

PROGRESSING NATIONAL SDG IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2023

II. POLICIES FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 4: Implementing the 2030 Agenda – Country Experiences, Challenges and Lessons Learned



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It is especially important for countries presenting their second or third VNR to show progress that has been made since their first VNR and to build on their second or subsequent VNR. They are encouraged to address in particular those areas which they identified in their previous VNR as challenging and not to repeat what has already been presented in their previous VNR. The emphasis should be on implementation and progress.

[VNR Handbook 2023]

Introduction

At the 2023 HLPF, 36 countries presented their second Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), while Chile presented its third VNR report. Only St. Kitts and Nevis and the EU were first timers. Against this backdrop, while most reports do not explicitly address how countries have adapted their implementation approach based on learning from the first review, many countries do provide some insights on tangible successes as well as some persistent challenges faced in SDG implementation, especially from a systemic perspective.

This chapter outlines some key themes in the country reports, organized around three broad areas:

- Good practice and lessons learned from implementation;
- Challenges in accelerating the 2030 Agenda (means of implementation); and
- Responding to increasingly interlinked global crises.

1. Good practice and lessons learned from implementation

Overall, the country reports paint a global picture of patchy SDG progress: with some bright spots, but also persistent challenges in breaking through institutional and capacity gaps, and other critical means of implementation (Section 2). While sustainable development principles and parameters are increasingly integrated into policy making, at least formally, implementation gap persists, as evidenced by Mongolia's CSO View. Also, countries rarely provide detailed insight into how the different dimensions of sustainable development are integrated in policy making, beyond rhetorical mentions.

Croatia is among countries that states successes, noting "particularly visible" progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion, as well as progressing "economic and social justice," labor productivity and macroeconomic stability. Reporting that it has "successfully applied" lessons learned from its first VNR, **Fiji** states that it is on track to achieve two SDGs (6 and 10) by 2030. The report underscores the role played by the second iteration of its VNR process in fostering dialogue with different societal stakeholders and improving coordination within government, as well as regarding the expansion of data-generation efforts. **Uzbekistan** reports on being ranked one of the top 10 countries in the world with the greatest progress in ensuring food security in the period 2019 to 2022.

Drawing relevant lessons from the first seven years of SDG implementation and recommendations from its first VNR, the **DRC** report concludes that "the implementation, monitoring and review of the SDGs must draw on the lived experiences, ideas and solutions proposed by men and women at the local level."

CSO View: Applying recommendations from first VNR to improve monitoring in Mongolia



Mongolia stresses the need to go beyond an analysis of policies and processes by paying attention to "the sustainability of the changes in practice and to study their impact regularly." The report highlights how in-depth analysis of the implementation of recommendations included in the first VNR has contributed to "policy continuity, improving implementation results, and contributing to the regularity of monitoring and evaluation."

According to the spotlight report produced by the Mongolian CSO Network on the SDGs, laws, policies, and planning documents have become more sophisticated since the first VNR. The amended Law on Development Policy, Planning and its Management made the long, medium, and short-term development policies and planning documents more aligned, consistent and coordinated with each other.

In fact, Mongolia has formulated a new comprehensive and more stable system of development planning with the Mongolia's Long-term Development Policy Vision-2050, Five Year Development Guidelines for 2021-2025, the Government Action Programme for 2020-2024, as well as the recently approved New Recovery Policy and Integrated National Financing Framework to support financing of the SDG implementation. System updates are still ongoing. Some policy and data gap analysis have been made and the latter was presented at the Second VNR Launch meeting. The New Recovery Policy prioritized a number of areas including energy, trade border ports, industrialization, urban and rural recovery, green development, and public sector efficiency. However the implementation of these national plans has not started to benefit the people of Mongolia.

Regarding monitoring mechanisms, the long-term National Development Plan Vision 2050 and its five-year action plans are only partially aligned with the SDGs. Objectives and policies are indeed broadly aligned with the SDGs, however, measurement of progress is not aligned with the SDG targets and indicators, which hinders monitoring efforts.

