

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM:
AN EVALUATIVE STUDY**

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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM:
AN EVALUATIVE STUDY**

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Submitted
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in Political Science of Mizoram University, Aizawl.



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY**”, submitted by **LALRUATSANGI** for the award of the degree of **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** is a research work done under my supervision and guidance. The thesis submitted by her has not formed the basis for the award of the scholar for any degree or any other similar title and it has not yet been submitted as a dissertation or thesis in any university. I also certify that the thesis represents objective study and independent work of the scholar.

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DECLARATION
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I **LALRUATSANGI**, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/Institute.

This is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the **Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science**.

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Place: Aizawl

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

AAY	–	Antyodaya Anna Yojana
AMC	–	Aizawl Municipal Corporation
AMRUT	–	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
AMS	–	Automated Monitoring System
APL	–	Above Poverty Line
ART	–	Antiretroviral Therapy
ATI	–	Administrative Training Institute
BADP	–	Border Area Development Programme
BPL	–	Below Poverty Line
BRBAE	–	Birth Registration Based Aadhaar Enrollment
CNRE	–	Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems
CPI-IW	–	Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers
CSS	–	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
DAY-NULM	–	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission
DDK	–	Doordarshan Kendra
DDUGJY	–	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana
DIF	–	District Indicator Framework
DoNER	–	Development in the North East Region
DPC	–	District Planning Committee
ESDI	–	Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in North Eastern States
GDP	–	Gross Domestic Product
GIM	–	Green India Mission
GIS	–	Geographic Information System
GrAMs	–	Gramin Agricultural Markets
GSDP	–	Gross State Domestic Product
HLPF	–	High Level Political Forum
HYV	–	High Yielding Variety
ICDS	–	Integrated Child Development Services

ICPS	–	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ICT	–	Information and Communications Technology
IDWH	–	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)
IFI	–	International Financial Institution
IHR	–	International Health Regulations
IPR	–	Intellectual Property Rights
JJM	–	Jal Jeevan Mission
KVIC	–	Khadi and Village Industries Commission
LFPR	–	Labor Force Participation Rate
LIF	–	Local Indicator Framework
LSDG	–	Localization of SDGs
MB&OCW	–	Mizoram Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board
MCVT	–	Mizoram Council for Vocational Training
MDG	–	Millennium Development Goals
MDM	–	Mid Day Meal
MNREGA	–	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MoSPI	–	Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
MSME	–	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MZP	–	Mizo Zirlai Pawl
MzSRLM	–	Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission
NAPCC	–	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NBA	–	Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan
NEP	–	National Education Policy
NERLP	–	North East Rural Livelihood Project
NFHS	–	National Family Health Survey
NFSA	–	National Food Security Act
NHDP	–	National Highway Development Project
NITI Aayog	–	National Institution for Transforming India
NLC	–	Nature Learning Centre
NLUP	–	National Livelihood Upliftment Programme
NMGI	–	National Mission for Green India

NMSA	–	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NRLM	–	National Rural Livelihood Mission
NSAP	–	National Social Assistance Programme
NULM	–	National Urban Livelihood Mission
ODA	–	Official Development Assistance
ODF	–	Open Defecation Free
OECD	–	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSC	–	One Stop Centre
PDI	–	Panchayat Development Index
PMAY	–	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
PMEGP	–	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
PMFBY	–	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
PMGSY	–	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
PMJDY	–	Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
PMKVY	–	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
PM-POSHAN	–	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman
PURA	–	Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas
RAFTAAR	–	Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation
R-APDRP	–	Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme
RBD	–	Registrar of Births and Deaths
RDSS	–	Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme
RGGVY	–	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana
RGSA	–	Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
RKVY	–	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
RMSA	–	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
RSBY	–	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
RTI	–	Right To Information
RUSA	–	Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
SAG	–	Scheme for Adolescent Girls

SANKALP	–	Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
SBM	–	Swachh Bharat Mission
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goals
SDIS	–	Skill Development Initiative Scheme
SECM	–	State Energy Conservation Mission
SEDP	–	Socio-Economic Development Programme
SHARE	–	School Heads Assessment, Reform and Evaluation
SHC	–	Soil Health Card
SHG	–	Self Help Group
SIF	–	State Indicator Framework
SIPMIU	–	State Investment Project Management and Implementation Unit
SIRD&PR	–	State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
SPARK	–	Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking
SSA	–	Serva Shiksha Abhiyan
ST	–	Scheduled Tribe
STRIVE	–	Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement
TOF	–	Tree Outside Forest
TSC	–	Total Sanitation Campaign
UEE	–	Universal Elementary Education
UIF	–	Urban Indicator Framework
UN	–	United Nations
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Programme
UT	–	Union Territories
VIF	–	Village Indicator Framework
VNR	–	Voluntary National Review
VTIP	–	Vocational Training Improvement Project
WTO	–	World Trade Organization
ZEDA	–	Zoram Electrification Development Agency

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1.INTRODUCTION

This study examines the status and role of government in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ in Mizoram. Sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). Sustainable development arises from the notion and understanding that development can be destructive. If development is taking place without proper utilization of resources and consideration of its future effects, it can be very harmful and dangerous for the environment and the people as well as animals living in it and hinders the economic growth in the long run. However, there can be proper management and improvement of technology and social organization to facilitate the emergence of a new epoch of economic expansion (Brundtland Report, 1978).²

According to Richard Munton & Kevin Collins (1998), sustainable development has influenced the international agenda since the 1990s, receiving support from governments at various levels, particularly following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio³. This concept further evolved into a set of goals, an extension of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be achieved by Member States of the United Nations by 2030 and presented in a blueprint called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus, in September 2015, ‘*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*’ encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was approved by the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in New York.

¹ The abbreviation will be used henceforth.

² Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future.

³ Richard Munton & Kevin Collins (1998). *Government Strategies for Sustainable Development*. Geography. 83(4), pp. 346-357.

The 17 SDGs with 169 targets and 247 indicators focus on three elements such as economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection (United Nations, 2015). Countries globally are striving to attain these objectives, emphasising the integration of efforts towards an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future (United Nations). The SDG framework does not differentiate between "developed" and "developing" nations, in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are applicable to all countries. The understanding of inter-linkages among the goals and between the targets is increasingly essential for integrated governance and policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2016).

The SDGs have been adopted by the UN Member States and they have been implemented at various levels such as national level, sub-national level or state level, district level and village level.

1.2.CONCEPT

1.2.1. Meaning and Definition of Development

The term "development" in English signifies concepts such as "unfolding," "growth," "the comprehensive elaboration of details," and the realisation of inherent potential. These concepts are pertinent to the notion of development that has significantly influenced public policy for over fifty years, both in the industrialised nations and in the former colonies referred to as the "less developed countries" (LDCs) or the "Third World." This term encompasses notions of "change" as well as "progress"—a notion rooted in European philosophy dating back to the Enlightenment, when it provided a rational foundation for ethical evaluation. The concept of "development" of societies denotes a transformative process towards a comparatively "advanced" condition. Consequently, development theories pertain to comprehending the mechanisms behind this process.

According to Mohamed Rabie (2016), *“development is basically an economic concept that has positive connotations; it includes the application of certain economic and technical measures to utilize available resources to instigate economic growth and improve people’s quality of living”*. During the 1950s and 1960s, the concept of development was predominantly understood as economic gain,

signifying a quantitative alteration in economic performance. Development theories aim to expedite the advancement of developing nations towards industrialisation. In the 1970s, a novel concept emerged, positing that the rates of economic growth could not be maintained due to the depletion of arable land, water, and other natural resources. The Brundtland Report in 1987 made "sustainable development" a key concept in development studies and the work of organizations like the World Bank.

Development is a complex concept that involves every aspect of society, including markets, governments, civil societies, cooperatives, and not-for-profit institutions. Rabie defined development as *a comprehensive societal process to move the underdeveloped nations from their state of economic backwardness and slow socio-cultural change to a dynamic state characterized by sustained economic growth and socio-cultural and political transformation that improves the quality of life of all members of society* (Mohamed Rabie, 2016). This process transitions individuals and their institutions from an agricultural to an industrial framework, aiming to equitably distribute the sacrifices and advantages of development among all societal members.

1.2.2. Evolution of Sustainable development

The term "sustainability" is characterised by its non-scientific nature, functioning primarily as a societal and political agenda, indicating that the focus is not on formulating a theory of sustainability comparable to a theory of physics.⁴ The relationship between theory and practice is fundamentally intrinsic to the concept of sustainability and must be conceptually clarified. Sustainable development has attracted significant attention across various domains, including scientific discourse, daily practices, international negotiations, local policy measures, marketing, and business. The term "sustainability" also has proliferated in both scientific and societal discourse, yet the theoretical frameworks surrounding sustainable development have garnered significantly less focus. Numerous contemporary global trends lack sustainability. Biodiversity and fertile soils are declining globally; human activities are increasingly contributing to climate change; inequalities both within

⁴Ibid.

and between generations are escalating; and poverty persists as a significant challenge. The interconnected challenges necessitate a collaborative approach to foster sustainable lifestyles and enduring development patterns. Sustainable development seeks to attain prosperity for all while respecting the planet's carrying capacity.

Judith C. Enders and Moritz Remig (2015) pointed out that addressing unsustainability necessitates interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research collaboration, as mono-disciplinary approaches often neglect the interconnected dimensions of sustainability and global environmental change.⁵ Judith C. Enders and Moritz Remig further mentioned that resolving the difficulties in the interrelated environmental, economic, and social domains demands more than technical engineering; it involves the amalgamation of social innovations, institutional frameworks, new governance mechanisms, and political factors. Interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches require the establishment of connections between various scientific disciplines that address sustainability as a research topic.⁶ It necessitates collaboration between scientists and various societal stakeholders. The issues identified stem from insufficient governance and collective action, necessitating an integration of natural sciences and social sciences. Theorizing sustainable development propels implications for the execution of sustainability initiatives.⁷ Understanding the theoretical and practical development of the concept of sustainability is essential for successful implementation.

The origin of the word "sustainable development" may be traced to Carl von Carlowitz, about 300 years ago (Judith C. Enders and Moritz Remig, 2015).⁸ The concept of sustainable development has appeared in various cultures globally; however, its formal conceptualisation originated with Carlowitz in seventeenth-century Europe. Understanding sustainable development in its complexity requires a re-examination of its historical roots within various thought traditions. Grober's examination of the evolution of "sustainable development" from Carlowitz to the Brundtland Commission provides insights into current sustainability practices.

⁵Judith C. Enders and Moritz Remig (2015). *Theories of Sustainable Development*. Routledge. Pg. 1-5.

⁶Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

Felix Ekardt presents a social sciences viewpoint on sustainable development, addressing societal transformation, justice, and governance in his work on 'Trans-disciplinary humanistic sustainability theory.'⁹ The essential area here is not the scientific sciences, but pertaining to humanism dimension. In the perception of Ekardt, sustainable development is the creation of a resilient, globally sustainable, and forward-looking lifestyle and economic structure, as well as a multifaceted set of challenges encompassing various social-scientific and humanistic fields, including law, economics, political science, theology, sociology, philosophy and psychology. Ekardt identifies many barriers that hinder societal transformations towards sustainability. Ekardt also offers an ethical framework shaped by a reexamination of national constitutions, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights, viewed through the prism of sustainability (Felix Ekardt, 2020). Ekardt promotes a governing system integrating many technologies across several sizes (Felix Ekardt, 2020).¹⁰

Lars Josephsen in his study 'Approaches to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - some views on the theoretical underpinnings of the 2030 Agenda' stated that the 2030 Agenda marks a great leap forward.¹¹ It is a positive endeavour to approach the goals and ambitions as a whole. The integration of objectives with targets, offers fuel to tangible activities for encouraging implementation of the vision of sustainable development. A widely accepted Framework of Indicators is accessible for all players to facilitate assessment and monitoring of progress. The Agenda emphasises that national governments cannot achieve implementation independently; thus, all national stakeholders are encouraged to participate (Lars Josephsen, 2017). Nevertheless some criticism is worth examining.

The 2030 Agenda has both a political dimension and an analytical/instrumental aspect.¹² The 2030 Agenda, encompassing the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, serves as an exemplary foundation for

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Lars Josephsen, (September 12, 2017). *Approaches to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – some considerations on the theoretical underpinnings of the 2030 Agenda*. Economics.

¹² Ibid.

enhancing public awareness and fostering discourse among stakeholders about implementation methods and sustainability policies. The 2030 Agenda exhibits certain deficiencies on the instrumental front, attributable to its foundational economic model, the neoclassical economic theory (NET).¹³ This model presupposes that markets are self-regulating, that future trajectories are path-independent, and that economic decisions are rational, while neglecting the integration of the economy within society. Furthermore, it posits that sustainable development is propelled by economic growth, simultaneously overlooking the capacity limitations of life-supporting ecosystems. Furthermore, NET may reject the notion that the evolution of a dynamic system is inherently unpredictable, and the NET-based methodologies for quantitative evaluation may presuppose that sustainability is foreseeable, overlooking potential emergent issues.¹⁴ These may be considered the deficiencies resulting from the adopted economic model.

A broad array of sustainable development models is examined for implementation strategies, emphasising various ways for addressing the SDGs and its interconnected objectives as a cohesive whole, as well as for assessing and evaluating progress. These sustainable development models encompass potential system-oriented methods that recognise the intricacy of the implementation components. A call for interdisciplinary collaboration among experts from many disciplines has been issued. Meticulous comparisons of different sustainable development models are essential, aimed at addressing the overarching issue of sustainability plans and implementation methods, analysed from the perspectives of potential policy ramifications and guided by insights from the science of science advice.

1.3.SDGs AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

India, as a Member State of the United Nations and a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has significantly contributed to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India's national

¹³Ibid.,

¹⁴ Ibid.,

development goals align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), indicating a longstanding commitment to these objectives prior to their formal establishment. India's government operates under a federal structure, resulting in the division of responsibilities among various bodies entrusted with implementing the efforts of ministries, departments, and agencies at both central and state levels (Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram). The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, has been assigned with the overall coordination and leadership of the UN's agenda 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (referred to as SDGs).

The NITI Aayog established a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Task Force to manage the evaluation and processing of material. State and Union Territory administrations submit reports outlining their viewpoints and advancements concerning numerous programs and projects at the sub-national level. The VNR Task Force evaluated the material gathered from several sources, engaged in discussions, and assessed it in a report presented to the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations. The NITI Aayog has been preparing a state-wise ranking and performance index from 2018.

The Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the VNR Report that was presented to the UN High-Level Political Forum (2017) indicates that the Indian Parliament has convened multiple forums to develop policies and actions aimed at eradicating poverty, advancing gender equality, and tackling climate change. Thus, it is clear that the nation's dedication to the national development program is strengthened. NITI Aayog has undertaken several discussions at national and regional levels to enhance awareness of the objectives, consolidate stakeholders, and bolster capabilities for the attainment of the Sustainable Development objectives (SDGs). NITI Aayog has performed an extensive mapping of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets to Nodal Ministries at the Centre, schemes that are centrally funded, and other projects of the government. Mapping of the SDGs and objectives have been carried out by most sub-national administrations that are analogous to their ministries and activities within their own states. The Ministry of Statistics and Program

Implementation (MoSPI) has documented national indicators in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators at global level.¹⁵

1.4. SDGs AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

At the sub-national level or state level in India, the 28 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs) are mapping SDG goals and targets in their respective development design and objectives. The 15-year vision strategy roadmaps are prepared by the state governments and they are now at various stages. Strategic insights from the national development and 2030 Agenda have been coordinated by most of the state governments with their own specific context and priorities. The State Planning and Development Department is responsible for implementing and facilitating the process of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the sub-national or state level by providing essential information and support. A few examples of SDGs integration at the state level can be given below.

According to NITI Aayog, Assam has established a centre for Sustainable Development Goals within the Planning and Development Department, and a framework for implementation has been followed. A further instance is observed in Kerala by NITI Aayog. Kerala has established comprehensive indicators and standards to attain Sustainable Development Goal 3 concerning health. A sector-wise plan has been developed, focussing on promoting entrepreneurship in sector of production, education, science and technology, among others, while ensuring environmental and social sustainability. It is also evident from report of NITI Aayog that the Punjab government has established a Support Unit for Sustainable Development Goals within the Planning and Development Department. This Support Unit functions as a channel for technical support at the state level and operates as a behavioural insights unit to deliver analysis, evidence and perspectives that inform public policy regarding the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁶

¹⁵ VNR Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to the UN High Level Political Forum, 2017

¹⁶ VNR Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to the UN High Level Political Forum, 2017

The Economic Survey 2020-21 stated that "the localisation of SDGs is essential for any strategy focused on attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda." This entails the adaptation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs from national to local levels by pertinent agencies and stakeholders. The SDG India Index and Dashboard, developed by NITI Aayog, functions as the principal tool for evaluating and monitoring SDG performance at national and sub-national tiers. The Central Government, in conjunction with affiliated institutions, has enabled the states to effectively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2020) asserted that states are the principal entities in the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals, whilst the central government assumes a facilitative role (Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2020).¹⁷

1.5. SDGs IN MIZORAM

India is a signatory to the United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG was adopted by 193 nations during the 70th UN Summit on September 25, 2015, and became effective on January 1, 2016. The Government of India, NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has conducted several assessments on the indicators as a signatory.

NITI Aayog's baseline-index data indicate that Mizoram is leading in the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals. The Nodal Department of Mizoram is the Planning and Programme Implementation Department. According to the Mizoram Vision 2030, a Monitoring Committee at state level on SDGs has been established on August, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram. The Planning Secretary is a Member Secretary of the Committee and members of this committee are Secretaries of all line Departments.

The Planning & Programme Implementation Department has formally formed an enthusiastic SDG Cell/SDG Coordination Centre. A Technical Committee on Sustainable Development objectives (SDGs), led by the Director of

¹⁷Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2020). *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*. Economic Survey 2020-21, Vol. 2, p. 206-207

Economics and Statistics, has been formed to develop and finalise schematic indicators for the objectives. The mapping of the pertinent Departments and Offices has been finalised. The Technical Committee has gathered Baseline Data (2015-2016 or most recent), Schematic Indicators for the Goals, and goals for the years 2019-20, 2024-25 and 2029-30 from relevant departments/offices.

The Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram has prepared Vision 2030 document for Mizoram with the base-inputs. The document encompasses a 15-year vision, a 7-year strategy, and a 3-year action plan, all situated within the framework of the State Government's New Economic Development Policy (Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram). Data is collected annually from the baseline, continuing until 2029-2030, from relevant departments/offices to assess and determine if the objectives are being adequately met. Moreover, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be adapted to the district level via the deployment of tailored SDG Schematic Indicators pertinent to each district. The District Planning Committee is tasked with overseeing this process.

There are many challenges the state faces in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram and the development strategy for people in general must be participatory and tailored to their specific context.

1.6.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Garret Hardin (1969) in his article *The Tragedy of the Commons* argues that it should be assumed that the world's resources must be limited so that works can be done for solution, and he dismisses the colonisation of other planets as a viable option. Hardin contests the notion that the earth's resources can sustain an increasing population. Hardin distinguishes between maximum and optimum population levels. Maximum population refers to the highest possible number of individuals inhabiting the Earth. The concept of optimum population denotes a specific standard of quality of life. The increase in population results in a decrease in the availability of nutritional and natural resources per individual. Garret Hardin argues that endorsing

maximum population support entails relinquishing the potential for pleasure, leisure, or any activities beyond mere survival.

Richard Munton & Kevin Collins (1998) in their article *Government Strategies for Sustainable Development* discuss the role of national government in establishing and promoting strategies for sustainable development in a world increasingly dominated by supra-national processes and local responses. They pointed out that assessment of government strategies is a two-fold process in which the first one is that a detailed understanding of the political style and cultural differences are required for policies and action plans in which decision makers at all levels of government find themselves. Secondly, Assessment should be grounded in measurable outcomes rather than political discourse. A valid and lasting contribution can be made clear in the economic, political, social characteristics and their consequences for sustainable development of localities, regions and states.

Peter P. Rogers, Kazi F. Jalal and John A. Boyd (2007) in their book *An Introduction to Sustainable Development* make a clear statement that in order to move human beings towards environmental and social sustainability by the end of the century, it is necessary to share resources on a global scale. This can be accomplished through the establishment of the most effective institutional, policy, and governance frameworks.

United Nations Development Programme (2012) in a booklet *The Power of Local Action: Learning from Communities on the Frontlines of Sustainable Development* examines two decades of experience with local ecosystem-based initiatives, offering essential lessons and insights on how rural communities have effectively addressed the challenge of sustainable local development. The publication delineates the history and scope of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s initiatives in sustainable development at local level, the pivotal role played by local organisations in realising and maintaining developmental progress, the significance of the environment as a foundation for local empowerment and rural development, the necessity of effective governance at local level, the potential for localising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the capacity for reaching to

effectuate landscape-level transitions, the requisite conditions required for local action and scaling, as well as the support needed for the advancement of successful local solutions in the future.

Jeffrey D. Sachs (2015) in his book *The Age of Sustainable Development*, advocates that ‘sustainable development is a way to define the objectives of a well functioning society, delivering well-being to its population today and for future generations. Sachs incorporates governance as a fundamental component of the ethical framework of sustainable development, alongside the conventional pillars of economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Jeffrey D. Sachs contends, from a normative perspective, that an ideal society is characterised by economic prosperity, social inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and effective governance. Sachs asserts that the pursuit of sustainable development is informed by scientific principles, yet constrained by political factors. Therefore, the incorporation of politics and governance is more vital within the context of sustainable development. The most challenging task politically and institutionally is to reconstruct government systems that are participatory, characterised by decentralised decision-making that is highly deliberative, utilising substantial data, knowledge, and technology.

The United Nations(2015)in its publication, ‘*Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*’, asserts that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are cohesive and inseparable with the targets, and universally applicable and global in nature. This framework considers various national realities, levels of development along with capacities, while giving respect to the national priorities and policies. The United Nations asserts that each government is establishing its national targets in consideration of national circumstances, while being guided by the global level of ambition. The integration of these ambitious global targets into national planning processes, policies, and strategies must be determined by each government. Recognising the connection between sustainable development and other ongoing processes in the economic, social, and environmental domains is essential.

In deciding upon these Goals and targets, the Member States declared that they recognize that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development.

Basia Rosenbaum (2015) wrote about the transition of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the article *Making the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Sustainable: The Transition from MDGs to SDGs*. Basia Rosenbaum mentioned that a critical analysis of the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is essential for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve comparable or greater success. Addressing these issues is crucial in the formulation of the SDGs. Basia Rosenbaum asserted that the success of the SDGs is contingent upon their reflection of the MDGs.

David Griggs, et al. (2015) concluded in their journal article *An Integrated Framework for Sustainable Development Goals* that there exists potential for the development and implementation of SDG targets as a genuine coproduction between science and technology, wherein science serves society. David Griggs, et al. urged policymakers at all levels to adopt a more integrated environmental and socioeconomic framework for the SDGs, wherein science can maintain a reliable advisory role by facilitating the alignment of local targets with global objectives.

Joachim Monkelbaan (2018), in *Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals: Exploring an Integrative Framework of Theories, Tools, and Competencies* asserts that a pivotal moment has reached regarding governance for sustainable development. Joachim Monkelbaan highlighted that policymakers have been formulating the 2030 Development Agenda, which encompasses a series of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

J.N. Ray (1997) in his article *Urban Planning in Third World for a Sustainable Society* talked about the problems associated with sustainable development in third world countries and how to urbanize and develop towns and cities through proper planning. Issues arise in developing countries where proper education and knowledge are scarce and scant, and people often rely on migration to urban areas to lead better lives. This leaves many poor areas with uneducated people

who struggle to procure basic amenities and income, and as a result often look to environmentally unsustainable methods to make a living. Thus the urban-rural disparity needs to be abridged with haste. The approach to such will be different for a developing country as opposed to a rural one. As documented by the Stockholm Conference and the report “Our Common Future”, resource management and environmental protection are key to living sustainably for all classes of people and should lead policy planning and implementation.

Helen James (2019) in her book *Population, Development and the Environment: Challenges to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia Pacific* outlines the daunting picture of sustainable communities and societies in the Asia Pacific and give a detail on some of the most uncompromising economic, social and political issues that have an impact on attainment of sustainable development in the region. Helen James explore the various methods by which the quality of life in human societies is exploited, degraded, and impoverished, both spiritually and materially, as well as the ways in which individuals strive to confront, adapt to, and transcend the societal constraints resulting from ongoing environmental exploitation. Helen James further mentioned that robust environmental legislation and regulatory bodies are being established; nevertheless, their execution frequently proves ineffectual and inadequate, perhaps coinciding with significant criminal conduct, often in conjunction with law enforcement officials. Regional views are therefore offered, allowing practitioners and policy specialists to examine tangible models of socio-economic and political issues.

Michael von Hauff & Anne Veling (2018) in their book *India's Need for a Sustainability Strategy—Creating a Stable and Balanced Development* assert that a national sustainability strategy presents a significant opportunity for stable development within a country. A balanced relationship among the essential dimensions of Economics, Ecology and Society is required. The importance of economics remains dominant globally today. Countries like India have primarily limited their efforts to a select number of programs or projects aimed at promoting sustainable development at the national level. To date, there has been no cohesive sustainability strategy that systematically integrates programmes and projects in

relation to sustainability. Drawing on 30 years of research in India, including 20 years focused on sustainable development, the author presents key arguments and information, ultimately outlining and elaborating on various sustainability strategies, their significance, and associated opportunities.

Amit Shah (1998) in his article *Watershed Development Programmes in India: Emerging Issues for Environment-Development Perspectives* stated that the programme of watershed development in India has somewhat become diffused especially under the increasing influence of environmental concerns which promote low-cost measures and local institutions for ensuring long-term sustainability of such programmes rather than of the people or the farm economy. Intensive intervention is necessary in dry land situations, focussing on technology and additional input supports, alongside the enhancement of rural infrastructure and formal institutional arrangements.

M.A. Mohamed Salih (2002) in his article *Globalization, Sustainable Development and Environment: A Balancing Act* talks about the phenomena of globalization and sustainable development and how they fit into the narrative of the future. There is a large looming question on the idea of globalization and environmental protection operating in tandem, creating a dynamic and somewhat difficult situation that is puzzling to governments and social scientists alike.

The author points to the creation of such international institutions as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) among others which have a commitment through documents such as Agenda 21 to fulfill global governance requirements in terms of environmental protection. He argues that the global environmental legal instruments will help in ensuring the success of such commitments, through proclamations like Our Global Neighborhood. The question then is whether the phenomena of globalization and sustainable development are reconcilable. The ideas of globalization, sustainable development and environmental protection are immersed in debate, and steps taken towards each will no doubt affect the other. However, the author believes that the question is made relatively simpler when middle ground is found for market development and environmental protection.

Somorendro N. Singh. (2006) in his article *Integration and Development in North-East India: An Assessment* explained development as a comprehensive term. The state is responsible to ensure development for its citizens in all spheres. In India, massive poverty, illiteracy, ill health and regional disparities have been experienced despite the adoption of a centralized economic planning for a decade. He also mentioned in his conclusion that North East remains isolated and still striving to be a part of national consciousness of India. The provisions of political autonomy in the past on ethnic lines have neither brought sustainable development nor positive integration in the region.

Susan Baker & Katarina Eckerberg (2008) in their book *In Pursuit of Sustainable Development: New Governance Practices at the Sub-national Level in Europe* examine the sub-national engagement as well as regional and local actors in the promotion of sustainable development through implementation strategies. Emerging governance structure, that includes public/private partnerships, innovative policy tools, transfer of policy, policy networks and benchmarking, and the engagement of stakeholders, alongside the strengthening of institutional capacity, are increasingly utilised in implementation efforts. The editors are recognised authorities in the field, analysing the strategies employed by sub-national governments to engage 'stakeholders' in these initiatives and identifying the types of non-governmental actors that have participated.

Nitya Mohan Khemka & Suraj Kumar (2020) in their book *Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia* assess the roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs in South Asia, focusing in particular on the areas of poverty reduction, inequality, health/well-being and water and sanitation. According to Nitya Mohan Khemka & Suraj Kumar, South Asia ranks as one of the fastest growing regions globally, boasting an aggregate GDP exceeding two trillion US dollars. However, it simultaneously faces considerable challenges in human improvement, housing 37 percent of impoverished population in the world and almost half of the world's undernourished children. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations offer a strategic framework for addressing various deprivations in South Asia in a timely and organised fashion.

The contributors to this volume address a raft of intersecting issues around sustainable development from a global, regional and local perspective. For South Asia the SDGs offer not only a greater sense of urgency and scope for convergence but also a fresh set of ideas and opportunities to tackle 21st-century challenges and innovation in data use and visualization for action. Nitya Mohan Khemka & Suraj Kumar highlighted that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia build upon the incomplete Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework. They extend beyond the MDGs by addressing emerging challenges in social sectors and emphasising the interconnectedness of social development, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and the imperative of justice, peace, and enhanced governance, particularly for marginalised groups and communities. To leave no one behind, it is essential to prioritise reaching the most disadvantaged individuals first. To achieve this, it is essential to identify policy measures, develop institutional capacity strategies, and enhance local service delivery to fulfil the SDGs within a framework of regional cooperation. Subsequent research in the series on SDGs in South Asia will concentrate on economic development objectives, followed by those related to the environment and climate change. Only then will one achieve a comprehensive and integrated understanding of sustainable development in South Asia.

Georgina Ayre & Rosalie Callway (2005) in their book *Governance for Sustainable Development: A Foundation for the Future* mention that the ongoing process of globalisation and the growing power imbalances among decision-making institutions highlight the pressing need for a critical evaluation of human interactions with the natural environment. The World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized good governance as a crucial element for achieving effective sustainable development. The book expands upon the briefing papers postulated at the Summit, furthering the discussions of the agenda of WEHAB, which encompasses health, water, energy, food, agriculture and biodiversity—the five international sectors to be prioritized as identified by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. This work presents a distinctive analysis of the role and reform of world processes and institutions, highlighting issues that have been overlooked in international discourse.

Georgina Ayre & Rosalie Callway demonstrate that, in recent years, global governance has emerged as a significant concept in international and political discourse, with both positive and negative implications. The failure of trade negotiations at the Fifth World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Summit in Cancun, unilateral and bilateral actions by states on international security, allegations of corruption within the United Nations (UN) related to the Food for Oil Programme, violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, increasing criticism of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) regarding transparency and accountability, and diminished confidence in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have collectively prompted widespread calls for reform across various aspects of global governance.

SM Rashid, M Ishtiaq, Haseena Hashia, Atiqur Rahman (2008) in their book *Environment, Resources, and Sustainable Development: Essays in Honour of Professor Majid Husain* argue that the environmental issues faced by a democratic and diverse developing nation such as India are more intricate and formidable than commonly perceived. A significant number of developing countries face challenges related to the trade-off between environmental concerns and developmental progress, while attempting to escape the low-level equilibrium trap. Global cooperation and mutual trust between affluent and impoverished nations are essential for achieving success in this context. In the present context, developing nations attribute the looming crisis to affluent countries, whereas developed nations express reluctance to place trust in them regarding various issues, including the allocation of funds intended for environmental protection and restoration. Nevertheless, India should not shirk its own responsibilities to strike a balance between environment and development in order to achieve sustainable growth. It is very important for the improvement of environmental and ecological conditions that the marginalized and vulnerable sections of Indian society to come out of the 'poverty trap'. Otherwise, preservation and conservation of the environment will remain an unrealistic dream. Rapid increase in the number of urban poor in recent years and their concentration in mega cities, fast growth in number of slums and slum dwellers in our big cities, changing lifestyle of the urban middle class. Phenomenal increase in the number of

vehicular traffic, increasing regional and interpersonal disparities in income and wealth, and rapid growth in the number and population of million cities in India are indicating to further intensification of environmental problems at least in mega cities and backward pockets of the country.

Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam (2011) in his book *Target 3 Billion*, with the help of a gold medalist of IIM- A, Srijan Pal Singh, proposes a sustainable development framework known as PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas). This system aims to directly benefit the 750 million individuals residing in Indian villages, acknowledging India's status as home to the largest rural population globally. This book successfully articulates his perspectives on eradicating poverty in India and globally. This subject was chosen to ignite the fire of 'the need for the sustainable development' which will be completed only when prosperity comes with peace. This can be achieved by evolving a system which will bring in both sustainability and empowerment delivered in an entrepreneurial manner.

'Target 3 Billion' covers one of the most relevant issues of the 21st Century. The issue of sustainable development has been one of the most pressing themes and goals of the United Nations. This book could be a useful instrument for inspiring the youth and the experienced alike with the hope of a better future for not only humanity but for all living beings and resources.

Jan Servaes (2017) in his book *Sustainable Development Goals in the Asian Context* states that this new agenda is particularly important in Asia—where impressive overall growth has come at the expense of much greater inequality, as shown by the fact that although all but four countries in the region have become middle- or higher-income countries, two-thirds of the world's poor still live here.

NITI Aayog (2018) in the *SDG India Index Baseline Report 2018* outlined the Institutionalization of the SDGs in States. The Government of India's persistence to achieving the SDGs can only be known through complementary activities at the national level alongside initiatives from State governments as well as Union Territories (UTs). This necessity arises from the federal structure of the country, wherein the majority of functions relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) are enumerated in the State or Concurrent List of the VII Schedule of the Constitution of India. Recent initiatives have focused on enhancing the federal structure of the country by promoting cooperative and competitive federalism. State governments are significantly contributing to the advancement of the national development agenda. The recommendations from the sub-group of Chief Ministers on themes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and skill development have influenced policy decisions at the national level. This is analogous to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals necessitates convergence and collaboration across sectors and departments/agencies to effectively pursue various SDG targets and achieve desired outcomes. The SDG cells or committees are anticipated to establish dynamic interrelationships. To ensure the responsiveness of the various agencies and institutions involved, it is necessary to enhance their mandate, authority, and expertise to facilitate effective interdepartmental and inter-sectoral collaboration. The tendency of various departments or agencies to operate in silos regarding their specialised functions or sectoral mandates necessitates that nodal officials play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and teamwork. Secondly, facilitating frequent interactions among diverse stakeholders is essential for the sharing of information and knowledge, as well as for making collective decisions. The utilisation of IT-enabled tools is effective for managing interactions in a cost-efficient and seamless way. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate and implement appropriate options in this context. Third, the involvement of district administrations, as well as local governments at rural and urban, in the structures of implementation is essential. Some states have initiated collaboration with these stakeholders; however, most states must strive to achieve this objective. Strategies and mechanisms must be developed accordingly.

NITI Aayog (2019) in the report *Localizing SDGs: Early Lessons from India 2019* gave a detailed State Level Initiatives on Localising the SDGs in which the performance of Mizoram state is described along the lines of Communication, Awareness generation and Advocacy on SDGs; Institutional Mechanisms for Following ‘Whole-of-Government’ Approach; Aligning Local Plan with SDG; Good

examples of inter sectoral approaches to achieve SDGs; SDG Monitoring; SDG based Budgeting; Capacity Development; Strategies for Leaving no one Behind and Partnership. The state has established a nodal department and created a SDG Cell within the Research and Development section of the Planning and Programme Implementation Department.

Aalok Ranjan Chaurasia (2020) in his book *Population and Sustainable Development in India* noted that the United Nations anticipates the 2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development will catalyse action at local, national, and international levels in areas crucial for humanity and the planet. He noted that India has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years, which has been linked to rising inequality. Furthermore, there is limited evidence indicating that this economic growth has resulted in human progress relevant to sustainable development.

A. K. Agarwal (2003) in his article *Development in Mizoram – Issues and Perspectives* mentions that Mizoram has met with a few obstacles regarding development and employment. This is largely due to the communal nature of the Mizo tribes as they are dependent on each other not only in terms of resources, but in terms of ideas and perspectives as well. They follow traditional patterns of economic activity through jhum cultivation and show no interest in entrepreneurship and investment. This lack of drive has vastly contributed to the underdevelopment of the state.

Agarwal suggests a comprehensive approach to agricultural development with proper linkages. He also suggests reforms in education to fill up empty areas of occupation such as horticulture, transport, banking and more. There is also a dire need for private investment as the people are often reluctant to make risky investments which stagnates the private sector. Aspiring youth should be equipped with skills for self-employment and entrepreneurship to resolve the unemployment issues. The question of development is still significant in Mizoram and thus requires a multidimensional approach.

R.N. Prasad (2003), in his article *Modernization of the Mizo Society- Strategic Problems and Futuristic Introspection*, talks about the phenomenon of

modernization and its effect on the state of Mizoram and the tribesmen in it. Modernization describes the progression in thought and technology of societies through time, with advances in science, economy and social structure. However, it has also taken the form of Westernization and the successes in Western countries have inspired the developing countries to take on such measures. Thus countries have followed a path of liberalization and privatization and relied on the market to propel their economy forward, a path which not every country can take directly.

He stated that Mizoram is a starkly distinct example of how market economies can create more problems than solve them. Mizo society was reliant on fraternity and harmony among the tribesmen for its operation, and Mizos had a deep sense of egalitarianism and equality among each other. There was neither rich nor poor, and the sharing of land and resources was well-observed in the society in earlier times. However, as India gradually progressed into a capitalist economy, it was difficult for Mizoram not to follow the national paradigm. Thus the government would do well to focus on changing key factors in the economy without deviating from the tribal purity of Mizos. Shifting cultivation could be done more with more planning and monitoring to ensure sustainability. Policies could lean towards Mizo culture and norm while maintaining a forward momentum towards growth and development. The concept of modernization does not have to follow the Western model, and instead should be dynamic to the circumstances of each society.

V. P. Sati & Lalrinpuia Vangchhia (2017) in their book *A Sustainable Livelihood Approach to Poverty Reduction* stated that the plenty of natural resources that Mizoram state has are largely unused and suggest measures to use them efficiently so that sustainable livelihoods can be achieved. The sustainable livelihood approach is essential for alleviating poverty in nations marked by poverty and malnutrition. It consists of five livelihood assets: natural, human, financial, physical, and social. The optimal availability and utilisation of these assets will contribute to sustainable livelihoods. The authors outlined the challenges and opportunities associated with livelihood approaches to poverty reduction in Mizoram and proposed policy measures for future development.

The introduction of SDGs by the United Nations has alarmed governments, economists, research scholars, entrepreneurs and humanity as a whole. SDGs were very recently implemented in Mizoram and hence it is clear that there is huge research gap in this field. Therefore, this study will provide information and add to the literature in this field for further studies.

1.7. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Sustainable Development is a concept that is one of the most discussed topics in the international arena. It is adopted at the national level by NITI Aayog, the nodal agency at the national level in India, and by the Planning and Implementation Department at the sub-national level or state level. The 17 SDGs with 169 targets and 247 indicators focuses on three elements; Economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. With such an importance given to the SDGs at the international level and down to the local level, there are many challenges in its successful implementation especially in a backward state like Mizoram where development needs to be carried out at the grass-root level.

