



## Cabinet Secretariat of Government of Mongolia

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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS LOCALIZATION PROGRESS IN MONGOLIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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# LOCALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MONGOLIA



Progress and changes in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals



Bottlenecks and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



**-Policy and legal environment**



**-Institutional policies, structures, governance**



**-Budget, financing**



**-Implementation, results monitoring, evaluation, reporting**



**-Participation:**  
 -Multi-stakeholder participation  
 -"Leave No One Behind" principle

-Localization at national level

-Localization at regional and local levels

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## MONGOLIA'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

### Progress and Achievements:

- Law on Development Policy and Planning
- Mongolia's development policy documents
- Alignment and coordination of long-medium-short-term policy goals, objectives and measures
- Alignment of development target indicators with SDG benchmark / target indicators

### Challenges and Opportunities:

- Defining the policy priorities aligned with sustainable development;
- Endorse the project on SDG “National level targets and monitoring indicators”;
- Revise long-term development policy on “Development Vision-2030” with the national targets and monitoring indicators;
- Accelerate actions to mainstream the SDGs and their monitoring indicators in medium-term development policy documents

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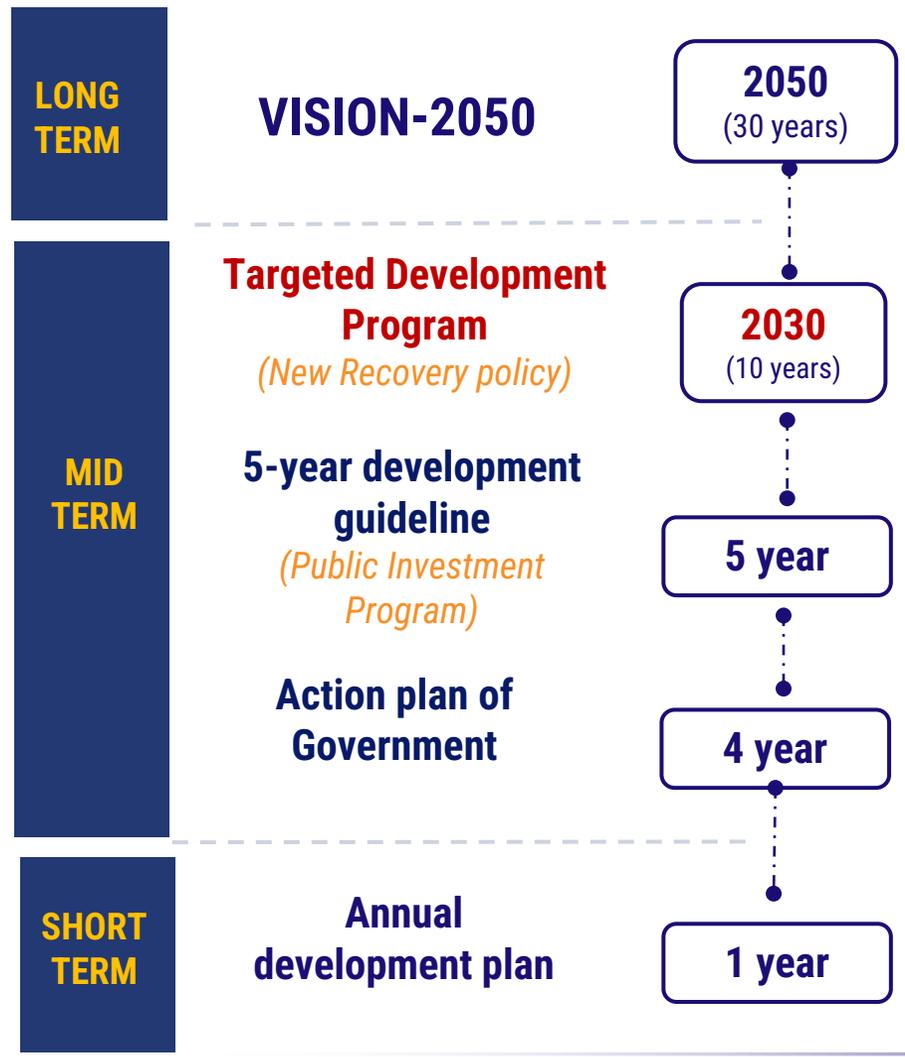
# DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS

TIMING	NATIONAL LEVEL	LOCAL LEVEL
LONG-TERM	Long-term development document “Development Vision-2050” (30 years)	
MEDIUM-TERM	Development targeted programs (10 years)	
	Mongolia’s Development Guidelines for 5 years (5 years) Annex: Public Investment Program (5 years)	Main development guidelines for aimag, capital city, and town (5 years) Annex: Investment needed for implementation the Main Guidelines (5 years)
SHORT-TERM	Government Development Program (4 years)	Governor’s Development Program (4 years)
	Action Plan to Implement the Government Development Program (4 years)	Action Plan to Implement the Governor’s Development Program (4 years)
	State Development Annual Plan (1 year)	Annual Plan for aimag, capital city, and town (1 year)
	Annual state and local budget (1 year) – regulated by the Law on Budget	

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timeline



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



**16** GOALS      **155** TARGETS      **224** INDICATORS



## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

### - Progress and Achievements:

- Mongolian Law on Administrative and Territorial Units of Mongolia and their Governance
- Mongolian Law on Development Policy and Planning
- Local development policy documents

### - Challenges and Opportunities:

- Development Vision - 2050, Main Guidelines for Five Years Development, New Revival Policy, Policy programs and actions targeted for local development in the National Government Development Program
- Gaps in reflecting actions to coordinate intra-regional and key regional development issues in the above the documents
- Need to undertake actions aimed at resolving issues related to regional economy, social development and environment, and factors affecting concentration of people in UB city

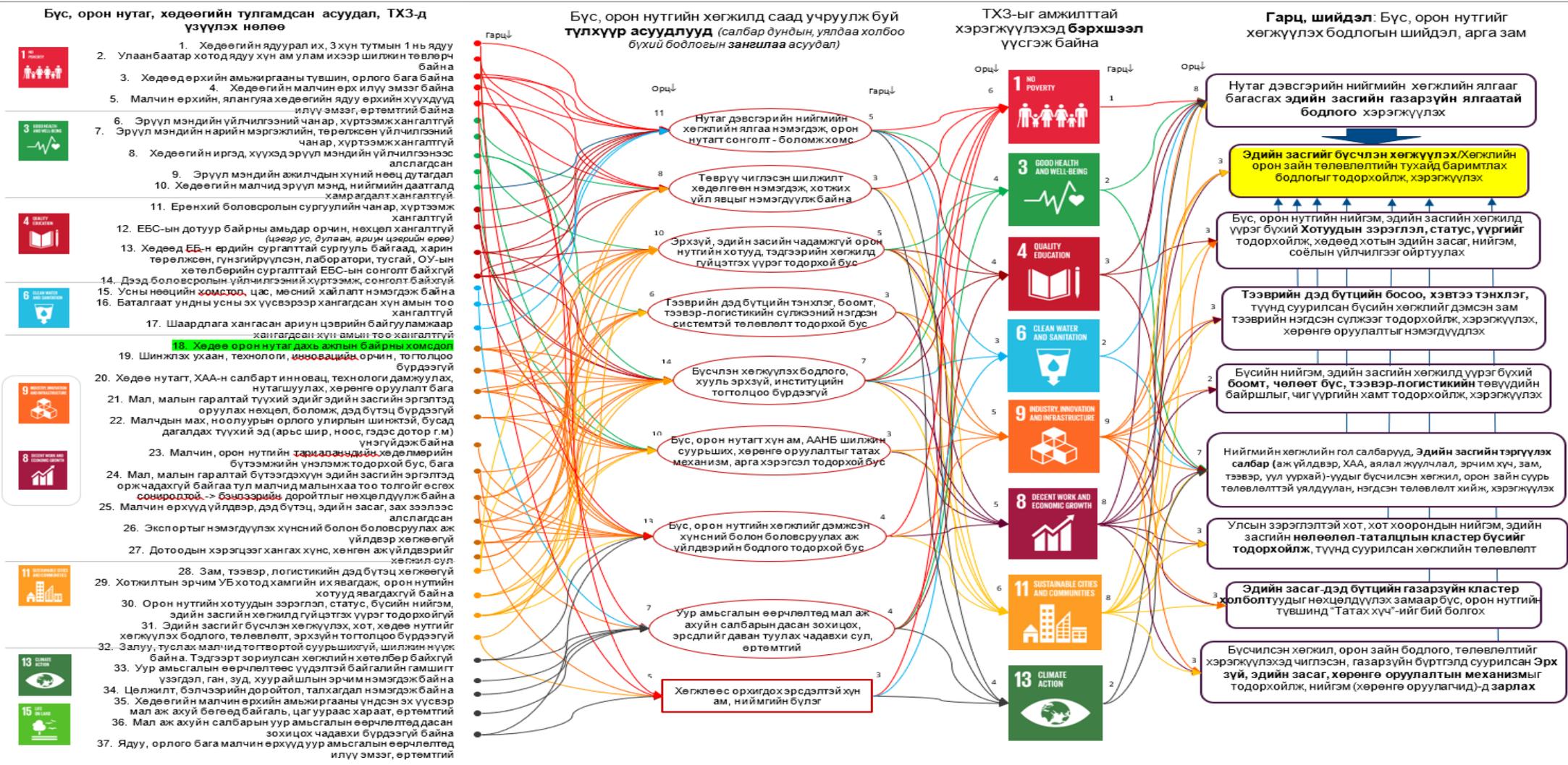
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## INTRA-SECTORAL AND COORDINATION ISSUES LIMITING THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