The government does seem to produce regular monitoring and evaluation reports providing sectoral information about SDG implementation, as well as relevant information and quantitative data about actual results. However, these reports are not publically available, data is not easily accessible, which affects transparency. This creates challenges to obtain accurate up-to-date information on SDG implementation, which also hinders participatory monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Local communities are best placed to understand the needs, collective challenges and capacities and, as such, represent key partners for achieving the SDGs.

[Voluntary National Review, DRC]

Several reviews highlight the value of multistakeholder approaches. **Chile** emphasizes that this not only contributes to a sound diagnosis of challenges faced, but also identifying diverse solutions to these problems. The report highlights Chile's intention to continue to develop a joint and collaborative work agenda to the strategy implementation process, "and generate the necessary synergies to move towards sustainable and inclusive development." **Guyana** describes its citizen-centric approach to policy making, as well as access to policy makers at the highest levels by the citizenry as "a hallmark of Guyana's current government" that is "worthy of emulation."

Despite these positive experiences, the reports also record a litany of disappointing progress in countries' SDG journeys, in part due to the continuing impact of successive global crises (Section 3). Highlighting the devastating economic and social impact, the **Central African Republic** reports on a drastic drop in its GDP, from a peak of 4.5% in 2017 to 1% in 2020 and 2021, further exacerbated by galloping inflation and a shortage of basic

products linked to the war in Ukraine. Nonetheless, a few countries also offer an honest assessment of how entrenched corruption, weak institutions, a poor productive base, among other governance issues, have undermined efforts to strengthen the overall macroeconomic environment, tackle environmental degradation and reduce social inequalities (Section 4).

GOOD PRACTICE: Implementing learning from previous VNRs ✓

Timor-Leste’s second VNR incorporated learnings from the first round relating to, among other SDG areas, policy integration, technological advancements, poverty eradication, gender equality, crisis response, human capital investment, and innovative financing. The VNR report highlights how efforts to align sectoral plans with the national Strategic Development Plan, for example, helps ensure that malnutrition and food insecurity are addressed “comprehensively and in a coordinated manner.”

During the preparation of **Chile’s** third VNR, stakeholders engaged in designing instruments and gathering information to describe the national situation for each objective, jointly drawing a panoramic view of collective action for implementation. This collaborative process provided insights into ongoing activities and explored various joint working alternatives at different levels to take the next steps in implementing the jointly designed SDG Strategy. Another identified and leveraged best practice was the networking among stakeholders within and between sectors and at different territorial levels. The report benefited from input from the public sector, 36 higher education institutions, 87 businesses, and over 250 civil society organizations and local government associations. This effective practice is expected to be maintained and strengthened.



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2. Means of implementation: Navigating entrenched barriers to accelerating progress

Capacity, finance, systemic integration at all levels, are often-mentioned barriers to successfully scaling up implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Most VNR reports mention these challenges in passing, but a number of reports also provide practical examples of how countries are building on previous VNRs to explore more innovative and coordinated efforts at all levels of governance to tackle specific bottlenecks to SDG progress. Moreover, while capacity strengthening is one of the bedrocks of international development cooperation, it is noteworthy that many developing country reports also underscore the importance of country-led efforts to identify persistent gaps and take appropriate action.

2.1 Capacity strengthening

Within VNR processes, conversations regarding capacity development typically emphasize enhancing the capabilities required for implementation –institutional and human– as well as those needed for monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, the primary objective of capacity-strengthening efforts is to enhance understanding of the SDGs as a development framework, and more broadly, on the concept of sustainable development, both within the administration and among the wider population. In 2023, 28 out of 39 countries (71%) provided some type of insight into capacity-strengthening processes, compared to 86% in 2022.