Mizoram is among the smallest states in India, situated in the northeastern region. Although the state is backward in economy, infrastructure and other areas, the literacy rate is remarkably high as compared to many other Indian states. This suggests that there is scope for a successful sustainable development. Development can be destructive and for a state like Mizoram, the implementation of development in a sustained manner is a new challenge for the people and the government. Most of the people in Mizoram are tribal people and they have close connection with the natural environment. Sustainable development will enable a suitable environment where the people will live prosperous lives in their natural settings, preserving their identity and culture while at the same time leaving room for future generations to flourish. Therefore, the Government must make sure that the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram is prioritised and followed in alignment with local capacities, challenges, and resources available.¹⁸

¹⁸ Economic Survey 2019-20, Government of Mizoram.

There have not been many significant researches towards this approach and this study aims to provide more information and add to the literature in the field for further studies. The information collected could serve as a tool for transparency and accountability in the state government's aim to achieve these goals and create better awareness among the people of Mizoram.

This research also have a prospect of influencing further initiatives of the state government towards attaining its vision for the SDGs in Mizoram and influence or inspire other states as well.

1.8. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study offers a comprehensive examination of the state government's role and duties in executing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram from 2018 to July 2024. It is a policy analysis as it examines and analyse the various policies and programmes of the Government of Mizoram that align with the SDGs. It examines the nature and evolution of the UN's SDGs in the international and national levels. It further examines the procedures in the establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the state government in Mizoram. The research is largely based upon the administrative functioning of the state government in their effort towards SDG implementation in the state. It also studies the problems and challenges faced by the state government including future prospects in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram.

1.9. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research constitutes a pioneering evaluative study of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, as no prior thesis has comprehensively assessed the Government of Mizoram's implementation of SDGs within the state. Through this study the government can evaluate its performance on the 17 goals and targets. It can also identify areas for improvement with the help of this research. It also has the prospect to impact future actions by the government. There have not been many noteworthy studies on this strategy, therefore this will contribute to the body of knowledge as well as expertise in the subject for future study. The data gathered

can be used as a tool to increase openness in the government's efforts to accomplish these objectives and raise awareness among the people of Mizoram.

1.10. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The research is subject to certain limitations. A notable limitation is that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a fledgling program now still in progress, with 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. A further limitation is related to the data collection method, which includes both the researcher and the line departments responsible for the SDGs. A multitude of challenges, such as time constraints and the accessibility of relevant documents and individuals, together with insufficient recordkeeping and office documentation, have hindered the comprehensive execution of the investigation. The issue of collaboration within line departments was encountered, necessitating the collection of certain information through the submission of Right to Information (RTI) requests.

1.11. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
2. To examine the initiatives taken by the state government in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram.
3. To analyze the challenges faced by the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram.
4. To evaluate the performance of the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

1.12. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What are the initiatives taken by the state government in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram?
3. What are the problems and challenges faced by the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs?
4. What are the achievements of the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram?

1.13. METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative in nature. The approach is both analytical and descriptive. The research employs primary and secondary data sources. The Primary data is collected through schedule, interview and observation method. It aims to give an insight into the role of the government of Mizoram towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the state by providing a detailed report on the implementation of the SDGs in the state. It is analytical in nature as it also aims to analyze its performance, effectiveness, challenges and future prospects at various levels.

Interviews are conducted with 39 government officials, particularly the officials from the nodal department as well as officials from 24 concerned departments known as line departments.

Moreover, semi-structured interviews are conducted with policymakers, experts, and local leaders to gain in-depth insights into the challenges and strategies related to SDGs. A purposive sampling method is used for interviews and focus groups to select participants who are knowledgeable about the SDGs in Mizoram. Besides leading government officials of stakeholder departments, high-level monitoring committee members, technical committee members, partner members and relevant persons are interviewed by employing semi-structured interviews and telephone interviews. Questionnaires are distributed among the concerned government officials of line departments and monitoring committee members at the state level and district level. Primary sources encompass government notifications, gazette publications, government data, and information obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, among others. Secondary data include books, newspapers, journal articles, video clips and magazines.

Also, the research is interdisciplinary in nature as the concept of SDGs is relevant not only in Political Science but also in Economics, Environment, and Sociology and there have been multiple studies of this topic in other fields. Opinions and perceptions of people who belong to government institutions and community organizations are used in this study.

1.14. CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter is an introductory part of the thesis. It gives an overview of the research topic and it includes review of literature, research problems, research questions, objectives of research, research methodology, study significance, scope of the study, and limitations of the study. As it is the first part of the thesis, it highlights a brief outline of the concept of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its relevance in the present world condition.

Chapter II: Nature and Evolution of Sustainable Development Goals.

The second chapter deals with the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It traces back a series of events that have led to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals that further evolved into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It looks into the nature of the SDGs by analyzing the preamble and declaration of the UN member states in their adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the main targets and indicators of the 17 SDGs and further gives a brief note on the implementation process.

Chapter III: Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram.

Chapter three deals with how the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being implemented in the state of Mizoram. It first gives a detailed account of how the SDGs are implemented at various levels such as national level, state level and local level. It provides a detailed account on the key priorities and the process of implementation and the initiatives taken by the state government. It looks into the baseline data of various goals, indicators and the targets to be achieved by 2030. It also looks into the various initiatives taken by the Government of Mizoram in the implementation of SDGs in the state.

Chapter IV: Problems and Challenges of Implementation

This chapter covers the problems and challenges faced by the state government in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram. It explores the limitations and difficulties as well as challenges encountered over the process of implementation. It first looks into the possible and ongoing problems of SDG implementation from various existing literature. The chapter includes an analysis of the interview of the nodal department for SDG in the state, i.e. the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram as well as various line/concerned departments to find out the major problems and challenges faced in the implementation of SDGs in the state. Further, this chapter also includes a highlight of some critical analysis of the SDGs.

Chapter V: State Government and its Achievements.

This chapter describes the achievements of the state government in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram at different levels such as state level, district level and village level. It first looks into various existing literature to find out the major achievements that the state has attained towards SDGs. The chapter provides an analysis of the interview of the nodal department for SDG in the state, i.e. the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram as well as various line/concerned departments to find out the achievements and successes that the state has attained in the implementation of SDGs in the state. Additionally, this chapter briefly highlights a few points that paved way for Mizoram to attain its position in the SDG India ranking over the years.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

This concluding chapter is analytical, summing up interpretation of all the previous chapters. It includes the summary, significance of the study, limitations of the study, major findings of the study and recommendations and suggestions to the research problems. It also consists of a brief overview of the status of Mizoram in the most recent SDG India Index (2023-24).

CHAPTER - II

NATURE AND EVOLUTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2.1.HISTORY & EVOLUTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Since the 1990s, governments at all levels have embraced the idea of sustainable development, particularly in the wake of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.¹⁹ This idea further developed into a series of objectives, an expansion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that must be accomplished by United Nations Member States by the year 2030. This plan is known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

From The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A historic and effective method of global mobilization was marked by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to achieve a set of important social priorities at the global level. The objectives address significant public issues, including poverty, gender inequality, inadequate education, disease, hunger and environmental degradation. The grouping of these concerns into a comprehensive set of eight goals, along with the establishment of measurable and time-bound objectives, facilitates the promotion of global awareness, political accountability, improved metrics, social feedback, and public pressures associated with the MDGs.²⁰ The progress towards achievement of the MDGs is highly variable across goals, countries, and regions although developing countries have made substantial progress. The main reason is the staggering economic growth in China, developing countries as a whole have cut the poverty rate by half between 1990 and 2010. It is evident that some countries will achieve all or most of the MDGs, whereas others will achieve very few. The probable shortfall in achievement of the MDGs is indeed serious, regrettable, and deeply painful for people with low income. The shortfall indicates a

¹⁹ Richard Munton & Kevin Collins (1998). *Government Strategies for Sustainable Development*. Geography. 83(4), pp. 346-357.

²⁰ The abbreviation shall be used henceforth.

set of operational failures that involves many stakeholders, in both poor and rich countries. For example, promises of official development assistance by rich countries have not been kept.

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was an important predecessor to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The adoption of the Millennium Declaration took place on 8th September, 2000. David Hulme asserts that the drafting process sought to satisfy both wealthy countries advocating for their Development Assistance Committee (DAC) generated set of International Development Goals and other parties involved²¹. Towards the end of the time allocated for the MDGs, there was an urge to develop a broader set of objectives, focusing on economic, social, and environmental aspects, and transforming relations between developing and developed countries²². This resulted in a shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) differ from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in terms of their purpose, concept and political implications. The SDGs address the shortcomings of the MDGs and entails a broader and transformative agenda that better embraces the complex challenges of the 21st century, along with the necessity for structural reforms in the global economy. The SDGs also reverse the MDG approach to global goal setting and the misplaced belief in the virtues of simplicity, concreteness, and quantification²³. While the primary focus of the MDGs was on improving well-being in the developing world, the 17 SDGs, on the other hand, address all countries and aim at reconciling economic and social with ecological goals²⁴. According to Spinazzola, M. et.al, the MDGs catalysed changes only for those countries with sufficient resource availability,

²¹Foday, E., & Kokofele, K. (2019). Review on the Drafting Process And Comparison Of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

²²Vijge, M., & De Jong, E. (2020). From Millennium to Sustainable Development Goals: Evolving discourses and their reflection in policy coherence for development.

²³Fukuda-Parr, S. (2016). From the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: shifts in purpose, concept, and politics of global goal setting for development. *Gender & Development*, 24, 43 - 52.

²⁴Plank, B., Schalmann, E., Gingrich, S., Krenmayr, N., Noll, D., Wandl, M., Pichler, M., & Eisenmenger, N. (2020). The Sustainable Development Goals prioritize economic growth over sustainable resource use: a critical reflection on the SDGs from a socio-ecological perspective. *Sustainability Science*, 15, 1101-1110.

administrative capacity and economic development, as well as adequate support from external donors. National ownership issues and pressure of NGO bolstered efforts to implement the MDGs. It was suggested that globally agreed goals do not easily trickle down from the global to the national level²⁵.

There is widespread feeling among policy makers and civil society that progress against poverty, hunger, and disease is notable; that the MDGs have played an important part in securing that progress; and that globally agreed goals to fight poverty should continue beyond 2015. There is also a widespread understanding that global environmental goals must be given higher priority alongside poverty reduction goals in a world that is already experiencing dangerous climate change and other serious environmental problems. For these reasons, the world's governments appear assured to adopt a new round of global goals, following the 15-year period of the Millennium Development Goals. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability established in advance of the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012, released a report recommending that the world adopt a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The idea of SDGs has quickly gained traction due to the growing urgency of sustainable development for the entire world. Although definitions vary, sustainable development encompasses what is known as the triple bottom line approach to human well-being. Nearly all societies in the world recognise that they seek a combination of economic development, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, but the specific goals differ globally, between societies, and within societies.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all United Nations member states in 2015 offers a framework for achieving peace and prosperity for both people and the planet, both presently and in the future. The core of the initiative is encapsulated in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which

²⁵Spinazzola, M., Van Driel, M., Bogers, M., Montesano, F., Yunita, A., Sénit, C., Biermann, F., Peek, T., Forestier, O., Ballard, C., Vijge, M., Hickmann, T., Kim, R., & Kalfagianni, A. (2022). Success factors of global goal-setting for sustainable development: Learning from the millennium development goals. *Sustainable Development*.

advocate for collective action from all nations, both developed and developing. The plan acknowledges the relationship between eradicating poverty and addressing other deprivations, enhancing health and education, diminishing inequality, and promoting economic growth, all while addressing climate change and safeguarding oceans and forests.

A decade of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has led to the SDGs.

Below is a chronology of events that led to the development of the UN's SDGs:

- A global partnership for sustainable development, Agenda 21, was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 by over 178 countries devoted to improving human life and protecting the environment.
- At the Millennium Summit convened at the UN Headquarters in New York in September 2000, all UN member states overwhelmingly ratified the Millennium Declaration. The Summit resulted in the establishment of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at alleviating extreme poverty by 2015.
- As part of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Implementation Plan reaffirmed the global community's commitment to eradicating poverty and protecting the environment. It also emphasized the importance of multilateral partnerships in addition to Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration.
- In June 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At this conference, Member States committed to commencing a process for formulating a series of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as detailed in the outcome document "The Future We Want". The Rio +20 document also includes initiatives for implementing sustainable development, encompassing mandates for future programs related to development financing, small island developing states, and additional areas.

- The Open Working Group was established on 22nd of January 2013 by the UN General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The Member States have opted for a novel, constituency-based representation system, which is unprecedented for limited membership bodies within the General Assembly. The Group was open to all governments and stakeholders, despite its 30-member mandate. It adopted a report containing 17 SDGs and 169 targets.
- The negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda began in January 2015 under the initiative of the General Assembly. The culmination of the process occurred with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which centres on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), during the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
- Since 2015, multilateralism and international policy shaping came to mark their emergence (Hazra, S., & Bhukta, A., 2020). As a result of which several major agreements were adopted²⁶:
 - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
 - Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
 - Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)
- The Sustainable Development Goals finally came to force on January, 2016.
- Today, The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the main UN platform for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, convening annually.

In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, all stakeholders must commit to implementing the global goals through broad ownership of the SDGs.

²⁶Hazra, S., & Bhukta, A. (2020). Sustainable Development Goals. Springer International Publishing.

2.2. NATURE

The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 broad goals calling for countries to "end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity."

The fundamental nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lies in their profound contribution to nature and the environment. The SDGs are inherently related to the environmental as it was observed that many of the goals have direct dependence on thriving ecosystems, biodiversity and its impacts such as clean water, climate regulation and fertile soils. This is evident from the SDG goals such as SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Such goals are examples that directly address the need to fight against climate change, work towards reduction of biodiversity loss and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Other goals also take part in the responsible management of natural resources and the shift toward renewable energy such as SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). These goals, although indirectly, reinforce the interrelationship between ecological integrity and human well-being.²⁷ The SDGs also acknowledge the importance of indigenous knowledge and local stewardship in the efforts towards environmental conservation, aligning with global efforts to uphold biodiversity and combat environmental degradation.²⁸ Furthermore, it is believed that biodiversity and ecosystem services support the achievement of all the SDGs, either directly or indirectly, by supporting human well-being, economic development and social equity.^{29,30} This ecological orientation reflects a paradigm shift in development planning—from a purely anthropocentric focus to an integrated model that prioritizes planetary boundaries and ecosystem resilience.³¹

However, Adhikari et al observed in their empirical research that the decline in the sustainable use of nature, driven by a shift in the ways of land-use, over-

²⁷United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

²⁸UNDP.(2017). *Local governance and the SDGs*. United Nations Development Programme.

²⁹Smithers, R., Blicharska, M., Mikusiński, G., Harrison, P., Rönnbäck, P., Sutherland, W., & Nilsson, M. (2019). Biodiversity's contributions to sustainable development. *Nature Sustainability*, 1-11.

³⁰Peng, J., & Xu, Z. (2024). Recognizing Ecosystem Service's Contribution to SDGs: Ecological Foundation of Sustainable Development. *Geography and Sustainability*.

³¹Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K., Persson, Å., Chapin III, F. S., Lambin, E. F., ... & Foley, J. A. (2009). A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature*, 461(7263), 472–475.

exploitation of resources and climate change can reduce the effort of countries to meet SDG targets. This emphasises the need for consolidative approaches across the world that focus on environmental considerations across all areas of development.³²³³ Therefore, the SDGs are not only a developmental blueprint but also a framework for ensuring that the natural environment is protected as a foundation for sustainable progress.

Preamble and Declaration to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On September 25, 2015, the General Assembly adopted a Resolution including the Preamble and Declaration. It is of importance to study the Preamble and Declaration in order to have an in depth understanding of the nature of SDGs.

Preamble to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³⁴

According to the Preamble, *‘the declared 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda, which aims to free the human race from poverty and heal and secure the planet.’* The goals seek to realise all people's human rights, attain gender equality, and empower women and girls. Balancing the three components of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental—they are indivisible and linked (United Nations, 2015).

The goals and targets will drive action over the next fifteen years in areas of significant relevance for humanity and the planet. The objectives encompass the eradication of poverty and hunger, the preservation of the planet from degradation, the promotion of prosperity and fulfilling lives, and the establishment of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies devoid of fear and violence. The partnership aims to mobilise resources necessary for implementing the Agenda via a renewed Global

³² Adhikari, B., Prescott, G., Fischer, M., Urbach, D., & Chettri, N. (2022). Nature's contributions to people and the Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal. *Environmental Research Letters*, 17.

³³ Seixas, C., Fennessy, M., Barbosa, O., Herrera-F., B., Anderson, C., & Díaz-José, J. (2018). Determining nature's contributions to achieve the sustainable development goals. *Sustainability Science*, 14, 543-547.

³⁴ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 14/07/2022

Partnership for Sustainable Development, emphasising the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable nations, stakeholders, and individuals.

The interconnectedness and integrated characteristics of the Sustainable Development Goals are essential for fulfilling the goals of the new Agenda. Achieving these ambitions throughout the entirety of the Agenda will significantly enhance lives and lead to a positive transformation of the world (United Nations, 2015).

Declaration to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³⁵

Introduction

The Heads of State and Government, along with High Representatives at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, have established the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The General Assembly has approved ‘a comprehensive framework of universal and transformative goals and targets, pledging to strive for full implementation by 2030’. The objective is to eliminate poverty in all its manifestations, including extreme poverty, as it represents a significant global challenge and a necessary condition for sustainable development. The General Assembly members are dedicated to attaining sustainable development across its three dimensions—economic, social, and environmental—through a balanced and integrated approach, leveraging the successes of the Millennium Development Goals while addressing outstanding issues.³⁶

The General Assembly seeks to eradicate poverty and hunger globally, address inequalities, establish peaceful and inclusive societies, safeguard human rights, advance gender equality, and ensure the sustainable protection of the planet and its natural resources. Their commitment includes establishing conditions for sustainable, inclusive, and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity, and decent

³⁵ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

³⁶ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

work for all, while considering varying levels of national development and capacities.³⁷

The Agenda possesses exceptional scope and importance, gaining acceptance from all nations and applicable universally, while considering varying national contexts, capabilities, and developmental stages. It is cohesive and inseparable, harmonising the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Goals and targets stem from more than two years of rigorous public consultation and engagement with civil society and various stakeholders, emphasising the perspectives of the poorest and most vulnerable populations.³⁸

Vision

The resolution seeks to establish a world devoid of poverty, hunger, disease, and deprivation, enabling all forms of life to flourish. The vision includes a world devoid of fear and violence, characterised by universal literacy, equitable access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection, ensuring the well-being of all individuals. The resolution also emphasizes the importance of improved hygiene, safe, affordable, and nutritious food, and a world with universal access to energy.

The resolution underscores the significance of universal adherence to human rights, human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality, and non-discrimination. It also emphasizes the importance of investing in children, ensuring they grow up free from violence and exploitation, and promoting gender equality. The resolution underscores the necessity for a just, equitable, tolerant, open, and socially inclusive global environment that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The resolution seeks to achieve sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production patterns, and the responsible use of natural resources. Democracy, effective governance, and adherence to the rule of law are fundamental for achieving sustainable development, encompassing economic growth, social advancement, environmental conservation, and the elimination of poverty and hunger. Technology

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

development and application must be climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity, and demonstrate resilience. Humanity must coexist with nature and safeguard wildlife and other living species.

Shared principles and commitments³⁹

The new Agenda is informed by the Charter of the United Nations, emphasising adherence to international law, and is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is guided by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. The resolution reaffirms the outcomes of significant United Nations conferences and summits that established a robust foundation for sustainable development. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The signatories reaffirm the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The challenges and commitments outlined at these significant conferences and summits are interconnected and necessitate comprehensive solutions. An innovative strategy is required to effectively tackle these challenges. Sustainable development acknowledges the interconnectedness of poverty eradication, inequality reduction, environmental preservation, sustainable economic growth, and social inclusion.

The world today⁴⁰

The meeting of the General Assembly addressed immense challenges to sustainable development, including poverty, rising inequalities, gender inequality,

³⁹ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

⁴⁰ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

unemployment, global health threats, natural disasters, conflict, violent extremism, terrorism, and forced displacement. Climate change poses a significant challenge, with detrimental effects jeopardising the capacity of nations to attain sustainable development. However, there is also immense opportunity, with hundreds of millions of people emerging from extreme poverty, increased access to education, and the spread of information and communications technology.

The Millennium Development Goals, established 15 years before the Sustainable Development Goals, offered a significant framework for development; however, progress has been inconsistent, especially in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. Several objectives are not progressing as intended, especially in the areas of maternal, newborn, child, and reproductive health. The member states reaffirm their commitment to achieving all Millennium Development Goals, including those that are off-track, by delivering targeted and enhanced support to least developed countries and other nations in special circumstances.

The new Agenda expands upon the Millennium Development Goals and aims to fulfil the objectives they did not accomplish, especially regarding the most vulnerable populations. The framework extends beyond mere goals, encompassing a comprehensive array of economic, social, and environmental objectives, while advocating for more peaceful and inclusive societies and outlining methods for implementation. The integrated approach demonstrates significant interconnections and numerous cross-cutting elements among the new goals and targets.

The new Agenda⁴¹

The General Assembly announced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation and global development. The members of the General Assembly pledged to work together on the path towards sustainable development, focusing on global development and "win-win" cooperation that can bring huge gains to all countries

⁴¹ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

and parts of the world (United Nations, 2015). They reaffirmed their commitment to international law and emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, regardless of color, religion, race, language, sex, political or other opinion, social or national origin, property, birth, disability, or other status.

Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is essential for advancing all goals and targets. Women and girls should have equal access to quality education, economic resources, political participation, and employment opportunities, as well as leadership and decision-making roles at all levels, comparable to men and boys. The signatories will advocate for a substantial increase in investments aimed at closing the gender gap and enhancing support for institutions focused on gender equality and women's empowerment across global, regional, and national contexts. All forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls will be eradicated through the active involvement of men and boys.

The declaration stated that the new goals and targets would take effect on 1 January 2016 and inform decisions made over the subsequent 15 years. Each country encounters distinct challenges in achieving sustainable development, especially vulnerable nations including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small-island developing states, and numerous middle-income countries. Vulnerable populations must be empowered, encompassing all children, youth, individuals with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, older adults, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants.

The signatories are dedicated to eliminating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, with a specific goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. Their objective is to eradicate hunger, prioritise food security, and eliminate all forms of malnutrition. The Committee on World Food Security, along with the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, is reaffirmed. Member states will allocate resources to enhance rural development and promote sustainable practices in agriculture and fisheries, with a focus on supporting smallholder farmers, particularly women, as well as herders and fishers in developing nations, especially those classified as least developed.

The member states pledge to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education across all levels, encompassing early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical, and vocational training. Their efforts will focus on creating a supportive environment for children and youth to fully realise their rights and potential, thereby assisting countries in capitalising on the demographic dividend.

To promote physical and mental health and well-being, universal health coverage and access to quality healthcare must be achieved. All individuals must be included. The member states are committed to expediting advancements in decreasing newborn, child, and maternal mortality rates, guaranteeing universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, combating malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, Ebola, and other communicable diseases and epidemics, as well as addressing non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental, and neurological disorders, which pose significant challenges to sustainable development.

Member states of the United Nations (UN) are dedicated to establishing robust economic foundations for all nations, emphasising sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. Their efforts will focus on developing dynamic, sustainable, and innovative economies that prioritise youth employment, women's economic empowerment, decent work for all, and the eradication of forced labour and human trafficking. They will enhance the productive capacities of least developed countries across all sectors via structural transformation..

The member states commit to implementing significant alterations in societal production and consumption of goods and services. This includes promoting financial inclusion, advancing sustainable agriculture, developing pastoralist and fisheries sectors, fostering sustainable industrial growth, ensuring universal access to affordable and reliable modern energy services, establishing sustainable transport systems, and enhancing quality and resilient infrastructure. They advocate for the involvement of governments, international organisations, the business sector, and other non-State actors, as well as individuals, in efforts to alter unsustainable consumption and production patterns. The adoption of the 10-Year Framework of

Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is advocated, with developed nations assuming a leadership role while acknowledging the development and capacities of developing nations.

UN member states acknowledge the beneficial role of migrants in fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development. They stress the necessity of international cooperation to guarantee safe, orderly, and regular migration, ensuring full respect for human rights and humane treatment of migrants, irrespective of their migration status, including refugees and displaced persons. This cooperation should enhance the resilience of communities that host refugees, especially in developing nations.

UN member states are urged to refrain from implementing unilateral economic, financial, or trade measures that contravene international law and the UN Charter, as such actions hinder the comprehensive attainment of economic and social development, especially in developing nations. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serves as the principal international, intergovernmental platform for negotiating responses to climate change. There is a commitment to confront the challenges presented by climate change and environmental degradation.

In anticipation of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP21), member states reaffirm their commitment to pursue an ambitious and universal climate agreement. The protocol, as a legal instrument or agreed outcome with binding authority under the Convention applicable to all parties, will address mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and transparency of action and support in a balanced manner.

Member states acknowledge that social and economic development is contingent upon the sustainable management of the planet's natural resources, including oceans, seas, forests, mountains, and arid lands. They aim to advance sustainable tourism, address water scarcity and pollution, enhance collaboration on desertification, dust storms, land degradation, and drought, and foster resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Sustainable urban development and management are essential for enhancing the quality of life for individuals. The member states are dedicated to collaborating with local authorities and communities to revitalise and plan urban areas and human settlements, enhance community cohesion and personal security, promote innovation and employment, mitigate the adverse effects of urban activities and chemicals, and lessen the impact of cities on the global climate system.

Sustainable development is contingent upon the presence of peace and security, while the latter is jeopardised in the absence of sustainable development. The new Agenda acknowledges the necessity of establishing peaceful, just, and inclusive societies that ensure equal access to justice, grounded in respect for human rights, effective rule of law, good governance, and transparency in institutions. Member states must intensify their efforts to resolve or prevent conflicts and support post-conflict nations, including the integration of women in peacebuilding and state-building processes.

Additionally, the member states commit to promoting intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, global citizenship ethics, and shared responsibility. Their recognition of the world's natural and cultural diversity underscores the importance of all cultures and civilisations as essential contributors to sustainable development.

Sport is recognized as a crucial factor in sustainable development, promoting tolerance, respect, and empowerment for women, youth, individuals, communities, health, education, and social inclusion. Member states must respect territorial integrity and political independence, in line with the United Nations Charter.

Means of implementation⁴²

The new Agenda for Sustainable Development necessitates a renewed Global Partnership to facilitate its implementation, with member states demonstrating full commitment to this endeavour. The partnership will operate with a focus on global solidarity, especially concerning the poorest and most vulnerable populations. This

⁴² A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

will promote comprehensive global collaboration to support the implementation of all goals and targets, uniting governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system, and other stakeholders.

The means of implementation specified in Goal 17, along with each Sustainable Development Goal, are essential for achieving the Agenda and hold equal significance to the other Goals and targets. The Agenda can be achieved through a renewed Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, underpinned by the specific policies and actions detailed in the outcome document from the third International Conference on Financing for Development, conducted in Addis Ababa from July 13 to 16, 2015.

The member states acknowledge that each nation holds primary responsibility for its economic and social development. The new Agenda addresses the necessary means for implementing the Goals and targets, which encompass the mobilisation of financial resources, capacity-building, and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries under favourable conditions. Public finance, at both domestic and international levels, is crucial for delivering essential services and public goods, as well as for stimulating additional financial resources. The implementation of the new Agenda recognises the diverse private sector, which encompasses micro-enterprises, cooperatives, multinationals, civil society organisations, and philanthropic organisations.

The member states endorse the execution of pertinent strategies and action programs, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. The significance of endorsing the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development is emphasised, as both are essential components of the new Agenda.

International public finance significantly complements the efforts of nations to mobilise domestic public resources, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with constrained domestic resources. Providers of Official

Development Assistance (ODA) reaffirm their commitments, including the pledge by numerous developed nations to reach the target of 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) for ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 percent of ODA/GNI for least developed countries.

The member states recognise the significance of international financial institutions in facilitating the policy autonomy of each nation, especially those that are developing. Their commitment is to enhance the representation and involvement of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting, and global economic governance. National parliaments are essential for enacting legislation and adopting budgets. Concurrently, governments and public institutions will collaborate with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international organisations, academia, philanthropic entities, volunteer groups, and others for effective implementation.

In conclusion, the new Agenda for Sustainable Development necessitates a revitalised Global Partnership, enhanced national ownership and leadership, and a dialogue within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) regarding the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system in relation to this Agenda.

Follow-up and review⁴³

Governments are accountable for monitoring and evaluating the execution of goals and targets at national, regional, and global levels for the next 15 years. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will supervise this procedure. Metrics are being created to assess advancement and quality. Accessible, prompt, and dependable disaggregated data is essential for decision-making. Utilise existing reporting channels wherever feasible. Member states are dedicated to enhancing statistical capabilities in developing nations, especially those that are African, least developed, landlocked, small island, and middle-income. They

⁴³ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

are also dedicated to formulating comprehensive metrics of advancement to supplement gross domestic product.

A call for action to change the world⁴⁴

Seventy years ago, the United Nations was founded by a group of world leaders who aimed to create peace, dialogue, and international cooperation. The Charter of the United Nations represents these values. A significant decision is being made, as member states commit to fostering a better future for all individuals, including millions who have been deprived of the opportunity to lead decent, dignified lives and realise their full human potential. This generation can be the first to end poverty and save the planet, and the world will be a better place in 2030 if the objectives are successful.

The resolution announcing the Agenda for Global Action for the next 15 years is a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century. Children, young women, and men are critical agents of change, and the new Goals will provide a platform for their activism to create a better world. The Charter of the United Nations underscores the significance of "we the people" in the pursuit of the 2030 agenda, engaging governments, parliaments, international institutions, local authorities, indigenous populations, civil society, businesses, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities.

The fate of mankind and the earth rests with the current and younger generations, who will transmit their legacy to subsequent generations. Member states have delineated the pathway to sustainable development, and it is incumbent upon everyone to guarantee its success and lasting benefits.

Sustainable Development Goals and targets⁴⁵

The Sustainable Development Goals and targets have been established through an inclusive international negotiating process, grounded in the proposal of the Open Working Group. These objectives are interconnected, inseparable, global,

⁴⁴ A/RES/70/1, United Nations retrieved on 22/07/22

⁴⁵ Ibid

and universally relevant, considering diverse country contexts, capabilities, and stages of development. Targets are characterised as ambitious and global, with each country establishing its own national targets informed by the global aim while considering national conditions. Each government will determine the integration of these aspirational global objectives into national planning procedures, policies, and strategies.

Member states acknowledge the distinct challenges encountered by each nation in attaining sustainable development, especially in vulnerable countries, including African nations, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. Countries experiencing war require particular consideration.

Baseline data for several goals remains inaccessible, and there is a demand for further support to fortify data collecting and capacity building in Member States. Member States pledge to rectify this deficiency in data gathering to enhance the assessment of progress, particularly for objectives without explicit numerical targets.

States are urged to continue their efforts in other venues to tackle significant issues that may hinder the implementation of the Agenda, while respecting the autonomous mandates of those procedures. The Agenda and its execution shall facilitate and remain impartial to other processes and choices made therein.

The member states recognise the diverse approaches, visions, models, and tools accessible to each nation for attaining sustainable development, and they reiterate that planet Earth and its ecosystems constitute a shared home, with "Mother Earth" being a prevalent expression in numerous countries and regions.

2.3. THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 17 Goals are broadly classified into the following heads:

I.Goal 1 - End poverty everywhere.⁴⁶

Goal 1 states that ‘all kinds of poverty must end by 2030’. Additionally, it attempts to expand access to essential services, provide social protection for the poor and vulnerable, and aid those who have been injured by natural disasters, economic shocks, and other shocks and shocks related to the economy, society, and environment.⁴⁷

Targets & Indicators

Target 1.1 aims to eradicate extreme poverty for all people worldwide by 2030, focusing on people living on less than \$1.25 a day. This is quantified by the proportion of the population residing below the international poverty threshold, categorised by sex, age, job status, and geographical region.⁴⁸

Target 1.2 aims to reduce at least fifty percent of the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty across all dimensions as defined nationally. This involves the establishment of suitable social protection systems and measures to ensure significant coverage for the poor and vulnerable populations.⁴⁹

Target 1.4 guarantees equal rights to economic resources, basic services, land ownership and control, inheritance, natural resources, new technology, and financial services, including microfinance. This encompasses guaranteeing the percentage of the population residing in households with access to essential services and the proportion of the adult population possessing secure land tenure rights.⁵⁰

Target 1.5 seeks to enhance the resilience of impoverished and vulnerable populations while minimising their exposure and susceptibility to climate-related

⁴⁶United Nations (n.d) *End poverty in all forms everywhere*.Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1>

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid

extreme events and various economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters. This involves securing substantial resource mobilisation from diverse sources, including improved development cooperation, to furnish developing countries with sufficient and reliable means to execute programs and policies aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms.⁵¹

Target 1.a aims to establish effective policy frameworks at national, regional, and international levels, grounded in pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to facilitate increased investment in poverty eradication initiatives. This encompasses public social spending aimed at benefiting the poor.⁵²

II. Goal 2-Eliminate hunger, attain food security and enhanced nutrition, and encourage sustainable agricultural practices.⁵³

Goal 2 aims to eradicate all types of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Additionally, it pledges to guarantee year-round access for everyone to food that is secure, nourishing, and sufficient. This calls for resilient agricultural practices, equitable access to markets, technology, and land, as well as global cooperation on infrastructure and technological investments to increase agricultural productivity.⁵⁴

Targets & Indicators

Target 2.1 aims to eliminate hunger by 2030 and guarantee access to safe, nutritious, and adequate food for all individuals, particularly the impoverished, vulnerable populations, and infants. This encompasses tackling undernourishment, varying degrees of food insecurity, stunting and wasting in children under five years, and meeting the nutritional requirements of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older adults.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ United Nations (n.d) *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

Target 2.2 aims to eradicate all forms of malnutrition by 2030, which includes meeting internationally established goals regarding stunting and wasting in children under five years old, as well as addressing the nutritional requirements of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older adults. This involves tackling stunting, malnutrition, and anaemia among women aged 15 to 49 years, categorised by pregnancy status.⁵⁶

Target 2.3 aims to increase agricultural productivity and earnings of small-scale food producers to double by 2030, including secure and equal access to land, other resources, inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. This encompasses the assurance of sustainable food production systems, the implementation of resilient agricultural practices, and the promotion of genetic diversity among seeds, cultivated plants, domesticated animals, and their related wild species.⁵⁷

Target 2.5 seeks to preserve the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals, and their associated wild species by the year 2020. This encompasses the promotion of access to and equitable distribution of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge.⁵⁸

Target 2a aims to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, by increasing investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks'.⁵⁹

Target 2b seeks to rectify and avert trade restrictions and distortions in global agricultural markets, including the abolition of agricultural export subsidies and equivalent export measures.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Target 2c aims to guarantee the effective operation of food commodity markets and facilitate prompt access to market information to mitigate extreme fluctuations in food prices.⁶¹

III. Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.⁶²

Goal 3 aims to ensure the health and wellbeing of individuals at all stages of life. The Goal addresses key health concerns, encompassing reproductive, maternal, and child health; communicable and non-communicable diseases; environmental health; universal healthcare access; and the provision of safe, effective, high-quality, and affordable medications and immunisations for all populations. Furthermore, it advocates for improved health financing, research and development, and capacity building across all nations to effectively manage and mitigate health risks.⁶³

Targets & Indicators

Target 3.1 aims to decrease the global maternal mortality ratio to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. This encompasses decreasing the maternal mortality ratio and the percentage of births attended by skilled medical professionals.⁶⁴

Target 3.2 seeks to eliminate preventable deaths among newborns and children below five years of age, with all countries striving to decrease neonatal mortality to a minimum of 12 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to a minimum of 25 per 1,000 live births.⁶⁵

Target 3.3 wants to eliminate epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases by 2030, while also addressing hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases. This encompasses the reduction of new infections with HIV per 1,000 uninfected individuals, tuberculosis incidence per

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² United Nations (n.d) *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

100,000 individuals, malaria incidence per 1,000 individuals, and hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 individuals.⁶⁶

Target 3.4 seeks to decrease premature death from non-communicable illnesses by one third by 2030 through prevention and treatment, while also promoting mental health and well-being. This encompasses mortality rates associated with heart disease, diseases such as cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and suicide.⁶⁷

Target 3.5 emphasises the enhancement of prevention and treatment strategies for substance abuse, encompassing narcotic drug misuse and detrimental alcohol consumption. This encompasses addressing treatment interventions and decreasing alcohol consumption per capita within a given calendar year..⁶⁸

Target 3.6 aims to reduce global road traffic accidents and deaths by 2020, aiming to halve the death rate due to these accidents.⁶⁹

Target 3.7 aims to guarantee universal accessibility to sexual and reproductive health-care services by 2030, including family planning, that includes education and information. This involves examining the percentage of women of reproductive age whose family planning needs are met through modern methods and decreasing the adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women.⁷⁰

Target 3.8 seeks to attain universal health coverage, encompassing financial risk protection, access to excellent essential medical care, and the availability of safe, effective, and cost-effective vital vaccines and medications for all individuals. This encompasses the provision of essential health services and the reduction of households experiencing significant health-related expenditures.⁷¹

Target 3.9 seeks to significantly decrease mortality and morbidity associated with hazardous chemicals and pollution in air, water, and soil by the year 2030. This

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

encompasses the examination of mortality rates linked to household and surrounding pollution, unsafe water, sanitation, and unforeseen poisoning.⁷²

Target 3a emphasises the enhancement of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control across all nations, with the objective of decreasing tobacco use among individuals aged 15 years and older..⁷³

Target 3b Target 3b aims to enhance the development and research of vaccines and medicines for both communicable and non-communicable diseases. It focusses on ensuring access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, as well as increasing health financing. Additionally, it emphasises the recruitment, training, development, and retention of health care workers in developing countries..⁷⁴

Target 3c aims to substantially raise health financing and the recruitment, training, development and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in small-island developing states and least developed countries..⁷⁵

Target 3d aims to enhance the potential of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks. This involves improving the capacity of International Health Regulations (IHR) and health emergency preparedness, along with decreasing bloodstream infections caused by specific antimicrobial-resistant organisms..⁷⁶

IV. Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.⁷⁷

Despite advancements, the world did not reach the MDG of providing universal primary education by 2015. The most recent year for which data are available is 2013, and 59 million kids of primary school age were not enrolled in

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ United Nations (n.d) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>

school. According to estimates, 1 in 5 of the 59 million children had dropped out of school, and recent trends indicate that 2 in 5 of those kids will never enter a classroom. Even as the global community expressly addresses the issues of quality and equity, the Sustainable Development Goals make it apparent that this gap needs to be closed.⁷⁸

Targets & Indicators

Target 4.1 aims to make sure that all girls and boys finish equal, free, and quality secondary and primary education by 2030, achieving a minimum proficiency level in both mathematics and reading. This encompasses graduation rates for primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education.⁷⁹

