural Industries - Eastern Provincial Council
129. S.H.M. Basoor- - Deputy Director Planning – Eastern Provincial Council
130. Dr.R. Gnanasegar- Director-Planning Agriculture- Ministry of Agriculture – Eastern Provincial Council
131. Dr.S.M. Hussain- Provincial Director- Department of Agriculture- Eastern Provincial Council
132. Dr.M.A.M. Fazi- Provincial Director- Department of AP&H - Eastern Provincial Council
133. S. Suthaharan- Director Department of Fisheries – Eastern Provincial Council
134. B Konesh -Chief accountant – Chief Accountant Budget- Eastern Provincial Council
135. H.M Mohamed
136. Mr. A.L.M.Azmi- Commissioner- Department of Cooperative Development - Eastern Provincial Council
137. T. Sivasenthilnathan- Chief Accountant , Finance and revenue- Eastern Provincial Council
138. Rasheed- Chief internal Auditor Department of Revenue - Eastern Provincial Council
139. Dr.M N Weerasooriya – Director – Health – Central Provincial Council
140. G.T.D Gedarakumbura – Director – Rural Development – Central Provincial Council
141. S A S K Wijesekara – Provincial Director - Central Provincial Council
142. H M R Bandara – Provincial Director Agriculture - Central Provincial Council
143. R M S Menike – Director Audit - Central Provincial Council
144. M.A. Munazir - Deputy Director Planning – Eastern Provincial Council
145. V.I.G. Johnpillai - Deputy Director Planning – Eastern Provincial Council
146. Eng.A.S.Gowripalan Provincial Engineer- Dept. of Local Government- Eastern Provincial Council
147. M.I.M Mahir- Deputy commissioner- Department of Revenue - Eastern Provincial Council
148. A W G L Attanayake – Deputy Director Planning – Central Provincial Council
149. Dr.Rajasekara – Director, DAPH - Central Provincial Council
150. Jagath Adikari – Director Land - Central Provincial Council
151. J Jarojini – Deputy Director Agriculture Northern Provincial Council
152. I Kugapriya - Deputy Director, Agriculture Northern Provincial Council
153. D M S D Dissanayke – Deputy Planning Director – Central Provincial Council
154. G M L K Herath Deputy Director Audit – Central Provincial Council
155. M B U S Konsiwatta – Deputy Director – Industries - Central Provincial Council
156. A M K Samaradivakara – Deputy Commissioner Social Service - Central Provincial Council
157. S A Dunukepotha – Deputy Director, Chief Secretariat - Central Provincial Council
158. L K Dassanayake -Deputy Director Planning - Central Provincial Council
159. P Jananthan – Department of Housing -Northern Provincial Council
160. K P Nanthayaruban - Department of Social Service -Northern Provincial Council
161. S Kirubakaran – Administrative Officer, Chief Secretariat- Northern Provincial Council

162. V Sivakumar – Deputy Director Planning - Northern Provincial Council
163. V Thevakumari – Assistant Commissioner, Cooperative – Northern Provincial Council
164. V Balendra – Deputy Director Education- Northern Provincial Council
165. Kushantha Ranasinghe-Deputy Director Planning, North Central Provincial Council
166. S P Athukorala – Assistant Commissioner Department of Local Government – Uva Provincial Council
167. Rupika Rajakaruna -NGO Secretariat, Galle
168. M A M Sawmer – Chief Community officer -Municipal Council Galle