Timor-Leste reports that while its service infrastructure and institutional capacities are still evolving two decades after its independence, the country’s institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms “are well-positioned to complement capacity development efforts to promote respectful relationships and mobilize communities to eliminate violence against women and girls.” **Tanzania** describes its success in “convincing” development partners to include a capacity building component in all external financing agreements, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of local professionals “in all sectors and thus accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.” A notable feature of this initiative is the chance given to technical personnel to identify their own capacity gaps in the sustainable development realm as the basis for developing workplace-based training programmes, “which will enable them to provide informed advice to the policy makers.”

Poland highlights a capacity building project for public officials to strengthen integrated approaches to sustainable development in public policy and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. The report notes that the training module and accompanying online SDG Knowledge Platform are open to various institutions involved in the decision-making processes under the development policy, “which should enable better reflection of the SDGs in the national and sectoral development strategies, budgeting and monitoring processes.”

Iceland features the work of its GRÓ Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainability and Societal Change that coordinates training programmes in areas where Iceland has particular expertise: fisheries, geothermal energy, land restoration and gender equality. Slovakia reports on how collaborative work with the OECD has helped build national capacities on the SDG indicator framework, strategic planning and strategic foresight, among other areas.

The **EU** provides an overview of capacity strengthening support to Member States, such as the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, a multilateral funding programme involving EU Member States, Horizon Europe associated countries and Mediterranean partner countries, “on an equal footing of co-ownership, co-management, and co-funding.”

Many capacity strengthening efforts highlighted in the reports coalesce around data and digitalization challenges, which have knock-on impacts on countries’ ability to accurately assess progress and follow up planning and prioritization of new actions.

Bahrain highlights continuing efforts to ensure accurate, timely, relevant, accessible, and easy to use data are available to decision makers, through a “whole-of-government” approach that includes strengthening data literacy of data users, adopting data analytics tools, and investing in innovation. **Saudi Arabia** outlines efforts to encourage private-sector and nonprofit investments in curricula, technology, and innovation through its Human Capacity Development Programme.

Kuwait reports on its sustained investments and capacity development programmes to overcome the systemic, institutional and technical dimensions of the data limitations. As a result, the report notes, “data challenges reported in VNRI have translated into concrete achievements in VNR2.” **Guyana’s** VNR report describes positive results from a capacity building initiative to strengthen awareness and use of monitoring and evaluation and value for money concepts across government that has created “a culture of understanding” on the use of data and the need for measuring results. The report also highlights efforts to roll out digital literacy programmes in communities across the countries.

LESSONS LEARNED BOX: The slippery slope of capacity development - a cautionary tale from the DRC ✓

Despite specific efforts to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to support the promotion of the decent work agenda and social justice, the VNR found that the commitment of parliament, as the budgetary authority, to the implementation, monitoring and review of the SDGs “remains weak.” Describing this as “a real handicap for effective implementation of the SDGs,” the report laments that this reality is also echoed at the regional and local levels. While the Provincial Planning Ministries in charge of SDG monitoring and planning, to date, “no sub-national report on the implementation of the SDGs has been produced and many provinces do not have provincial development plans.”

2.2 Leveraging domestic and international financing

Along with capacity gaps, adequate financing is a key barrier to SDG implementation. Many reports provide a detailed overview of national budgetary processes, revealing the various ways in which countries are attempting to ringfence key SDG priorities under increased competition for scarce resources, as well as efforts to unlock new and innovative finance to accelerate 2030 Agenda implementation.

Timor-Leste reports on how it is leveraging remittances and other non-traditional financing sources, to diversify resource mobilization for sustainable development. Reflecting on its experience with government-issued bonds, **Brunei** notes potential to explore specific SDG-related bonds in future. The **Central African Republic** stresses that despite improvements in tax collection and domestic resource mobilization, achieving just the five focus SDGs of 2023 will require between US\$563 million and US\$2,112 million.

Brunei highlights the contribution of public-private partnerships and an increasingly vibrant financial technology sector, citing potential to adapt a longstanding government bond to generate new funding for the SDGs. Poland similarly discusses green bonds as an innovative tool, reporting that more than 10 such bonds have been issued since 2019, directly financing investments in such sectors as sustainable energy and climate action.