Target 4.2 seeks to deliver high-quality childhood development, care, and primary schooling for both girls and boys, particularly targeting children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally progressing in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being.⁸⁰

Target 4.3 aims to guarantee equal access to affordable and high-quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education for all individuals, regardless of gender, by the year 2030. This encompasses participation rates in formal as well as informal education and training over the past 12 months, disaggregated by sex.⁸¹

Target 4.4 focuses on significantly enhancing the number of youth and adults possessing relevant skills for employment, decent employment, and entrepreneurship by the year 2030. This encompasses a notable rise in the percentage of youth and adults possessing ICT (information and communication technology) skills.⁸²

Target 4.5 intends to eliminate gender disparities in education by 2030, guaranteeing equal access to education and vocational training for those who are vulnerable, including individuals with disabilities, indigenous populations, and

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

children in precarious circumstances. This can be accomplished using parity indices for all educational indicators.⁸³

Target 4.6 seeks to guarantee that all youth and a significant percentage of adults attain literacy and numeracy skills by 2030. This can be accomplished by analysing the proportion of the population within a specific age group that attains a predetermined level of proficiency in functional literacy and numeracy skills, disaggregated by sex.⁸⁴

Target 4.7 calls on to advance sustainable development by fostering education that emphasises sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, nonviolent conflict resolution, global citizenship, and cultural diversity. Achieving this requires the integration of global citizenship education and education for sustainable development into national education policies, curricula, teacher training, and student assessment practices.⁸⁵

Target 4.a calls on to enhance educational facilities for children, addressing disability and gender issues, while ensuring safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments. Indicators encompass the percentage of schools providing fundamental services and the quantity of scholarships accessible to developing nations by 2020.⁸⁶

Target 4.b aims at raising global scholarships for higher education, encompassing vocational training as well as technical, engineering, and scientific programs, in developing as well as developed countries.⁸⁷

Target 4.c is designed to enhance the supply of qualified teachers by 2030 through international collaboration, focusing on developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island states. Assess the percentage of educators possessing minimum qualifications categorised by educational attainment.⁸⁸

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

V. Goal 5 - Attain gender equality and empower every women and girls.⁸⁹

Women's empowerment and gender equality have made progress in recent decades. There has been progress in the areas of reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health, including a decrease in maternal fatalities, as well as the improvement of girls' access to school and the rate of child marriage. However, the absence of gender equality is a significant barrier to sustainable development and a chronic concern for nations all over the world.⁹⁰

Targets & Indicators

Target 5.1 seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls globally, establishing legal frameworks that promote equality and prohibit discrimination based on sex.⁹¹

Target 5.2 intends to eradicate all manifestations of violence against women and girls, encompassing trafficking and sexual exploitation. Indicators encompass the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced physical, sexual, or psychological violence from a current or former intimate partner within the past 12 months, categorised by type of violence and age group.⁹²

Target 5.3 strives to eliminate harmful practices, including child marriage, early marriage, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. Indicators comprise the percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union prior to age 15 and before age 18, as well as the percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 who have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting by age.⁹³

Target 5.4 acknowledges the significance of unpaid care and domestic work by advocating for public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies that encourage shared responsibility among households and families, tailored to national

⁸⁹ United Nations (n.d) *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

contexts. Indicators encompass the percentage of time allocated to unpaid domestic and caregiving tasks, categorised by sex, age, and geographic location.⁹⁴

Target 5.5 aims to guarantee women's comprehensive and effective involvement, as well as equal opportunities for leadership across all tiers of decision-making in political, economic, and public spheres. Indicators encompass the percentage of seats occupied by women in national parliaments and local governments, along with the percentage of women in managerial roles.⁹⁵

Target 5.6 attempts to guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, as established in the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action. Indicators encompass the percentage of women aged 15-49 who independently make informed choices about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care, as well as the count of countries with legislation ensuring comprehensive and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health services, information, and education for individuals aged 15 and above.⁹⁶

Target 5.a is intended to implement reforms that ensure women have equal rights to economic resources, land ownership, and control, in alignment with national laws. Indicators encompass the proportion of the agricultural population that possesses or controls land, the percentage of women among landowners, and the share of countries with legal frameworks that ensure women's equal rights.⁹⁷

Target 5.b seeks to improve the utilisation of enabling technology, especially information and communications technology, to advance women's empowerment. Indicators encompass the percentage of individuals possessing mobile phones categorised by sex.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

Target 5. aims to implement and enhance policies and legislation that promote gender equality and empower women, alongside establishing systems for monitoring and distributing resources.⁹⁹

VI. Goal 6 - Ensure the availability and management of water and sanitation sustainable for everyone.¹⁰⁰

To ensure both human and environmental survival, water and sanitation are fundamental components of sustainable development. Goal 6 tackles both the quality and sustainability of water resources globally as well as concerns connected to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene.¹⁰¹

Targets & Indicators

Target 6.1 calls on to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. This includes a proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services and hand-washing facilities.¹⁰²

Target 6.2 aims to achieve adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, ending open defecation, and focusing on women, girls, and vulnerable individuals. This entails reducing the proportion of untreated wastewater by half and enhancing global recycling and safe reuse practices.¹⁰³

Target 6.3 aims to enhance water quality through the reduction of pollution, the elimination of dumping, the minimisation of hazardous chemicals and materials, the halving of untreated wastewater, and the promotion of recycling and safe reuse. This involves the safe treatment of domestic and industrial wastewater flows and the maintenance of high ambient water quality.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations (n.d) *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

Target 6.4 seeks to enhance water-use efficiency in all sectors and ensure sustainable freshwater withdrawals and supply to mitigate water scarcity. This encompasses a variation in water-use efficiency over time and the degree of water stress.¹⁰⁵

Target 6.5 is designed to implement integrated water resources management across all levels, including trans-boundary cooperation, by the year 2030. This encompasses integrated water resources management and a portion of trans-boundary basin areas with established operational arrangements for water cooperation.¹⁰⁶

Target 6.6 focuses on the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems by 2020, focusing on the extent of these ecosystems over time.’¹⁰⁷

Target 6.a seeks to enhance international collaboration and capacity-building assistance for developing nations in water and sanitation initiatives and programs by the year 2030. Indicators comprise official development assistance and government-coordinated expenditure plans.¹⁰⁸

Target 6.b strives to enhance local community involvement in the management of water and sanitation by ensuring that a certain percentage of administrative units have implemented relevant policies and procedures.¹⁰⁹

VII. Goal 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for everyone.¹¹⁰

Energy is essential for attaining practically all of the Sustainable Development Goals, from its role in addressing climate change to its contribution to the eradication of poverty through improvements in water supply, industrialization, health, and education.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ United Nations (n.d) *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7>

¹¹¹ Ibid.

Targets & Indicators

Target 7.1 seeks to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by the year 2030. This involves enhancing the percentage of individuals with access to electricity and a primary dependence on clean fuels and technologies.¹¹²

Target 7.2 is to substantially enhance the proportion of renewable energy within the global energy mix by the year 2030.¹¹³

Target 7.3 seeks to double global energy efficiency by 2030, utilising energy intensity metrics based on primary energy and GDP.¹¹⁴

Target 7.a aims to enhance international collaboration to advance clean energy research and technology by the year 2030. This involves improving international financial transfers to developing nations for clean energy research and production, encompassing hybrid systems.¹¹⁵

Target 7.b is designed to enhance infrastructure and improve technology for contemporary and sustainable energy services in developing nations, with a focus on least developed countries, small island states, and landlocked regions. This involves the installation of renewable energy generation capacity in these nations.¹¹⁶

VIII. Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.¹¹⁷

Sustainable development can only be attained through long-term, inclusive economic growth. In 2014, the real GDP per capita expanded globally by 1.3%, a marked decrease from the growth rates of 2010 (2.8% growth) and 2000 (3.0%

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ United Nations (n.d) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal38>

growth). With average annual growth rates of 3.1% and 1.4%, respectively and in 2014, developing regions expanded far more quickly than developed regions.¹¹⁸

Targets & Indicators

Target 8.1 aims to maintain per capita economic growth, with a minimum of 7% in least developed countries. Diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation can facilitate this, with an emphasis on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.¹¹⁹

Target 8.2 focuses on enhancing economic productivity by promoting diversification, technological advancement, and innovation.¹²⁰

Target 8.3 advocates for the implementation of development-oriented policies that foster productive activities, job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, while promoting the formalisation and expansion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.¹²¹

Target 8.4 aims to improve global resource efficiency by 2030, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, with developed countries leading. This is achieved through indicators such as material footprint, material footprint per capita, and GDP.¹²²

Target 8.5 aims to attain full and productive employment for all, including female and male, by 2030, with equal pay for work of equal value. This is achieved through measures like average hourly earnings and unemployment rates.¹²³

Target 8.6 aims to reduce youth unemployment by 2020, focusing on 15-24 years of age.¹²⁴

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

Target 8.7 aims at eliminating forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking, as well as to eradicate child labour by the year 2025. The objective encompasses the analysis of child labour by sex and age, as well as the enforcement of the prohibition and eradication of child soldiers.¹²⁵

Target 8.8 seeks to safeguard labour rights and guarantee safe working conditions for all workers, encompassing migrant workers and individuals in precarious employment. Indicators encompass fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, as well as national adherence to labour rights.¹²⁶

Target 8.9 focuses on sustainable tourism by 2030, promoting local culture and products, and reducing direct GDP.¹²⁷

Target 8.10 aims to improve the capacity of domestic financial institutions to offer banking, insurance, and financial services to all individuals. This is to be achieved by increasing the number of commercial bank branches and ATMs, as well as raising the percentage of adults aged 15 and older who possess an account at a bank or other financial institution¹²⁸

Target 8.a seeks to enhance Aid for Trade support for developing countries, particularly the least developed, via the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance.¹²⁹

Target 8.b calls on to establish and implement a global strategy for youth employment by 2020, in accordance with the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Establish a national strategy for youth employment, either as an independent initiative or integrated within a broader national employment strategy.¹³⁰

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

IX. Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable and inclusive industrialization along with fostering innovation.¹³¹

The three key components of sustainable development covered by Goal 9 are ‘infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation’. Infrastructure offers the fundamental physical systems and structures required for a community or business to function. Industrialization promotes economic expansion, opens up employment opportunities, and lowers income poverty. Innovation encourages the creation of new talents and enhances the technological capacities of industrial sectors.¹³²

Targets & Indicators

Target 9.1 aims to provide excellent, dependable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to facilitate economic development and enhance human well-being, emphasising affordable and equal access for everyone. This entails guaranteeing that rural communities residing within 2 km of all-season roads be considered, while also decreasing passenger and freight volumes.¹³³

Target 9.2 is to foster inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, with the objective of augmenting the industry's contribution to employment and gross domestic product by 2030. This encompasses a doubling of its proportion in the least developed nations.¹³⁴

Target 9.3 seeks to enhance access to financial services, including cheap loans, for small-scale firms, particularly in developing nations, and to facilitate their entry into value chains and markets. This entails augmenting the share of small-scale enterprises in total industry value added and the percentage of small-scale industries possessing a loan or line of credit.¹³⁵

Target 9.4 aims to enhance infrastructure and remodel industries by 2030, emphasising improved resource-use efficiency and the implementation of clean and

¹³¹ United Nations (n.d) *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

environmentally sustainable technologies and processes. This will be accomplished by the actions of all nations in accordance with their capacities.¹³⁶

Target 9.5 intends to enhance scientific research and industrial capacities in developing nations by 2030, promoting innovation and augmenting the number of research and development personnel per 1 million individuals. This encompasses expenditures on research and development from both governmental and commercial sectors.¹³⁷

Target 9.a emphasises the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries, offering financial, technological, and technical assistance to African nations, least developed countries, landlocked states, and small island developing states.¹³⁸

Target 9.b promotes domestic technology development, research, and innovation in developing countries, while ensuring a supportive policy environment for industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.¹³⁹

Target 9.c seeks to enhance access to information and communications technology, ensuring universal and affordable internet access in least developed countries by 2020.¹⁴⁰

X. Goal 10 - Reduce inequality among and within countries.¹⁴¹

Goal 10 aims for ‘minimizing financial disparities as well as those based on sex, age, ethnicity, handicap, origin, race, religion, or economic or other position within a nation.’ Inequalities between nations, such as those pertaining to migration, representation, and development aid, are also addressed by the Goal.¹⁴²

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ United Nations (n.d) *Reduce inequality within and among countries*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>

¹⁴² Ibid.

Targets & Indicators

Target 10.1 aims to accomplish and sustain income growth for the lowest 40% of the population by 2030, utilising indicators such as household expenditure and income per capita.¹⁴³

Target 10.2 seeks to empower and promote the inclusion of individuals in social, economic, and political spheres, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic status. This involves decreasing the percentage of individuals living below 50% of the median income.¹⁴⁴

Target 10.3 intends to ensure equal opportunity and diminish inequalities through the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies. This involves advocating for suitable legislation and measures to mitigate discrimination.¹⁴⁵

Target 10.4 emphasises the adoption of policies, specifically in the areas of fiscal, wage, and social protection, to attain enhanced equality. Important indicators consist of the labour share of GDP and the effects of fiscal policy on distribution.¹⁴⁶

Target 10.5 seeks to improve the regulation and oversight of global financial markets and institutions, with an emphasis on financial soundness indicators.¹⁴⁷

Target 10.6 calls on to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in decision-making processes, thereby ensuring the establishment of credible, accountable, and legitimate institutions. This will be accomplished via a distribution of membership and voting rights within international organizations.¹⁴⁸

Target 10.7 seeks to promote orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility through the implementation of well-managed migration policies. Important indicators comprise recruitment costs for employees, the number

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

of countries implementing migration policies, the count of deaths or disappearances, and the percentage of refugees categorised by their country of origin.¹⁴⁹

Target 10.a strives to implement special and differential treatment for developing countries, particularly the least developed, in alignment with World Trade Organisation agreements. Indicators encompass tariff lines imposed on imports from least developed and zero-tariff countries.¹⁵⁰

Target 10.b seeks to promote official development assistance and financial resources to nations with the most significant needs, including least developed countries, African nations, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries, in alignment with national plans and programs.¹⁵¹

Target 10.c strives to decrease transaction costs of migrant remittances to below 3% by 2030 and to eradicate remittance corridors with costs exceeding 5%. The indicator represents remittance costs as a percentage of the total remitted amount.¹⁵²

XI. Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.¹⁵³

Majority of the people in the world are living in urban areas. According to projections, six out of ten people will live in cities by 2030. Despite various planning obstacles, effectively managed cities and other human settlements can serve as breeding grounds for creativity and innovation as well as important proponents of sustainable development.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ United Nations (n.d) *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal311>

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

Targets & Indicators

Target 11.1 aims to provide affordable, adequate housing and basic services to all by 2030, reducing the proportion of urban population living in slums.¹⁵⁵

Target 11.2 aims to improve road safety by expanding public transport, focusing on vulnerable groups like women, children, and older persons. The target includes sex, age, and persons with disabilities in determining the proportion of the population with convenient public transport access.¹⁵⁶

Target 11.3 aims to improve inclusive and sustainable urbanization and human settlement planning and management by 2030. This includes reducing land consumption rates and promoting civil society participation in urban planning and management.¹⁵⁷

Additionally, **Target 11.4** focuses on protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage, with a focus on total per capita expenditure on these areas.¹⁵⁸

Target 11.5 aims to decrease fatalities, the number of affected individuals, and direct economic losses resulting from disasters by 2030, with an emphasis on safeguarding vulnerable populations. Key indicators encompass the mortality rate, number of missing individuals, and the count of directly affected persons per 100,000 population, alongside direct economic losses, damage to essential infrastructure, and interruptions to fundamental services. The objective is to safeguard individuals who are impoverished and those in precarious circumstances.¹⁵⁹

Target 11.6 seeks to decrease per capita environmental impact in urban areas by 2030, emphasising air quality and waste management. Key indicators consist of the percentage of municipal solid waste collected and processed in regulated

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

facilities, as well as the annual average concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) in urban areas.¹⁶⁰

Target 11.7 is designed to guarantee universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces by the year 2030. This encompasses the examination of the average share of built-up area designated for public use, categorised by sex, age, and individuals with disabilities, alongside the analysis of the proportion of individuals who experienced physical or sexual harassment within the preceding 12 months.¹⁶¹

Target 11.a aims to enhance national and regional development planning to foster beneficial economic, social, and environmental connections among urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. Indicators encompass nations with national urban policies that tackle population dynamics, promote balanced territorial development, and enhance local fiscal capacity.¹⁶²

Target 11.b seeks to enhance the adoption of integrated policies in cities and human settlements that promote inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation, and disaster resilience by the year 2020. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 aims to achieve this through specific indicators, including the number of countries that adopt national disaster risk reduction strategies and the proportion of local governments that implement these strategies.¹⁶³

Target 11.c aims to assist least developed countries in constructing sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials, which includes providing financial and technical support.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

XII. Goal 12 - Ensure patterns of sustainable consumption and production.¹⁶⁵

The production of goods and services that raise living standards is necessary for economic development and progress. The use of harmful materials, natural resources, waste, and pollutants must all be kept to a minimum during all stages of production and consumption if sustainable growth and development are to be achieved.¹⁶⁶

Targets & Indicators

Target 12.1 aims to implement the ten-year framework of Programmes on Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns, with developed countries taking the lead while considering the capabilities of developing countries. Specify the number of countries that are developing, enacting or implementing policy instruments aimed at promoting sustainable consumption and production.¹⁶⁷

Target 12.2 seeks to attain sustainable management and efficient utilisation of natural resources by the year 2030. This encompasses the reduction of material footprint, domestic material consumption, and gross domestic product (GDP).¹⁶⁸

Target 12.3 seeks to reduce per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels by 50% and to minimize food losses throughout production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.¹⁶⁹

Target 12.4 aims to manage chemicals and wastes environmentally by 2020, adhering to international frameworks and reducing their release to air, water, and soil. Key indicators include parties to international agreements, hazardous waste generation per capita, and proportion of hazardous waste treated.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁵ United Nations (n.d) *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12>

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

Target 12.5 aims to substantially lessen waste generation by 2030 through reduction, reuse, recycling, and prevention. National recycling rates and the volume of materials recycled serve as essential indicators.¹⁷¹

Target 12.6 promotes that large and transnational corporations implement sustainable practices and incorporate sustainability information into their reporting processes.¹⁷²

Target 12.7 promotes sustainable public procurement practices according to national policies and priorities, with indicators including countries implementing policies and action plans in number.¹⁷³

Target 12.8 aims to promote sustainable development and harmony with nature by 2030. This includes mainstreaming global citizenship education and sustainable development education in curricula, national policies, student assessment and teacher education.¹⁷⁴

Target 12.a aims to enhance scientific and technological capacity in developing countries for sustainable consumption and production by implementing renewable energy-generating capacity (watts per capita).¹⁷⁵

Target 12.b aims to ‘develop and implement tools for monitoring sustainable tourism impacts, promoting local culture and products, and ensuring economic and environmental sustainability through standard accounting tools.’¹⁷⁶

Target 12.c aims to restructure taxation and phase out detrimental fossil-fuel subsidies to mitigate wasteful consumption and environmental impacts. This must be executed in alignment with national contexts, considering the distinct requirements and circumstances of developing nations. The indicators encompass the quantity of fossil-fuel subsidies relative to GDP.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

XIII. Goal 13 - Take urgent action to tackle climate change and the impacts.¹⁷⁸

The single greatest challenge to development is climate change, whose vast, unprecedented effects disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and underprivileged people. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals depends on swift action to mitigate climate change and lessen its negative effects.¹⁷⁹

Targets & Indicators

Target 13.1 aims to improve resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters across all nations. Indicators encompass the count of fatalities, missing individuals, and those directly impacted, the number of nations adopting national disaster risk reduction strategies, and the percentage of local governments executing these strategies.¹⁸⁰

Target 13.2 seeks to incorporate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning through the analysis of indicators such as country contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and annual greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁸¹

Target 13.3 calls on to improve education, awareness, and capacity regarding climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning systems. This encompasses the integration of global citizenship and sustainable development education into national policies, curricula, teacher training, and student evaluation.¹⁸²

Target 13.a seeks to fulfil the commitment of developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support the needs of developing countries in mitigation actions and transparency. The Green Climate Fund must achieve full operational status by 2025, with metrics indicating the annual amount provided and mobilised in US dollars.¹⁸³

¹⁷⁸ United Nations (n.d) *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

Target 13.b aims to enhance the capacity for effective climate change planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, with an emphasis on women, youth, and marginalised communities. Indicators encompass the count of countries presenting nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and adaptation communications submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁸⁴

XIV. Goal 14 - Conserve the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.¹⁸⁵

Oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, are crucial for global social and economic development and human well-being. People who live in coastal towns, which made up 37% of the world's population in 2010, particularly need them. Along with sustenance and income, the oceans also benefit tourism. They contribute to global ecological control by absorbing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and providing protection to coastal regions against flooding and erosion. These resources are, however, particularly susceptible to pollution, overfishing, climate change, and environmental deterioration. Achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially for small-island developing States, depends on the sustainable use and preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and their biological variety.¹⁸⁶

Targets & Indicators

Target 14.1 aims to reduce marine pollution by 2025, focusing on land-based activities, marine debris, and nutrient pollution. Important indicators comprise the coastal eutrophication index and the density of plastic debris.¹⁸⁷

Target 14.2 aims to manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems sustainably by 2020, emphasising resilience and restoration for the maintenance of

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations (n.d) *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

healthy oceans. The number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to manage marine areas is also crucial.¹⁸⁸

Target 14.3 addresses ocean acidification impacts through enhanced scientific cooperation, using average marine acidity (pH) measurements from sampling stations that are representative.¹⁸⁹

Target 14.4 aims to regulate harvesting, eliminate overfishing, combat illegal fishing, and cease destructive practices by the year 2020. Develop management plans grounded in scientific principles to rehabilitate fish populations to their maximum sustainable yield, informed by biological attributes.¹⁹⁰

Target 14.5 aims to conserve 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020, following national and international law and scientific information. This includes covering protected areas in relation to marine areas.¹⁹¹

Target 14.6 seeks to eliminate fisheries subsidies that lead to overcapacity and overfishing by the year 2020. Remove subsidies that facilitate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and refrain from implementing new subsidies. It is essential to acknowledge the significance of special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries in the negotiations concerning fisheries subsidies within the World Trade Organisation.¹⁹²

Target 14.7 aims to enhance economic advantages for small-island developing States and least developed countries by 2030 through the sustainable management of marine resources, fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. This involves enhancing the contribution of sustainable fisheries to GDP across all nations.¹⁹³

Target 14.a aims to enhance scientific knowledge, research capacity, and transfer marine technology to improve ocean health and marine biodiversity in

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

developing countries. This should be achieved by focusing on the proportion of research budget allocated to marine technology.¹⁹⁴

Target 14.b aims to ensure that small-scale artisanal fishers have access to marine resources and markets through the establishment of a legal, regulatory, policy, and institutional framework that acknowledges and safeguards access rights.¹⁹⁵

Target 14.c seeks to improve ocean conservation and sustainable use through the implementation of international law, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This involves the ratification, acceptance, and implementation of ocean-related instruments that enforce international law, as specified in "The Future We Want."¹⁹⁶

XV. Goal 15 –Promote, restore and protect sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests in a sustainable manner, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation as well as halt biodiversity loss.¹⁹⁷

It takes focused efforts to conserve, restore, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and other ecosystems in order to preserve the variety of life forms found on land. In particular, Goal 15 focuses on ‘minimizing degraded natural habitats, successfully preventing desertification, repairing degraded areas, and stopping biodiversity loss.’¹⁹⁸

Targets & Indicators

Target 15.1 seeks to conserve, restore, and utilise terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems by 2020, encompassing forests, mountains, wetlands, and

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations (n.d) *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

drylands, in alignment with international agreements. Indicators encompass the proportion of forest area and the presence of protected biodiversity sites.¹⁹⁹

Target 15.2 aims to promote responsible forest management, cease deforestation, restore devastated forests, and enhance afforestation and reforestation on a global scale by the year 2020. Advancement in sustainable forest management is essential.²⁰⁰

Target 15.3 addresses desertification, rehabilitate degraded land and soil, and attain a land degradation-neutral status by the year 2030.²⁰¹

Target 15.4 aims to conserve mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity to improve their potential for sustainable development. Key indicators comprise protected areas and the Mountain Green Cover Index.²⁰²

Target 15.5 seeks to implement immediate measures to mitigate habitat degradation, prevent biodiversity loss, and safeguard threatened species by 2020, utilising Red List Index indicators.²⁰³

Target 15.6 seeks to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources and to ensure appropriate access, as established through international agreements. Indicators encompass the adoption of legislative, administrative, and policy frameworks by countries to ensure equitable sharing.²⁰⁴

Target 15.7 aims to end poaching and trafficking of protected species, addressing demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, and reducing the proportion of traded wildlife.²⁰⁵

Target 15.8 aims to prevent and reduce invasive alien species' impact on land and water ecosystems by 2020. This includes implementing appropriate legislation and adequately resourcing for prevention and control.²⁰⁶

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Ibid.

Target 15.9 aims to integrate the values of ecosystem and biodiversity into national and local planning, poverty reduction strategies, development processes, and accounts by 2020. This includes assessing the number of countries establishing national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 and the progress reported towards these targets. Integrating biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, is essential.²⁰⁷

Target 15.a aims to raise financial resources for conserving and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems through official development assistance and revenue from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments.²⁰⁸

Target 15.b is aimed at gathering resources from diverse sources to finance sustainable forest management and to offer incentives for developing countries to promote conservation and reforestation efforts. Indicators encompass official development assistance and revenue generated from economic instruments pertinent to biodiversity.²⁰⁹

Target 15.c aims to enhance global efforts against poaching and trafficking of protected species by bolstering the ability of local communities for sustainable livelihoods and diminishing illegal wildlife trafficking.²¹⁰

XVI. Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for everyone and build accountable, effective and inclusive institutions at every level.²¹¹

Sustainable development is based on justice, peace and institutions that are efficient, responsible, and inclusive. In recent decades, peace and security have increased and been preserved in a number of regions. But due to inadequate

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ Ibid.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ United Nations (n.d) *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.* Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>

institutions, lack of access to justice, information, and other essential freedoms, many countries continue to experience protracted armed conflict and violence, and an excessive number of people continue to struggle.²¹²

Targets & Indicators

Target 16.1 aims to reduce the global death rates associated with all forms of violence by a significant amount. Indicators encompass the rate of intentional homicide victims per 100,000 individuals, categorised by sex and age, fatalities from conflicts per 100,000 individuals, classified by sex, age, and cause, the proportion of the population that has encountered physical, psychological, or sexual violence in the preceding 12 months, and the percentage of individuals who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.²¹³

Target 16.2 aims to put an end to the mistreatment, trafficking, exploitation, and torture of children. Indicators include the percentage of children aged 1 to 17 who have recently experienced physical or verbal abuse by carers, the ratio of trafficking in people victims per 100,000 individuals categorised by age, sex, and type of exploitation, and the percentage of individuals aged 18 to 29 who were sexually assaulted prior to turning 18.²¹⁴

Target 16.3 aims to ensure that everyone has equal access to justice and promote the rule of law on a national and worldwide scale. The percentage of people who experienced violence in the past 12 months and reported it to the appropriate authorities or other officially recognised dispute resolution procedures, the amount of unsentenced detainees relative to the overall prison population and the percentage of individuals who utilised formal or informal dispute resolution procedures to address disputes in the past two years are critical indicators.²¹⁵

Target 16.4 aims to increase the recovery and return of stolen assets, dramatically cut down on illicit financial and armament flows, and combat all facets

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ Ibid.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

of organised crime by 2030. Indicators include the total amount of illicit financial flows coming into and going out of the country (in US dollars as of today), and the percentage of weapons that have been located, found, or surrendered whose unlawful context or origin have been identified by a competent authority in accordance with international conventions.²¹⁶

Target 16.5 goal is to substantially reduce all manifestations of corruption and bribery. Indicators encompass the proportion of individuals who engaged with a public official in the preceding year and either paid a bribe or were solicited for one, alongside the percentage of enterprises that interacted with public authorities in the last 12 months and either paid bribes or were prompted to do so.²¹⁷

Target 16.6 is to establish institutions that are efficient, reliable, and transparent at all levels. Indicators comprise the principal government expenditures categorised by sector (or budget codes) as a percentage of the initially sanctioned budget, alongside the proportion of the populace satisfied with their most recent engagement with public services.²¹⁸

Target 16.7 aims to ensure that decision-making is responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative at all levels. Indicators refer to roles within national and local institutions, including legislatures, the public sector, and the judiciary, in relation to the national distributions of women, age, individuals with disabilities, and demographic groupings, alongside the percentage of individuals, categorised by sex, age, disability, and demographic group, who believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive.²¹⁹

Target 16.8 strives to increase and broaden developing nations' engagement in global governance organizations indicated by percentage of developing nations having voting rights and membership in international organizations.²²⁰

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

²²⁰ Ibid.

Target 16.9 is to ensure that all individuals possess legal identity by 2030, encompassing birth registration. Indicators encompass the percentage of children under five whose births have been registered with a civil authority, categorised by age.²²¹

Target 16.10 aims to safeguard fundamental rights and ensure public access to information in compliance with local laws and international agreements. This is evidenced by the quantity of verified incidents of homicide, abduction, enforced disappearance, unlawful detention, and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, labour activists, and human rights advocates over the past year, alongside the number of countries that implement and enforce legal, legislative, or policy safeguards for public access to information.²²²

Target 16.a strives to increase the capacity of pertinent national institutions, including those in developing nations, to prevent violence, fight terrorism, and fight crime at all levels. Indicators are basically independent national human rights organisations that adhere to the Paris Principles are present.²²³

Target 16.b aims to promote and uphold nondiscriminatory rules and regulations for sustainable development. Indicators include the percentage of people who say they personally experienced discrimination or harassment in the preceding year on the basis of a factor that is forbidden by legislation of international human rights.²²⁴

XVII. Goal 17 - Strengthen the mechanisms of implementation and revitalize the international cooperation for sustainable development.²²⁵

A revitalised and enhanced global partnership that consolidates governments, civil society, the corporate sector, the United Nations system, and other stakeholders is essential to realise the ambitious objectives of the 2030 Agenda. This collaboration

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ United Nations (n.d) *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17>

must also mobilise all available resources. Equitable progress for all depends on increasing aid to developing nations, especially the least developed nations and tiny island developing States.²²⁶

Targets & Indicators

Target 17.1 works towards improving domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection by strengthening domestic resource mobilization, especially through international assistance to developing countries. Indicators include the percentage of domestic budget supported by domestic taxes and the breakdown of total government revenue as a percentage of GDP.²²⁷

Target 17.2 aims for developed nations to completely fulfil their obligations regarding official development assistance, which includes the goal of allocating 0.7 percent of ODA/GNI (official development assistance/gross national income) to developing countries and between 0.15 to 0.20 percent to the least developed countries. ODA providers are encouraged to establish a target of a minimum of 20 percent of ODA/GNI allocated to least developed nations. Indicators include net official development assistance, both overall and directed towards least developed countries, expressed as a percentage of donors' gross national income (GNI), as defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee.²²⁸

Target 17.3 focuses on its target to 'increase the amount of money available to emerging nations from various sources'. This is indicated by amount of remittances (in US dollars) as a percentage of global GDP; additional financial resources that have been raised for developing nations from various sources.²²⁹

Target 17.4 aims to assist developing nations in attaining long-term debt sustainability through the coordination of policies that promote debt financing, debt relief, and, when necessary, debt restructuring. It also addresses the external debt of

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹

heavily indebted poor nations to reduce debt distress, as measured by the proportion of exports of goods and services allocated to debt service.²³⁰

Target 17.5 aims to implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries. Indicators encompass the quantity of countries that implement and execute investment promotion policies aimed at developing nations, especially those classified as least developed.²³¹

Target 17.6 seeks to improve knowledge sharing based on mutually agreed terms, alongside fostering North-South, South-South, and triangular regional and international cooperation. This includes enhancing coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly within the UN framework, and establishing a global technology facilitation mechanism. Indicators comprise the quantity of fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 residents, categorised by speed.²³²

Target 17.7 aims to enhance the development, transfer, dissemination, and diffusion of ecologically sound technologies to developing nations under favourable conditions, including mutually agreed preferential and concessional terms. The total financial support provided to developing nations for the creation, transfer, and utilisation of environmentally sustainable technologies serves as one of the indicators.²³³

Target 17.8 works towards ‘enhancing the use of enabling technologies, particularly information and communications technology, and fully operationalize the technology bank and the mechanism for least developed countries to increase their capacity in science, technology, and innovation by 2017.’ The proportion of people utilising the internet is one indicator.²³⁴

Target 17.9 aims to enhance international support for the effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries, thereby aiding national strategies in the execution of all Sustainable Development Goals through North-South, South-

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ Ibid.

²³² Ibid.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid.

South, and triangular cooperation. The dollar amount of financial and technical support provided to developing nations, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, indicates this.²³⁵

Target 17.10 aims to promote a global, rules-based, fair, open, and multilateral trade system under the World Trade Organisation, particularly by concluding discussions related to its Doha Development Agenda. The global weighted average tariff serves as one indicator.²³⁶

Target 17.11 aims to double the percentage of least developed countries in global exports by 2020 by significantly increasing exports from developing nations. Indicator is the percentage of exports coming from developing and least developed nations.²³⁷

Target 17.12 aims to ensure that preferential rules of origin for imports from least developed countries are clear and straightforward, thereby facilitating market access. Additionally, the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries, in accordance with WTO decisions, will further support this objective. A weighted average of tariffs serves as one indicator.

Target 17.13 aims to improve macro-economic stability globally, including through coherent and coordinated policymaking. Indicators include the macroeconomic dashboard.

Target 17.14 strives to improve the coherence of policies for sustainable development. A measure of policy coherence for sustainable development is the proportion of nations with such systems in place.

Respecting the leadership and policy space of each nation as they develop and put into action plans for ending poverty and fostering sustainable development' is the goal of **Target 17.15**. Indicators are how often development cooperation providers employ planning and results frameworks controlled by their own country.

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Ibid.

²³⁷ Ibid.

Target 17.16 seeks to improve the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development by fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and disseminate knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to aid in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals across all countries, with a particular focus on developing nations.

Indicators include the number of nations reporting development effectiveness monitoring frameworks for multi-stakeholder development success in order to help the Sustainable Development Goals be achieved.

Target 17.17 aims to promote and facilitate effective collaborations among public entities, private sectors, and civil society by utilising their resources and expertise. Indicators encompass the financial investment in infrastructure via public-private partnerships in the United States.

Target 17.18 stipulates the necessity to significantly enhance the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other relevant characteristics in national contexts. It also emphasises the need to increase capacity-building support for developing countries by 2020, particularly for least developed countries and small island developing states. Indicators serve as statistical capacity measures for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. These include the number of countries with national statistical legislation aligned with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the count of nations, categorised by financing source, that possess fully funded and active national statistics plans.²³⁸

Target 17.19 focuses on the aim that by 2030, expand on current efforts to create metrics for sustainable development success that go beyond GDP and aid in the development of poor nations' statistical capabilities. Indicators include the total dollar amount invested in building emerging nations' statistical capacities. Furthermore, the proportion of countries that have: (a) conducted at least one housing

²³⁸ Ibid.

and population census in the past decade; (b) achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration is presented.²³⁹

2.4. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The UN Secretary General, as a component of the UN System, publishes an annual SDG Progress report, which relies on the global indicator framework and data generated by national statistics systems, in addition to information gathered at the regional level.

In addition, the Global Sustainable Development Report is released every four years to inform the General Assembly's quadrennial review of SDGs. A group of independent scientists was appointed by the Secretary-General to write the report.

2.5. HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

As a result of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established.

The United Nations established The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) as a central venue for the follow-up and assessment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. It is the apex of the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review architecture created by Agenda 2030 and General Assembly resolution 70/299.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/290, determined that the Forum shall convene annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for a duration of eight days, which will encompass a three-day ministerial segment. A meeting should be held every four years at the Heads of State and Government level, with support from the General Assembly, and should last two days.²⁴⁰

²³⁹ Ibid.

²⁴⁰ United Nations (2013) A/RES/67/290 - *Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development*.SDG Knowledge Platform.Retrieved on March 9, 2023 from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=111&nr=1888&menu=35>.

2.6. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of global objectives that were formed by the United Nations with the purpose of addressing a wide variety of social, economic and environmental concerns and promoting sustainable development on a global scale. Since its adoption in 2015, the United Nations and a variety of stakeholders have been working to promote and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a global scale. In order to accomplish the goals by the year 2030, there is continual collaboration between governments, civil society, the commercial sector and international organisations. Taking into consideration the discussions that have taken place up until this point, it is clear that the United Nations SDGs provide an all-encompassing framework for tackling global concerns and promoting sustainability. In addition to being accompanied by particular objectives and indicators, they are centered on universality and inclusion and they originated from the Millennium Development Goals themselves. In order for them to be successful, it is essential that they monitor progress and encourage teamwork at all levels.

CHAPTER - III

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM

3.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been accepted by United Nations Member States and are presently being executed at many levels, including national, sub-national, state, district, and village levels. Regarding the advancements made in executing the goals and targets over the course of the next 15 years, countries are primarily responsible for follow-up and review at the national level.

3.1.1. SDGs at the National Level

The SDGs have been significantly shaped by India, a member of the UN and a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs mirror India's national development objectives, and it can also be claimed that India had already made a real commitment to fulfilling the SDGs even before they were legally established. Due to India's federal system of government, the duties have been distributed among many organisations that will oversee the implementation of ministries, departments, and agencies at the federal and state levels. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister is in charge of providing comprehensive coordination and leadership for the UN's agenda, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (also known as SDGs).

The Indian Parliament has conducted several conferences to deliberate on policy and action strategies for addressing poverty, promoting gender equality, and confronting climate change. It follows that the nation's dedication to the national development objective is strengthened. NITI Aayog has organised a number of consultations at the national and regional levels in order to raise awareness of the

Goals, bring stakeholders together, and develop capacity for the realisation of SDGs. The 17 goals and 169 targets have also undergone a thorough mapping by the NITI Aayog to Nodal Central Ministries, centrally supported programmes, and significant government initiatives. Most sub-national governments have mapped the SDGs and targets in a similar way to the departments and programmes in their respective states. A set of proposed national indicators created by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is modelled after the global SDG indicators.²⁴¹

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) Task Force was established by the NITI Aayog to oversee the documentation review and process. Governments of the states and union territories provide updates on their opinions and developments regarding the various subnational programmes and projects. The VNR Task Force examined the data gathered from the various sources, thought about it, analysed it, and covered it in a report that was submitted to the UN High Level Political Forum. Since 2018, NITI Aayog has developed a state-specific rating and performance indicator. NITI Aayog is tasked with coordinating the SDGs, systematically gathering data on them, and actively achieving the goals and targets both numerically and with a high degree of quality. In simple terms, NITI Aayog is vested with the responsibility of the overall coordination and the initial steps are undertaking a mapping of SDGs goals and targets with schemes; identification of nodal Ministries and Government Departments for each of the Goals and Targets.