Key Academics

169. Prof. S Mohandas – Former Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna
170. Prof. S Sri Sathkunaraja - Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna
171. Prof Sriyani Wickramasinghe – Department of Biology, Rajarata University
172. Prof.Dilon Gunawardena – Department of Social Science, Rajarata University
173. Prof.S W G K Bulankulame – Department of Economics - Rajarata University
174. Prof.Amila Rathnayake – Department of Geology – Uva Wellassa University
175. Prof. N S Abeysinghe – Department of Agriculture - Rajarata University
176. Prof.Raj Ganeshwaran -University of Jaffna
177. Dr E Y Fernando -Biological Science , Rajarata University
178. Dr.Abeyrami Sivaram – Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna
179. Dr.Sanjaya Fernando – Department of Economics Rajarata University
180. Dr. R Vanderwon – Department of Biological Science Rajarata University
181. Dr.K K G U Hemammali – Science Faculty – Ruhuna University
182. Dr.K K S Atapattu – Fisheries and Marine Science faculty - Ruhuna University
183. Dr.H L K Sanjaya - Fisheries and Marine Science faculty - Ruhuna University
184. Dr.Titus Cooray – Applied Science, Uwa Wellassa University
185. Dr.T W Shanthakumar - University of Jaffna
186. Shanika Lakmali - University of Jaffna
187. Imesha Gamage – University of Jaffna
188. Chandi Kularathne -Uwa Wellassa University
189. Arundi Shanika - Uwa Wellassa University
190. K Kumaresvaran – Department of Agriculture Science University of Ruhuna
191. C P Rupasinghe – Department of Agriculture Science University of Ruhuna
192. W G D Chathuranga – Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna
193. K G D D Thilakarathne - Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna
194. A Koswatta - Department of Agriculture Science University of Ruhuna
195. T Dayananda – Department of Botany, University of Ruhuna

196. R D A Gunasekara - Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna
197. K T L D Udaya Sri – Tourism & Hospitality Management, Rajarata University
198. T D Sulochana Hiranthi Dissanayake Accountant and Finance, Rajarata University
199. K H I Gimhani Food Technology, Rajarata University

Other Contributors

200. Dr.Fareena Ruzaik
201. Dr.Kala Peiris
202. Sirimal Peiris
203. Manu Tissera
204. Isha Miranda
205. Ruwan Wijemanna
206. Aravinda Bellanthudawa
207. Senuri Weerasekara
208. Tarangee Mutucumarana
209. Rajima Senanayake
210. Umanda Jayathilake
211. Pumudu Jayasuriya
212. Vinura Amarasinghe
213. Dumindu Herath
214. Rohan Cooray
215. Gothami Chandrarathne
216. Nimesha Gunasinghe
217. Lenin Indra De Silva
218. Lekha Rathnayake
219. Janithrika Jayasundara
220. Umesh Moramudali
221. Chathura Welivitiya

Organizations

Overall Process & Content Coordination

1. Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS-SDG Platform)
2. SDG Transformation Lab

Platform Facility & Secretariate

3. Centre for Environment and Development (CED)
4. Global Sustainability Solutions (GLOSS)

Partner Organizations

5. Food First Information & Action Network of Sri Lanka (FIAN Sri Lanka)
6. National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC)
7. Kindernorthlife
8. HYPE Sri Lanka
9. World Vision
10. Science Policy Circle
11. Earthlanka Youth Network
12. Help O
13. Good Neighbors International Sri Lanka
14. Coalition for Education Development
15. Foundation for Social Innovation and Development
16. CENWOR
17. National Union of Workers
18. Association for War Affected Women
19. Center for Smart Future

Contributing Organizations - National Government

20. National Innovation Agency
21. National Physical Planning Department
22. Sustainable Energy Authority
23. Marine Environment Protection Authority
24. National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority
25. National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
26. Central Environment Authority

27. University of Uwa Wellassa
28. University of Ruhuna
29. University of Jaffna
30. University of Rajarata
31. University of Southern Eastern

Contributing Organizations - Subnational Government

32. Central Provincial Council
33. Northern Provincial Council
34. Uva Provincial Council
35. North Central Provincial Council
36. District Secretariat Galle
37. Eastern Provincial Council
38. Department of Health Services – Northwestern Province
39. District Secretariat Puttalam
40. District Secretariat Badulla
41. Municipal Council Badulla
42. Municipal Council Galle

Contributing Organizations - Other Stakeholder Organizations:

43. Wijayakatupotha Govi Sanvidanaya
44. Cooperative Society Arachchikattuwa
45. Agrarian Services Center Rajakadaluwa
46. Wijayakatupotha SANASA Bank
47. Point Pedro Hindu Kovil Community
48. Jaffna Inter Religious Group
49. Chvakachcheri Mosque Community
50. Association for public & environment conservation
51. GMC Galle
52. Jasmin Women Foundation Galle
53. Preservation Society Galle
54. Norwood Plantation workers community
55. Dickoya Plantation Workers community
56. Kotagala Plantation Workers community
57. Ginigathhena Plantation Workers community