Guyana reports it has “strategically leveraged” its natural resources through carbon credits and other payments for ecosystem services schemes, with 15% of the funding generated earmarked for community/village-led programmes for indigenous peoples and local communities as set out in Village Sustainability Plans. **Poland** describes the development of an alternative classification system developed by the finance ministry, that includes an option to establish “a horizontal goal segment” for public expenditure that simultaneously contributes “to the achievement of many high level goals and outcomes.” of public interventions.

GOOD PRACTICE: Towards Integrated Financing Frameworks



A number of countries, including **Cambodia, DRC, Mongolia, Turkmenistan** and the **Maldives**, reiterate their commitment to establishing national integrated financing frameworks as advocated by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. **Cambodia** highlights its adoption of SDG tagging and a SDG Investor Map to track delivery for the 2030 Agenda. **Canada** reports on improvements to its budgetary and priority-setting processes to boost funding for the SDGs, through the launch of its “Quality of Life Framework” in 2021. **Croatia** outlines legislative reforms to its strategic planning and development management system since 2017 with the aim of increasing the quality of public policy formulation and improving the directing of investments.

Ireland reports on an ongoing study of international best practice for incorporating the SDGs into the budgetary process, which aims to facilitate the identification of the most suitable approach to be applied in an Irish context which best fits existing mechanisms and structures.

Portugal reports that following a VNR recommendation for more regular and coordinated monitoring of public budgets, the government approved a new law in May 2023 that institutes a regime that allows for in-depth monitoring of actions that contribute to compliance with the SDGs and promotes “the alignment of budget execution with the 2030 Agenda.”

Stressing that development of coherent budgets aligned with clear public policy objectives is a crucial step towards the transition to green budgeting and SDGs budgeting, **Romania** similarly highlights the adoption of key strategic documents

in 2022. The report notes the objective is to create “the legal prerequisites for integrating the SDGs perspective into policy planning methodologies across the entire public administration, into budget design and execution, and into efforts to strengthen the regulatory impact assessment system.”

St. Kitts and Nevis highlights efforts to maintain and expand the SDG alignment of planning and budgeting at the national level, and “cascade these practices to state and local governments.”

Uzbekistan discusses its open budget system where the population is directly involved in the distribution of funds from the budgets of local authorities, based on real requirements and needs, and independently solves their problems within their village or neighborhood.

2.3 Systemic entry points to accelerate SDG implementation

Ensuring coherent and systemic response is not only an important strategy in addressing the interlinked nature of the SDGs, but also ensuring the optimal use of limited financial and human resources. Many countries highlight innovations in this regard, with some reports highlighting synergies with efforts to tackle climate change as a systemic challenge.

Barbados describes efforts to tackle “multidimensional poverty” affecting an estimated 2.5% of the population, noting such efforts entail applying a multi-pronged approach to address the complex, systemic and structural challenges that perpetuate poverty. The report explains that this approach includes “bolstering economic growth, creating jobs, improving livelihoods, reducing vulnerabilities to climate change and ensuring that no one is left behind.”

Emphasizing its vulnerability to climate change as a small island developing state, the **Maldives** outlines its investments in adaptation and mitigation measures, including an “ambitious commitment to achieve net zero by 2030, given financial support from the international community.”

St. Kitts and Nevis observes that capacity building is also needed to recognize and address systemic issues such as a lack of access to basic social amenities, crime and violence and its psychosocial impacts, and improving the well-being of the most vulnerable.

Conceding that there are considerable gaps in its national SDG coordination architecture, **Lithuania** highlights “further initiatives” to involve the public in public affairs, including education, communication and institutional capacity building, as well as the creation of opportunities for greater involvement of NGOs in public governance, and the use of tools and IT solutions to increase the accessibility of institutional information.

Timor-Leste outlines recommendations from its multistakeholder VNR consultations on the need to address systemic shortcomings in various areas such as youth empowerment, women’s rights, disability inclusion, and diverse SOGIESC equality. The report further notes calls for systemic changes in underlying societal attitudes and legal frameworks to accommodate the diverse needs of marginalized communities and promote inclusivity.