3.1.2. SDGs at the Sub-National/State Level

The 28 states and 8 union territories (UTs) of India are mapping SDG goals and targets into their unique development designs and objectives at the sub-national level, or state level. The state governments construct the 15-year vision strategy roadmaps, which are currently in varying phases. Most state governments have coordinated strategic insights from the 2030 and national development objectives with their own unique context and priorities. The State Planning and Development Department is in charge of implementing and enabling the SDGs at the sub-national

²⁴¹ VNR Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to the UN High Level Political Forum, 2017

or state level by providing the necessary data and assistance. Below are a few instances of how the SDGs have been incorporated at the state level.

Sub-National strategy for achieving the SDGs include designation/creation of nodal department, mapping of state schemes/programmes with SDGs, consultation and orientation and working groups, vision plan/road map/strategy, monitoring frameworks, alignment of budget with SDGs.

The Planning and Development Department of Assam has established a centre for the SDGs, and an integrated framework for implementation has been chosen. Kerala serves as yet another illustration. Kerala has established complex benchmarks and metrics for achieving the SDG 3 on health. With a focus on fostering entrepreneurship in the production sectors, education, research, and technology, among other areas, and ensuring environmental and social sustainability, the state has sector-specific plans for 2030. A SDGs Support Unit has been established in Punjab under the Planning and Development Department. The SDGs Support Unit works as a conduit for state-level technical assistance and as a nudge unit for providing data, analysis, and viewpoints to guide public policy in the context of the SDGs.²⁴²

According to the Economic Survey 2020–21, every plan for accomplishing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda must include localization of the SDGs. This fundamentally entails the adaptation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs by relevant agencies and stakeholders at all levels, from national to local. The main tool for assessing and tracking SDG performance at the national and sub-national levels is the SDG India Index and Dashboard, which was created and developed by NITI Aayog. The states are institutionally empowered and well-positioned to fulfil the SDGs with the cooperation of the Central Government and the

²⁴² VNR Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to the UN High Level Political Forum, 2017

assistance of allied institutions. The Central Government plays an enabling role in the process of localising the SDGs, with the States serving as the primary actors.²⁴³

3.2. IMPLEMENTING SDGs IN MIZORAM

India has ratified the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda of the United Nations. It was approved by 193 nations during the 70th UN Summit on September 25, 2015, and it became effective on January 1, 2016. The Government of India, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have conducted numerous exercises on the indicators because India is a signatory.

The Government of Mizoram has committed to achieving the SDGs in the State and has been actively working towards their implementation in the light of India's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. According to NITI Aayog's baseline-index assessments, Mizoram is now leading the way in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The nodal Department in Mizoram is the Department of Planning and Programme Implementation. To coordinate the implementation of the SDGs in the State, the following committees and cell have been established.

- **High Level Monitoring Committee:** A High Level Monitoring Committee on SDGs was established in August 2016 and is made up of the Secretaries of all the line Departments as well as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Mizoram, who serves as the Committee's Chairman. Members include the secretaries of the Departments of School Education, Public Health Engineering Department, Social Welfare Department, Finance Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, Rural Development Department, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department. The Committee was established to assess progress and recommend corrective actions as it tracked the State's progress in implementing the SDGs.

²⁴³Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2020). *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*. Economic Survey 2020-21, Vol. 2, p. 206-207

- **A Technical Committee on SDGs:** This committee was established to develop and finalise schematic indicators for the goals and to map out the relevant Departments/Offices under the direction of the Director of Economics and Statistics. The Technical Committee gathers baseline data (2015–2016 or more recent) and targets for 2019–20, 2024–5, and 2029–30 from the relevant departments/offices based on the Schematic Indicators for the Goals.

- **SDGs Cell:** An enthusiastic SDG Cell has been formally established in the Planning & Programme Implementation Department's Research & Development Branch to simplify SDG implementations in order to boost service effectiveness and achieve rapid progress on SDGs in the State. The SDG cell is currently working on an integrated indicator and monitoring framework for the SDGs to facilitate a robust monitoring and review mechanism to ensure that commitments are translated into time-bound results. Each State can choose those domains that best suit their priorities and needs and use them to build their own monitoring frameworks or models. Two consultants are employed by the Cell to examine and monitor the State's progress in implementing the SDGs while coordinating the District Planning Committee's (DPC) reports. The SDG Cell has been actively pursuing various actions towards SDG implementation to materialise the objectives put forth by the United Nations (UN) to bring about sustainable development in the State. They do this under the supervision and direction of officers.²⁴⁴

- **District Planning Committee:** The Committee has been entrusted in each district to monitor SDGs implementation in the Districts level.

²⁴⁴ SDGs in Mizoram, Planning and Program Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

3.3. PERFORAMANCE AND ACTIONS TAKEN TOWARDS SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN MIZORAM

3.3.1. Mizoram Vision 2030: A framework for implementing the SDGs in the State is provided by Mizoram Vision 2030, which was released in July 2018. A vision statement, an overview of the SDGs, information on the Mizoram economy, a framework for implementing the SDGs, an analysis of the implementation landscape, a dashboard for tracking SDG implementation, a sectoral implementation strategy, and a budget alignment strategy are all included in the document. The publication also includes a map of the State Department, its agencies, and its development programmes and plans. Every chapter of the Mizoram Vision 2030 delineates a series of indicators accompanied by baseline data and objectives established for the years 2019-20, 2024-25, and 2029-30. The Vision 2030 document is available on the Mizoram SDG website and has been disseminated to NITI Aayog.

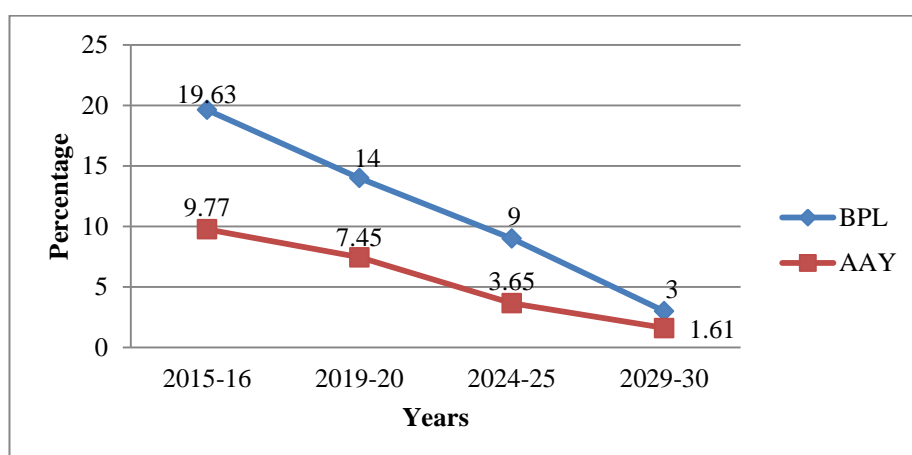
The Government of Mizoram designed and framed the Mizoram Vision 2030 in meticulous manner and the enthusiasm can be seen from this document. However, challenging issues such as the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, insurgency in neighboring states, change of leadership, etc., are subject to dwindle this enthusiasm and may hurdle the efforts.

3.3.2. Base-line Survey: To collect baseline data, a three-tiered monitoring system was deployed. The Planning Secretary serves as the Chairman of the State Level Monitoring Committee, the Deputy Commissioners of each District serve as the chairman of the District Level Monitoring Committee, and the Village Council President serves as the chairman of the Village Level Monitoring Committee. Chapter 6 of Mizoram Vision 2030 (Dashboard for SDG implementation in Mizoram) contains a schematic list of indicators and targets with a timetable and action steps.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

To achieve the vision for Goal 1, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.1

Figure 3.1: Baseline data and target percentage of BPL²⁴⁵ Households and AAY²⁴⁶



Strategy:

1. Central Sponsored Schemes like NRLM, NULM, and NERLP are being implemented by Government of Mizoram for poverty eradication and Self Help Groups. MNREGA, National Social Assistance Programme, Skill Development Mission, PMAY, SBM, etc., has to be implemented effectively.
2. Another unique initiative policy like the NLUP to make Village farmers self sufficient and state flagship programme for transforming Mizoram into market based economy.

²⁴⁵ Below Poverty Line

²⁴⁶ AAY stands for Antyodaya Anna Yojana, a public distribution system (PDS) in India that aims to reduce hunger among the poorest segments of the population.

Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

To achieve the vision for Goal 2, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.2(a) & Figure 3.2(b).

Figure 3.2(a): Baseline data and target percentage of Priority Household

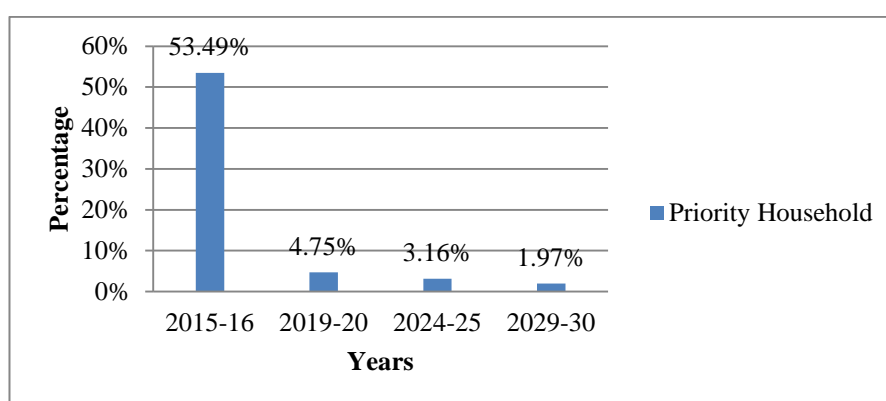
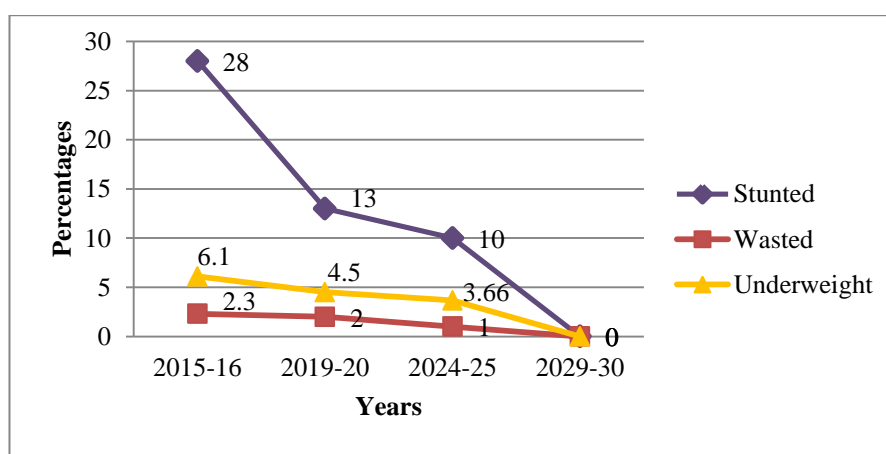


Figure 3.2(b): Percentage of Child Malnutrition in Mizoram (stunted, wasted, underweight) under the age of 5 years.



Strategy:

1. Central sponsored schemes like ICDS, National Nutrition Mission, National Health Mission and other health programmes to be strengthened.

2. The production and productivity of agriculture to be improved by implementing RKVY, Soil Health card schemes and other State flagship programme.
3. Financial access to be strengthened for farmers.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages.

To achieve the vision for Goal 3, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.3(a) & Figure 3.3(b)

Figure 3.3(a): Maternal Mortality Ratio & Child Mortality Rate in Mizoram

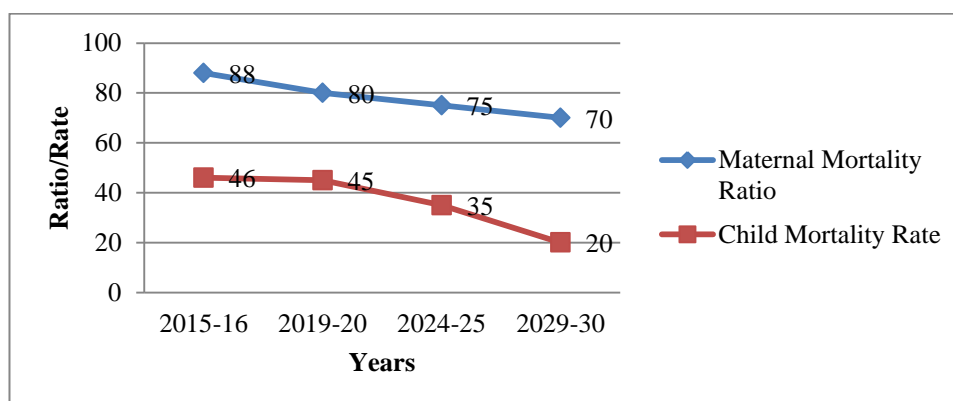
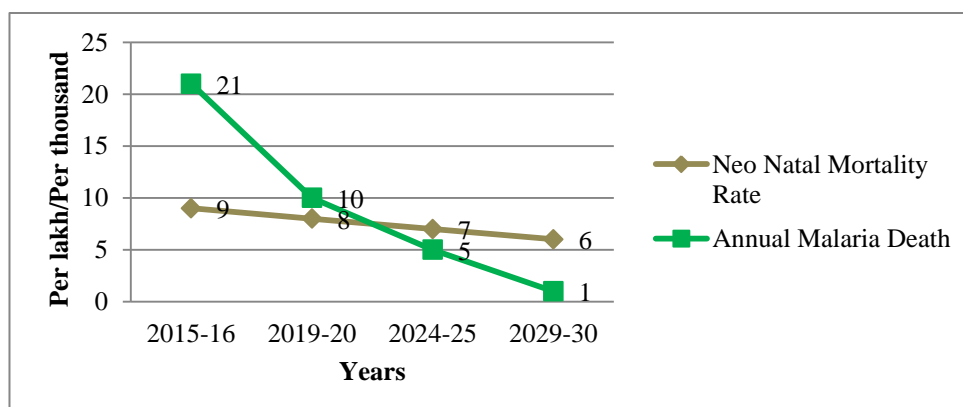


Figure 3.3(b): Neo Natal Mortality Rate (per thousand) & Annual Malaria Death (per lakh) in Mizoram



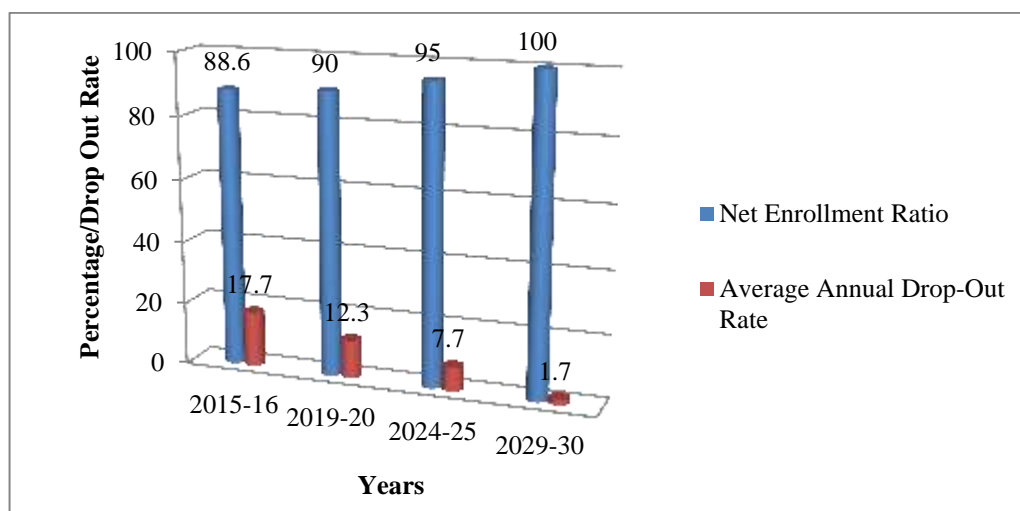
Strategy:

1. Renovation of Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Universal Health Coverage, Directorate of Health Services through primary health care restructure and strengthening of health workers under the National Health Mission and State flagship programme.
2. Health care schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Aids Control Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Routine Immunization Programme, etc. have to be strengthened.
3. The Government of Mizoram must commit itself to terminate all preventable maternal death and infant death and must improve the reach of health facilities to everyone in the state.

Goal 4: Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunity for all.

To achieve the vision for Goal 4, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.4

Figure 3.4: Baseline information and target on Net Enrollment Ratio and Average Annual Drop Out Rate both in Primary and Upper Primary Schools in Mizoram.



Strategy:

1. Right to Education 2009 and National Education Policy should be effectively enforced.
2. Existing government programmes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), pre and post-matric scholarship could be strengthened.
3. School Heads Assessment, Reform and Evaluation (SHARE) toolkit for development of education system in the state.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

To achieve the vision for Goal 5, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and targets as seen in Figure 3.5(a) and Figure 3.5(b).

Figure 3.5(a): Baseline data and targets on Number of Domestic Violence & Percentage of Victims Rehabilitated

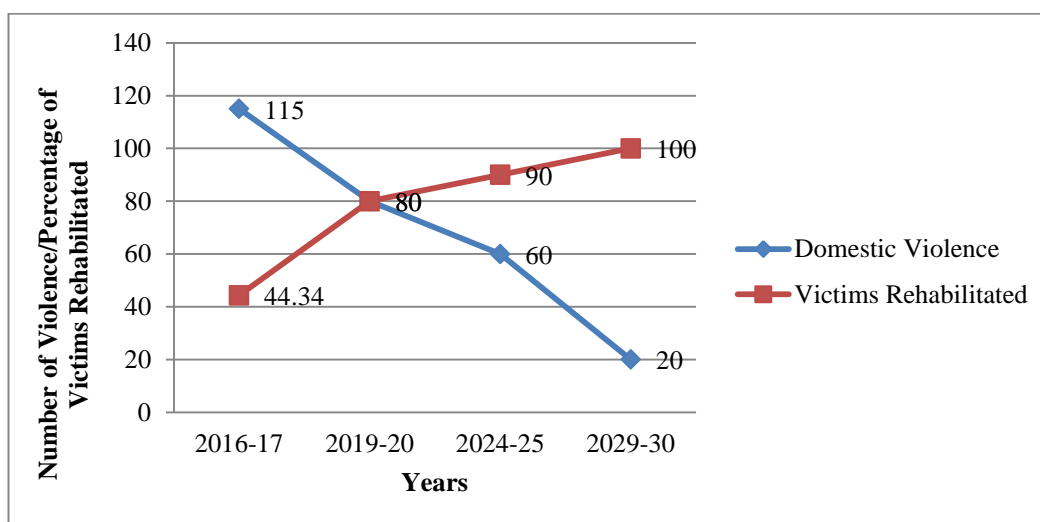
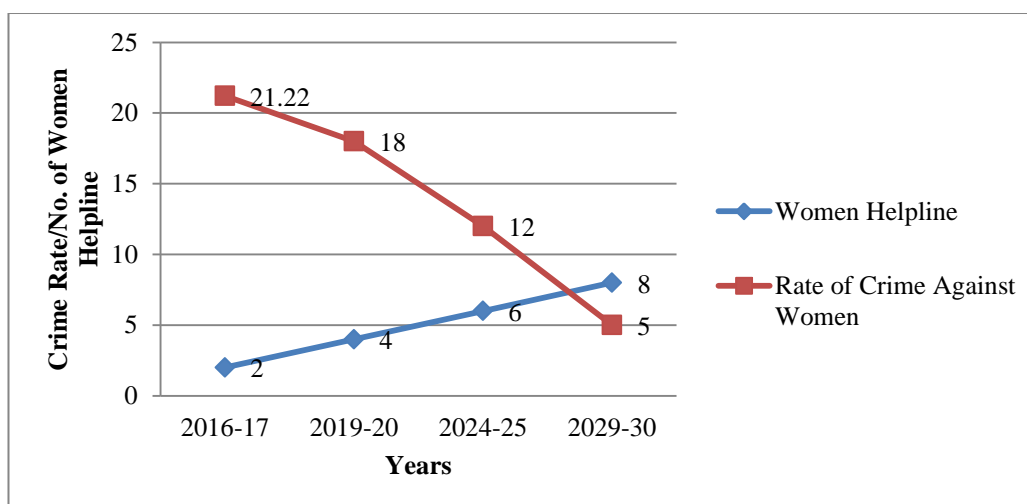


Figure 3.5(b): Baseline data and target on Number of Women Helpline and Rate of Crime Against Women.



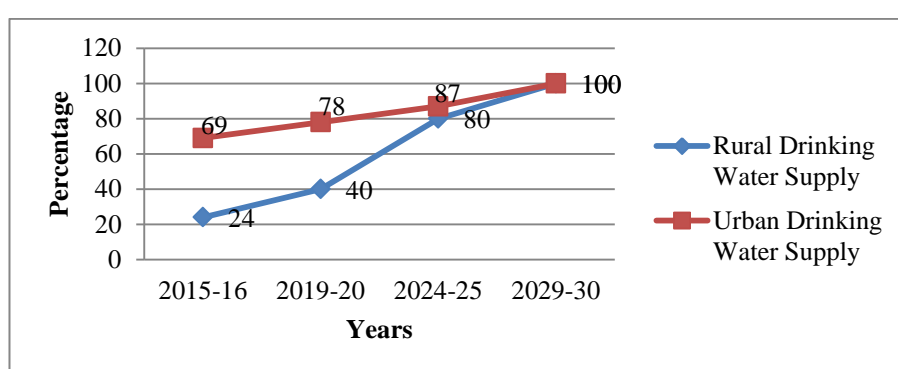
Strategy:

1. Mission for Protection and Empowerment of Women for gender balance and women Empowerment.
2. Skill development Mission to create employment opportunity for women and effective implementation of National Schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

To achieve the vision for Goal 6, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6: Baseline data and targets for Supply of Drinking Water in Urban and Rural areas.



Strategy:

1. State initiative programme to ensure universal and safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for all.
2. Implementing and strengthening SIPMIU project to improve water supply quality and length of water supply duration.
3. Central Schemes such as National Rural Drinking Water Programme and National Urban Drinking Water Programme, Swachh Bharat Mission, PMAY(R7U), etc., need to be implemented effectively.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

To achieve the vision for Goal 7, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.7(a) and Figure 3.7(b).

Figure 3.7(a): Baseline data and target for LPG Connection to Women Headed BPL Household and Share of Renewable Energy in Total Energy Mix

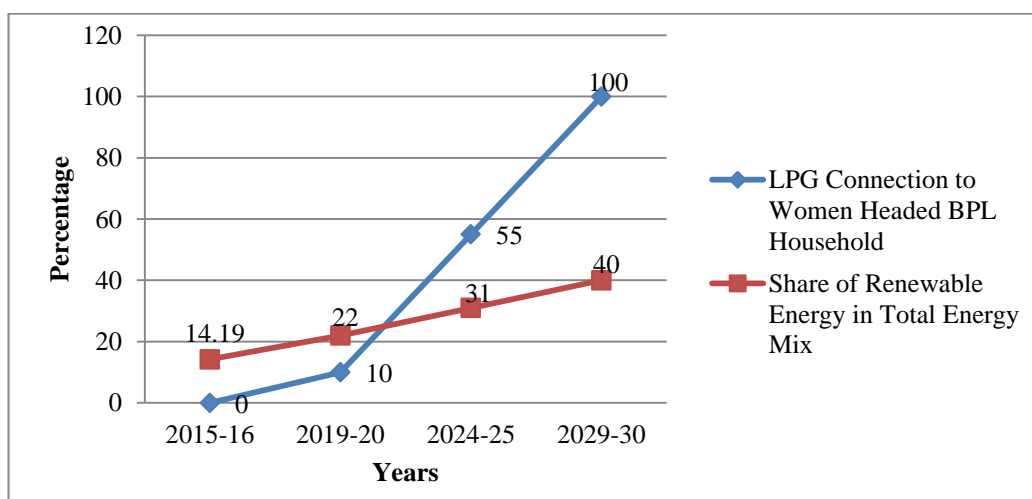
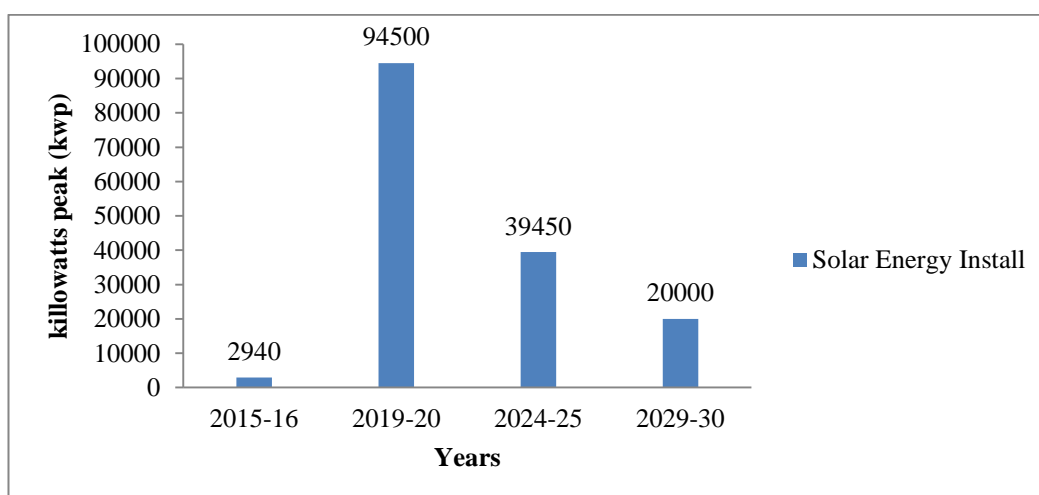


Figure 3.7(b): Baseline data and target for Solar Energy Installation.



Strategy:

1. Strengthening and effective implementation of Dean Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and National Solar Mission, Green Energy Corridor, ZEDA project, etc., to ensure uninterrupted power and reliable 24X7 power supply for households and industry.

2. Power projects need dedicated land and infrastructure to develop renewable energy in infrastructure.
3. Various hydro-electric projects need to be implemented successfully.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

To achieve the vision for Goal 8, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.8(a) , Figure 3.8(b), Figure 3.8(c), Figure 3.8(d) and Figure 3.8(e).

Figure 3.8(a): Baseline data and target for Registered MSME.

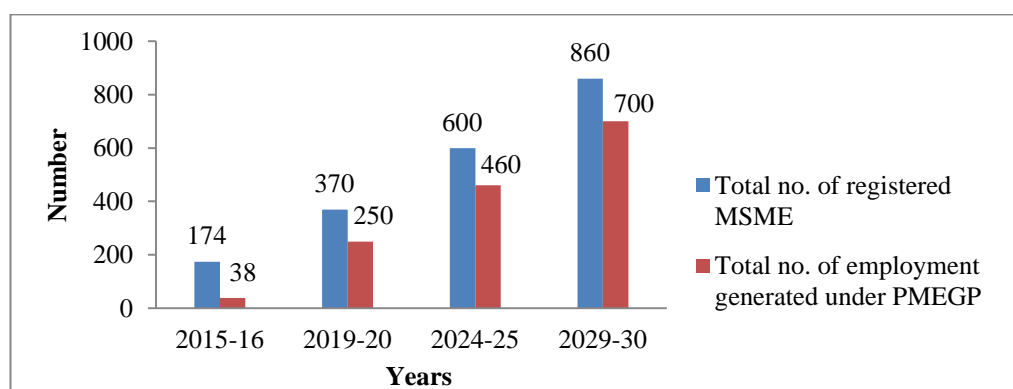


Figure 3.8(b): Baseline data and target on number of beneficiaries to be trained under MB&OCW.

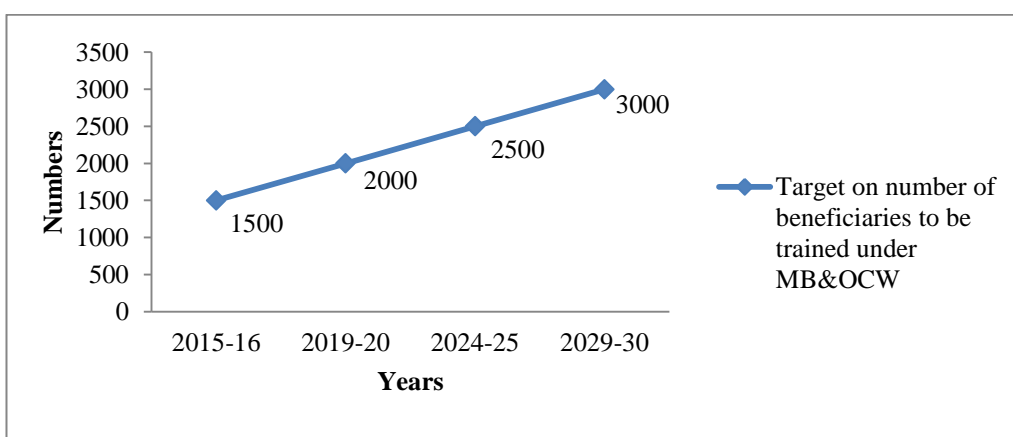


Figure 3.8(c): Baseline data and target for total number of accounts opened.

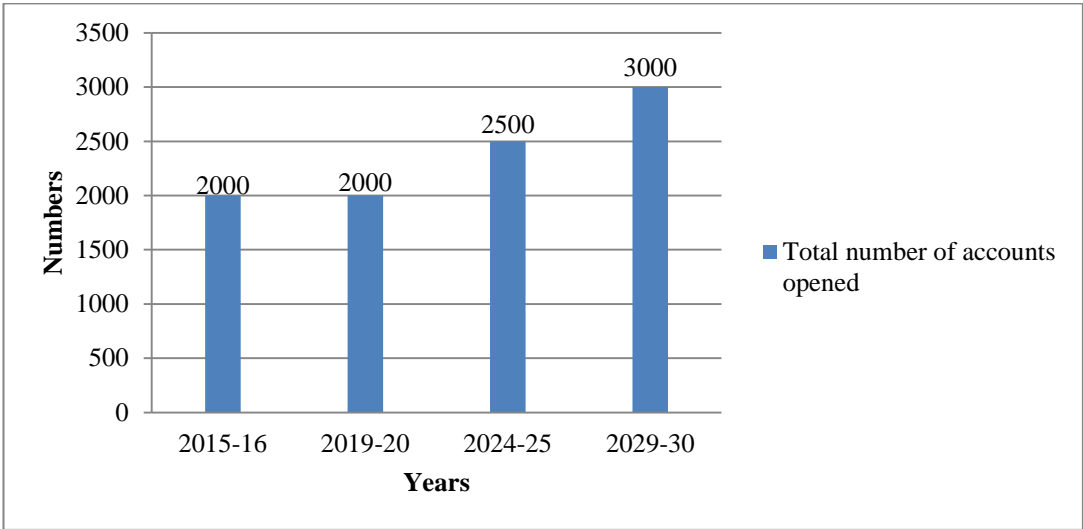


Figure 3.8(d): Baseline data and target for total number of accounts holder.

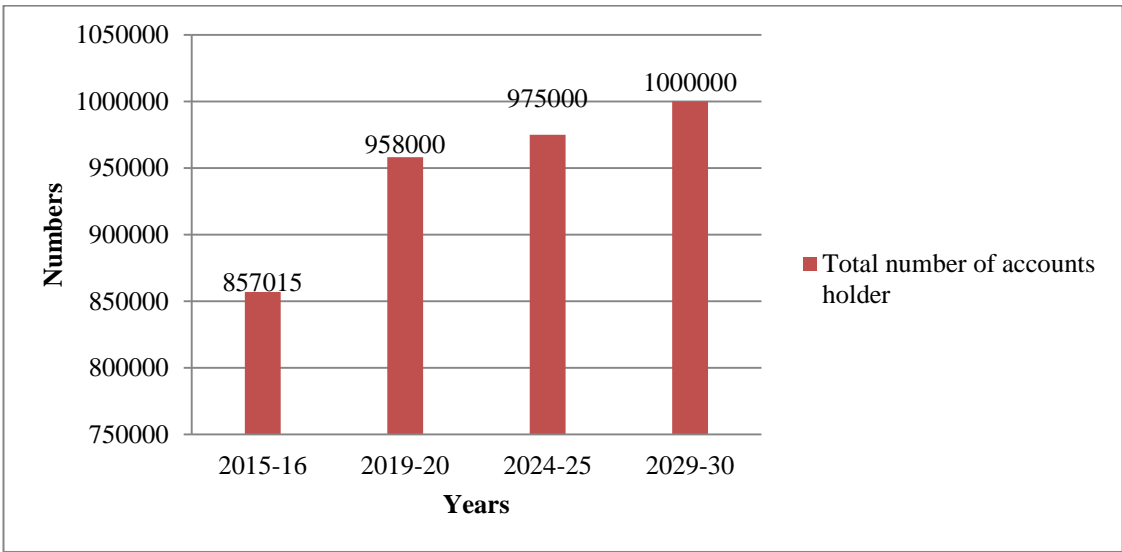
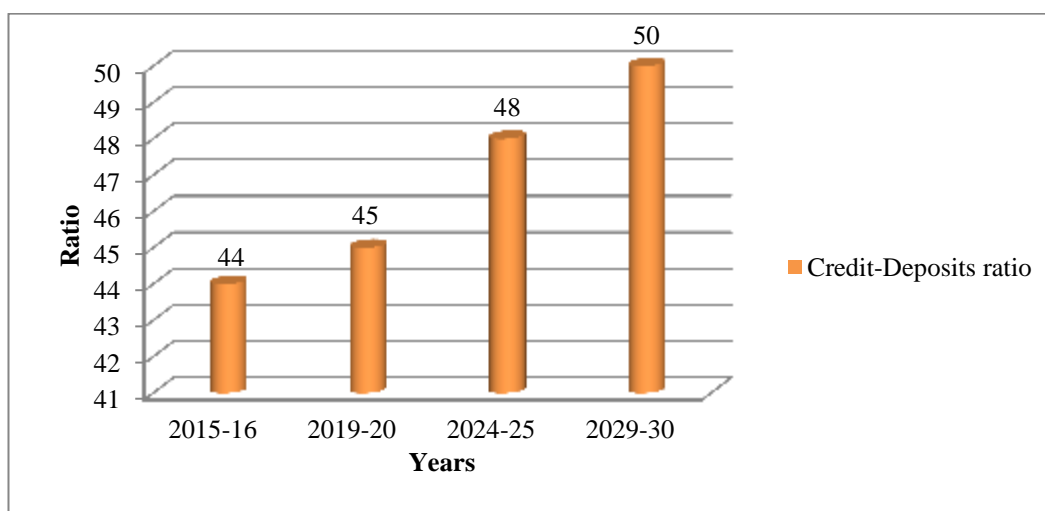


Figure 3.8(e): Baseline data and target for number of ATMs per 1,00,000 populations.



Strategy:

1. The state through its flagship program will ensure that the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Unit registered under Make in India and number of employment generated under PMEGP, are increasing.
2. Total number of Start-Up registered and number of Start-Up funder under Start-Up India must be increased through State Entrepreneurship Development Scheme.
3. Accounts opening under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and accounts holders to be increased.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

To achieve the vision for Goal 9, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.9(a) and Figure 3.9(b).

Figure 3.9(a): Baseline information and targets on All Weather Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

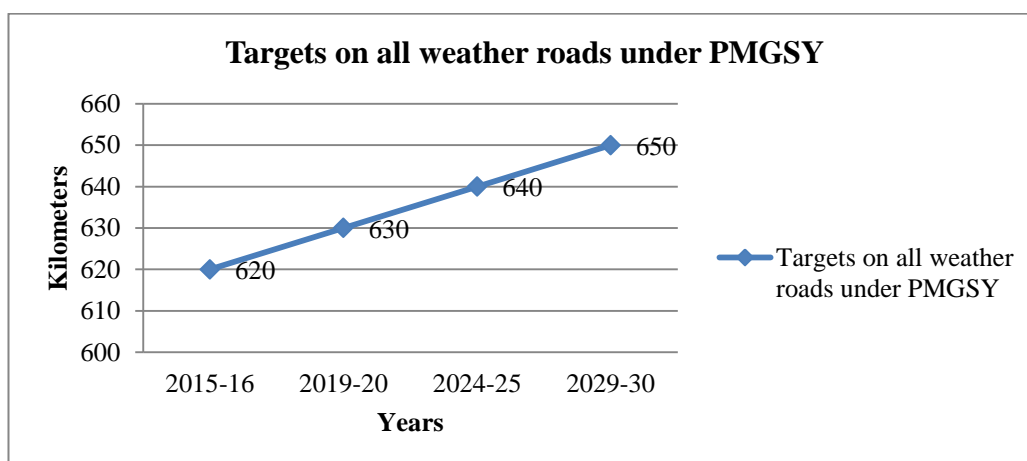
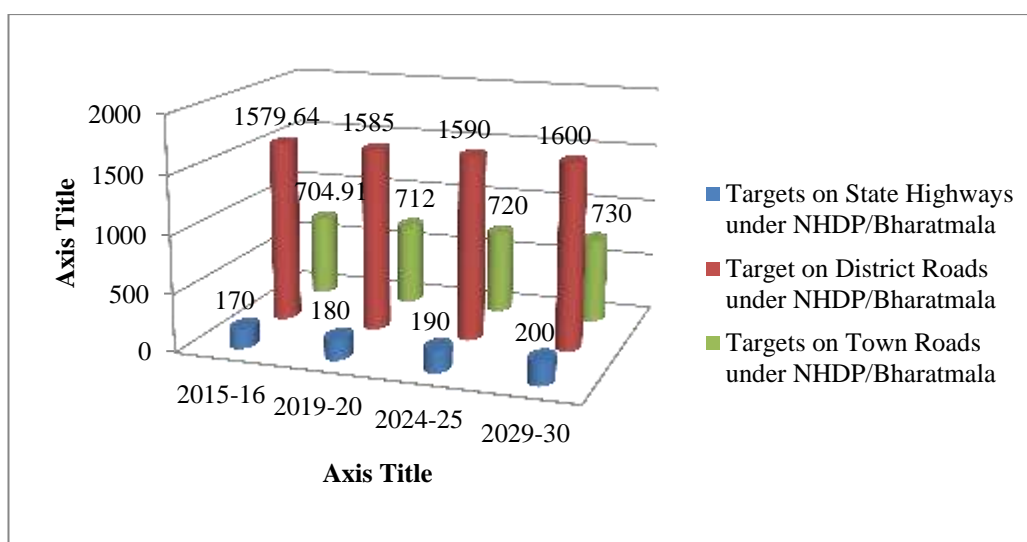


Figure 3.9(b): Baseline information and targets on State Highways, District Roads and Town Roads under National Highway Development Project (NHDP)/Bharatmala



Strategy:

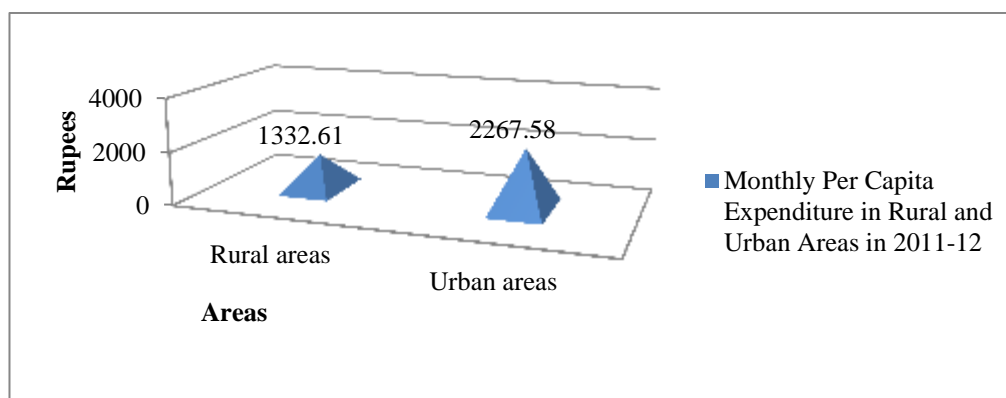
1. Monitoring and evaluation for improving and constructing Roads and Infrastructure through funding agencies such as World Bank and NEC Corporation.