58. Darawella Plantation Workers community
59. Mary filed plantation workers community
60. Talawekele plantation workers community
61. Sattal Plantation Workers
62. Tharawala plantation workers
63. Peoples Health Movement Sri Lanka
64. Women In Logistics and Transport
65. Family Planning Association
66. CEPA
67. G-CAP Sunfo
68. PALM Foundation
69. Center for Development Research and Interventions
70. Solidarity Network Asia
71. CHA
72. Women Development Innovators
73. Green Technology Forum
74. Transparency International Sri Lanka
75. Sustainable Ocean Alliance
76. Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum
77. IDEA
78. SLYCAN Trusts
79. Institute of Tropical Marine Sciences
80. Sri Lanka Unites
81. Helping Wings
82. Janathakshan
83. Her Highness Initiative
84. Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Sri Lankan chapter
85. Climate Action Now Sri Lanka (Cansrilanka)
86. Leo Club of Homagama Central
87. Sri Lanka Model United Nations
88. Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena
89. Federation of Youth Clubs Sri Lanka
90. Marga Institute of Development
91. Menengage
92. Student for Liberty- Sri Lanka Chapter
93. The Youth Wing of WNPS

94. Capsaicinaz_LM_Foundation
95. Sri Lanka Reconciliation Movement
96. Advocata Institute
97. Youth Action Network Sri Lanka
98. Members of Gota Go Gama
99. Chirstian Aid
100. Cordina Organization Central province
101. Department of Health Services – Central Province
102. Henreen Plantation Community
103. Harrington Plantation Community
104. Lochie Plantation Community
105. District Secretariat Nuwaraeliya
106. St.Colonel Plantation Community
107. All Ceylon Public Management Assistance Union Colombo
108. Diatisian Union Gampaha
109. Harbor Union Colombo
110. Diatisian Union Colombo
111. Asia Lanka Kalutara
112. All Ceylon Public Management Assistance Union Gampaha
113. CTF Colombo
114. Provincial Public Management Assistance Union Gampaha
115. Postal TM Colombo
116. Ceylon Teachers Union Colombo
117. FTZ Textile Union Gampaha
118. Nafso Gampaha
119. Monlar Colombo
120. Women Centre Gampaha
121. DCDF Colombo
122. Mihithala Mithuro Colombo
123. National Pre-school Development Foundation (NPDF) Kalutara
124. Center for Child Development Jaffna
125. Community development organization(CDO) Mullativu
126. Child Fund Puthukkudiyiruppu
127. Devan assistance for social harmony Kilinochchi
128. Family Rehabilitation center (FRC) Karaichikkudiyiruppu
129. Federation of Social development organization(Fosdoo) Vavuniya

130. Humedica International Jaffna
131. Humanity and Inclusion Kilinochchi
132. Nazarene companionate Ministries lanka Wattala
133. Offer cyclone Kilinochchi
134. Karunya Foundation
135. Rural development Foundation Vavuniya
136. RAHAMA Vavuniya
137. Srilanka National Social Service Organization
138. Street Children Trincomalee
139. Sarvodaya Mullativu
140. Center For Peace and Reconciliation Kilinochchi
141. Viluthu center for Human Resource development Jaffna
142. Habitat for Humanity Srilanka Puthukkudiyiruppu
143. Jaffna Social Action Center Jaffna
144. LEADS Kilinochchi
145. Voice area federation Puttalam
146. Bird of Affection Youth Killinochchi
147. Women Society Network Killinochchi
148. Sirakukal Killinochchi
149. Women Life and Rights Society Killinochchi
150. DEAF LINK Killinochchi
151. Poonakary fisheries Society Killinochchi
152. OISD Killinochchi
153. Mahasakthi Killinochchi
154. SHANTHIHAM Jaffna
155. Caritas – HUDEC Jaffna
156. y gro Jaffna
157. SOND (Social Networking for Development) Jaffna
158. VOGT (Vadamaradchy Organization of Good Templars) Jaffna
159. Save a Life Jaffna
160. SDF (Social Development Foundation) Jaffna
161. CCYE (Centre for Child and Youth Empowerment) Jaffna
162. CFCD (Centre for Child Development) Jaffna
163. CORE Jaffna
164. FRC Jaffna
165. NCS Jaffna