2.4 The Global Context

Only a handful of countries elaborate on measures to strengthen international aid effectiveness and development cooperation, with most reports focusing on impacts of the interlinked climate, Covid-19, and Ukraine crises (separately addressed in Section 3).

Portugal observes that the Covid-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine have exposed the vulnerabilities of national systems and demonstrated how crises are interlinked with each other, with an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This affirms, the report further notes, that the LNOB principle is essential for a more sustainable, fair and inclusive social, economic and environmental recovery.

Lithuania calls for “a renewed drive for more effective cooperation at national and international levels, encouraging even more knowledge and evidence-based governance and innovation, as well as addressing systemic national challenges through coherent, integrated and continuous interventions.”

Viet Nam describes sustainable development as “an overarching trend in the world,” with digitalization, circular economy and green growth as “the development models chosen by many countries.” The report highlights global challenges posed by growing trends of regionalization and extreme nationalism to the implementation of the SDGs and calls for global efforts to facilitate the increasingly free and massive movement of development resources, including science and technology.

Canada explains that it has learned to further adapt and develop more agile and effective ways to engage with its development partners to respond to the global context. **Tajikistan** notes opportunities to harness “new solutions, mechanisms and technologies” to tackle emerging global challenges.

The **EUVR** report reiterates the value and strength of multilateralism in the wake of recent crises such as Covid-19, noting the European Commission’s system of better regulation seeks to address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the three dimensions of sustainable development by identifying and assessing the contribution made to the relevant SDGs in all impact assessments legislative proposals and evaluations. The report further notes that the EU’s multiannual budget structure provides stable long-term planning for achieving EU objectives, with over EUR 2 trillion allocated in the current budget (2021-2027) to help rebuild a post-pandemic European Union, while significantly accelerating delivery on the SDGs in the EU and across the world.

This difficult period of accumulated threats and challenges has become a test for the national and global policies with a view to the need of ensuring a continuous and sustainable economic recovery.

[Voluntary National Review, Poland]

GOOD PRACTICE: France presents inaugural “Environmental Impact of the Budget of the State” report ✓

France presents what it calls a “first-of-its-type-in-the-world” annual report for 2021, assessing how the country is implementing its green budget commitment made during the One Planet Summit in 2017. The budget allocates public expenses according to six green criteria: the fight against global warming; climate adaptation and management of risks; circular economy; management of waste; fight against pollution and protection of biodiversity. The report is intended to allow for better integration of environmental issues in piloting public policies and measure the compatibility of the budget with the commitments made by France in the framework of the Paris Agreement.



CREDIT: BOTH NOMADS, FORUS

3. External shocks as a trigger for transformation

In line with the 2023 HLPF theme of “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels,” most reports highlight the far-reaching impacts of recent and ongoing global crises in derailing SDG progress. For many countries, the impacts of the war in Ukraine on energy and food prices represented yet another painful blow to economies and societies already grappling with the impacts of accelerating climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and other crises. Many reports touch on how these external shocks have triggered policy to strengthen resilience – for example in the energy and food sectors – and mitigate the devastating impacts on the most vulnerable groups.

3.1 Post Covid-19 recovery strategies

The majority of VNR reports contain detailed sections on the Covid-19 pandemic. While the bulk of reports tend to focus on measures taken in the immediate aftermath of the crisis, a number of countries do specify actions taken during the reporting year to boost long term resilience. **Poland** observes that the events of the last three years have demonstrated the importance of rapid response and adaptation to the changing realities, coupled with a move towards more long-term perspectives and building resilience to future shocks. While reiterating the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable populations, France however argues that this worrying trend should “not mask the fact that before the Covid-19 pandemic, the global trajectory was already not compatible with achieving the SDGs by 2030.”

A country’s progress towards the 2030 Agenda can be divided into two phases: before the start of COVID-19 and in the post-COVID-19 period.