2. Central Schemes such as Digital India to be used effectively and efficiently along with improving existing Information and Communication Technology and Science and Technology Department.
3. Start-up beneficiaries under Start-up India will increase with promotion of Entrepreneurship Development Schemes.
4. Centrally Sponsored Programme implemented by Government of Mizoram Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

To achieve the vision for Goal 10, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information as seen in Figure 3.10, targets and strategies.

Figure 3.10: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure in Rural and Urban areas.



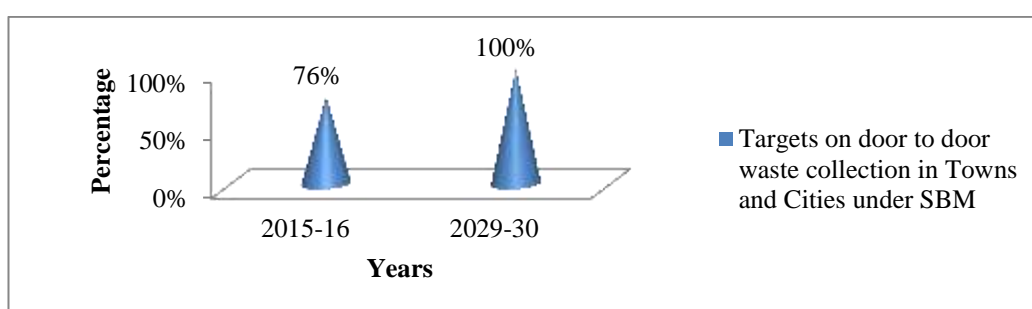
Strategy:

1. Agricultural investment, trade, commerce and industry under State flagship programme will reduce economic inequality.
2. Creating business environment, expansion of existing markets, labour market reforms, etc.
3. Employment opportunities to be increased by implementation of State flagship programme and National Mission like Skill Mission, Make in India and Start-Up India.

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

To achieve the vision for Goal 11, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information as seen in Figure 3.11, targets and strategies.

Figure 3.11: Targets on door to door waste collection in Towns and Cities under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)



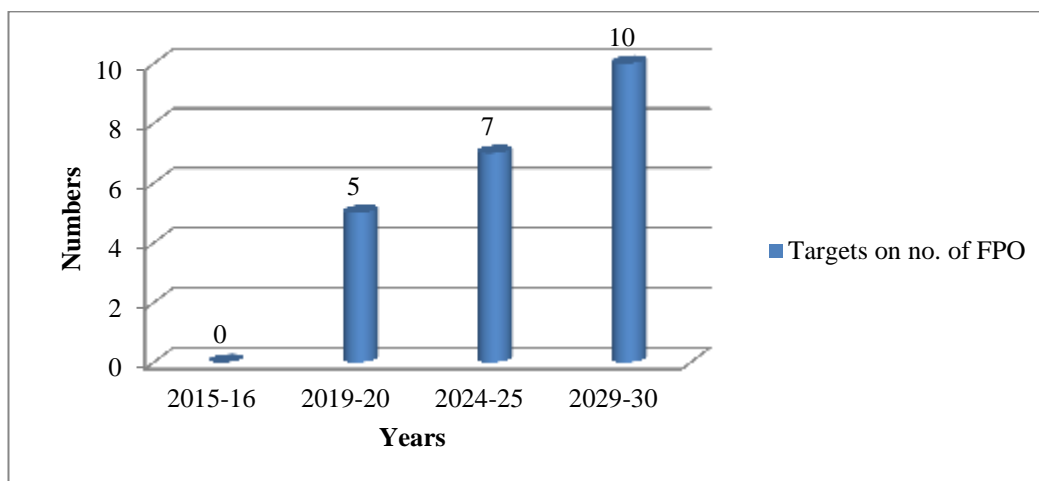
Strategy:

1. Achieve housing for all, implement scientific solid waste management in Cities/Towns and improve urban mobility.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

To achieve the vision for Goal 12, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information, targets and strategies.

Figure 3.12: targets on number of Food Processing Units (FPU)



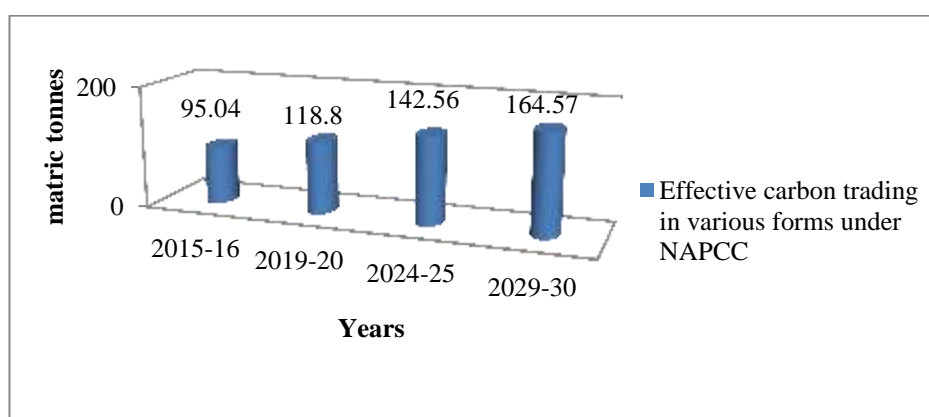
Strategy:

1. Cities with waste management and sewage treatment plants should be increased through Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC).
2. Food processing and value chain promotion in the state.
3. Plantation and conservation of forest, sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

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

To achieve the vision for Goal 13, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information, targets and strategies.

Figure 3.13: Effective carbon trading in various forms under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)



Strategy:

1. Strategies include the increment of forest coverage, strengthening of State Action Plan for Climate Change and State Energy Conservation Mission (SECM) in the State.
2. Encouragement, development and promotion of renewable energy in the State.
3. National Mission for Green India, National Water mission for energy to be improved.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

To achieve the vision for Goal 15, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.15(a) and Figure 3.15(b).

Figure 3.15(a): Total areas of Wildlife Sanctuary under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH), Forest Cover under Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems (CNRE), and Tree Outside Forest (TOF) area.

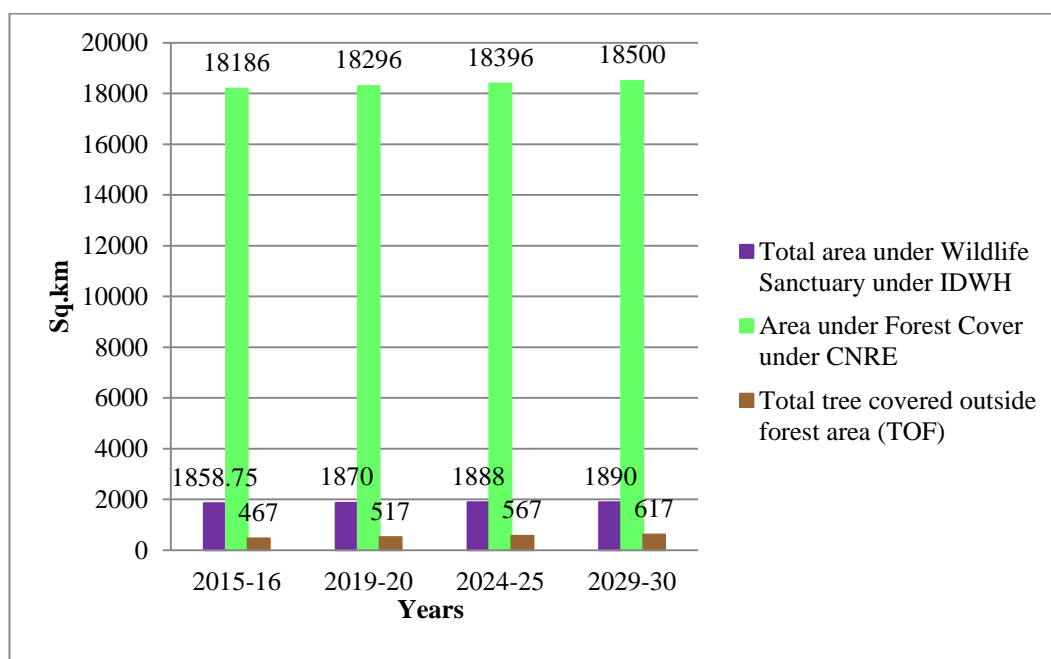
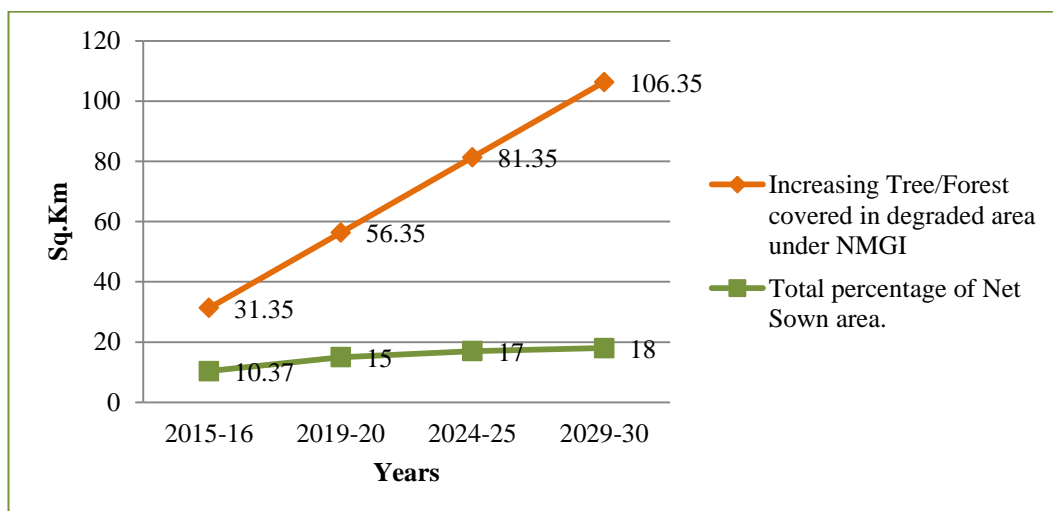


Figure 3.15(b): Tree/Forest covered in degraded area under National Mission for Green india (NMGI) and Total percentage of Net Sown area



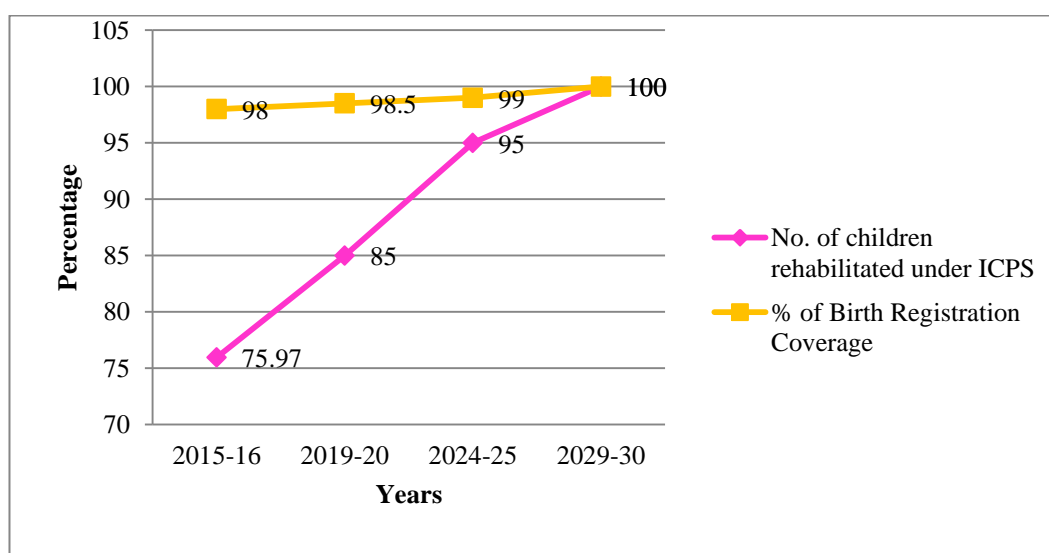
Strategy:

1. Monitoring plant species through green cover surveillance and geo tag.
2. Improving green cover by strengthening of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, National Mission for a Green India, Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem.
3. State flagship programme will create shift in livelihood from agricultural activity.
4. Combating desertification, sustainable forest management, halting and reversing land degradation as well as preventing biodiversity loss.
5. Strengthening of State Action Plan for Climate Change in the State.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

To achieve the vision for Goal 16, the Government of Mizoram has formulated baseline information and a five-year basis of targets as seen in Figure 3.16.

Figure 3.16: Baseline data and target for number of children rehabilitated under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and percentage of age birth registration coverage.



Strategy:

1. Reformation and strengthening of existing regulations and policy framework by state to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.
2. State policies like e-governance, services and public access to information to be strengthened and ensured.
3. Concerned departments to be strengthened to achieve their respective targets.

Chapter 3 (Implementation Framework of SDGs in Mizoram) in the Vision 2030 document also includes a framework for implementation and monitoring. The competence of line departments to achieve SDGs will be evaluated by a separate Technical Committee on SDGs, which has been established to identify indicators. The Technical Committee is composed of officers from all the line departments who meet frequently to select indicators, validate and analyze data, and monitor dashboards. Action plans are to be taken in accordance with the collected baseline survey for selected indicators and timeline for achieving targets.

3.3.3. Regional Workshop: The first regional workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals for the entire North East was held in Aizawl on August 24, 2018, with funding provided by the North Eastern Council. Those in attendance at the workshop included representatives from the UNDP, NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as well as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, which are sister states.

The main objectives of the workshop include localization process of SDG, cooperation of the North Eastern States and the regional level and sharing of good practices and examples. The workshop was divided into two Technical Sessions in which technical papers were presented including report on SDGs and general discussions which was later followed by deliberations of SDGs.

3.3.4. State Level Sensitization Workshop: State Level Sensitization Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals and kick off of district level Sensitization Workshop on SDGs was held at Assembly Conference Hall on 29th January 2019 for Members of Legislative Assembly, Nodal officers from all line Departments, District Authorities and Villages Councils/Local Councils Presidents/Secretaries.

The workshop was started with a Keynote Address by Secretary of Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram. This was followed by presentation on various topics prepared for District Level Sensitization Workshops in each district such as 'District Planning Committee (DPC)',

‘Application of Remote Sensing and GIS²⁴⁷ for District Level Planning’, relevant information on ‘SDG implementation in Mizoram’ and finally on the topic ‘Developing Database in the Statistical Cell of Line Departments.’

3.3.5. District Level Sensitization Workshop: District Level Sensitization Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals was held in all the other seven (7) District headquarters (Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchhip& Siaha) during 31st January to 5th February 2019. These workshops were organized by each District Planning Committee (DPC) and Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

Presentations on topics such as ‘District Planning Committee (DPC)’, ‘Application of Remote Sensing and GIS²⁴⁸ for District Level Planning’, relevant information on ‘SDG implementation in Mizoram’ and finally on the topic ‘Developing Database in the Statistical Cell of Line Departments’ were take up by officials from Planning & Programme Implementation Department and Economics & Statistics Department, Government of Mizoram.

With the coming up of three new districts (Hnahthial, Khawzawl & Saitual) in 2019, efforts are also being taken up such as Workshops on SDGs and District Level Review Committee on SDGs in these districts.

3.3.6. Consultative Meeting with District line Departments: Between January and March 2020, six districts (Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchhip& Siaha) organised consultative meetings with district line departments where issues and difficulties faced by stakeholders and line departments were brought up and discussed. Efforts are being made to address these issues and concerns. Aizawl and Champhai District are the two districts that could not yet take up the meetings because of COVID-19 epidemic during the time. Steps are being taken to conduct consultative meetings with the aforementioned two districts.

²⁴⁷Stands for Geographic Information System.

²⁴⁸Stands for Geographic Information System.

3.3.7. Consultative meeting with State Line Departments: A fruitful consultative meeting was held during 13th to 22nd July, 2020 with State level line departments in which problems and challenges faced by each line departments were raised and discussed.

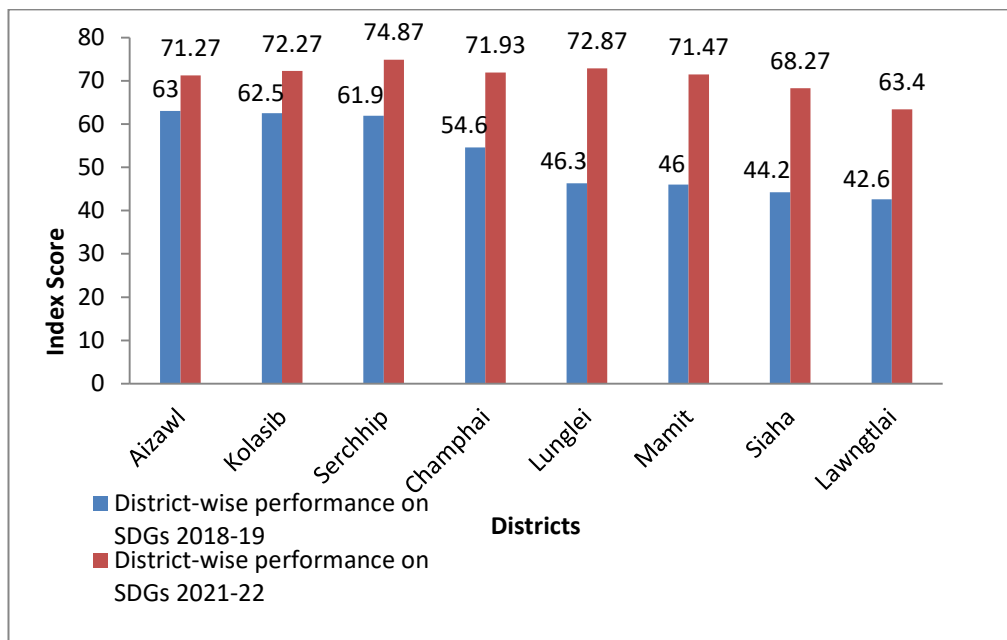
3.3.8. Wall hanging: Wall hanging on 17th Sustainable Development Goals have been prepared by Planning and Programme Implementation Department in two sizes and distributed to all Government offices, conference halls. One size of SDGs Goals have also been prepared and distributed to educational institutions.

3.3.9. Video clips on SDGs: As an initiative of SDG awareness and localization, video clips on SDGs in local language have been circulated in local TV channels and social media including Facebook and Whatsapp by SDG Cell, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram. This can be accessed on SDG Mizoram YouTube channel.

3.3.10. Talk show: Talk show has been organized on exclusive topic of Sustainable Development Goals in Zonet local TV channel and DDK Mizoram with panel of experts from academia and officials from Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram. Recorded discussions can be accessed on the respective YouTube channels.

3.3.11. SDGs Mizoram District Wise ranking: District-wise performance and rankings for the years 2018–19 and 2021-22 were also created by the Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram to reflect each district's progress towards the SDGs. With the intention of encouraging healthy competition among districts and SDG implementation in the State, the ranking was created. The data are sent to and further analyzed with other districts/states by Ministry of Development in the North East Region (DoNER) and NITI Aayog which is followed by state-wise rankings.

Figure 3.17: District-wise performance on SDG 2018-2019 & 2021-22²⁴⁹



3.3.11. Mizoram SDG Website: The official website for Sustainable Development Goals (Mizoram) has been created by Planning and Programme Implementation Department. All actions taken, news & events and progress report of SDGs in the state are planned to be incorporated to the web.

2.2.13. Publicity of SDGs logo in Local newspaper: SDGs 17 goals translated in local languages have been published through leading local newspapers as an awareness initiative.

3.3.14. SDGs Banner: SDGs goals banner translated in local languages have been prepared and published in the public.

3.3.15. Development of State Indicator Framework (SIF) , District Indicator Framework (DIF) and Local Indicator Framework (LIF) for monitoring SDGs: Initially, the National Indicator Framework for monitoring the SDGs was identified and deliberated upon. The State Indicator Framework (SIF) for Mizoram was first developed by Technical Committee on SDGs under the chairmanship of Director, Eco & Stats consisting of 187 indicators. Since, MoSPI has published the updated

²⁴⁹ Source: Progress Report of SDG implementation in Mizoram 2019-20 and North East Region District SDG Index & Dashboard (Baseline report 2021-22)

NIF and guidelines for developing SIF, the SIF was again revised for the second time in 2019 in line with guidelines provided by MoSPI which consist of 147 indicators. National Indicator Framework (NIF) 2.0 was recently brought out by Ministry of Statistics & Prog. Implementation Department on 31st March 2020 consisting of 297 indicators. For the third time, State Indicator Framework consisting of 197 indicators with 35 line departments for the state were identified and compiled in consultation with various line departments. Some indicators were customized and State specific indicators were added to better monitor the progress and achievements of SDGs in the State.

District indicator framework (DIF) was also prepared based on the SIF. Depending upon the availability of reliable data with sound collection methodology, Indicators relevant for the district level that are best suited to track its own progress towards sustainable development was selected for monitoring at the district level. As of now 184 indicators and 31 line departments are indentified and Districts should use these indicators as a reference for their own regular monitoring and review, guided by the national/state policies, priorities, strategies and capacity to implement monitoring activities

In pursuance of the declaration made by the Planning and Programme Implementation Department of its commitment towards localization of SDGs in Mizoram, the Government of Mizoram has formulated the Plan of Action for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals at the village and locality levels. Several stakeholder discussions were conducted throughout the development of the Village Indicator Framework (VIF) and Urban Indicator Framework (UIF), which included village councils from every district, local councils, and state departments. They are now collectively known as the Local Indicator Framework (LIF). A VIF with 100 indicators across the 9 themes has been produced. An attempt has been undertaken to incorporate the maximum number of pertinent factors, as employed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in the ranking of Gram Panchayats.

3.3.16. SDG Symposium: The SDG Coordination Centre, Planning and Programme Implementation Department on the basis of Higher Educational Institutes Local Immersion Program organized SDG Symposium on 28th March, 2023 at Vanapa Hall in which 21 colleges from various districts of Mizoram participated and competed under the 17 goals and 9 themes, carrying out local immersions in their respective adopted villages. Each college presented their project proposals followed by questions from five appointed judges. The top five colleges received incentives of Rs. 1 lakh each. The colleges, in order of their position are:

- 1) Govt. Hnahthial College
- 2) Govt. Hrangbana College
- 3) Mizoram Christian College
- 4) Govt. Serchhip College
- 5) Govt. J. Buana College and Govt. Johnson College

3.3.17. Localization of SDGs: In the light Government of Mizoram's commitment to Localization of SDGs (LSDG) in Mizoram, Planning and Programme Implementation Department released Plan of Action on 29th September, 2022. For successful implementation of SDG at the local level, 63 villages and 19 Aizawl Municipal Council wards were identified. These pilot villages and pilot localities were studied on the basis of 9 thematic indicators under Localization of SDG Pilot Project. Out of these, 3 villages and 3 localities each were chosen based of their performance and were given project incentive awards respectively.¹⁰

3.3.18. Partnership for implementation of SDGs in Mizoram

The State of Mizoram has developed a three-tiered partnership for implementing SDGs. The UNDP has been an active partner in technical matters at the international level. Several discussions have been held with UNDP at Aizawl and Guwahati.

At the institutional level, the state has been partnering with Mizoram University, ICFAI University Mizoram, Administrative Training Institute (ATI) and State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR) for technical issues.

District Planning Committees are responsible for monitoring SDG implementation at the district and village levels. The local channels, colleges and schools play an active role in spreading awareness and sensitization.

3.3.19. SDG Booklet: SDG Booklet has been prepared in the local language by Planning & Programme Implementation Department.

3.3.20. Inter-college SDG Quiz Competition: Planning and Programme Implementation Department in association with Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) organized Inter-college Quiz Competition on the SDGs. This quiz competition aims to increase public understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to raise public awareness, which will lead to the successful implementation of SDGs in the State.

3.4. Based on the comprehensive analysis presented, it is evident that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been embraced and integrated into various levels of governance in India, particularly exemplified through the case study of Mizoram. The case study of Mizoram within the broader context of India's SDG implementation exemplifies a concerted effort towards sustainable development. By integrating the SDGs into national and sub-national development frameworks, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and leveraging innovative mechanisms for monitoring and review, India, and states like Mizoram, are paving the way towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. However, sustained commitment, resource mobilization, and continuous monitoring and evaluation will be imperative

to ensure the realization of the SDGs and the fulfillment of the promise of leaving no one behind.

The foundation for SDG implementation in Mizoram is laid out in the Mizoram Vision 2030, providing a robust framework for aligning state objectives with the SDGs. Despite facing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and regional instability, Mizoram remains committed to its SDG agenda, as demonstrated by its strategic planning, monitoring mechanisms, and stakeholder engagements.

A key aspect of Mizoram's SDG implementation strategy is the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system, including state, district, and village-level committees tasked with collecting baseline data and tracking progress. Moreover, regional workshops and sensitization workshops have facilitated collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, contributing to a shared understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to local contexts. Through consultative meetings and awareness campaigns, Mizoram has actively engaged with district and state-level line departments, educational institutions, and the public to foster a culture of SDG awareness and localization.

The localization of SDGs in Mizoram is further underscored by the development of State Indicator Frameworks, District Indicator Frameworks, and Local Indicator Frameworks, ensuring that monitoring mechanisms are tailored to local needs and priorities. Partnerships with international organizations like UNDP, as well as collaboration with local universities and institutions, have enriched the implementation process by providing technical expertise and capacity-building support.

Efforts to disseminate information through SDG booklets, wall hangings, video clips, and quiz competitions reflect Mizoram's commitment to raising public awareness and participation in the SDG agenda. The success of initiatives such as the SDG Symposium and Inter-college Quiz Competition highlights the active involvement of educational institutions and youth in driving SDG advocacy and action.

In conclusion, Mizoram's proactive approach towards SDG implementation, coupled with robust monitoring mechanisms, stakeholder engagements, and awareness campaigns, exemplifies a holistic and participatory approach to sustainable development. By fostering partnerships, leveraging local resources, and prioritizing community engagement, Mizoram is poised to make significant strides towards achieving the SDGs and creating a more sustainable and equitable future for its citizens.

CHAPTER - IV

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

It cannot be denied the fact that there would be one or other obstacles faced in the execution and attainment of such an ambitious project like the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a small state like Mizoram that still has a long way to go in terms of development alone. Evaluating and analyzing these problems and challenges would help the stakeholders such as government and civil societies in identifying solutions and that could lead to a successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)²⁵⁰ in the state. Taking this into account, this chapter deals with the problems and challenges faced by the government in particular and the society in general in the implementation process of SDGs in the state of Mizoram.

A combination of primary and secondary data was collected and analysis was done to determine the main issues and obstacles that the Government of Mizoram has encountered when attempting to execute the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Non-probability sampling method and structured as well as unstructured interviews were exercised in collection of data from various sources.

Books, journals, articles and government documents related to Sustainable Development Goals within and outside of Mizoram were consulted and reviewed. Concerned officials in the nodal department, i.e. Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram and SDG Consultants in the Mizoram SDG Cell/SDG Coordination Centre were interviewed. All major departments/offices/directorates identified as 'line departments',²⁵¹ instrumental for implementation and achievement of SDGs under Government of Mizoram, 25 in total, were also visited and interviews were conducted with government officials

²⁵⁰ The abbreviation SDG/SDGs shall be used henceforth.

²⁵¹ The term "line departments" shall be used henceforth.

addressing the key roles played by these line departments in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by their respective departments. Concerned officials such as Mr. C. Vanlalramsanga, IES, who was the former Secretary to Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram during the initial years of SDG implementation in Mizoram as well as Mr. Lalmalsawma Pachuau, the present Secretary to Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram were also interviewed. These data are then arranged and analyzed (see Appendices) in order to find out the major obstacles and challenging issues, faced by the state government which is quite enlightening and helpful in order to have a better and clear understanding of where the state stands on its path to achieve the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

4.2. LIST OF OFFICES OF LINE DEPARTMENTS VISITED IN RELATION TO IMPLEMENTING SDGs IN MIZORAM

Table 4.1: List of offices of line departments visited in relation to implementing SDGs in Mizoram

Sl. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ DIRECTORATE/OFFICE	DATE OF VISIT/ DATE OF COLLECTION OF DATA	CONCERNED OFFICER/ CONTACT PERSON
1.	Agriculture Department	22.05.2024	Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director
2.	Commerce & Industries Department	09.05.2024	Lalhmunsiam, Additional Director
3.	Directorate of Economics and Statistics	13.06.2024	B. Sanga Ralte, Assistant Director
4.	Directorate of Science and Technology	12.06.2024	Joel Lalbiakkima, Scientific Officer
5.	Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	24.05.2024	Arti Chaudhary, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests
6.	Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	21.05.2024	Remeses Hualhunchhunga, Assistant & MS Thuamlia, LDC

7.	Health & Family Welfare Department	11.06.2024	Vanlalchhuanawma Chawngthu, SPIO/Deputy Secretary & Dr. Lalthanpuui, Joint Director (G) & State Public Information Officer
8.	Home Department/ Police Headquarters	13.06.2024	Lalbiakthanga Khiangte (IPS) IGP & H.L.Thangzuala (MPS) Asst.IGP
9.	Information and Communication Technology Department	06.06.2024	Vanlalringa, Senior Informatics Officer & Lalengzuala, Informatics Officer
10.	Local Administration Department	13.06.2024	Dorothy Muansangi, Deputy Director (Labour)
11.	Lead Bank Office	19.06.2024	Robert Zosangliana, Lead District Manager
12.	Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	11.06.2024	Lalmuanpuia Fanai Deputy Director
13.	Mizoram Scholarship Board	30.05.2024	Er. Lalmuankima Sailo, Under Secretary
14.	Planning & Programme Implementation Department	21.11.2023	Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo, Research Officer & Zopuii Khiangte SDG Consultant
15.	Power & Electricity Department	11.06.2024	Er. Laltlanthanga, Superintending Engineer (Planning) Lalmalsawmi, Assistant Engineer
16.	Public Health Engineering Department	05.06.2024	Er. Lalsanga, Executive Engineer & R. Laltleipuii, Assistant Engineer (Monitoring I), E-in-C Office.
17.	Public Works Department	10.05.2024	David Sapa, Chief Engineer & Pazawna, Superintending Engineer (Planning),

			E-in-C Office.
18.	Rural Development Department	05.06.2024	Denny Lalchhuanawma, Under Secretary & Lalbiakdika
19.	School Education Department	05.06.2024	K. Zohlupuii, Office Assistant
20.	State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	21.06.2024	Ethel Rothangpuii Director
21.	Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs	05.06.2024	Zorinpuii, Superintendent & Vanlaltlana, Field Facilitator
22.	Directorate of Women & Child Development	06.06.2024	Lalthamawia, Data Entry Operator
23.	State Election Commission	14.06.2024	R Vanrengpuii, Deputy Secretary & B. Lalbiakmawii, LDC
24.	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department	11.06.2024	B. Lalchhandama, Research Officer & RK Lalrinawma, Inspector of Statistics
25.	Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	20.06.2024	Thantluanga Assistant Engineer

4.3. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF LITERATURE REVIEW

- A series of data entry mistakes, unmatched and unparallel data have been observed in the ‘Mizoram Vision 2030’ document, published by Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram²⁵² which is like a road map for the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram. For example, in page 35 of the document, the targets mentioned for ‘Children rehabilitated under ICPS²⁵³’ for the years 2015-16, 2019-20 and 2024-25 were unmatched with the chart presented on the same page. Such kinds of mistakes were observed in other pages as well.

²⁵²Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram (2018). *Mizoram Vision 2030* retrieved from <https://planning.mizoram.gov.in/page/mizoram-vision-2030> on 10th May, 2022.

²⁵³Abbreviation used for Integrated Child Protection Services.

- A problem of proper functioning of District Planning Committee (DPC) at the district level has also been mentioned at the Sensitization Workshop on District Level Planning in 2019.²⁵⁴ According to Mr. H. Lianzela, MCS, Deputy Secretary, Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, these problems include the function, power and authority entitled to the DPC and the problem faced in the implementation process of the proposals laid down by the Committee. As given in Article 243ZD of the Indian Constitution, the state government must constitute laws for taking up several developmental measures in districts. However, this process has been slow in pace in the state and the DPC was only formed in 2017 in Mizoram. Other problems include lack of visible developmental work done by DPC, no meetings were called for DPC and members are unaware of their responsibilities. There is also difficulty in developing proper rural-urban linkage and the development plans proposed by local bodies are directly addressed to Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram leading to negligence of DPC. Other difficulties are also persistent such as hesitation to shift from existing status quo, intervention of State government on decision making, absence of Grass-Root Plans, long process of planning and budgeting, struggle for proper budget allocation and incompetent attitude of the local people, among others.
- The channel taken up for transfer of data from Village Level Monitoring Committee to District Planning Committee (DPC) and from District Planning Committee (DPC) to SDG Cell in the Planning and Programme Implementation Department can create errors and biasness in the passing of data here and there that can further result in false information causing the whole SDG implementation process difficult and complex.²⁵⁵

²⁵⁴Sensitization Workshop on District Level Planning, 2019, 'District Planning Committee', H. Lianzela, MCS, Deputy Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

²⁵⁵B. Lalrinhlua, SDG Sensitization Workshop on District level Planning under SDGs 2030 Executive Summary & Write Up, Pg. 20

- There is also huge difficulty in having and producing quality and reliable statistical database.²⁵⁶ B. Lalrinhlua, MPES, Deputy Director, Economics and Statistics Department, Government of Mizoram in his presentation on ‘Developing Database in the Statistical Cell of Line Departments’ clearly stated the various difficulties encountered for producing quality and reliable statistical database. These include hesitation to change to new system and sticking to the old one, incapacity and lack of knowledge of those who collect as well as those who feed the data, inability to produce data on time, lack of proper data management, less knowledge on Information Technology, negligence of statistical database itself, the need of financial support from state and central government, unoccupied statistical personnel posts and frequent production of unreliable statistical data.

- The Goals allotted for various line departments in the ‘Landscape Analysis of SDGs in Mizoram’ in the aforementioned Mizoram Vision 2030 document does not match the goals and department allotment in the ‘Schematic Indicators & Targets for SDGs 2030 (Mizoram)’ section of the same Mizoram Vision 2030 document. For example, the responsibility given to achieve SDG Goal no. 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) was allotted to Agriculture Department in the Landscape Analysis of SDGs in Mizoram whereas Agriculture Department was nowhere to be found under SDG Goal no. 8 in the ‘Schematic Indicator and Targets for SDG 2030’ of the same document. Several other instances like this were also identified.²⁵⁷

- At the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals held on 24th August, 2018 at Administrative Training Institute (ATI), New Secretariat Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram, the then Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University, Professor KRS Sambasiva Rao noted the huge advantages that North East states have in certain sectors such as tourism, human resources, horticulture, etc. However, he also stated that basic primary and fundamental requirements such as road connectivity, solid

²⁵⁶Ibid

²⁵⁷ (Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram (2018). *Mizoram Vision 2030* retrieved from <https://planning.mizoram.gov.in/page/mizoram-vision-2030> on 10th May, 2022.)

waste management, rain water harvesting, agriculture price policy and others are required to be improved.²⁵⁸

- The then Minister of Planning, Finance, Taxation, and Law and Judicial, Pu Lalsawta, who was the Hon'ble Chief Guest at the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals held on 24th August, 2018 at Administrative Training Institute (ATI), New Secretariat Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram, stated a few factors that could challenge the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

a) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fairly a new concept for the state and the state has been unconsciously working towards these goals for the past decades.

b) Mizoram is a young State that attained statehood in 1987 and there is a huge scope and need for development. As the state is still on the path to consolidation and maturity, there could be gaps and holes in its approach to SDGs.

c) The state is on the path of economic development only since the last two decades due to insurgency. This implies that the state has much to achieve as a peaceful state on the road to development. The consequences in the aftermath of this insurgency could hurdle the chances of faster and holistic sustained development.

d) The state is lacking behind its counter parts in the field of industrialization. This is not only due to its location causing poor road connectivity but also due to its topography of mountain ranges and weather conditions causing landslides that hinders the development towards better infrastructures and industries.

e) Mizoram has been popular for its scenic beauty of flora and fauna and the people are closely connected to the forest and animals especially in the past. Attaining high level of economic growth without adversely affecting the environment is also another challenging factor.²⁵⁹

- Administrative data is the major source of data and generated mostly by State apparatus. Mr. Akhilesh Kumar, Joint Director, Ministry of Statistics and Programme

²⁵⁸ Report on Regional Workshop on SDGs, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, 2018

²⁵⁹ Ibid

Implementation (MoSPI) in his presentation on “SDG Implementation, Strategic Plan and SDG Key Indicators” at the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals held on 24th August, 2018 at Administrative Training Institute (ATI), New Secretariat Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram, outlined the SDG key indicators as well as Ministries acting as major data sources. The metadata formulated by MoSPI will be useful for standardization of data across all states of the country and since State Governments are the implementing agencies of schemes and programmes, therefore, data generated within the state is important for compilation of SDG indicators. Therefore, improvement in the States’ data machinery is essential and at the same time very challenging.²⁶⁰

- Supriya Khound, State Technical Officer, United Nations Developmental Programme (UNDP) North East Region also mentioned in her presentation on ‘Overview of SDG’ at the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals held on 24th August, 2018 at Administrative Training Institute (ATI), New Secretariat Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram, that vital challenge on budgeting based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also inevitable. Conducting needs assessment to determine the volume of public and private investments required is a complex undertaking that will be in need of significant work in most states/UTs.²⁶¹ Consequently, the absence of a dedicated budget for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the line departments of the Government of Mizoram limits the level of importance and priority assigned to these goals.