1. Increased regional and social disparities and lack of choices and opportunities in local and rural areas.
2. Intensified migration from local areas to UB city and increased urbanization process at national level.
3. Insufficient legal and economic capabilities of local towns, and unclarity of their contributions to local development.
4. Unclear policy and planning environment for the integrated development of vertical and horizontal infrastructure, associated border crossings, free trade zones, transport-logistical networks.
5. Insufficient legal and policy environment and structures for materializing regional development policy.
6. Lack of mechanisms and tools to attract relocation of people, entities and investment to regions and local areas. For instance, unclear mechanisms for returning migrated people.
7. Insufficient policy for food and manufacturing industry at regional and local levels.
8. Weak resilience and adaptation of livestock sector to climate change and overcoming vulnerability to risks and shocks.
9. Existence of population and social groups vulnerable to be left out from regional and local development.

# REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND CENTRALIZATION: ISSUES, CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, THEIR FACTORS AND CORRELATIONS

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Source: SDG Implementation Voluntary National Report (VNR) 2023



# CHANGES IN STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS

## Progress and Achievements:

- Development policy and planning system:
  - Law on Development Policy and Planning
  - Central governmental organization in-charge of development policy and planning – Ministry of Economy and Development
- SDG localization structure and systems at national level:
  - Parliamentary “Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development” – Standing Committee on Economic Development
  - Parliamentary “Multi-Stakeholder Council on Sustainable Development” – functions are not stabilized
  - National Committee on Sustainable Development – functions are transferred to the Ministry of Economy and Development
- Aimag and local level: development Department at Aimag and Soum Governor’s Office

## Challenges and Opportunities:

- Strengthen structure and systems, ensure regular functioning of the designated institutions and build their capacities;
- To achieve SDGs, ensure collaboration of public institutions at all levels.

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# BUDGET AND FINANCING

## Progress and Achievements:

- Coordination between the Main Guidelines for Mongolia's Development in 2021-2025 (Public Investment Program) and budget
- Coordination between the annual development policy plan and budget
- Coordination between the 5-years main guidelines for aimag, capital city and town development, Governor's development program, aimag, capital city and town development annual plan and local budget
- Creating favorable environment for promoting the sustainable financing, green financing:
  - Financial Stability Council of Mongolia, 2018: adopted Mongolia's Green Taxonomy
  - Financial Stability Council of Mongolia, 2022: adopted the Sustainable financing roadmap
  - Support and leadership from leading banks and financial institutions: green financing and green loans

## Challenges and Opportunities:

- Coordination between development targeted programs, plans and financing (public and private partnerships),
- Defining policy priorities for sustainable development,
- Targeting the financing and planning towards sustainable development,
- Private sector financing registration and reporting



## PARTICIPATION: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

### Progress and Achievements:

- Enhance public awareness and knowledge about SDGs, and accelerate implementation measures:
  - High Level Forum on “Sustainable Development Goals”
  - Open Day on “Sustainable Development Goals”
- Private sector participation and partnership:
  - Participation and partnership with with the business entities - creators of more sustainable and responsible behaviours (commercial banks, TOP companies, etc)
- Civil society participation and partnership:
  - Active participation of civil society representatives in preparing the SDG Implementation Voluntary National Report (VNR), which assesses and analyzes SDG progress,
  - Amendment of law on association and fund’s legal status.
- Participation of volunteers