[Voluntary National Review, Lithuania]

Singapore highlights the launch of a successor Covid-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) in January 2021, to provide short-term financial support to lower- to middle-income SEPs, and employees who remain financially impacted by the pandemic. **Belgium** describes the evolution of various working groups set up in the wake of the pandemic to address emerging challenges, highlighting a seminar organized by the socioeconomic group in October 2022 to take stock of the energy crisis. **Canada** reports on whole-of-government efforts to ensure an inclusive and resilient recovery by channeling financial support and other initiatives to the most marginalized groups. disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. **Comoros** highlights the new iteration of its recovery plan for the period 2022-2026, noting it aims to respond to both the impact of short-term shocks and short, medium and long-term development challenges. **Ireland** notes the publication of its latest economic recovery progress report that highlighted “significant progress achieved, with important initiatives and policies towards sustainable economic recovery and renewal delivered.”

Chile’s report notes efforts made to explore and develop new ways of working and collaborating with different actors, recognize the issues essential for the well-being of people and their communities, and “reorganize agendas and priorities.” **Croatia** explains that a part

of its post Covid-19 strategy entailed recalibrating its development directions and strategic objectives to lay the foundation for a more sustainable, inclusive and innovative development trajectory aligned with the 2030 Agenda, European Green Deal, and the European Territorial Agenda 2030.

Several countries outline tangible lessons from pandemic recovery efforts thus far.

Ireland reports that its Covid-19 response has drawn from lessons learned from earlier health crises such as HIV and Ebola, including: the importance of health system strengthening to ensure equitable and inclusive responses and to minimize the risk that new challenges pose for fragile systems; the need for a coordinated international response, such as a UNDP-led project to develop 121 coordinated UN socio-economic response plans, across 139 countries; and the importance of community participation and locally led action, “as local actors are often best-placed to reach the most vulnerable.”

Chile’s report underscores the importance of “constant and persistent work,” being attentive to processes, and the tools and strategies to maintain them, “despite adverse situations.”

St. Kitts and Nevis notes the need to continue to prioritize social protection, including strengthening household resilience and skills relevant to the emergent labour market. **Timor-Leste** highlights three key enablers for an effective and inclusive response: an accessible banking system for the successful delivery of social protection programmes; cross-agency collaboration; and availability of comprehensive beneficiary data.

GOOD PRACTICE + CSO VIEW: Croatia - Steady progress in the face of adversity



Croatia’s report highlights how a combination of responsible management of macroeconomic and fiscal policy in the pre-crisis period, and the timely activation of measures aimed at the economy and citizens to manage the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent energy crisis, were instrumental in enabling fast recovery. Following an 8.6% fall in economic activity caused by the pandemic in 2020, Croatia recorded “the highest year-on-year growth of real GDP of 13.1%” in 2021.

According to the Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity CROSOL, the provided data is accurate. Energy costs for citizens, institutions, CSOs, and businesses (electricity and heating gas) have indeed been subsidized by the government. Nevertheless, Croatia has experienced an inflation rate above the EU member state average, and a substantial portion of the government’s expenditure relies on EU funds and programs, which raises concerns about its long-term sustainability. A significant portion of these funds originates from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, projected to constitute 11% of Croatian GDP (only Greece and Romania have a higher percentage from RRF), which seems unsustainable given the temporary nature of this facility.

3.2 Awareness raising efforts

In 2023, 34 out of 39 countries (87%) provide some level of insight into their awareness-raising initiatives, slightly up from 81% in 2022. The VNR reports acknowledge the critical role of awareness raising in strengthening broader engagement in SDG priority setting, implementation, and monitoring processes. However, the scope and language used is quite

abstract and top down. Many reports focus on initiatives to disseminate SDG information from the national to local levels through conventional means such as stakeholder workshops and public awareness campaigns. Other reports focus on awareness raising campaigns linked to specific SDG themes, such as climate, biodiversity protection, or the education system as an entry point for building a sustainability culture from an early age.