- Challenges found in framing the National Indicator Framework (NIF) which could be relevant for other frameworks such as State Indicator Framework (SIF), District Indicator Framework (DIF) and Village Indicator Framework (VIF) are mentioned in the following points:

²⁶⁰ Ibid

²⁶¹ Supriya Khound, Overview of SDGs, Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals, 2018, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

- 1) There is a problem of **Definitional/Measurement issue** creating gaps and inaccuracy in data collection and analysis for measuring indicators for the National, State, District and Village Indicator Frameworks. For example, safe/improved drinking water, population that are living below poverty line, proportion of population having bank account, and others can significantly vary across context and proximity. This results in the difficulty in producing the accurate result for research purpose as well.
- 2) **Data disaggregation** is also a hassle challenge. For the purpose of assessing the effects of population expansion and monitoring progress towards the SDGs, precise and comprehensive statistics on population distribution are crucial. The majority of population statistics, however, are dispersed uniformly among administrative units, which severely lacks geographical specificity. Data disaggregation highlights the unique characteristics of various groups, making it possible for policies and actions to more effectively target populations that are at risk. (For example geographic/spatially, permanent/temporal, gender, social groups, and others.) This process is however, quite challenging due to several factors such as lack of standardization, data availability, resource constraints, privacy concerns, complexity of analysis, political sensitivity and other interconnected factors.
- 3) The problem of **Periodicity/Timelines** is another contributing factor to the challenges of indicator frameworks. Some data recorded in events, developmental processes, programmes could not align with the timeline of some SDG indicator frameworks. Data are collected unevenly and hence there could be lack of uniformity in producing time frame data. (For example annual, three years, five years, ten years.)
- 4) **Institutional arrangements** in supply of data can be regarded as another challenge. There is no one model for promoting, coordinating, and assessing the implementation of the SDGs; instead, it is up to each nation to decide what institutional structures it will use. This effort include mainstreaming the SDGs in sectors and other ministries, integrating the SDGs into national governance, including parliaments and local authorities, mobilizing the private sector and civil society, and conducting monitoring and evaluation. This is one of the major challenge faced in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram since all line departments responsible for

promotion and attainment of the goals align their existing schemes and programmes with SDG that requires proper and clear cut institutional arrangement.

- 5) **Capacity development of statistical personnel** is one of the challenging issues. It is necessary to strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries to measure, monitor, inform and report on the Sustainable Development Goals and other policy areas.²⁶² Hence, it can be quite challenging for developing countries to improve statistical tools and personnel to reach the level of developed countries for uniform assessment of SDG progress.
- 6) **Identification of national targets** is also a huge challenge especially for a diverse country like India with a large population. This has resulted in the problem of creating national indicators that are not suitable for all states. For example, in order to address SDG Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), production of crops such as rice and wheat were used as indicators of development. However, this indicator might not be applicable and bias for states such as Mizoram in which there is less production of such crops although other varieties of crops are produced.

4.4. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES ANALYSED FROM QUESTIONS ASKED TO LINE DEPARTMENTS

- 1) The researcher's most astounding finding is that major line departments have a poor understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and their roles in accomplishing goals. This implies that there is lack of awareness at the institutional level and it cannot be denied from this observation that the awareness level would be so much worse among the local people in the state. There were officers in the line departments who were unaware that their department had appointed Nodal Officers for the Sustainable Development Goals. In some line departments, it was found out that when meetings were called and whenever data are being requested by the nodal department, whoever was most suitable and available would attend that meeting and most of the data are taken care of by statistical wing of the department. Also, the files on Sustainable Development Goals have not been touched upon for quite a long time

²⁶²Statistic Division, D. o. (n.d.). *Capacity Development*. Retrieved May 5, 2023, from <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/>

in some offices visited by the researcher. Variations were also discernible in the responses and submissions made to the research-based questions. While some departments responded to the questions in detail and sincerely, there were a few that were quite brief in giving responses. This causes variations in responses and becomes problematic for proper analysis of data for the researcher.

2) Another problem was that of transfer of positions of concerned personnel and officials in the line departments. Those enthusiastic officials in the initial years of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals who were well versed with the concept and history of SDGs have been transferred or otherwise have retired from service. This causes problems in the line departments because the officials who were aware of the files and who were attendants of meetings regarding Sustainable Development Goals were not available in the same department and there were not much officials who have the in depth knowledge to represent the department in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3) The Covid-19 pandemic was also a major hurdle in the projection and pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram as it was elsewhere around the world. The planned procedures needed to be reframed and rerouted and there were changes and alterations in the way data were collected. It could be observed that the enthusiasm of the state government was moderated by the pandemic that affected administration and execution of various functions. Initially, consecutive meetings were called upon by the nodal department i.e., Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, inviting representatives from each line departments or Nodal Officers, to address the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the state of Mizoram. However, it was observed that after the breakout of Covid-19 pandemic, the approach towards Sustainable Development Goals has shifted to less meetings and direct collection of readymade and available data from line departments.

4) In the light of the question asked about appointment of Nodal Officers for SDG in each line department, there were variations in the answers given. Out of the

25 line departments, 7 of them answered that there has been no appointment of Nodal Officers for SDG in their departments. Some of the other departments which have had appointed Nodal Officers were also facing the problem of delay or negligence of new appointment after the officers appointed as Nodal Officers retired or were transferred to other posts. Out of the answers relating to whether there are any criteria for appointment, 10 of the line departments responded that there are no specific criteria or qualifications required to be SDG Nodal Officer whereas other departments appoint Nodal Officers based on their rank usually Deputy Director, Joint Director, Superintending Engineers or Executive Engineers or other senior officials. Two departments mentioned that Nodal Officers must be Group A or Group B (Gazetted) officers. An interesting respond from the Home Department (Police) is that as per the decision made by the Consultative Technical Committee on SDG on 20th March, 2019, all officers who attended the meeting were to be appointed as Nodal Officers in their respective departments. The nodal department, that is, Planning and Programme Implementation Department's respond was that Nodal officers for line departments are appointed by their respective offices from those officers whom they see fit and there are no specific criteria or qualifications for it. From these responses, it can be said that the approach of departments varies right from the appointment of Nodal Officers and hence, this variation could be a hurdle in the process on implementing the SDGs in Mizoram.

5) As per the answer given by **Commerce and Industries Department**, the centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) mentioned in Mizoram SDG Dashboard²⁶³ of Mizoram Vision 2030 document relating to the concerned department such as Make in India²⁶⁴, Startup India²⁶⁵ and Stand-Up India²⁶⁶ has not been as effective in

²⁶³SDG Dashboard is a tool that provides information, visualizations, and data to help monitor and track progress towards the SDGs.

²⁶⁴ 'Make in India' is a Government of India scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 intended to boost the domestic manufacturing sector and facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property & build best in class manufacturing infrastructure.

²⁶⁵ 'Startup India' is a flagship initiative of the Government of India launched on 16th January, 2016, intended to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

²⁶⁶ The 'Stand-Up India' scheme launched in April 2016 is a program that provides collateral-free loans to entrepreneurs to set up new businesses.

Mizoram as compared to other states as there has not been much competent small or medium enterprises/industries in the state. The state of Mizoram lacks behind in industrial development. The state's main businesses include those based on agriculture and forests, as well as handicrafts, electronics, consumer products, and sericulture. As a result, it can be seen that depending on the economies and levels of development of the various states, some of the metrics may be rather unequal. The state must give efforts to improve so that it will be in match and cope up with provisions of the Central Government's programs, such as Made in India, Startup India, Stand-Up India.

6) Another point that can be one of the challenges in the effective and more efficient implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram is that there is no separate budget or funding set aside for SDGs in the line departments as well as nodal department. For example, according to the answer given by Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, the department does not separately setup budget for the implementation of SDGs. However, in the running government budget estimate 2024 – 2025, directions have been given relating to the targets mentioned under the SDGs. In addition, it was mentioned by Rural Development Department that funds are received from Central Schemes which can be related to SDGs and SDG parameters are followed for upcoming project proposals. In numerous government departments, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are frequently incorporated into the planning and implementation of existing programs and schemes, rather than being allocated a distinct budget dedicated solely to the SDGs. Consequently, although the SDGs serve as a guiding framework for these initiatives, the funding generally derives from the overall budget assigned to various development programs, such as MGNREGA, MzSRLM, and PMAY-G. It is only in 2024 that the nodal department set up a separate budget for Monitoring of SDG which is Rs. 15.40 lakhs. Nonetheless, the fact that no funds directly related to SDGs are received poses a great challenge as it could influence the importance given by and priority of government officials in their efforts towards the SDG aligned projects.

7) Although majority of the line departments stated that they have no difficulty in complying with the SDG Monitoring Framework proposed by the Planning Department which has been circulated to all line departments, certain indicator might be needed to be revised by the nodal department.

In the response by the **Information & Communication Technology Department** it was mentioned that Telecom sector is a subject of the Union List and the data needed for the SDG cannot be obtained as per the desired indicator/ goals due to limited access. The Union List includes subjects on which only the central government can legislate. The telecom sector is classified under the Union List because it involves national infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and policies that are crucial for maintaining uniform standards and services across the country. Specifically, it is covered under Entry 31 of the Union List²⁶⁷, which pertains to “Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys in the public interest”. This entry includes telecommunications, ensuring that the central government has jurisdiction over the regulation and development of telecommunications services across the country. The central government, through the Ministry of Communications and the Department of Telecommunications, oversees the regulation and development of the telecom sector in India. This central control ensures that there is consistency and uniformity in telecom services across different states and regions.

According to **Health and Family Welfare Department**, data for certain indicators are not routinely available within the Department's existing information management systems. These indicators can only be monitored through surveys conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), such as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs also stated that the data required by Planning Department for ‘Localization of SDG’ on the matter of Pension Schemes in targeted areas faced a problem of getting exact figures for target population hence there could be some errors in data collection. Although there is well kept record and knowledge of beneficiaries of Pension Schemes, there is

²⁶⁷Constitution of India (1950).*Government of India*.

difficulty in getting exact figure of the targeted population due to factors like migration.

8) There is no time-wise submission of data or reports to Planning Department. Majority of the line departments submit reports relating to SDG when requested by the nodal department, five of them submit on a quarterly basis, two departments submits every year and two departments submit reports every month. This indicated that there is lack of uniformity in time-wise reports which could affect or delay analysis and compilation of reports.

The nodal department reported that line departments submit their report on an annual basis. In an interview with one of the SDG Consultants in the SDG Cell, it was mentioned that departments are often late and slow in submitting reports. Reminders were often sent to line departments. Also, since some departments do not have data in the required format by nodal department, the nodal department has to request data on a monthly basis to be analyzed further in the format to match the state SDG indicators.

9) Problems are also faced in meeting targets set for line departments for the years 2020-21, 2024-25 and 2029-30 mentioned in the SDG Dashboard of Mizoram Vision 2030 document although there are few mentions that targets could be met.

According to the answer given by **Commerce and Industries Department**, the present officers are not aware of the targets mentioned in the SDG Dashboard as the former concerned officials and Nodal Officers have retired. There is also a change of approach towards SDG from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic years.

To meet the targets in the dashboard for the **Directorate of Economics and Statistics**, some data could not be submitted on a yearly basis. For example, there cannot be a yearly data on census-survey (Below Poverty Line-Baseline Survey, 2016). Also, in the case of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), the most updated data in all-India is 2020-21 data and 2021-22 data is expected to be published only by August, 2024. Therefore, data are fed as projected/advanced estimate figures in these cases.

Directorate of Science & Technology also stated that SDG targets could not be met in all aspects. The targets set for a number of patents/IPRs (Intellectual Property Rights) issued are 12, 15 and 20 for the periods of 2020-21, 2024-25 and 2029-30 respectively for baseline data i.e., 9 in the year 2016. The lack of infrastructure and facilities in the state is one of the challenges in achieving the goals.

According to the **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department**, efforts are being made to increase coverage of Wildlife Sanctuaries although progress is not fast and there are several problems such as compensation due to displacement, insufficient funding and long duration of process.

The **Health and Family Welfare Department** responded by presenting a table of schematic indicators highlighting the year-wise targets and the present scenario. Here, there are five indicators in which NFHS-5²⁶⁸ data are awaited. There are also certain indicators that are not yet achieved at present such as Maternal Mortality Ratio, percentage of delivery attended by skilled health professional/personnel, percentage of children fully immunized, percentage of ART²⁶⁹ coverage, case notification rate of Tuberculosis, malaria incidence per 1000 population, Annual Malaria Death and total number of registered practitioners (physicians, nurses, midwives). The department also noted that the indicator such as 'percentage of BPL²⁷⁰ families covered under RSBY²⁷¹' needs revision. It is evident from these points that the department still has a long way to go although it is making progress and targets are partially achieved.

In the case of **Local Administration Department (LAD)**, there are no specific targets for LAD mentioned in SDG Dashboard. Meanwhile, as per the direction given by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, data are collected by the LAD to evaluate the status and development of every Panchayat (Village Council). Data are being fed to SDG nodal department i.e., Planning and Programme Implementation Department as per the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) 2023-24. This data serves as a useful tool for Localization of SDG in the state.

²⁶⁸ National Family Health Survey-5

²⁶⁹ Antiretroviral therapy

²⁷⁰ Below Poverty Line

²⁷¹ Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) is a health insurance program for the poor in India launched in 2008 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The **Mizoram Scholarship Board** could meet the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard as of now such as Pre and Post-Metric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. However, due to restriction in the scheme guidelines, achieving high percent is impossible. For example, in the Post-Metric Scholarship guidelines document issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, certain conditions of eligibility were given such as ‘the family income of student from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh per annum,’ and ‘the student should have a valid account in a Schedule Bank linked with Aadhar and mobile number.’²⁷² There could be students, especially in urban areas, with higher family income, while at the same time, there could be students not having bank accounts or mobile phones especially in rural areas. This could contradict with the goal of achieving high percentage as the estimates are based on all Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.

The **Public Works Department** stated that there are areas in which year based targets could not be met. This could be due to unprecedented hurdles caused by natural calamities, transportation issues (inter/intra state), resource shortage and price hikes, re-selling of contracts to less qualified parties and others. Efforts could be made such as rushing contractors to complete their works as soon as possible by enforcing quotas (monthly/quarterly) and also improving transportation means such as construction of railways which will significantly decrease time and value costs.

According to the **Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs**, the target set on National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for 2024 is 80% of eligible persons in the SDG dashboard which is quite challenging for the department. Additionally, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the Ministry of Rural Development creates financial ceiling which could not be altered by the state or concerned department. Also, due to lack of finance from the State, it is difficult to meet the targets. As a result, monthly payouts have plummeted below acceptable amounts, especially when taking inflation into consideration. Efforts are being made by appealing to the Central Government to increase said financial ceiling.

²⁷²Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India (n.d.).*Post-matric scholarship guidelines for Scheduled Tribes*.

Besides these departments, there are about five line departments that stated that there are no specific targets set for their department or that these targets mentioned in the SDG dashboard are not under their jurisdiction.

10) The major difficulties and challenges faced by line departments in general were asked and these are no doubt present as mentioned by line departments in their respective efforts towards achieving the goals. A question was further raised on which are the most difficult schemes to implement and some line departments could mention a few.

The most difficult scheme to implement for **Agriculture Department** is Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)²⁷³ and has not been implemented till date. This scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting on 13th January, 2016 and the states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh are not included in the PMFBY Insurance plan, out of the seven states in Northeast India. This is a result of the insurance company's disinterest in the northeastern states. In addition, the insurance companies' reluctance to bid on these states due to their high administrative expenses and the absence of accurate land records and other historical yield data, particularly at the block level, are contributing causes to the PMFBY failure in the Northeast. Farmers are reluctant to purchase insurance premium due to lack of awareness and education regarding the scheme. The insurance firms tend to get pushed away by this. Furthermore, the absence of adequate forecasting infrastructure in these jurisdictions has an impact on insurance plans that depend on meteorological conditions. For the benefit of farmers, state governments must either adopt the PMFBY program or implement their own initiatives.

According to the answer given by the **Directorate of Economics and Statistics**, there is difficulty in collecting district-wise disaggregated data due to several factors such as quality issues, resource constraints, infrastructure limitations, methodologies, political and social factors, coordination challenges, cultural and linguistic barriers, data verification and validation. Although majority could be

²⁷³Government sponsored crop insurance scheme launched in 2016 by Government of India that aims to support farmers by providing an affordable comprehensive risk cover for crops.

collected, there are a few district-wise data which could not be collected such as District Domestic Product.

Under **Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department**, Green India Mission (GIM)²⁷⁴ is the most difficult centrally sponsored scheme to implement due to various factors like funding pattern, land use system, nature of terrain, and others. One of the National Action Plan on Climate Change's (NAPCC) eight missions is the National Mission for a Green India, or simply the Green India Mission (GIM). Launched in February 2014, its goals are to protect the country's biological resources and related livelihoods from the threat of unfavourable climate change and to acknowledge the critical role that forestry plays in ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and food, water, and livelihood security.²⁷⁵ With adaptation and mitigation strategies, it seeks to counteract climate change while safeguarding, improving, and restoring India's declining forest cover. As the state of Mizoram is moving towards infrastructure development, such initiative, one way or the other, could result in deforestation. The practice of jhum cultivation leading to deforestation and formation of arid lands, landslides, floods and other natural calamities causing soil erosion also contributes to the drawback of Green India Mission (GIM) in Mizoram.

Local Administration Department mentioned that the efforts taken up for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 15th Finance Commission Grant & Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) are insufficient. The budgets handed out to Village Councils (VC) for construction of VC Houses, distribution of computers and Common Service Centre co-location could not be undertaken at a single time. The 15th Finance Commission Grant to be received by Mizoram is also calculated based on the area and population of Village Councils and income (absolute share) which make it difficult for most of the Village Councils to take up major works.

Although successful interventions were stated by **Public Health Engineering Department**, the department is however unaware of the National Urban Drinking

²⁷⁴ The Green India Mission (GIM) is a program that aims to protect, restore, and improve India's forest cover and respond to climate change. It is one of eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

²⁷⁵ National Mission on Green India.(n.d.).National mission on green India (GIM).Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Programme mentioned in the Vision 2030 document as one of the interventions by PHE Department. This is not because of ignorance by PHE Department, but rather could be an error at the time of drafting of the Vision 2030 document for implementing SDG in Mizoram wherein the concerned PHE Department is responsible for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) from the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

In Mizoram, under the **Rural Development Department**, several interventions and schemes are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among them, the most challenging to implement is Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)²⁷⁶. PMAY-G is aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 1 (No Poverty), focusing on providing affordable housing to the rural poor. The main challenges in implementation are geographical constraints, land availability and fund utilization. Mizoram's hilly terrain and remote locations make the construction of houses under PMAY-G logistically challenging. Transporting materials and ensuring timely construction in difficult terrains is often a significant hurdle. In some areas, the availability of suitable land for housing can be an issue, complicating the implementation of the scheme. Also, delays in fund disbursement or underutilization of allocated funds can slow down progress, making it difficult to meet targets. The impact of these challenges is that while PMAY-G has seen successes in many parts of India, in Mizoram, the combination of these challenges often results in slower progress toward achieving housing targets compared to more accessible regions.

Similarly, for **School Education Department** Net Enrollment Ratio (NER)²⁷⁷ is still low although successes were highlighted. The priority indicators for School Education Department as highlighted in SDG Dashboard, Mizoram Vision 2030 is 'Net enrolment ratio in primary and upper primary education'. National

²⁷⁶ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) is an affordable housing scheme for rural areas in India launched by the Government of India under Ministry of Rural Development. It was launched on April 1, 2016 with the aim to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all eligible homeless households and households living in dilapidated and kutchha houses in rural areas by 2024.

²⁷⁷ The net enrollment ratio (NER) is the percentage of children of the official school age who are enrolled in school.

Education Missions such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)²⁷⁸, Mid Day Meal (MDM)²⁷⁹ and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)²⁸⁰ were the schemes aligned with SDG in order to improve enrollment of students in primary and secondary education in the state. Some of the reasons for the low enrollment could be small school size, high construction cost and lack of resources.

According to **Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department**, all the schemes can have their respective problems and challenges. For example, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY (U)]²⁸¹ is an all-India scheme in which Central Assistance is similar across all states regardless of geographical terrain and material costs. This similarity could result in the lack of addressing ground reality in which the most needy might be deprived of the benefits under this scheme. Other challenges could be the lack of state shares as well as the poor involvement of beneficiaries.

11) Data for Village Indicator Framework (VIF) is collected by the Village Council, Local Councils collect Urban Indicator Framework (UIF) and Composite Indicator Framework is collected by concerned line Departments. Collection of timely and accurate data is one of the main problems faced in data collection. All the line departments collect data related to SDGs from their own branches/divisions, from the districts and other sources. These are then submitted to Planning and Programme Implementation Department for further analysis and compilation. It was found out from the answers given by line departments that majority of them did not have a problem in collecting data. However, the problems mentioned by a few of them should not be neglected.

For example, the **Directorate of Science and Technology** is facing difficulty in collecting data for patenting which is a crucial key for development and

²⁷⁸ SSA is a program by the Government of India to achieve Universal Elementary Education (UEE) in the country.

²⁷⁹ Mid Day Meal (MDM) in India is a school lunch program that provides children in government and government-aided schools with a meal to improve their nutrition and support their education.

²⁸⁰ RMSA is a flagship scheme of the Government of India's Ministry of Education. The scheme was launched in March 2009 to improve the quality and increase access to secondary education.

²⁸¹ PMAY (U) is a government mission that aims to provide housing to all eligible urban households. The mission was launched on June 25, 2015, with the goal of providing housing to all eligible urban households by 2022.

technological advancement especially in the state level. This difficulty is basically due to lack of proper data management policy which cannot be neglected in such fields. One of the main components of regulating data assets is a data management policy, which addresses the operational policy that concentrates on the administration and governance of data assets. If there is proper data management policy, there is no doubt that improvements could be made and the major hurdle in collecting data for patenting could be addressed.

Most data for **Health and Family Welfare Department** are collected from units providing health services, primarily at health facilities. Many health programmes collect data through online portals. Some data are collected using paper-based reporting formats that are compiled at district level and submitted to concerned collecting unit. These variations in data collection and the channels taken up for data processing could hinder uniformity and systematic analysis. Additionally, as stated by the department, these data alone will not be sufficient to meet the goals.

In the case of **Local Administration Department**, data are collected to assess each Panchayat's (Village Council) progress and status in accordance with the direction from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Village Council). Since data are collected from various departments and local authorities wherein such entities like the Village Councils are not the implementing agencies of major developmental projects, there are no proper records maintained by them. This lack of recording of data leads to difficulty in collection of relevant and reliable data at the village level.

Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs also remarks that data are collected from the records kept by District offices and these reports are believed to be a bit unmatched with ground reality. This could be due to biasness in favor of their respective districts, politics among stakeholders, human errors, incompetence and negligence among those who are responsible for collection and maintenance of data. This is a challenging issue as it prevents the concerned department from seeing the real picture thus, stunting the growth of development in a sustained manner in such districts.

These data are collected solely for the purpose of formulating SDG Index and since SDG Index is just for monitoring of SDG's and target setting, data collection alone does not incorporate mechanisms to effective change.

12) During the initial years of implementation of SDGs and in the current proceeding, there were various challenges and problems faced by line departments. These are highlighted as answered by line departments as follows:

The **Planning and Programme Implementation Department** which is the Nodal Department stated that in the initial years of SDG implementation, there was lack of clarity on how to measure or attain SDG by Government of India. If this is the problem at the national level, there is no doubt of the presence of such problems at the state level. The main problems at present are multiplicity of indices that are not aligned with each other, collection of timely and accurate data and SDG indices does not incorporate mechanisms to make effective changes, it is just an index for measurement and target setting.

For **Commerce and Industries Department**, there are no officials currently who are well aware of SDGs as some of them who were nodal officers in the initial years have retired. The SDGs were initiated in 2015 and are to be implemented in the following fifteen years, till 2030. As a result, in the process of working towards achieving the goals by governments, the problem of transfer and retirement of officials who were well versed with the goals is inevitable. It is not only the responsibility of the nodal department but also the responsibility of the respective line departments to conduct awareness and trainings on SDGs frequently.

Directorate of Economics and Statistics stated that during the initial years of implementing SDG, there were a lot of data which were not available as expected. For example, there was difficulty in collecting data for GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) in Tourism Sub-Sector for Mizoram since there was no such sub-sector separated yet because it was still combined with other sub-sectors. This kind of data unavailability problem could be faced by other departments as well. Also, such problem of unavailability of data, even if it was during the initial years of implementation of SDGs, could snowball into unreliable results in the years to come.

As mentioned in the previous point, intellectual property management is not an easy task in the **Directorate of Science and Technology**. In order to increase the number of patents, there needs to be improvement in infrastructure, facilities and sufficient human resources. Technological advancement creating the need for high

level technology as such is a huge challenge. This has been a constant struggle until now since the initial years of the implementation of SDGs in the state.

According to the response provided by **Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department**, during the initial years, there were some challenges in using digital platforms such as national portals and mobile applications due to lack of technical knowledge at the ground level. Hence, maintaining digital record was difficult. However, since years past, these challenges no longer persist. This could be the result of initiative taken by the central government to promote e-governance at the state level by introducing its flagship programme called Digital India²⁸². Practical use of such e-governance can reduce reckless use of paper, saves more time and efficiency and hence, is an indirect way of promoting sustainable development.

Access of data for the particular indicators under **Information and Communication Technology Department** such as 'number of villages covered under BharatNet²⁸³ scheme, number of mobile connection per 100 population in rural and urban area, number of internet connection, number of registered users for Digi Locker²⁸⁴, number of online services provided by State Government' was quite challenging during the inception of SDG as stated by the Information and Communication Technology Department. BharatNet scheme and Digi Locker were introduced in India in 2015 - the same year in which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was implemented in India and as a result of this, there was not much data available to look into yet under these schemes. Hence, it can be said that data collection and access would be quite challenging as these innovations evolved and developed together in the same year.

Lack of proper direction and lack of finance/budget was the major challenge faced by **Local Administration Department** during the initial years of SDG

²⁸² Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The programme was launched on July 1, 2015 by Hon' Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

²⁸³ One of the largest rural telecom initiatives in the world, BharatNet was gradually introduced to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats throughout the in order to give equal access to Broadband connection for all telecom service providers.

²⁸⁴ DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India programme that aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of citizen by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet.

implementation in the state of Mizoram. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) is carried out through Local Administration Department which involves the State Institution for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR) to carry out ‘training and capacity building programmes’ to impart knowledge on SDGs to various Village Councils in the state. This requires proper and clear cut direction as it would be the first time for such exercise, not to forget that SDG is fairly a new initiative and governments are still learning about it. Also, since the exercise would involve travelling to villages across mountains, bearing landslides and poor road conditions, there must be fairly some amount of financial support which the government is lacking in the implementation of SDG in the state.

Mizoram Scholarship Board also pointed out that some scholarships schemes are limited in number or are specific to certain fields of study. Finding a scholarship that aligns with a student's chosen course of study can be challenging. Complex application processes are time-consuming, such as Aadhaar based registration, seeding of Aadhaar with Bank account, payment of scholarship through Aadhaar Payment Bridge²⁸⁵ is still a problem especially for those students hailing from rural areas. It can be seen here that the students who need scholarship the most are the ones who have the most problems in getting access to it. This can delay or hamper the process of achieving Goal 4 (Quality Education) even though the state of Mizoram is one of the most literate states in the country.

Compensation is one of the biggest problems faced by **Power & Electricity (P&E) Department** in their efforts towards the implementation of SDG. Projects under Power & Electricity Department pertaining to electrification, hydro and solar power has a connection to the SDGs and has the potential to help achieve them. However, there are areas in which compensation has to be paid due to unpredicted circumstances such as injuries and deaths caused in the process of carrying out these projects. Compensation due to land displacement is also a huge problem in the construction of hydro power plants in the state in which there is no separate budget

²⁸⁵ Aadhaar Payment Bridge is a unique payment system implemented by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which uses Aadhaar number as a central key for electronically channelizing the Government subsidies and benefits in the Aadhaar Enabled Bank Accounts (AEBA) of the intended beneficiaries.

for compensation and the state has to adjust accordingly with the proposed budget for the department to meet this problem. The current hydro power plants were constructed with a lot of struggles by the department including lack of financial resources and some cases of compensation has still not been resolved by the court.

For **Public Health Engineering Department**, the major problem in the beginning was that the department was allotted responsibilities that were not under its jurisdiction such as the National Urban Drinking Water Programme. This was found in the Vision 2030 document published by the Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram as one of their initiatives towards implementation of SDG in the state. Here, major line departments were identified and were given targets and indicators to achieve the goals in their respective areas. This issue was later clarified with the Planning Department which is the nodal department and no other problems are pertaining as of now in the PHE Department.

No problems were faced by the **Public Works Department** in the initial years of implementation of SDGs. However, over the years of implementation, a few major problems were encountered such as slow pace of contractors in completing development projects, insufficient availability and inflation on price of raw materials (such as sand and rocks) to carryout constructions, less working period because of prolonged monsoon season especially in a hilly area like Mizoram in which frequent occurrence of landslides causes delay and adds to the problem, and delay of funds from central and state governments to carry out projects.

There has not been a problem for **Rural Development Department** during the initial stages of SDG implementation since it is only planning & proposal stage. However, challenges may be faced on the execution of the work. Problems such as delay of funds, delayed work due to natural disasters as well as difficulty in cooperating with the people and the environment could be faced. One of the major challenges faced by the department is that since Mizoram has a hilly topography, reaching rural locations is quite challenging as compared to rural plain areas of other parts of the country. Hence, development may take longer and intervention by natural disasters are more prone to happen.

The main challenge faced by the **Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs** is relating to delay of funds received under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). In addition to the advantages that the States already give or may provide in the future, the NSAP strives to provide minimum national standards in the social assistance benefits that it provides to low-income households in the event of old age, the death of the breadwinner, and pregnancy. Additionally, it seeks to guarantee that social protection is consistently and unbrokenly offered to the recipients across the nation. Such delay of funds could hindrance the people to meet their needs on time.

Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA) also faced a problem and struggle in the planning process of targets and the ways to achieve them during the initial years of SDG implementation. No further problems at present.

13) Based on the answers given by line departments when asked whether they have much to contribute in attaining the goals, all of the line departments gave a positive ascent and a few of them added ways to improve their contributions mostly related to finance which could be clubbed under some of the challenges faced for SDG implementation such as follows:

Directorate of Economics and Statistics: The data collected by the department has been very useful although the collection process has been quite challenging. Secondary data make up the majority of the data collected by the office of Directorate of Economics and Statistics. All official statistics are transmitted into Economics & Statistics, a nodal agency within the Official Statistics system. The frequency and accessibility of data are exclusively dependent on the pace and activity of the other departments that provide data. This challenge can be solved and data collection will become easier if awareness is spread about the importance of collecting and feeding data at the right time to indicate the state's performance in SDG.

Directorate of Science & Technology: As per the answer given by the Directorate of Science & Technology, there is keen importance of having research base planning and management for successful implementation of SDG. Here, one of the most challenging factors is regarding funds and budget for research based

planning. If there could be more Research and Development (R&D) budget aligned to Directorate of Science and Technology, it would be possible for the department to have more contribution. At present, Mizoram is having one of the least budget aligned to Research & Development among the all the states/UTs in India. This is a crucial challenge for the state in its activity towards achieving the SDGs.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department: The department in its function is sincerely coping up with the government plan and schemes. The successful coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA-National Food Security Act²⁸⁶ (which is a central government initiative) and Non-NFSA (state government initiatives) have enhanced in the fight against hunger in the remotest part of the state. However, the monthly allocation might not serve the necessities with the increasing population and the amount spent on the procurement of the Non-NFSA rice. This might serve a threat in the coming years if the domestic yield of rice is not improved. The department will try it apex strength to provide services to the people but highly depend on the amount of cultivation by the state or allotment received from the central government.

Local Administration Department (LAD): Since Village Councils are under the jurisdiction of LAD, the department has a great responsibility for the success of Localization of SDG in Mizoram. However, as there are less direct schemes/funds given to the Village Councils in Mizoram and also since LAD is nodal department only in two (2) schemes viz. 15th Finance Commission Grant & RGSA (*Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan*), not much efforts could be made besides these.

14) Prior to the United Nations' adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established, indicating that the pursuit of progressive development is not a novel notion in the global context. Two departments under Government of Mizoram, namely **Health and Family Welfare Department and Rural Development Department** have identified a few measures that both departments have undertaken respectively that

²⁸⁶NFSA (2013) is an Indian law that aims to provide food security to the country's population.

could be related to MDGs. However, no measures were taken up focusing on the MDG at the state level as evident from government records. Hence, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is fairly a new action with no footprints to follow. This is quite challenging for governments especially if the government officials close to retirement have to learn it from the nature and evolution. There could be lack of enthusiasm on their part.

15) As per information given by Scientific Officer of **Directorate of Science & Technology**, some of the SDG indicators and targets are not able to bring out the actual picture of the state and the state has been considered to be performing lower than it actually is in some targets. Due to lack of clear cut information and ignorance among those who feed the data at all levels – local, district, state level, etc., there are cases in which reports were considered NIL for SDG indicator. In order to tackle this, SDG indicators should be altered in accordance with each state in which primary information will be collected and this will result in a more relevant and reliable data.

16) The **Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram** has been cooperative in its data for the achievement of the SDGs. However, government schemes are dynamic and have been changing according to the requirements of the public. In light of the changing nature of different schemes, series of indicator devised by the Planning Department needs a revision. For example, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department no longer maintains records of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL). BPL beneficiaries are now being classified under National Food Security Act and APL beneficiaries now comes under Non-NFSA. Similarly, recent enquiry from Planning Department was seeking for number of gas connections within a family and number of household. These data are not worked out by the department and verbal communications were made with the nodal department.

17) According to the answer given by **Local Administration Department (LAD)**, targets to achieve SDG should be made achievable, inter-departmental

coordination could be improved and the actual situation at ground level needs to be reflected in the data so that there will be reliable and relevant information for analysis and to achieve the goals. Targets were set for line departments with respect to the goals in line with each department by the nodal department, i.e., the Planning and Programme Implementation Department for implementation and achievement of the SDGs in the state. These targets must be set realistically in such a way that they could be actually achieved. Otherwise, line departments may face problems and the overall performance of the state in the SDG index would be hampered. The inter-departmental coordination and cooperation also serves a considerable purpose in the achievement of SDGs in the state. For some of the line departments, data are collected in relation to data collected by other departments and hence delay of any such procedures could further delay the work of the whole proceedings for implementation of SDGs. Another important point to consider is whether the data collected reflect the actual situation at the ground level. Failure of such accuracy would result in shallow and unsustainable development in the state.

18) The **Public Health Engineering Department** noted that the implementing department for SDG i.e., Planning Department needs to be cautious and more careful in directing responsibilities to line departments. This problem of allotting responsibilities that were not under the jurisdiction of line department was faced by PHE Department in the initial years of SDG implementation by the state government. The department was unaware of the National Urban Drinking Programme mentioned in the Vision 2030 document as one of the interventions by PHE Department. This was later clarified between the two departments and such situations should be avoided in future.

19) **Rural Development Department** also acknowledges the fact that the concept of sustainable development has been quite new to Mizoram not only in villages but also in the city. There needs to be more awareness to spread the need and promotion of sustainable development in the state.

4.5. CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Eight years subsequent to the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global organisation held a summit on 18-19 September, 2023 to perform a “comprehensive review” of the status of the 17 targets, midway to the goal year of 2030. The summit featured a "urgent call to action" to "recommit" to the declining goal of a future where the earth is safeguarded and all individuals coexist in peace and prosperity.

In 2022, the UN cautioned that the Covid-19 pandemic had eradicated four years of advancement in achieving the targets. An autonomous panel of professional scientists published an updated assessment affirming that the world is projected to achieve just 12% of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. The United Nations stated that halfway through, the commitment is in significant jeopardy and for the first time in decades, developmental progress is regressing due to the cumulative effects of climate disasters, conflict, economic decline, and the persistent repercussions of Covid-19. The SDG summit acts as a catalyst to reinvigorate momentum, urging world leaders to unite, assess the current position, and commit to further efforts.

In The Africa Report, Julian Pecquet highlighted ten criticisms on SDGs as described below:²⁸⁷

1) They are non-binding

Despite their name, the SDGs are more desires than objectives. Without an accountability framework for international and national failures, no one is responsible for their implementation. The authors of the latest UN report said in Nature on September 13, 2023 that “accountability from governments remains weak — expressed political support for the SDGs has often failed to translate into strategic public policy processes, especially long-term budgets and investment.” Only 13 of 74 nations' national budgets had integrated the SDGs into budget lines or allocations.

²⁸⁷ Julian Pecquet. (2023, September 18). 10 criticisms of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. *The Africa Report*.

2) They're vastly underfunded

The worldwide economic crisis induced by the Covid-19 outbreak has transformed an existing financial shortfall into a substantial gulf. The reduction of public financing and the contraction of foreign private finance have resulted in a \$4.2 trillion annual funding deficit, representing almost 4% of the global economy and nearly double the amount allocated to global defence spending.

3) They're not urgent enough

In 2015, global leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which had faced criticism for neglecting the developmental requirements of developing countries. The critique of the MDGs was that they were excessively focused on social problems, such as poverty alleviation, rather than emphasising wealth and industrialisation. By adopting the SDGs and extending the timeline to 2030, lawmakers seem to have diminished the urgency of the goals, thereby de-motivating policymakers and stakeholders in their commitment to the cause.

4) They are too vague

SDGs have been called “worse than useless”, “a high-school wish list on how to save the world”, “senseless, dreamy, garbled” from the start. Compromises during talks have left goals like living “in harmony with nature” and “ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions” unclear. In a 2015 Foreign Policy opinion essay, New York University economics professor William Easterly called the SDGs “so encyclopaedic” that “everything is top priority, which means nothing is a priority”.

Without data, the SDGs hardly help policymakers. Individual governments have developed their own, often problematic methods to measure development, compounding the situation. “The effectiveness of SDG processes, policies and strategies has also received little scientific validation,” Nature²⁸⁸ scientists said.

²⁸⁸ Nature is the world's leading multidisciplinary science journal.

5) There's too many of them

The SDGs' 17 objectives and 169 targets, from gender equality to responsible consumerism, were always going to be difficult for cash-strapped nations. It was suggested by Nwuke in the Brookings Institution in Washington in 2021 that a smaller set of achievable goals will enable policymakers to protect, to the greatest extent possible, the successes of the recent past in health, education, food security, and poverty. Leadership should then divert these efforts and adopt new objectives to improve long-term livelihoods and battle the present catastrophe.

6) They're not immune from politics

The SDG framework delegates action to national governments, allowing politicians to determine which goals to prioritise, if at all. Continuous public pressure from voters and civic society is essential to maintain their accountability. Many policy decisions and strategies are closely tied to political cycles, sometimes without enough consideration of long-term costs and benefits. More alarming is the evidence that the data required to monitor progress on the SDGs is susceptible to influence.