### Challenges and Opportunities:

- Establish a formal and regular mechanism to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in development process;
- Expand participation of citizens and public in SDG achievement
- Define policy on involving and supporting the civil society (public and civil society partnership)





LEAVE  
NO ONE  
BEHIND

## PARTICIPATION: 'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND' PRINCIPLE

- Groups at risk of being left from development:
  - Children, youth, persons with disabilities, elderly, herders, internal migrants
  - Low educated, young male population from low-income households (minimum 40 percent) in rural areas
- **Inequal access of population and households to basic social services** such as education, sanitation facilities, drinking water, clean fuel consumption
- Being far or left from development process is associated with **inequality in geographical location and livelihood level of households or population;**
- Need to ensure **access to basic services** for households and population in accordance with the **principle of "leave no one behind";**
- Need to promote the principle of **"leave no one behind"** in provision of basic services by all entities and **local government organizations;**
- Create and strengthen **mechanisms to conduct monitoring on accessibility of social services** and include the human right protecting and civil society organization in maintaining the oversight and **ensure multi-stakeholder participation.**



# IMPLEMENTATION, RESULTS MONITORING & EVALUATION, REPORTING

## Progress and Achievements:

Monitoring & Evaluation system for Sustainable Development Goals implementation:

- MED, Cabinet Secretariat: report of implementation of the national level development policy documents
- State Audit Agency: performance audit report of the development policy documents
- NSO: monitoring system for the SDG implementation (SDGs Dashboard)
- MED: Competitiveness Assessment Unit established at MED.

## Challenges and Opportunities:

- Insufficient delivery of information and reports with M&E results over the development policy implementation to the citizens and public and lack of transparency;
- Strengthen tools for monitoring the SDG implementation progress;
- Develop a project on SDG “National level targets and monitoring indicators“;
- NSO: prepare SDG implementation indicators readiness report on annual basis to improve efficiency of the SDG progress oversight
- Involve public, private, civil society organizations and research institutions in SDG indicators estimation methodology and expand their partnerships in monitoring
- Define Mongolia’s global competitiveness index and issues for further consideration

# CONCLUSIONS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES (NATIONAL LEVEL)

- Strengthen structure and systems to implement development policies of Mongolia, ensure regular functioning of the designated institutions and build their capacities;
- Endorse the project on SDG “National level targets and monitoring indicators”, revise long-term development policy on “Development Vision-2030” in line with the national targets and monitoring indicators, and mainstream the SDGs and their monitoring indicators in medium-term development policy documents;
- Establish a formal and regular mechanism to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in SDG implementation;
- Being far or left from development process is associated with inequality in geographical location and livelihood level, educational status, or migration or disability, therefore there is a need to shift policy documents focus on these impediments;
- Need to ensure access to basic services for households and population in accordance with the principle of “leave no one behind”;
- Need to promote the principle of “leave no one behind” in provision of basic services by all entities and local government organizations;
- Create and strengthen mechanisms to conduct monitoring on accessibility of social services and include the human rights protecting and civil society organizations in maintaining the oversight and ensure multi-stakeholder participation.



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (AT REGIONAL & LOCAL LEVELS)

- Define the systems for regional development legal regulations, governance, implementation structures and financing;
- Define the processes and systems aligned with “town legal status” based on socio-economic needs, and improve accessibility to economic, social and cultural services in accordance with the designated urban or rural settlements;
- Intensify industrial production, and export/ import turnover and strengthen planning for integrated development of vertical and horizontal infrastructure, associated border crossings, free trade zones, transport-logistical networks.
- Apply spatial distribution planning content principles and spatial management tools in defining the priority economic sectors and policy directions in social service sectors such as higher education, innovations, sciences, health, culture;
- Define the inbound and outbound socio-economic integration cluster regions among the national level cities and large urban settlements, and create plans for unified networking system for trade and service, industrial integration and specialization;
- Create spatial cluster connections for economic and infrastructure development at regional and local levels;
- Identify the legal, economic and investment tools to define the development spatial distribution planning and geographical locations which will promote attraction of people and resources to the regions and announce open tender to implement these actions among the entities and organizations.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**



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