Several countries do acknowledge that more innovative approaches are needed to reach “hearts and minds” and inspire every individual to contribute towards a more sustainable and equitable world. In a remarkably honest account, **Lithuania** admits that there is no national coordination to promote the SDGs, “and no publicity plan to ensure targeted public information involving public authorities and other stakeholders.” According to a survey cited in the report, **only one in five people in Lithuania have heard of the SDGs or are very familiar with them**, compared to a global average of 74%. The report also highlights the socioeconomic disparities revealed by these findings, with the most SDG-aware groups being young adults (18-25 years), as well as the highly educated, and highest income population segments.

The close link between awareness raising and building the requisite capacities to act is noted in some reports. **Chile**, for example, notes that the dialogue process “involves a lot more than just making known, but allowing that people and organizations think and generate actions to contribute to the advancement of the 2030.” The report highlights how Chile’s campaigns were accompanied by support materials as well as intersectoral training and education covering the entire 2030 Agenda.

Examples of SDG awareness raising campaigns

Brunei: Based on a national SDG Communication Plan, Brunei launched a national awareness campaign on Instagram (@sdg_brunei) as part of the country’s digital outreach in encouraging active participation from all levels.

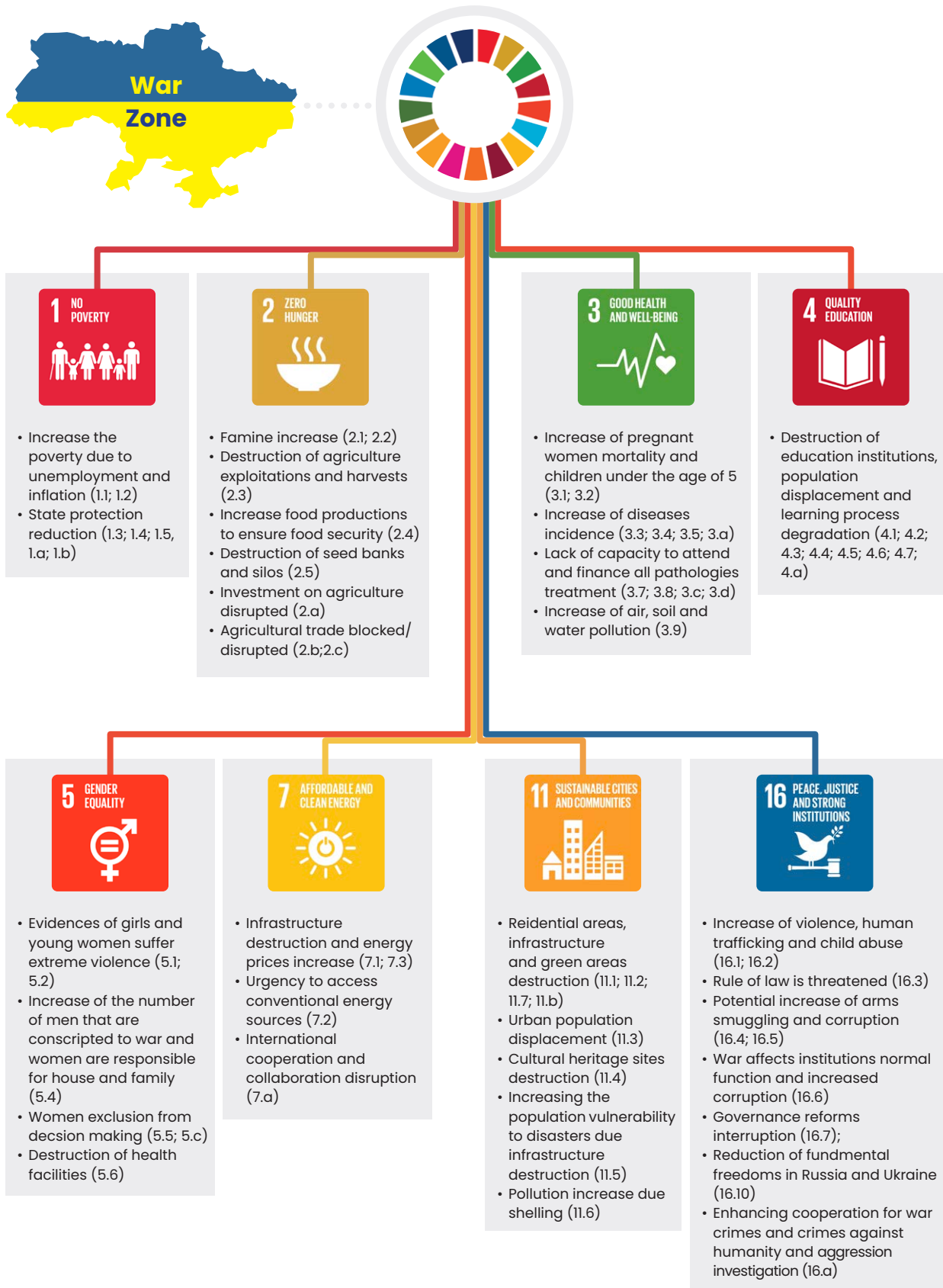
Croatia seeks to link citizen-led SDG monitoring and behavioural change by providing public access to timely, easily accessible and user-friendly information. The report highlights an online campaign, ‘Air Quality in the Republic of Croatia’ which uses the Air Quality Index to present the current state of air quality using real-time data.