166. JSAC Jaffna
167. CWD Jaffna
168. AARUTHAL Jaffna
169. ADT Jaffna
170. PWO Jaffna
171. FRIENDS Jaffna
172. SDF Jaffna
173. NVDAG Jaffna
174. TCT Jaffna
175. Health Sector Union
176. SHANTHIHAM Jaffna
177. Family Rehabilitation Centre (FRC)
178. Mannar Association for Relief and Rehabilitation (MARR)
179. Organization of People for Engagement and Enterprise (OPeE) Mannar
180. Y GRO PVT (Ltd) Mannar
181. Rural Development Foundation (RDF) Mannar
182. Mannar women's Dev. Federation Mannar
183. Mannar Citizens' Committee (MCC) Mannar
184. Bridging Lanka (Guarantee) Limited Mannar
185. Sarvodaya Mannar
186. VOSD Mannar
187. Mannar District Fisherman Cooperative Federation
188. ADT Vavuniya
189. Community Development Organization (CDO) Vavuniya
190. Federation of Institutions For Rural Management (FIRM) Vavuniya
191. VAROAD Vavuniya
192. Organization For Rehabilitation of the Handicapped (ORHAN) Vavuniya
193. Sevalanka Foudation (SLF) Vavuniya
194. Social Economic and Environmental Developers (SEED) Vavuniya
195. Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCOD) Vavuniya
196. Ygro (Pvt) Ltd. Vavuniya
197. Preschool Development Center (PSEDC) Vavuniya
198. Rural Women Foundation (RWF) Vavuniya
199. OFERR Vavuniya
200. Family Rehabilitation Centre – FRC Vavuniya
201. JRSS Vavuniya

202. World Vision Badulla
203. Future in Our Hands Development Fund Badulla District
204. Uva Govijana Kendraya Badulla District
205. Little Smile Badulla District
206. Uva Shakthy Foundation Badulla District
207. Plantation Community Development Forum Badulla District
208. Red Cross Badulla District
209. Kantha Phitta Badulla District
210. Women Development Centre Badulla District
211. USCOD Badulla District
212. FRIENDS Badulla District
213. LIDS Badulla District
214. Sunrise foundation Badulla District
215. Rewukai foundation Badulla District
216. Uva workers foundation Badulla District
217. Institute of social development(ISD) Badulla District
218. Rain water harvesting forum Badulla District
219. Biodiversity reaserch and information training center(BRIT) Badulla District
220. Lanka jathika Estate Worker's Union(LJEWU) - Badulla District
221. United Plantation Worker's Union Badulla District
222. The National Union of Workers(NUW) Badulla District
223. Up Country Workers Front Badulla District
224. Agricultural Plantation Workers Congress Badulla District
225. Ceylon Workers Alliance (CWA) Badulla District-
226. The Ceylon Estate Staff Union Badulla District
227. Migration Workers Front Badulla District-
228. Leo Marga Ashram - Badulla District
229. Uva Manawa Sampath Sanwardana Padanama - Badulla District
230. All Iland management servise officer Union - Badulla District
231. ESCAPE Badulla District
232. Redcross Moneragala
233. Abhimana community organization Moneragala
234. Sri Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum Colombo
235. Sarvodaya Shramadana Society – Wellawaya
236. ACTED Organization Moneragala
237. ADRA (Adventist development and Agency Sri Lanka) Maharagama

238. I.C.E.I. Organization Buttala
239. Room to Read Moneragala
240. S.O.S Children Moneragala
241. Little Smile Association – Buttala
242. Womens Development Foundation Hambanthota
243. Surangani Social Service Organization Nawala
244. Community Protection Organization Moneragala
245. Uva Wellassa Womes Foundation Hadapanagala
246. Soba Daham Foundation Moneragala
247. NGO Consortium Moneragala
248. Wehilihini Community Foundation Moneragala
249. Uva Wellassaa Rehabilitation for Disable Community Moneragala
250. Mahila Organization Colombo
251. Handicapped International Moneragala
252. Kansarment Foundation Kochchikade
253. Muslim Aid Sri Lanka Madagama
254. Chrysallis Organization Badulla
255. Uva Wellassa Women Farmers Organization Badulla
256. Women Development Foundation Moneragala
257. Uva Womens Development Foundation Moneragala
258. Human Resource First Adi Center Moneragala

Resource Support Organizations - International

259. TAP Network (for SDG16+ Spotlight Report)
260. Action for Sustainable Development (for the People Scorecard on the SDGs)
261. United Cities & Local Governments (for the Voluntary Subnational Review)