7) They set goals instead of rights

A philosophical critique of the SDGs pertains to its inherent character. By establishing goals rather of focussing on rights, global leaders may claim credit for progress—albeit imperfect—toward an improved society, instead of confronting the bleak realities that persist for numerous individuals. It is rather ethically questionable to juxtapose the current situation with a previous condition. It is also far more pertinent to compare it to the potential performance based on current skills.

8) They exacerbate global inequality

Although the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocate for diminishing inequality both between and within nations (Goal number 10), they may unintentionally have an opposite outcome. Some contend that it permits the impoverished to progressively lag behind until 2030, when income growth for the lowest 40% of the population is expected to surpass the national average rate. At the

global level, the SDGs impose a greater responsibility on nations with significant inadequacies and little capacity to address them by permitting countries to take credit for their individual progress in achieving objectives. This view disproportionately assigns the most significant responsibilities to the poorest nations, while allowing developed countries to assert their compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

9) They're hard to sustain in a fracturing world

Achieving the SDGs necessitates international collaboration, particularly as the world experiences trends contrary to this goal. Rather than cooperating, nations are assigning blame to one other for insufficient efforts. Amid criticism for its purported deficiencies, the United States has emphasised its substantial financial commitments to the World Food Programme and UNICEF, in contrast to the comparatively meagre donations from China and Russia.

10) Their lack of progress breeds apathy

The huge scale of the project renders it challenging to maintain public engagement. Recognising the disparity between commitments and actuality, Thomas-Greenfield²⁸⁹ cautioned against succumbing to the "cynicism trap" and resigning oneself to defeat. She stated that a pragmatic perspective must be adopted regarding the world's global challenges without allowing pragmatism to become a justification for cynicism.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were subjected to critical analysis using a Systems Thinking (ST) framework, utilising an examination of power, agency, scale, and history (PASH), leading to the following criticisms:²⁹⁰

- **Power:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inadequately confront the existing power structures. They safeguard prevailing political and economic interests

²⁸⁹Linda Thomas-Greenfield (born November 22, 1952) is an American diplomat who served as the United States ambassador to the United Nations.

²⁹⁰Open University.(n.d.).*Introducing global development: Content section 11*.OpenLearn.

that exacerbate global challenges, such as environmental degradation, poverty, and inequality, which the objectives are intended to mitigate.

- **Agency:** Numerous individuals are marginalised by inequitable development processes that are controlled by and advantageous to the most powerful.
- **Scale:** Although the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) possess a global scope, their implementation relies on national governments, who have the discretion to choose which SDGs to prioritise. There exists a risk of losing the overarching viewpoint.
- **History:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are founded on an ongoing effort for economic development, which has resulted in significant socioeconomic disparities and environmental degradation.

The ambitious UN-adopted sustainable development goals (SDGs) have faced criticism for their inconsistency, quantification challenges, and difficulties in implementation and monitoring. Critical study indicates a potential conflict between the socio-economic development and environmental sustainability goals of the SDGs. The objectives are non-mandatory, with each nation anticipated to formulate its own national or regional strategies. Furthermore, the origins and magnitude of the financial resources and investments for the Sustainable Development Goals are ambiguous.

Critical analysis of SDGs in the context of Mizoram

Mizoram has taken pride in its high literacy rate that enhances its performance in SDG 4 (Quality Education) and the state has also made notable efforts in preserving forest cover further contributing to SDG 15 (Life on Land). However, the state is still left with significant challenges. The implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in Mizoram reveals a picture of progress and challenges that are intertwined. It can be observed from the various problems mentioned by line department that there are various issues that hinder and delay the movement towards achieving the SDGs in the state such as limited infrastructure, particularly in remote areas and vulnerabilities to climate change. One of the major challenges is the state's difficult hilly terrain, which continues to hinder infrastructure

growth, access to healthcare, and educational equity in remote rural areas.²⁹¹ Another alarming factor is the pressing health issues, especially the HIV prevalence rates i.e. 2.73% of the adult population, one of the highest in India according to the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).²⁹² Such challenges persist even though there are improvements in public health indicators such as a high immunization rate and relatively low infant mortality rate.

The state's unique feature is the prevalence of traditional community-based governance practices such as *Tlawmngaihna* (a Mizo word meaning community altruism and sense of charity for others). This has made efforts such as environmental conservation quite successful over the years. Nonetheless, the pressures of modernization and insufficient financial resources (the state has solely depended on funding from Central government) threaten these indigenous approaches.²⁹³ From the economic perspective, the weak industrial base, youth unemployment, and geographical constraints has hindered Mizoram's progress under SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and further increase transportation costs and limit market access.²⁹⁴ There is a potential aspect for achieving SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) with the construction of renewable energy development such as the 20 MW Vankal Solar Park in the state. However, scaling such projects requires increased investment and integration with broader economic development plans²⁹⁵.

Altogether, the implementation and progress towards SDGs in Mizoram is shaped by a strong institutional vision (as seen in Vision 2030 document) but the prevailing systemic challenges hinders the progress towards this vision. Addressing these issues with deepened community participation, greater inter-departmental coordination, and targeted investment in health, environment, and sustainable

²⁹¹TERI. (2022). *Localizing SDGs in the North Eastern Region: Mizoram Case Study*. The Energy and Resources Institute

²⁹² National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).(2023). *Annual HIV Estimations Report – India*.Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

²⁹³ Ibid.

²⁹⁴Planning Department, Government of Mizoram. (2023). *Sustainable Development Goals: Vision 2030 – Mizoram*.

²⁹⁵PIB. (2023, August 16). *20 MW Vankal Solar Park inaugurated in Mizoram*. Press Information Bureau, Government of India.

livelihoods will be necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in the state.

4.6. A series of problems could be unraveled from existing literature as well as information provided by line departments in the implementation Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram. Some of the problems observed from literature review are data entry mistakes resulting in unmatched data, problem of functioning of committees set up for SDG implementation, error and biasness in data transfer and processing, the challenge of producing high quality database, challenge of improving basic primary and fundamental requirements, the state being recently on the path to development and the consequences of insurgency, the state lacking behind in industrialization, environmental challenges, lack of proper budgeting and absence of separate budget for SDG, errors in framing indicator framework and others. Other problems could be highlighted from answers provided by line departments such as lack of comprehensive understanding of SDG at the administrative level, loopholes in line departments due to transfer and retirement of well-versed officials, problems caused by pandemic breakout, negligence of appointment and re-appointment of nodal officers, unequal metrics of indicators for SDG in the state as compared to other states, difficulty in complying with SDG monitoring framework, no fixed time for data submission resulting in late publication of reports, inability to meet targets set for line departments, the trouble in data collection and data unmatched with ground reality, the problem of compensation as well as delay of funds for projects and schemes aligned with SDGs.

It is evident from these problems that there has not been such an intervention as the Sustainable Development Goals in the history of the Government of Mizoram. The state government, while keeping up with existing policies and programmes on one hand, is coping with efforts on the other to achieve the SDGs. These efforts are subject to be uneven, no doubt, since there is no funding or financial assistance involved at the department level. The indicators mandated by NITI Aayog could not project the ground reality of the state as well. For example, one the indicators projected to meet Goal 2 i.e, Zero Hunger focused on the production of rice, wheat and coarse cereals annually per unit area. However, there is minimal production of

wheat in the state of Mizoram indicating that these indicators are not state specific or inclusive enough. Hence, the implementation of SDG by the Government of Mizoram in the state needs to be studied and understood by acknowledging these problems and challenges.

CHAPTER - V

STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1. STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

This chapter focuses on the various achievements and notable progresses that the state has made in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram. Mizoram has a high literacy rate, significantly above the national average, and has implemented various programs to enhance access to quality education, particularly for marginalized communities. The state has made strides in improving healthcare services, focusing on maternal and child health. The Mizoram Health Care Scheme provides financial assistance for medical treatment, contributing to better health outcomes. Mizoram's initiatives in forest conservation and sustainable land management have been crucial. The state has engaged in afforestation programs and practices that promote biodiversity, which align with SDG 15 (Life on Land). Various government and civil society initiatives focus on enhancing women's participation in decision-making and economic activities. The implementation of programs like the National Rural Livelihood Mission has improved livelihoods in rural areas, promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty. Mizoram has made significant investments in water supply and sanitation projects, contributing to improved access to clean water, which supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The state has adopted policies aimed at mitigating climate change impacts, including promoting renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices.

In addition to the emphasised characteristics of Mizoram, the accomplishments and advancements of the Government of Mizoram in executing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are evaluated using primary and secondary data sources. Sources such as books, journals, articles, government reports, United Nations reports, research papers, workshops and conferences, social media and newspapers are useful means of information on the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram. Besides interviews, the data collected from the nodal department as well as various line departments have also been analyzed in order to outline the

various achievements that the Government of Mizoram could have attained in their process of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

By utilizing these resources, comprehensive information can be gathered on the achievements of SDG implementation in Mizoram.

5.2. ACHIEVEMENTS OBSERVED FROM LITERATURE REVIEW

1) Mizoram is one of the front runners in its performance towards achieving the SDGs since the beginning of its implementation in India. It is one of the top gainers in the SDG India Index 2020-21, in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12 points. It is in the 12th rank among the Indian States in the report of NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2020-2021. According to this SDG India Index 2020-2021, Mizoram is in Achiever category (100 pts) in Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); Front Runner (65-99 pts) in Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 13 (Climate action), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); Performer (50-64 pts) in Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Aspirant (0-49 pts) in Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 15 (Life on Land). At the overall ranking of district level, Serchhip district ranks the top among the districts in Mizoram and is occupying the 5th rank among all the districts in the North-East.²⁹⁶

2) On July 12, 2024, NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of the nation's primary instrument for gauging national and sub-national progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the SDG India Index 2023-24. Mizoram is among the 32 states and Union Territories in the front runner category in the index. Mizoram has scored 72 and has secured 13th rank among the states in India and has achieved the “affordable and clean energy” goal, scoring 100. Regarding the Zero Hunger goal,

²⁹⁶ Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of Mizoram.

Mizoram is in the front runner category, scoring 76 and is also in the front runner category for the climate action goal.

3) Various workshops and seminars have been conducted by the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram to create awareness and make the people more participative and responsible in achieving the SDGs in Mizoram. These workshops included not only stakeholder but also students, research scholars and representatives from local organizations.

4) It is also worth mentioning that the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram has already formulated State Indicator for SDG for Mizoram before it was formulated by the NITI Aayog during the initial years of SDG implementation. Since the nodal agency at the national level i.e. the NITI Aayog released a State Indicator Framework to be followed by each state, the state government had to alter its own formulated State Indicator and follow the indicators proposed by NITI Aayog later on.

5) On the visit of President Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the 16th convocation of Mizoram University at Aizawl on May 5, 2022, the President said that according to progress on Goal – 4 of UN sustainable development goals which pertains to providing quality education, NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21 shows that Mizoram with a score of 60 performed better than the national average of 57²⁹⁷. An interesting point that figured in the analysis was that the score for Goal – 4 ranked Aizawl as the top performer among all districts of the Northeast states.

6) On September 29th, 2022, the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram released a Plan of Action for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in the state. This aims to ensure that the fruits of development will be discernibly visible and enjoyed by all individuals. This Plan of Action includes Reform Action Plan to be formulated based on Local Indicator Framework (LIF) data.

²⁹⁷Statesman News Service. (2022, May 5)

5.3. ACHIEVEMENTS ANALYSED FROM QUESTIONS ASKED TO LINE DEPARTMENTS

1) According to the answer given by Agriculture Department, the state introduced a Flagship Programme SEDP (Socio-Economic Development Programme) which is a Family Oriented Programme in the year 2022-23 under which Maize cultivation was implemented. Here, inputs (seeds) High Yielding Variety (HYV) were provided. This programme was carried out in two phases. Here, the farmers/beneficiaries were given financial aid for the procurement of inputs as well as assistance for the cultivation of Maize. This boosted Maize cultivation which is a highlighted crop in SDG indicator framework.

2) As per the answers given by line departments in relating their respective schemes with SDG, it can be said that all the departments could align at least one or more of their existing as well as new schemes/interventions to SDG most of which are Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). For example, in the case of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department**, the schemes such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem, National Afforestation Policy, Green India Mission and National Action Plan on Climate Change are aligned with SDG. In the case of **Home Department**, the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are aligned with SDG such as Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) Scheme, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children project, Emergency Response & Support System and Assistance to State for Narcotic Control. Aligning such schemes with SDG by line departments means that even if there is no financial provision or budget set aside for achieving SDG, the funds received for implementing these schemes could be multi-beneficial such that if used for the right purpose, they could meet both the goals of the schemes as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

3) A question was asked to all line departments whether they have taken up new interventions to achieve the SDGs besides aligning existing schemes/initiatives with the goals. Out of the 25 line departments, 11 of them answered that they have not

taken up new measures solely focusing on SDGs. However, more than half of the line departments answered in a positive manner.

The **Directorate of Science and Technology, Government of Mizoram** has taken up Mapping of Science and Technology for requirement of project. This project aims to promote the use of Science and technology in the state of Mizoram. This project highlights the areas in which the state performs low in SDG targets besides studying other areas. The problems are being analyzed and solutions are being worked upon. This aims to improve the performance of the state in achieving the SDGs

Besides aligning the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem, National Afforestation Policy, Green India Mission and National Action Plan on Climate Change, the **Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department** has also taken measures to include more awareness activities for spreading the message to all stakeholders for achieving SDGs.

Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department has taken the initiative to increase coverage percentage of beneficiaries under National Food Security ACT (NFSA). As of now, the Department has achieved 99% coverage of the allowed/allocated quota by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. In addition, in order to cover larger number of the population of the State under NFSA, the Department has taken the initiative to amend *The Mizoram Food Security Rules, 2017*, rule 6 and rule 7 (identification of eligible household).

Besides aligning existing schemes, action plans like setting up of Child Friendly Room in Police Stations has been done by **Home Department (Police)**. Establishment of Counseling Centers, setting up Women Specialized Team and conduct of training and awareness programmes are also being carried out in various districts.

The **Mizoram Scholarship Board** registered on the National Scholarship Portal on May 31, 2024, for the Academic Session 2023-24. This purpose is for applying scholarship schemes of Pre and Post-Matriculation Scholarship for

Schedule Tribe (ST) students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Further suggestions have been given to Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India for consideration of eligibility criteria for availing the scholarship scheme from Rs 2.50 lakh to Rs 6 lakh considering the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)²⁹⁸ of today and also an increase of rate of maintenance allowance considering the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) of today. These efforts could help in expanding access to higher education, building capacity in specific fields, reducing inequality, contributing to knowledge economy, and promotion of diversity thereby indirectly promoting the goals of SDGs.

Initiative is also being taken up by the **Public Works Department (PWD)** to work on Phase III of PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana). PMGSY-III is a five-year programme launched by the Government of India that aims to improve the quality of life for rural populations by connecting habitations to essential facilities. Its goal is to consolidate 1,25,000 km of major rural links and through routes that connect habitations to hospitals, higher secondary schools, and Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)²⁹⁹. The Government of Mizoram has progressively carried out PMGSY Phase I & II although partially completed. Proposal has been submitted for Phase III of PMGSY to the Ministry of Rural Development. PMGSY's goal is to connect unconnected rural areas with all-weather roads, which improves access to social and economic services. This connectivity helps to reduce poverty, increase agricultural incomes, and create employment opportunities that are also the sole purpose of SDGs.

The **Rural Development Department** states that in Mizoram, specific initiatives under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)³⁰⁰, Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MzSRLM)³⁰¹, and the

²⁹⁸ The Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) is a monthly index that measures the average change in prices of goods and services that industrial workers typically buy.

²⁹⁹ Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) are village-level markets in India that help farmers sell their produce locally and nationally.

³⁰⁰ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a social welfare program in India that aims to provide a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of wage employment per year to adult members of rural households.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)³⁰² have been tailored to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on the state's unique challenges and opportunities. Some of the new initiatives under MGNREGA are Afforestation and Reforestation Projects in which MGNREGA has introduced extensive tree-planting and forest regeneration initiatives to combat deforestation and promote biodiversity. These projects also help in soil conservation and enhancing carbon sequestration. Another initiative is the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Mizoram that focused on the construction of check dams, contour trenches, and water harvesting structures to address water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management that supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The third one is Rural Road Connectivity that relates to construction of climate-resilient rural roads that can withstand the state's challenging terrain and heavy rainfall, improving accessibility and connectivity promoting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Other new initiatives of **Rural Development Department** under MzSRLM (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission) are Promotion of Organic Farming. Under MzSRLM, there has been a push towards organic farming, which includes training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and certification processes. This supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Secondly, initiatives under MzSRLM include Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. New initiatives focus on building entrepreneurial skills among rural youth and women in sectors like handicrafts, agri-business, and eco-tourism. This promotes SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Third initiative is Digital and Financial Inclusion. Strengthening the financial inclusion of women through enhanced Self Help Group (SHG)-bank linkages, providing easier access to credit and financial services thus promoting SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 1 (No Poverty).

³⁰¹ It is an organization that works to eradicate poverty in rural Mizoram by forming Self-Help Groups (SHGs) among the poorest families. The mission was launched on April 22, 2013 and is now active in all 11 districts of the state.

³⁰² It is a Central Government program to provide affordable housing for the rural poor. The program's goal is to improve the "Housing for All" scheme.

Efforts towards successful implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 may be considered as a new initiative taken up by the **School Education Department** towards achieving the SDGs. By 2030, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks to modernise India's educational system and bring it into compliance with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4) that aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." With an emphasis on accessibility, quality, equity, and inclusion, this strategy has significantly altered and reformed India's educational system. The Government of Mizoram has also adopted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at various levels under School Education Department and has set up expert group, task force and study group during the initial years of implementation in the midst of the break out of Covid-19 pandemic.

4) Based on the answers given by line department on SDG Monitoring Framework, other noteworthy achievement is that majority of them did not have difficulty in complying with the monitoring framework proposed by the Planning Department. This framework identifies the goals, indicators (national, state and district) and allots line department various responsibilities in accordance with the works concerned. Each line departments complies by submitting data collected from various branches in the form of Progress Reports to Planning Department. Among, line departments, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics could not only successfully comply with the monitoring framework proposed by the nodal department but also contributed heavily in the drafting of the monitoring framework.

5) Line departments were asked to mention the most successful schemes/interventions relating to SDGs and the following answers are given:

For **Agriculture Department**, the most successful intervention/schemes are Soil Health Card and Rashtriya Krishi Vikar (RKVY)/ National Food Security Mission (NFSM). The Soil Health Card Scheme also called SHC scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan. A Soil Health Card (SHC) is a printed report that provides a farmer with information about the health of their soil and

recommendations for fertilizer and soil amendments. The card is generated using the Soil Health Card Portal, a web and smart phone application developed by the Government of India. Since the implementation of the Soil Health Card (SHC) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), the State of Mizoram has been assigned targets for testing soil samples and issuing Soil Health Cards based on land holding for the Cycle-I (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17) a target of 11986nos. of Soil samples, for Cycle-II (2017-18, 2018-19) a target of 11986nos. and 2119nos. during 2019-2020.³⁰³ The Soil Health Card scheme was implemented in Mizoram in 2015 and out of the number of soils that have been tested, 28,699 cards have been distributed to farmers. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikar (RKVY) was launched in 2007 as a broad program to guarantee the comprehensive development of agriculture and related sectors by giving states the autonomy to select their own development initiatives in these areas in accordance with the district/state agriculture plan. The RKVY guidelines have been transformed as RKVY - RAFTAAR - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation in order to improve the program's efficiency, efficacy, and inclusivity. This redesign was made possible by feedback received from States, lessons learnt during implementation in the 12th Plan, and input from stakeholders. Another successful programme is the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) launched in October 2007. The purpose is to restore farmers' confidence by increasing production via productivity and area expansion, enhancing farm earnings, and creating job opportunities.

In the case of **Commerce and Industries Department** Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP) is the most successful intervention. It is a government credit linked scheme that aims to create employment opportunities in rural and urban areas. The Government of Mizoram launched awareness campaigns on PMEGP in all the districts and District Level Monitoring Committee on PMEGP were set up. The Nodal Agency of PMEGP is Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC). During the past four years, i.e, 2019-2020 to 2022-2023, 2220

³⁰³ Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram.

beneficiaries were present in Mizoram. A total of Rs. 50.69 crore had been spent for this subsidy.³⁰⁴

Directorate of Economics and Statistics mentioned that among the data required for SDG indicators and targets, there is one indicator which was already 100% achieved and that is birth registration. The Mizoram Registration of Births & Deaths Rules, 1978, which were formulated in accordance with the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969, went into effect in the State on 1st July, 1985. The cooperation and tireless work of the Institutional Units (Hospitals) and Local Registrars of Births & Deaths (RBDs) have resulted in the successful operation of Mizoram's Civil Registration System and the production of Annual Reports. The Government of Mizoram has implemented Birth Registration Based Aadhaar Enrollment (BRBAE) programme which began on October 2, 2024, allowing parents to register their child's birth and enroll them in Aadhaar. The program is available for children from birth to age five.

Directorate of Science & Technology pointed out that most successful intervention is on Intellectual Property Rights which comprise of Patent, Copyright and others. Although the targets have not been met, progress could be seen every year. Awareness on the importance of patent, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights have been carried out at various levels covering higher educational institutions in Mizoram. In addition to promoting economic growth, intellectual property tackles important SDG issues including environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and healthcare accessibility. Intellectual Property Rights can contribute to a number of SDGs, including SDG 2 (Innovation in agriculture and food production), SDG 3 (Pharmaceuticals and medical advancement), SDG 6 (Access to clean water), SDG 7 (Renewable energy sources), SDG 11 (Urban infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate-friendly technologies).

For **Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department** the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH) is the

³⁰⁴ Achievement Report under Commerce and Industries Department (2019-2023), Government of Mizoram.

most successful intervention. The Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) was launched during the 11th Plan Period by incorporating additional elements and activities into the previous scheme called Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Under IDWH, State and UT governments get financial support for the preservation and protection of wildlife and its ecosystems both inside and outside of Protected Areas (PAs), as well as for the recovery programmes of the critically endangered species. There are 9 Protected Areas in Mizoram which receive funding support under this scheme. The Protected Areas of Mizoram are 2 National Parks and 7 Wildlife Sanctuaries. These are Phawngpui National Park, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Murlen National Park, Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Khawnglung Wildlife Sanctuary, Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary, Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary, Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary and Tokalo Wildlife Sanctuary. Main activities in this protected areas include anti poaching patrolling, fire prevention activities, habitat improvement, awareness campaign, research and field equipment, and others. For these reasons, The Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme is important for promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Among the measures taken up by **Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department** to achieve the SDGs, efforts towards achieving Goal no. 4 ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’ could be considered as the most successful. The department has a mission to impart vocational and technical skills to laborers especially the youth. For this purpose, short term trainings such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)³⁰⁵ & Skill Development Initiative Scheme (SDIS)³⁰⁶ are undertaken along with long term trainings such as Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in

³⁰⁵ The Indian government launched the skill-based training program known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in order to standardise and acknowledge skills. The goal of this skill certification program is to make it possible for many young Indians to take part in training related to industrial skills, which will help them secure better employment opportunities.

³⁰⁶ An effort of the Indian government, the Skill Development effort (SDI) program offers vocational training to increase worker employability. Launched in 2008, the program is a public-private collaboration between business and the government. The major goal is to promote employability by offering vocational training to school dropouts, existing workers, ITI graduates, and others by making the best use of the resources offered by the government, private institutions, and industry.

North Eastern States (ESDI)³⁰⁷, Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)³⁰⁸ and Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP)³⁰⁹. Projects and initiatives such as Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)³¹⁰ and PM Vishwakarma³¹¹ have been introduced and a strong Mizoram Council for Vocational Training (MCVT)³¹² has also been set up under the department. Events and competitions such as PUM (Innovation fair for ITI Students and Pass-Outs), KAWTCHHUAH – 2022 (a startup booster package for ITI pass-out), State Level Skills Competition, Regional Level Skills Competition and National Level Skills Competition have taken place in which startups from Mizoram displayed their innovations and bagged several medals in the competitions. These efforts by the LESDE Department promote quality and inclusive education (Goal 4) among the youths in Mizoram.

The most successful intervention/scheme aligned with SDG under **Mizoram Scholarship Board** may be Pre Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students and Post Matric Scholarship for ST students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and none of the scheme are difficult to implement. The objectives of the Pre Matric Scholarship for ST students is to support parents of ST children in their children's education in classes IX and X in order to reduce the

³⁰⁷ Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in North Eastern States (ESDI) is a scheme to improve the skill development infrastructure in the North Eastern States of India.

³⁰⁸ The new World Bank-funded initiative, Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE), is part of the organization's Programme for Results (P4R) category, which guarantees outcome-based support. Through industrial clusters, the initiative seeks to raise awareness of the issue of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises' (MSMEs') engagement in apprenticeships.

³⁰⁹ The Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP) is a scheme by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, to improve the vocational training system. The objective of the scheme is to create a new ITI or upgrade an existing one into a training centre of excellence that can offer outstanding instruction in vocational trades.

³¹⁰ Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) is a World Bank funded project that aims to provide access to high-quality, market-relevant training for young people nationwide and fortify institutional structures for skill development.

³¹¹ In order to give artisans and craftspeople comprehensive, end-to-end support, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises launched PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme. This program offers incentives for digital transactions, market linkage support, skill training, modern tools, and collateral-free credit.

³¹² The Mizoram Council for Vocational Training (MCVT) sets minimum requirements for the operation of organisations that provide both short-term and long-term vocational training. MCVT's primary responsibilities include approving qualifications, monitoring and supervising recognised entities, regulating awarding bodies, assessment agencies, and skill-related information providers, and resolving grievances, with a particular emphasis on the state's three government industrial training institutes.

dropout rate, particularly during the elementary to secondary transition, and to increase ST children's involvement in classes IX and X of the Pre-matric stage in order to improve their performance and increase their chances of proceeding on to the post-matric stage of education. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the state of Mizoram provide 90:10 financing for the program. Post-Matric Scholarship for Students from Scheduled Tribes also aims to give financial aid to students from Scheduled Tribes who are enrolled in approved post-matriculation programs at accredited universities. The program offers correspondence courses, including distance and continuing education, as well as professional and technical courses at different levels, as well as non-professional and non-technical courses. The plan is, like the Pre-Matric Scholarship, funded in 90:10 ratio by Mizoram State and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. These efforts and their successes cater the promotion of education (Goal 4) and reduction of poverty (Goal 1) of the SDGs.

Power & Electricity Department gave a positive answer that all interventions are successful. All the works concerning Electrification, Hydel & Solar generation are related to SDG and can be useful for achieving the SDGs. The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yajona (RGGVY)³¹³, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)³¹⁴, Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP)³¹⁵ Part A and Part B, The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)³¹⁶ and PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana³¹⁷ are some of the schemes that have been successfully implemented in the state of

³¹³ The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yajona (RGGVY) initiative was introduced by the Government of India's Ministry of Power on March 18, 2005, with the aim of giving all rural families access to electricity within five years. The scheme was launched in 2005 and was implemented in Mizoram in 2008.

³¹⁴ The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) is a government of India scheme that aims to provide a reliable power supply to rural areas of India

³¹⁵ Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) is a scheme launched by the Ministry of Power, Government of India in July 2008. The scheme was introduced in Mizoram to reduce AT&C losses to 15%. The scheme includes: Establishing base line data, Fixing accountability, Strengthening and upgrading sub transmission, Introducing IT, and Monitoring system

³¹⁶ The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is a scheme by the Government of India to improve the power supply to consumers. The scheme is being implemented in Mizoram through the Power & Electricity Department.

³¹⁷ PM Surya Ghar: The Muft Bijli Yojana is a government program that attempts to give Indian homes free power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the plan on February 15, 2024. Households that install solar panels on their rooftops will receive financial assistance under the program.

Mizoram. Some of the ongoing works under the department such as 10MW Thenzawl Solar, 5MW Sumsuih Solar, 24MW Tuirini HEP – DPR are also being carried out in their own places successfully, overcoming challenges faced. These initiatives are useful for the promotion of affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) of the SDGs.

In the **Public Health Engineering Department**, the most successful schemes are Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission [SBM (G)]. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2019, aims to supply all rural Indian families with clean and sufficient drinking water by 2024 through individual household tap connections. All 728 villages in Mizoram are covered by the central plan, according to Professor Lalnilawma, Minister of the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Mizoram. Of the 728 communities in the state, 621 had the program completely implemented, while 107 had only a portion of it in place.³¹⁸ Another notable achievement is that Kolasib district won the Best Performing District under Four Star Category in the Jal Jeevan Survekshan, Best Performing Districts October 2022. Swachh Bharat Mission [SBM (G)] was initially called Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and was later renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) and again renamed as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin). On October 2, 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] was established with the goal of giving all rural families access to toilets so that by October 2, 2019, all of the country's villages will be Open Defecation Free (ODF). In 2018, Mizoram was declared as ODF state and in the following year i.e. 2019, ODF Plus (SBM-G) initiative was taken up to clean wastes and unclean water as well as construct toilets in areas destroyed by natural calamities. Efforts are being made to declare all villages in Mizoram as ODF Plus villages by 2023-24.

For **Public Works Department**, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) could be considered as the most successful. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a fully government funded program that aims to connect the nation's rural districts with road. Through adequate, all-weather roads, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide connection to all settlements with

³¹⁸Deccan Herald. (2023, October 28).

a population of 500 or more in rural regions and around 250 people or more in mountainous states, tribal territories, and desert areas. In Mizoram from the year 2000, 351 projects totalling 4482.732 kilometres of road, valued at Rs. 2840.08 crores, were approved under the 12 Phases of the Pradhan Mantri Gramme Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which provided connectivity to 232 habitations. 300 projects have already been finished, and 51 more are in different stages of completion. These projects have linked 216 habitations thus far, while work is still ongoing on 16 that have not yet been connected.³¹⁹

Among the schemes taken up by **School Education Department**, the most successful ones are Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and shortage of teacher is met through these schemes and teacher-pupil ration have improved to 1:14. Density target of Primary Schools and Upper Primary schools have also been achieved. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a Government of India's comprehensive and integrated flagship initiative that aims to achieve Universal Elementary Education (UEE) nationwide in a mission-mode. It was started in 2000-01 in collaboration with the State Government, with the goal of giving all children aged 6 to 14 meaningful and relevant education by 2010. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is another scheme which has been introduced to bridge the gap between Elementary and Higher education. The purpose of this program, which was introduced in March 2009, was to increase secondary education's accessibility and quality. The plan's execution began in 2009–2010. By building a secondary school within a reasonable commute of every residence, it is hoped to increase the secondary stage of the scheme's implementation's enrolment rate from 52.26% in 2005–06 to 75%. Other goals include enhancing secondary education quality by ensuring that all secondary schools follow established standards, eliminating barriers related to gender, socioeconomic status, and disability, granting universal access to secondary education by 2017, or by the conclusion of the 12th Five Year Plan, and attaining universal retention by 2020.

The various schemes under the **Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs Directorate** relate to assistance reaching the public, hence, it is difficult to figure out

³¹⁹ Source: DIPR Mizoram.

the most successful and the most difficult project to implement. Under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)³²⁰ which is related to SDG, all the funding are distributed to the people/beneficiaries, hence, it could be considered as quite successful. However, these funding are received on a quarterly basis and that makes it difficult to distribute them on time. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs has worked towards giving aid and assistance to the less privileged, inclusive education, improving public health and sanitation under various schemes and these are instrumental for achieving the SDGs in Mizoram.

Despite challenges, the fact that the line departments have success stories to mention as stated above makes it evident that progress are being made towards achieving the goals.

6) Another affirmative finding is that majority of the line departments do not have a problem in collecting data in their respective areas. These data may be in the form of primary or secondary data and the department collects these data from their branches/divisions or from districts. These data are then submitted to the Planning Department for further analysis to meet the SDG targets and indicators. Although problems were also mentioned, the fact that majority of the line departments did not face problems is a huge achievement. It was also mentioned by some departments that these data are reliable and sufficient to meet the goals.

7) Line departments were asked whether they have much to contribute in attaining the goals and all of them gave a positive ascent. It is also a stark realization that some line departments are aware of the areas for improvement (mentioned in Chapter 4.3).

8) Various achievements and contributions have been made by line departments in their efforts towards attaining the SDGs. Following are a list of department-wise contributions:

³²⁰ The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development for old age, disabled and widow.

The **Directorate of Economics and Statistics** has put so much effort and contribution to the Planning Department for the successful implementation of SDG at the state level and has been members of SDG Committees and Sub-committees. The Director and Deputy Director of The Directorate of Economics and Statistics are among the core members in the SDG Committee under Government of Mizoram. According to the Mizoram Vision 2030 document, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics is responsible for the success of SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The responsibility is, hence, quite enormous and contribution that the department has made has been, indeed, successful.

In **Directorate of Science and Technology** certain measures have been taken up to spread awareness on intellectual property among the people. Awareness and seminars have been organized and fifteen (15) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cells have been set up in educational institutions in order to spread awareness about IPR all over Mizoram. Besides this, technical works such as IPR filing and registration have been improving and there is an increasing number of registered intellectual properties. These efforts and initiatives can contribute to the attainment of SDGs since the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN depends on innovation and creativity, both of which are greatly aided by intellectual property (IP). An inspiring reminder of our shared ability to accomplish the SDGs and the part intellectual property rights play is provided by tales of individual innovators, businesses, and other organisations solving social, economic, health, and environmental problems. The World Intellectual Property Day 2024 campaign's theme is Intellectual Property and the SDGs: Using creativity and innovation to build our shared future.

The contributions and initiatives made by **Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department** towards promotion of SDGs are achievements towards conservation of forest – prevention and conservation, Rescue Centre for Exotic Bird Species in the process of setting up at Champhai. According to the Hindustan Times, rescued exotic animals and birds that were smuggled into India from Myanmar is

kept at the Aizawl Zoo in Mizoram, but the zoo is running out of space, and some of the species are dying. The zoo welcomed 910 foreign creatures between July 2019 and September 2022, but only 274 of them made it until the first week of December 2022. This calls for the urgent need to set up Rescue Centre and Champhai will be a suitable place since the district is close to Indo-Myanmar border. Another initiative is the setting up of Nature Learning Centre at Champhai which is also in the process and foundation has been laid. The Nature Learning Centre (NLC) is a facility that includes training and conference room, an interpretive centre, and a wildlife museum. In Champhai, the NLC is housed in the Divisional Forest Officer's Complex. It is managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department: The department is tirelessly giving its efforts for the success of the government plan and actions. Besides the stated NFSA Scheme, the department handles the movement of half yearly allotment of rice received through the Welfare Institute & Hostel Scheme, where the targeted beneficiaries are the orphanage homes, prisons , de-addiction centre and centres run by private establishments. The quarterly allotment received through Wheat Base Nutrition Programme and PM-POSHAN have provided a great relief in fighting against hunger throughout the entire state. These schemes have provided supplements for the children and students, providing free of cost nutrition. The department is the nodal department for the stated schemes and the success highly depends on the activity of the department.

For **Local Administration Department**, there has been an increasing awareness on SDG among the Village Councils and this is hoped to be resulted in their efforts towards the development of their respective villages and society. The Government of Mizoram under the Planning and Programme Implementation Department has taken up Localization of SDGs in Mizoram since 2022. For this purpose, the Local Administration Department (LAD) along with State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD-PR) play a pivotal role especially in collection of data and the carrying out of various procedures in villages. At present, there are 485 Village Councils which are directly looked after by the Local Administration Department.

The contribution and achievements of **Power & Electricity Department** are related to electrification (Rural & Urban), Solar Generation and Hydel generation. Improvements are being made in Generation and Distribution sectors which results in the improvement of Transmission lines this can be considered as an achievement. The department is the nodal agency for the central government's Solar Rooftop Scheme - PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the state. Besides the subsidy of Rs. 33,000 per KW by the central government, the state government will further offer subsidy of Rs. 12,000 per KW and bank loans are to be given at low interest rate for those with less capital for installation of solar roofs. Another ongoing project of the department is Tuivai Hydel Project which is planned to generate 180 MW of power and since at present, the maximum power demand in Mizoram is 163 MW, the success of this hydel project would make the state self-supporting in power generation.

The **School Education Department** has made remarkable contributions and achievements in attaining the goals. Girls Hostels have been set up in all eleven districts and two hostels have been set up in Mamit and Lawngtlai under Samagra Shiksha project as these are categorized under special focused districts. The percentage of children covered under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme have been improved in which Pre-School Children (Balvatika) were now included in the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme under Pradhanmantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)³²¹. The primary objective of the scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children studying in preparatory classes or Balvatika to class VIII in eligible schools. Some notable achievements under this scheme in Mizoram are development of School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens, testing of meals, training of cook-cum-helpers, conduction of social audits, trainings and workshops on Automated Monitoring System (AMS)³²², Adhaar Enrollment, distribution of fortified rice and

³²¹ One of the most significant and effective programs, called PM POSHAN (MID-DAY MEAL) in Mizo Chawchhun or Chhun chaw, was launched in Mizoram on August 15, 1995. The primary goals of the program are to increase enrolment, retention, and reduce the number of school dropouts while also providing wholesome meals.

³²² The monitoring system gathers input from the school's stakeholders daily, weekly, and monthly. Through frequent bill updates, the system records the total number of meals provided to the children, the reasons why certain meals were not provided, and the food, grain, cooking, and transportation costs that must be paid in advance.

construction of kitchen-cum-stores. Another achievement is that mobile app of ‘Student Health Card’ is being prepared, whereby the health conditions of each students will be recorded and monitored by both Directorate of School Education and Health and Family Welfare Department through online process. The annual health check-ups in schools which is an ongoing programme, is now revised, where students will be able to undergo basic check-up on the under-mentioned criteria, which will be carried out by National Health Mission (NHM) Mobile Health Team, following which the results will be maintained and recorded digitally in the ‘Students Health Card’.

The **Directorate of Women & Child Development** has contributed towards identifying the ground conditions of women and children which are useful data in order to achieve the goals, especially Goal 5 (Gender Equality). Various schemes under Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya³²³ are implemented by the department. Under Mission Shakti, initiatives such as One Stop Centre (OSC)³²⁴, Shakti Sadan³²⁵, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao³²⁶, PALNA-National Creche Scheme³²⁷, SAKHI NIWAS (Working Women Hostel)³²⁸ and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)³²⁹ are carried out successfully under the department. Child Helpline is

³²³ Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya are two schemes implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to improve the safety, protection, and welfare of women and children

³²⁴ One-Stop Centre Scheme was implemented from 1st April 2015 under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. One Stop Centres (OSCs) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace.

³²⁵ Shakti Sadan is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that provides homes and support for women in distress and difficult circumstances. It was formed by merging the Swadhar Greh and Ujjawala schemes.

³²⁶ The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2015. The scheme's goals include: Improving welfare services for girls, Educating citizens about gender bias, Addressing the decline in the child sex ratio, and Changing negative mindsets about female children.