Saudi Arabia has launched an annual environment week to raise individual awareness and responsibility and to achieve an environmentally conscious society specifically targeting topics related to desertification, waste management, pollution, and environmental protection.

Iceland developed a new iteration of a 2019 social media campaign that brought together children from Iceland and Uganda on a global “quest” of how the SDGs came to be. In 2021, the national broadcaster RÚV ran a series of short television shows – one for each SDG – to educate children and young people about the SDGs and to encourage critical discussions about sustainable development at the national and international level. The shows were produced by KrakkaRÚV, the children’s channel on RÚV, in close collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. When the shows aired, the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Minister for Education sent a letter to all primary schools encouraging teachers to familiarize themselves with the material and implement it in their teaching.

3.3 Impact of the war in Ukraine

Assessing the interlinked effects of the war on the SDGs (Source: Slovakia's VNR Report, page 59)



Half of the reporting countries provide details on the lingering impacts of the war in Ukraine, and particularly its geopolitical dimensions and disruption of global commodity supply chains. Many reports emphasize that the outbreak of the conflict happened as countries were still coping with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to profound economic and social impacts that further pushed back SDG gains.

Comoros, echoed by many African countries, notes that the war in Ukraine “has multiplied and amplified the negative socio-economic impacts of the pandemic with notably a sharp increase in the prices of basic necessities and imported inputs. **Tanzania** highlights how rising prices for food and energy have impacted household poverty, with disproportionate effects on women smallholder farmers as a distinct group. **Lithuania** notes that the humanitarian, energy and other crises emanating from the war have been exacerbated by “the absence of effective coordination mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda,” further rendering inter-institutional cooperation “even more difficult”

The bulk of reports highlight measures taken at the national level to mitigate against these shocks, with some also noting examples of regional and international collaboration. **Tanzania’s** report outlines how partnerships between the government and private sector have focused on increasing availability of locally produced fertilizers, wheat and edible oils in order to reduce dependence on foreign imports.

Similar to many western European VNR reports, **Belgium** highlights enhanced efforts to reduce fossil fuel dependence, “ensuring security of supply, energy efficiency, affordable energy that is sustainable and for which supply and security is guaranteed.” The **EU** elaborates on a range of response actions across the region, emphasizing that the EU “has stayed the course on its path to decarbonization.” The report cites “great strides” made in 2022 to diversify energy supplies, increase energy efficiency, and accelerate the roll-out of renewable energy, with nearly EUR 300 billion made available for related investments such as the European Commission’s Farm to Fork strategy.