The National SDG Scorecard is a data collection tool designed to support grassroots-led research on national-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The National SDG Scorecard gathers data on:

- Grassroots advocates' knowledge of and access to information about the SDGs broadly and Goal 5 on gender equality (SDG5) specifically;
- Grassroots participation in national-level SDG-related decision-making;
- National-level, grassroots-led advocacy on SDGs and SDG5 from 2017; and
- Grassroots organizations' safety when promoting gender equality.

This report presents the perceptions of 114 grassroots groups in 19 countries across five regions of the world. They advocate for gender equality primarily at the local and national levels.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

- Grassroots groups are knowledgeable about the SDGs and are already advocating for their national-level implementation, both individually and in civil society coalitions, and feel safe doing so.

- Grassroots women's rights organizations are not being included in SDG-related decision-making, nor are the perspectives of grassroots women and girls. As a result, the needs of women and girls are not being reflected in SDG processes and implementation.

- Grassroots groups are lacking funding for their advocacy activities related to the SDGs and SDG5 specifically.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to leave no one behind, governments must actively seek to include grassroots women’s rights organizations in SDG-related decision-making processes. This will ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls are included in SDG implementation processes.

Donors and the private sector should invest resources and time in grassroots gender equality advocacy to hold governments accountable to their SDG agreements. In doing so, advocates will gain credibility and be treated as equal partners in SDG implementation.
**KNOWLEDGE OF THE SDGS**

Respondents are knowledgeable about the SDGs; feel confident explaining them to others; can easily access information about the SDGs and have seen or read information about their country's implementation in national media.

- 99% have heard of the SDGs and SDG5.
- 93% can explain the SDGs to someone.
- 74% can easily access information about the SDGs.
- 69% have read or seen information about the implementation of the SDGs in their national media.
- 60% know where to find information online about the implementation of the SDGs in their country.

**ADVOCACY ON THE SDGS**

Broadly, respondents understand how to and are actively advocating for the implementation of the SDGs in their countries. Most are leveraging SDG5 to advocate for gender equality in their countries and plan to lead advocacy campaigns on SDG5 in 2018.

- 71% are already advocating for the implementation of the SDGs in their countries.
- 71% participated in an advocacy campaign in 2017 to implement SDG5 in their countries.
- 94% believe SDG5 is a useful tool to hold governments accountable to addressing gender equality.
- 87% are planning to lead an advocacy campaign to hold governments accountable to their SDG5 commitment.

**GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

The majority of respondents know which government agencies are responsible for leading SDG implementation and are familiar with at least one government-led initiative to implement the SDGs and SDG5 in particular.

- 70% understand which government agencies are in charge of implementing the SDGs in their country.
- 77% understand which government agencies are in charge of implementing SDG5 in their country.
- 78% are aware of at least one government-led initiative to implement the SDGs.
- 67% are aware of at least one government-led initiative implementing SDG5.
PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

While respondents can easily contact their government agencies implementing the SDGs, and many did contact them during 2017, most respondents are still not being included in SDG-related decision-making. Respondents are reaching out their governments but governments are not taking the initiative to invite or include grassroots groups in SDG-related events and meetings. Most respondents have not been consulted on the inclusion of the SDGs in their country's National Development plans.

- 68% can easily contact the government agencies in charge of SDG implementation.
- 46% contacted the government agencies in charge of SDG implementation in 2017.
- 45% contacted the government agencies in charge of SDG5 implementation in 2017.
- 45% met with government agencies - due to their organization's outreach - on SDG implementation in 2017.
- 51% met with government agencies - due to their organization's outreach - on SDG5 implementation in 2017.
- 45% were invited to a government-hosted event or meeting related to SDG implementation in their country.
- 30% were invited to a government-hosted event or meeting related to SDG5 implementation in their country.
- 33% have been consulted on the inclusion of the SDGs in National Development Plans.

WOMEN AND GIRLS' NEEDS

Respondents generally do not feel that the government is including grassroots women and girls in SDG-related decision-making, nor are their needs and priorities being reflected in SDG-related processes and decisions.

- 44% believe their government is actively including grassroots women and girls in SDG implementation decision-making.
- 46% feel that women's rights organizations are included in SDG decision-making.
- 39% believe their government is actively including grassroots women and girls in SDG5 implementation decision-making.
- 44% feel that grassroots women and girls' needs and priorities are reflected in governments' SDG and SDG5 decision-making processes.
- 39% believe grassroots women and girls have met with government officials regarding SDG5 implementation.
CIVIL SOCIETY COLLABORATION

Most respondents are aware of other women's rights organizations and coalitions working on the SDGs in their country and most are a part of a national coalition advocating for the implementation of the SDGs and SDG5 in particular.

- 86% are aware of other women's rights organizations advocating for the SDGs and SDG5 in their country.
- 76% are aware of a national coalition of civil society organizations advocating for the implementation of the SDGs and SDG5.
- 65% are a part of a national coalition of civil society organizations advocating for the implementation of the SDGs.
- 68% are a part of a national coalition of civil society organizations advocating for the implementation of SDG5.

SAFETY

Generally respondents feel safe advocating for gender equality and have not faced violence as a result, though most have increased their organization's security measures in 2017.

- 76% feel safe publicly talking about gender equality and with government officials in their country.
- 82% feel safe using the internet to talk about gender equality.
- 61% have increased their organization's security measures in 2017.
- 20% have faced physical violence related to their advocacy for gender equality in 2017.
- 25% have faced online harassment related to their advocacy for gender equality in 2017.

FINANCING FOR ADVOCACY

Overwhelmingly, respondents do not have funding for their SDG-related advocacy activities. Moreover, they do not know which donors fund SDG and SDG5-related advocacy and have not secured funds for 2018 advocacy.

- 33% know where to identify donors who fund SDG and SDG5 advocacy.
- 13% received funding for SDG-related advocacies activities in 2017.
- 18% received funding for SDG5-related advocacies activities in 2017.
- 13% have secured funding for SDG and SDG5-related advocacy for 2018.