³²⁷ The Palna scheme, formerly known as the National Creche Scheme, is a centrally sponsored program that provides day-care facilities for children of working mothers:

³²⁸ Sakhi Niwas is a scheme by the Government of India that provides working women with a safe place to stay with basic amenities, including food, lodging, and day care for children

³²⁹ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit program run by the Government of India. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.

also instituted under Mission Vatsalya. ‘Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0’³³⁰ has also been introduced which includes three sub-schemes such as Anganwadi Services (Integrated Child Development Scheme - ICDS)³³¹, National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)³³² Policy and Aadhaar Enrolment. Other schemes such as Poshan Abhiyan³³³ and Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)³³⁴ is also being carried out under the department.

For **State Election Commission (SEC)**, the data collected plays an important role in realizing the role and conditions of women and their representation in elections. The SEC contributes towards attainment of SDG by maintaining proper records of all elections taking place in the state such as Elections to Autonomous District Councils, Election to Sinlung Hills Council, Election to Village Councils, Election to Local Councils and Election to Aizawl Municipal Corporation. The SEC further maintains a record of the proportion of seats reserved for women, number of women candidates and the number of women elected in these elections. These data which are crucial indicators for Goal 5 (Gender Equality) of SDGs are then submitted to the Planning Department for further analysis. These data may also be useful for improving women representation in local bodies.

There has been quite a number of successful initiatives take up by **Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department** which could be aligned with SDGs. Some of these schemes have also received awards at various levels. Under

³³⁰ Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, also known as Poshan 2.0, is a program to reduce malnutrition in children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls. The program is a part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

³³¹ The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a government program in India that provides services to children under 6 years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers, and women aged 16–44. The program's goal is to improve the health, nutrition, and education of the target community.

³³² The National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy is a government of India initiative to promote the development and learning of children under six years of age

³³³ POSHAN Abhiyaan (erstwhile National Nutrition Mission) was launched in March 2018 to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner and to achieve reduction in stunting and wasting in children (0-6 years) as well as reduction in anemia in women, children and adolescent girls.

³³⁴ SAG is a centrally sponsored scheme, implemented through Centre and State share in the ratio of 50:50 for nutrition component and 60:40 for the rest of the activities. For both components, the ratio is 90:10 for North Eastern and three Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislation.

AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)³³⁵, an incentive cash award of Rs. 5.79 crore have been received during 2015-19. The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Government of India, inaugurated the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on June 25, 2015. Water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drains to prevent flooding, pedestrian, non-motorized, and public transportation facilities, parking spaces, and improving the amenity value of cities by establishing and improving green spaces, parks, and recreation centres, particularly for children, are among the thrust areas that the State of Mizoram prioritises in accordance with the mission guidelines. On June 26, 2015, the Government of India announced the Housing for All 2022 (Urban) Mission, popularly known as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a nationwide initiative. The mission's primary goal is to address the predicted 2 crore housing deficit in urban India by 2022, which would mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence. With an emphasis on 500 Class-I cities in India, the plan is intended to encompass 4041 statutory towns.

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)/Housing for All (PMAY/HFA)³³⁶, 23 towns/cities in Mizoram are included. Best House Construction Award is received every year and Lawngtlai district received Asaha India Award 2019 – Best Nagar Panchayat in 2019. Another contributing scheme is the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) in which Aizawl has been awarded the Fastest Moving City in the North East Zone under Swachh Surveksan in 2017 and Best City in Innovation & Best Practices in North East Zone under Swachh Surveksan in 2018. Lunglei has also been awarded Best City in Innovation & Best Practices in North East Zone under Swachh Surveksan in 2019 (less than 1 lakh population), Champhai has been awarded Cleanest City in North East Zone under Swachh Surveksan in 2019 (less than 50000 population) and Vairengte has received Best City in Solid Waste Management award in North East Zone under Swachh Surveksan in 2019. Fastest Mover State (less than 100 ULBs) award has also been received by Mizoram in 2021. Lunglei received Best city in Citizens Feedback in North East Zone under

³³⁵ The AMRUT scheme is an initiative to provide basic civic amenities to the urban areas to improve the quality of life with major focus to the poor and the disadvantaged.

³³⁶ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) or Housing for All (HFA) is a Government of India's program that aims to provide housing for all eligible families in urban areas.

50k-1 lakh population, and Biate under category less than 25000 population in 2021. in 2022, Lunglei bagged the Clean City in North East Zone (50k to 1 lakh population) 2022, Serchhip acquired Best City in Citizens Feedback in North East Zone (15k to 25k population) 2022 and Aizawl received Clean City within Mizoram (more than 1 lakh population) 2022. In the following year, Lunglei was again awarded Clean City in North East Zone (50k to 1 lakh population) 2023.

Under the Deen dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM)³³⁷ scheme, Mizoram has been one of the best achievers in Northeast and Himalayan region and has received several Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK) Awards. In 2019-20 and 2020-21 Mizoram bagged 2nd Rank. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, Mizoram received 1st Rank. Efforts towards Solid Waste Management, housing for urban poor, trainings and clean water and sanitation have been improved as compared to earlier times and hence it can be said that these efforts are successful.

9) The cooperation of line departments with Planning Department, which is the nodal department for SDG, can be called satisfactory as per answers given by all line departments. It was stated that the nodal department is active and prompt in their efforts towards achieving SDGs. This kind of good cooperation among all line department and the nodal department could further promote Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

5.4. CONDITIONS THAT PAVED WAY FOR SDGs IN MIZORAM

Prior to the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, the state and its populace had adhered to practices that facilitated further development, including sustainable development. This may explain Mizoram's exceptional achievement in the SDG India Index rating, achieving a position in the Front Runner Category. The conditions that facilitated this astounding achievement are outlined as follows:

³³⁷ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) is a Government of India program that aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability in urban areas. This program aims to improve livelihoods, provide opportunities for self-employment, and build strong grassroots institutions for the poor.

- Mizoram is one of the most literate states in India and the prevalence of basic education allows for the common mass to better adapt to new & technologically improved equipments and techniques, whether it be on innovative farming practices or adapting to renewable energy sources.
- The close-knit structure of the society facilitates collective action towards causes like sustainable development. In Mizoram, robust civil societies and NGOs, including the Young Mizo Association (YMA), actively engage in initiatives that advance and uphold the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) has integrated environmental protection into their annual initiative known as 'Kumpuan Thupui' in recent years. It has also advanced the principles of decent work and the protection of animals, the environment, and resources within the accord.
- The predominant population identifies as Christian, and the principles of Christianity are closely aligned with the protection and preservation of the environment, which is a fundamental aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The values and morals presented in the Bible, including love and respect for humanity, assistance to the poor, sick, and needy, as well as the significance of hard work and knowledge, correspond with the principles outlined in the goals.
- The substantial progress of the state of Mizoram can be attributed to its population size. The total population of Mizoram, according to the 2021 Census, is 1,097,206. This created opportunities for improved mobilisation of development initiatives and enhanced governance.

It is evident that Mizoram already had a fatal ground for the implementation of SDGs and has performed well in other areas. Prior to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the conditions in Mizoram were already aligned with the core principles of these goals that facilitates the state's potential for effective performance in the SDGs.

5.5. As the Government of Mizoram got set to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, it was with great enthusiasm and hope that the stakeholders took measures in order to project the state of Mizoram with great potential towards development in a sustained manner. Each line department and nodal department, when aligning their respective schemes with SDG and making the best use of these schemes, have a potential contribution to achieve the goals in the state. The results could be seen in the state-wise rankings of SDG India Index released by NITI Aayog over the years. Mizoram being in the front runner category among the 32 states in the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 is noteworthy. As mentioned above, Mizoram has scored 72 and has secured 13th rank among the states in India and has achieved the “affordable and clean energy” goal, scoring 100. Regarding the Zero Hunger goal, Mizoram is in the front runner category, scoring 76 and is also in the front runner category for the climate action goal. The state of Mizoram has always shown progress in each indicator although its rank may seem to be lower than the previous years. The state’s achievement could be an inspiration and role model for other regions not only in the country but all over the world. It must be remembered that even a slight progress in the indicators calculated in terms of numbers or statistics could be a huge one in ground reality or when experienced at the local level. Even though there are certain undeniable problems and challenges, it is evident that efforts are still made and achievements are still attained in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram.

CHAPTER - VI

CONCLUSION

6.1. This concluding chapter examines the role and responsibilities of the state government in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram. An analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations was conducted to enhance understanding of their history and evolution over time. The study examined the actions taken by the state government of Mizoram to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. This study further investigates the challenges faced by the state government of Mizoram at various levels in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An evaluation was also carried out to assess the effectiveness of the Mizoram government in implementing and supervising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The role and function of the government in Mizoram's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been debated throughout this paper. First, the nature and development of the UN's SDGs at the national and international levels were looked at. This study also examines the steps taken by the Mizoram state government to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The research is heavily administrative in nature and primarily focused on how the state government's institutional architecture operates. The primary points of contention focused on the state government's issues and difficulties, as well as potential future developments in Mizoram's SDG implementation.

6.2. The findings of the research may be summarized in the following points:

Nature and Evolution

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of global goals designed to address diverse social, environmental and economic challenges while promoting sustainable development worldwide. Since its adoption in 2015, the UN and numerous parties have endeavoured to advance and execute the SDGs worldwide. Governments, civil society, the commercial sector, and

international organisations are collaborating to attain the objectives by 2030. The preceding discussions clearly indicate that the UN Sustainable Development Goals constitute a holistic framework for tackling global issues and advancing sustainability. They originated from the Millennium Development Goals, are supplemented by specific objectives and indicators, and emphasize inclusiveness and universality. Tracking advancement and promoting cooperation are essential to their success.

A fundamental nature of the SDGs is their contribution to the nature. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets acknowledge the essential role of a healthy environment in addressing contemporary challenges, including food and water security, poverty, and climate change. It recognises the imperative to conserve the environment for its intrinsic value and to guarantee that by 2030, the demands of over 9 billion individuals may be fulfilled.

Since the 1990s, governments at all levels have adopted the concept of sustainable development, especially following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. This concept evolved into a set of targets, an extension of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that United Nations Member States are required to achieve by 2030. This initiative is referred to as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A decade of efforts by nations and the UN, particularly the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has culminated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Initiatives taken by the government in implementing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram

The Mizoram Vision 2030 establishes a comprehensive framework for aligning state objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby facilitating their implementation in the region. Mizoram maintains its dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the face of challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and regional instability, as demonstrated by its strategic planning, monitoring mechanisms, and stakeholder engagements.

The implementation strategy for SDGs in Mizoram includes the creation of a comprehensive monitoring system, which comprises committees at the state, district,

and village levels responsible for gathering baseline data and monitoring progress. Regional workshops and sensitisation sessions have enhanced collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, fostering a collective understanding of the SDGs and their significance in local contexts. Mizoram has engaged with district and state-level line departments, educational institutions, and the public through consultative meetings and awareness campaigns to promote a culture of SDG awareness and localisation.

The localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram is emphasised through the establishment of State Indicator Frameworks, District Indicator Frameworks, and Local Indicator Frameworks, which ensure that monitoring mechanisms align with local needs and priorities. Collaborations with international organisations such as UNDP, alongside partnerships with local universities and institutions, have enhanced the implementation process through the provision of technical expertise and capacity-building support.

The dissemination of information via SDG booklets, wall hangings, video clips, and quiz competitions demonstrates Mizoram's dedication to enhancing public awareness and engagement in the SDG agenda. The success of initiatives like the SDG Symposium and Inter-college Quiz Competition underscores the engagement of educational institutions and youth in promoting SDG advocacy and action.

Achievements of the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram

As the Government of Mizoram proceeded to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, stakeholders approached the initiative with much enthusiasm and optimism, aiming to showcase the state's significant potential for sustainable development. Each line department and nodal department, by aligning their respective schemes with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and optimising the utilisation of these schemes, can significantly contribute to achieving the goals within the state. The findings are evident in the state-wise rankings of the SDG India Index published by NITI Aayog. Mizoram's position as a front runner among the 32 states in the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 is significant. Mizoram has achieved a score of 72, securing the 13th rank among Indian states, and has met the "affordable

and clean energy" goal with a score of 100. Mizoram is classified as a front runner in the Zero Hunger goal, achieving a score of 76, and similarly ranks as a front runner for the climate action goal. Mizoram has consistently demonstrated advancement across various indicators, despite its ranking appearing lower than in previous years.

The Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram has conducted various workshops and seminars to enhance awareness and promote public participation and responsibility in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. The workshops included stakeholders, students, research scholars, and representatives from local organisations. Further, the Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram formulated the State Indicator for SDG prior to its establishment by the NITI Aayog in the early years of SDG implementation. Following the release of a State Indicator Framework by the NITI Aayog, the national nodal agency, the state government was required to modify its previously established State Indicator to align with the indicators proposed by NITI Aayog. On September 29, 2022, the Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram released a Plan of Action for the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals within the state. This seeks to guarantee that the benefits of development are clearly observable and accessible to all individuals. This Plan of Action encompasses a Reform Action Plan that will be developed based on data from the Local Indicator Framework (LIF).

The state's achievement may serve as an inspiration and model for other regions both nationally and globally. It is important to recognise that even minor improvements in numerical indicators or statistics can represent significant advancements in practical terms or when observed at the grass-root level. Despite the presence of significant challenges, it is clear that progress continues to be made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram.

Problems and challenges faced by the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs

A multitude of issues may be discerned from the current literature and data supplied by line departments on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram. The literature review identifies several issues, including data

entry errors leading to discrepancies, inefficiencies in committees established for SDG implementation, inaccuracies and biases in data transfer and processing, difficulties in creating a high-quality database, challenges in enhancing essential primary requirements, the state's recent developmental trajectory and the repercussions of insurgency, lagging industrialization, environmental issues, inadequate budgeting, absence of a distinct budget for SDG, and errors in constructing the indicator framework, among others.

Responses from line departments reveal several issues faced by the state in the implementation of SDGs. These include a lack of comprehensive understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the administrative level; gaps due to the transfer and retirement of knowledgeable officials; challenges arising from the pandemic; neglect in the appointment and re-appointment of nodal officers; inconsistent metrics for SDG indicators compared to other states; difficulties in adhering to the SDG monitoring framework; absence of fixed deadlines for data submission, leading to delays in report publication; failure to meet targets established for line departments; difficulties in data collection; discrepancies between data and actual conditions; challenges related to compensation; and delays in funding for projects and schemes associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

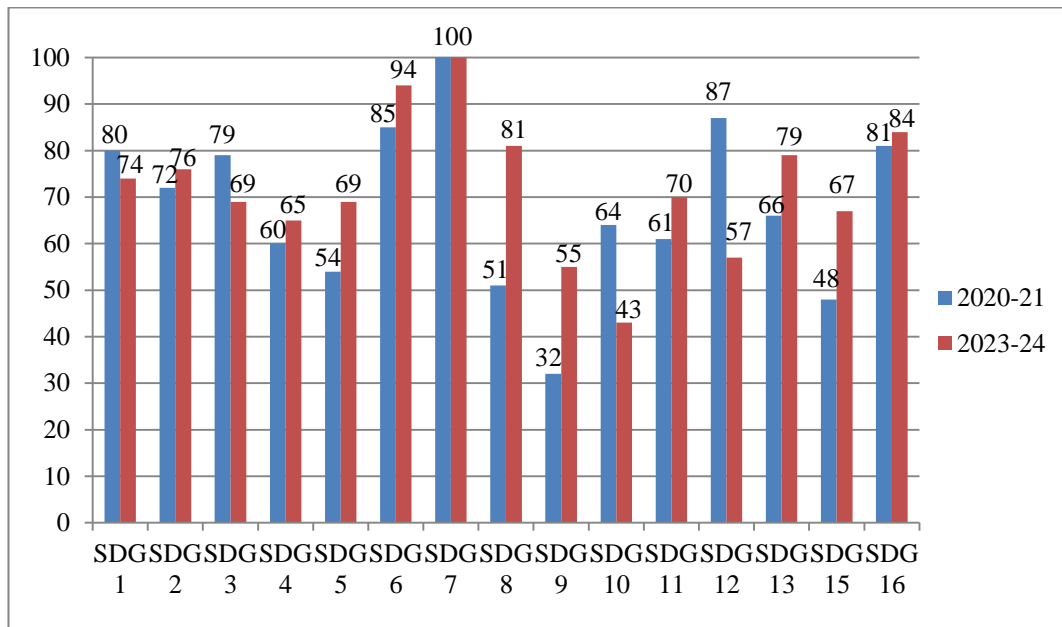
These issues clearly indicate that no action comparable to the Sustainable Development Goals has occurred in the history of the Government of Mizoram. The state government is simultaneously maintaining current policies and programs while striving to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts are likely to be inconsistent, given there is no financing or financial support at the administrative level. The metrics specified by NITI Aayog failed to accurately reflect the state's actual conditions. Therefore, the execution of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Government of Mizoram requires examination and comprehension, taking into account these issues and obstacles.

6.3. Analysis of Performance of Mizoram in the SDG India Index 2020-21 and 2023-24:

In terms of state wise ranking, Mizoram ranks 13th position in the SDG India Index 2023-24 which is one rank lower than its previous 12th rank in the SDG India Index 2020-21. However, Mizoram scores 68 in the overall performance which is higher than the national score of 66. Following the next SDG India Index 2023-24, Mizoram showed progress with a score of 72 which is one point higher than the national score of 71.³³⁸ This indicated that even though the rank may be one position lower, the overall performance of Mizoram is comparatively improving. This is the result of the efforts made by stakeholders despite various challenges faced in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram.

The performance of Mizoram in each of the 17 SDG goals as per the SDG India Index 2020-21 and SDG India Index 2023-24 may be highlighted as follows³³⁹:

Figure 6.1: Performance of Mizoram in the 17 SDG goals as per the SDG India Index 2020-21 and SDG India Index 2023-24. (Source: NITI Aayog)



³³⁸ SDG India Index 2023-24

³³⁹ SDG Goal 14 and Goal 17 are not relevant for Mizoram.

It can be understood from the above figure that Mizoram improved its performance in 10 goals during 2023-24 as compared to the previous performance in 2020-21. These goals are Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 15 (Life on Land) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). In Goal 8 (Affordable and Clean Energy), the state retains its score of 100 in 2020-21 and 2023-24. This is the result of achievement of 100 percent household electrification in Mizoram as per the national indicator. In four goals such as Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), the state faces reduction in the scores.

Mizoram performs lowest in Goal 10, which emphasizes on reduced inequalities. It scores 43 and is the lowest score among all the other states in India. The line departments responsible towards this goal are Directorate of Economics & Statistics and State Election Commission.

As mentioned above, the state has achieved 100 percent in Goal 7 which relates to Affordable and Clean Energy. This could be the result of successful schemes such as The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yajana (RGGVY), Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) Part A and Part B, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana along with interventions like 24MW Tuirini HEP – DPR, 10MW Thenzawl Solar and 5MW Sumsuih Solar,.

The highest increase of performance is on Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) with a score of 51 in SDG India Index 2020-21 and a score of 81 in SDG India Index 2023-24. The increase is by 30 points which is a huge achievement which could be possible due to successful implementation of schemes like Stand Up India, Make in India, Start Up India, Skill- India- Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Prime Minister Employment Guarantee

Programme (PMEGP), Mizoram Building and Other Construction Welfare, Seekho and Kamao, National Hub for Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes and Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) under concerned departments like Labour Employment and Skill Development Department, Lead Bank, Economics and Statistics Department and Commerce and Industries Department.

The most substantial decrease in the performance of Mizoram among the goals is towards Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) in which the difference is similarly 30 points from the SDG India Index 2020-21 to SDG India Index 2023-24. There can be various reasons for this decline such as the state's huge dependency on imported goods, lack of independence in economy and others. The departments responsible for this goal are Commerce & Industries Department and Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department and the schemes involved are National Mission on Food Processing (SAMPADA) and State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU).

Evaluation of Goal Wise Performance of Mizoram by Indicators

Based on the 17 goals and 113 indicators, the performance of all states and Union Territories in India was given by NITI Aayog in the SDG India Index 2023-24. Here, the performance of Mizoram is highlighted based on 15 goals and 108 indicators (Appendix-D) since Goal 14 is not relevant for the state and since no assessment was made on Goal 17. The following points underscore the main outcomes of the given state's performance:

Goal 1 (No Poverty): In Goal 1, Mizoram scores 74 out of a total of 100 and secured 11th position among all the other states in India and is in the Front Runner category. Although the rank seems quite high, it can be seen that there is reduction in the score from the previous SDG India Index 2020-21 which is 80, the difference being 6 points. The possible reason for this declining result is that the state faced reduction in indicators such as the percentage of employment offered and provided against demand under MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme. There is also reduction in the percentage of beneficiaries under PMMVY (Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana). Nonetheless, improvements are

made in indicators like MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index) headcount ratio, percentage of households covered by health scheme/insurance and percentage of households living in kachha houses.

Goal 2 (Zero Hunger): The score of Mizoram in Goal 2 is 76 and the state is in the 6th position among all the other states maintaining its position in the Front Runner category. There is improvement in the score as compared to the previous score of 72 in 2020-21 with an increase of 4 points.

Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being): Here, the performance of Mizoram is not so much boastful as there is reduction in score from 79 in SDG India Index 2020-21 to 69 in SDG India Index 2023-24 and the decline is by 10 points. However, it is able to retain its position in the Front Runner category in this Goa and is in the 21st position among all the other Indian states. Possible reasons for this huge decline could be because of increase in indicators like suicide rate (in 100,000 population) and death rate due to road traffic accidents (in 100,000 population).

Goal 4 (Quality Education): In Goal 4, Mizoram scores 65 out of a total of 100 and secured 11th position among all the other states in India and is in the Front Runner category. As compared to the previous score of 60, it showed progress by 5 points. The responsible indicators for this progress are the percentage of ANER (Adjusted net enrollment rate) in elementary education (class 1-8), percentage of GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) in higher secondary schools (class 11-12), the percentage of class 8 students that achieve least proficiency marks in language and mathematics, GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) in higher education (18-23 years), GPI (Gender Parity Index) for higher education (that is 18-23 years), percentage of persons (>15 years who are literate), percentage of teachers that are trained at secondary level (class 9-10) and ratio of pupil teacher (PTR) at secondary level (class 9-10).

Goal 5 (Gender Equality): The score of Mizoram in this goal is 69 which is comparatively higher than the previous score of 54, the difference in the increment being 15 points. The improvement is also seen in its category of Front Runner as compared to its previous category of Performer. This made it possible for the state to secure 2nd position in this goal, following Nagaland. The increase in the indicator

such as female to male LFPR (labor force participation rate) (15-59 years) could be the reason for this significant improvement among other factors.

Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Mizoram has achieved a high position in this goal that is 6th position among the India states scoring 94 points which is higher than the previous score of 85 by 9 points. It is also, without doubt, in Front Runner category. The reduction in percentage of ground water extraction in one of the indicators could be the result of this improvement. As per the latest SDG India Index 2023-24, Mizoram has attained 100 percent in indicators like percentage of rural population that gets drinking water through PWS (Pipe Water Supply), percentage of rural population having improved source of drinking water, percentage of household toilets constructed individually against goal and percentage of districts identified to be ODF (Open Defecation Free) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): In this goal, Mizoram is among the 16 states that have attained a score of 100, bagging 1st position and securing Achiever category along with other 16 states in India. This is the result of 100 percent achievement in the indicator of percentage of household electrified. However, efforts have to be made to increase the percentage of LPG+PNG connection against number of households.

Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Mizoram scores 81 in this goal which is 30 points higher than the previous score of 51, shifting its performance from Performer category to Front Runner category and this puts the Mizoram in 5th rank among other states in India. The leap of improvement is evident from indicators like percentage of unemployment rate (15-59 years) which has been reduced, percentage of LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate) that is 15-59 years, percentage of regular employees getting salaries in non-agricultural sector without social security gains, functioning branches of commercial banks per 100,000 population and percentage of women account holders in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).

Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure): Mizoram has made certain improvements in this goal and scored 55 which is 23 points higher than the previous score of 32. It is in 14th rank among all the other states in India, shifting its performance from Aspirant category to Performer category as per the SDG India Index 2023-24. This is the result of the ascending direction taken by indicators like percentage of targeted habitations connected by all-weather roads under PMGSY that is nearly 100 percent, Also, improvements have been made in indicators like manufacturing employment as a percentage of total employment.

Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities): The lowest score attained by the state of Mizoram is in Goal 10 which is 43 and this is also the goal in which there is huge reduction from the previous score which is 64, the difference being 21. The state is in the lowest rank, that is 28th, out of all the states in India. The state's category has also been reduced to Aspirant category in the 2023-24 Index from Performer category in 2020-21 Index. This huge downfall is evident from the indicators such as crimes against SCs (per 100,000 SC population) as well as crimes against ST (per 100,000 ST population) which has sadly increased.

Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): In Goal 11, Mizoram has scored 70 as per the SDG India Index 2023-24 which is 9 points higher than the score of 61 in the SDG India Index 2020-24. The state ranks 22nd among the rest of the states in India, moving from Performer category to Front Runner category in the latest report. This improvement is the result of positive performance on indicators such as percentage of individual household toilets constructed against target under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban along with reduction of deaths due to road accidents in urban areas (per 100,000 population)

Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): The score of Mizoram in this goal is 57 which is comparatively lower than the previous score of 87, the difference in the reduction is the highest among the goals which is 30 points. It is in 26th position and its category has also been reduced to Performer category from Front Runner category. This is the result of poor performances in indicators like consumption of fossil fuel per capita (in kilogram), percentage of employment of

nitrogen fertilizer out of total NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), percentage of harmful waste recycled/utilized to total harmful waste generated and plastic waste produced per 1,000 population (tones/annum).

Goal 13 (Climate Action): Here, Mizoram scores 79 which is higher than the previous score of 66 and the increase in the score is 13. It is in the 5th rank among the states in India and falls under the Front Runner category.

Goal 15 (Life on Land): The score of Mizoram in this goal is 67 which is comparatively higher than the previous score of 48, the difference in the increment being 19 points. Although the score has increased, its performance as compared to other states in India is not so remarkable as it is in the 25th rank. It improved its category from Aspirant category to Performer category as per the latest SDG India Index 2023-24. This could be the result of reduction in percentage of forest cover among the other indicators.

Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution): This goal is one of the goals in which Mizoram performs well as a state. It scores 84 points which is an increase by 3 points from the previous score of 81. It ranks 3rd among the rest of the states in India and is in Front Runner category. Indicators such as cognizable crimes against children per 100,000 population, victim of human trafficking per 10 lakh population, courts per 100,000 population and percentage of population covered under Adhaar have all seen improvements, thereby allowing the state to secure a high performance.

It can be seen from the SDG India Index 2023-24 that the state performs remarkably well in Goal 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal 4 (Quality Education)³⁴⁰. The goals in which improvements have to be made are Goal

³⁴⁰ The goals are arranged in order of their score, the goal in which the highest score is achieved is written first, followed by the second best score and so on.

10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).³⁴¹

Another relevant point observed is that the state of Mizoram is in Achiever category in one goal, that is, Goal 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy). It is in Front Runner Category in eleven goals such as Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal 4 (Quality Education). In Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Mizoram is able to place itself in Performer category and is in Aspirant category in Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Additionally, a comparison of the earlier SDG India Index 2020-21 with the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 allows for an analysis of the trends in the indicators associated with each goal (Appendix). Of the 108 indicators pertinent to the state of Mizoram, 30 are demonstrating improvement, while 25 indicate a decline in performance. Additionally, 16 indicators remain static, of which 3 have already been achieved. Thirty-seven indicators were unable to indicate their trend direction (improving or declining) due to insufficient data availability and the non-comparability of data values resulting from changes in data sources.

A tendency of progress for the state of Mizoram in its efforts towards achieving the SDGs is indicated by the analysis of the state's performance in the Sustainable Development Goal India Index 2023-24. Despite the fact that there is a need for serious action to be taken on specific goals and indicators that are still showing a decline in performance, the presence of more goals that are making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with a greater number of indicators reflecting a positive trend in comparison to

³⁴¹ The goals are arranged in order of their score, the goal in which the lowest score is attained is written first, followed by the second lowest score and so on.

those showing a decline or stagnation, serves as a positive affirmation for the state and stakeholders.

6.4.The research is subject to certain limitations. A notable limitation is that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a fledgling program now still in progress, with 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. Another limitation is to the data collection method, which includes both the researcher and the line departments responsible for the SDGs. A multitude of challenges, such as time constraints and the accessibility of relevant documents and individuals, together with insufficient recordkeeping and office documentation, have hindered the comprehensive execution of the investigation. The issue of collaboration within line departments was encountered, necessitating the collection of certain information through the submission of Right to Information (RTI) requests.

6.5.Based on the research findings, several key recommendations and suggestions may be emphasised as follows:

1) A suggestion to/for the Planning Department on the manner in which they carry out measures: The Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram is the nodal department and the primary agency for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram. As such, it is essential for the department to consistently attend to and fulfill their obligations at all times. It is imperative that the department exercise extreme caution and attention when delegating responsibility to line departments. The timely submission of data must be consistent across all departments, irrespective of the frequency, whether it is quarterly, annually, or half-yearly.

2) Recommendation to concerned departments/line departments: It is recommended that relevant departments conduct regular investigations into the nomination of a Nodal Officer tasked with overseeing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) within their respective areas. The challenges associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the state could be effectively addressed if each department has a designated officer (Nodal Officer) responsible for the SDG.

This may result in fairness and uniformity in the initiatives undertaken by line departments. Moreover, the issue of bias may be mitigated if the SDG Nodal Officer is granted direct reporting responsibilities to the head of the department, rather than through intermediary channels.

3) The insufficiency of financial resources for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals represents a major challenge that needs to be addressed. To elevate the priority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the departmental level, it is essential that all relevant departments receive financial support.

4) The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been adopted by the government of India. This policy is based primarily on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on Goal 4; which is Quality Education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be mandated as a subject within the curriculum of educational institutions, including schools and colleges.

5) Awareness and training programs are essential for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into policy frameworks at both state and national levels. To ensure the impact of such initiatives, it is essential that they are carried out consistently and systematically by both state governments and civil society organisations. The main aim of these programs is to enhance knowledge and comprehension of the SDGs, targeting both policymakers and the wider public, including local communities. Enhancing the understanding of the SDGs enables individuals and institutions to acknowledge their significance and the necessity for their incorporation across diverse governance and societal sectors.

6) When individuals are adequately informed about the significance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while understanding their personal and communal duties, it significantly improves the effectiveness of political parties incorporating SDGs in their electoral manifestos. This establishes a positive cycle of accountability, policy formulation, and public involvement that fosters more

significant and durable development results. As people gain awareness of the SDGs and their significance, political parties will be necessitated to articulate clear, concrete strategies that align with the electorate's expectations, fostering a more robust and sustainable future for all.

7) In Mizoram, the state's flagship programs must prioritise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote enduring and resilient progress across several sectors. Considering Mizoram's distinctive geographic, cultural, and socio-economic features, integrating these programs with the Sustainable Development Goals can tackle local issues while advancing national and global development initiatives. For example, prioritising SDG 1 (No Poverty) may effectively address poverty through specialized livelihood initiatives, while SDG 13 (climatic Action) is particularly pertinent in Mizoram, which contends with climatic vulnerabilities including erratic rainfall and soil erosion. By incorporating SDGs into important areas like education, healthcare, sustainable agriculture, and infrastructure development, Mizoram can make sure that its progress is inclusive, ecologically sustainable, and socially equitable.

8) The schemes in Mizoram should be designed and planned from the grassroots upward to specifically meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, rather than merely aligning existing schemes with them. This approach ensures that each program and initiative contributes directly to measurable targets and outcomes aligned with global and national development priorities. Embedding the SDGs at the core of programme design makes it possible for Mizoram to ensure that its developmental efforts are both responsive and transformative in addressing the state's unique challenges.

9) To sustain and enhance its position in national rankings, Mizoram must strategically adapt and implement initiatives that align with the National Indicators. These indicators function as essential benchmarks for assessing a state's development and its alignment with national objectives, including those established by the government in areas such as poverty alleviation, health, education, infrastructure, and

sustainable development. The capacity of Mizoram to meet or surpass these indicators is crucial for sustaining its competitive position and securing ongoing advantages from national policies, funding, and support.

10) It is essential for states such as Mizoram to work towards achieving the National Indicators; however, full compliance may not always be attainable due to local constraints, distinct challenges, or particular developmental circumstances. In these circumstances, it is essential for the nodal agency like NITI Aayog to implement a more adaptable strategy, acknowledging that uniform solutions may not be suitable for the diverse socio-economic and geographic contexts of different states. NITI Aayog must emphasise equity in development by compromising and addressing the unique challenges faced by each state in a realistic and context-sensitive manner.

6.6. This research constitutes a pioneering evaluative study of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, as no prior thesis has comprehensively assessed the Government of Mizoram's implementation of SDGs within the state. Through this study the government can evaluate its performance on the 17 goals and targets. It can also identify areas for improvement with the help of this research. It also has the prospect to impact future actions by the government. There have not been many noteworthy studies on this strategy, therefore this will contribute to the body of knowledge as well as expertise in the subject for future study. The data gathered will be used as a tool to increase openness in the government's efforts to accomplish these objectives and raise awareness among the people of Mizoram.

6.7. As the Government of Mizoram got set to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, it was with great enthusiasm and hope that the stakeholders took measures in order to project the state of Mizoram with great potential towards development in a sustained manner. The results could be seen in the state-wise rankings of SDG India Index released by NITI Aayog over the years. Mizoram has always shown progress in each indicator although its rank may seem to be lower than the previous years. Even though there are certain undeniable problems and challenges and even though the nodal department may have taken a different approach, it is evident that efforts are still made and achievements are still attained in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX - A

U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goals	Objective	Description
Goal 1	No Poverty	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
Goal 2	Zero Hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030.
Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030.
Goal 4	Quality Education	Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2030.
Goal 5	Gender Equality	To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.
Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.
Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
Goal 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation by 2030.
Goal 10	Reduced Inequality	Reduce inequality within and among countries by 2030.
Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
Goal 13	Climate Action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Goal 14	Life Below Water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
Goal 15	Life on Land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss.
Goal 16	Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all.
Goal 17	Partnerships to achieve the Goal	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Source: Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram (Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram: Report on Village and Locality Ranking)

APPENDIX – B

LINE DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR RELATED SDG GOALS:

SDG GOALS	LINE DEPARTMENTS/CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS	RELATED SCHEMES
Goal 1 (No Poverty)	Rural Development Department	To accomplish Goal 1, Mizoram has developed a number of initiatives and schemes, including NSAP, NRLM, NULM, MGNREGA, Atal Pension Yojana, PMJJBY, PMAY and National Rural Drinking Water Programme.
	Public Health Engineering Department	
	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department	
	Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	
	Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs	
	Directorate of Economics & Statistics	
	Lead Banks	
	Health & Family Welfare Department	
Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)	Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department	Some of the projects and schemes that Mizoram has put in place to achieve Goal 2 are PDS, National Health Mission, ICDS, National Nutrition Mission, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, PMKSY, Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana/ National Food Security Mission and Soil Health Card Scheme.
	Agriculture Department	
	Lead Bank	
	Information and Public Relations Department	
	Health and Family Welfare Department	
	Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	
	Directorate of Economics and Statistics	
Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being)	Health and Family Welfare Department	Various projects/ Scheme implemented in Mizoram to achieve Goal 3 include National Health
	Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	

		Mission, ICDS, Matruva Sahyog Yojana/ Maternity Benefit Programme, Routine Immunization Programme, National AIDS Control Programme, Revised National TB Control Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, RSBY and PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana
Goal 4 (Quality Education)	School Education Department	National Education Mission (SSA, MDM, RMSA), Pre/ Post Matric Scholarship for Minorities, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Hostel for ST/SC (Boys and Girls) under UDISE.
	Mizoram Scholarship Board	
	Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	
Goal 5 (Gender Equality)	Social Welfare Department	Mission for protection and Empowerment of Women (BBBP, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Hostels, SWADAR Greh), Economic Census and Scheme under National Health Mission
	Home Department	
	State Election Commission	
	Economics & Statistics	
	Health & Family Welfare Department	
Goal 6 (Clean Water)	Public Health Engineering Department	Mission for protection and
	Rural Development Department	

and Sanitation)	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department.	Empowerment of women (BBBP, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Hostels, SWADAR Greh), Economic Census and Scheme under National Health Mission.
Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)	Power and Electricity Department	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yajona (RGGVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) Part A and Part B, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana.
	ZEDA	
	Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.	
Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)	Economics and Statistics Department	Make in India, Start Up India, Stand Up India, Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Programme (PMEGP), Skill-India- Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Mizoram Building and Other Construction Welfare, Seekho
	Commerce and Industries Department	
	Labour Employment and Skill Development	
	Lead Bank	

		&Kamam, National ST/SC Hub and Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana
Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)	Public Works Department	Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMJSY), NHDP/ Bharatmala, Make in India, Start Up India, Ease of Doing Business, Zero effect/ Zero Defect Scheme, Startup Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) and Digital India/ BharatNet
	Directorate of Economics & Statistics	
	Commerce & Industries Department	
	Directorate of Science & Technology	
	Information & Communication Technology Department	
Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities)	Directorate of Economics & Statistics	National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) survey.
	State Election Commission.	
Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department	Prime Minister Awas Yojana-PMAY- G (U), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)	Commerce & Industries Department	National Mission on Food Processing (SAMPADA), State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU)
	Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department	
Goal 13 (Climate)	Environment Forest & Climate Change Department	National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Action)		
Goal 14 (Life Below Water)	Coastal and marine systems are the focus of SDG 14 goals. Since Mizoram is a landlocked state, the majority of the targets are irrelevant. There is a target to control fish harvesting and eradicate overfishing in both coastal and inland waters. Nevertheless, this gap is not addressed by the present set of schemes.	
Goal 15 (Life on Land)	Environment Forest & Climate Change Department	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem and National Mission for Green India
	Agriculture Department.	
Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)	Home Department	
	Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	
	Information & Communication Technology Department	
	General Administration Department (GAD)	
	Directorate of Economics & Statistics	

Source: Mizoram Vision 2030, published by Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.

APPENDIX – C

SDG THEMES

(Ministry of Panchayati Raj)

Theme	Description	Theme to SDG Goal Mapping
Theme 1	Poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods village	SDG 1: End poverty, SDG 2: Zero hunger, SDG 8: Decent work & Economic growth, SDG 10: Reduced inequality
Theme 2	Healthy village	SDG 3: Good Health & Well being
Theme 3	Child friendly village	SDG 3: Good Health & Well being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
Theme 4	Water sufficient village	SDG 3: Good health & Well being, SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on land
Theme 5	Clean and green village	SDG 3: Clean Water & Sanitation, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on land
Theme 6	Self-sufficient infrastructure village	SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities
Theme 7	Socially secured village	SDG 10: Reduced inequality, SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institution
Theme 8	Village with Good Governance	
Theme 9	Engendering development in village	SDG 5: Gender equality

Source: Source: Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram (Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram: Report on Village and Locality Ranking)

APPEXDIX – D

PERFORMANCE OF MIZORAM IN SDG INDIA INDEX 3 (2020-21) AND SDG INDIA INDEX 4 (2023-24) BY INDICATORS

	SDG INDEX 4	SDG INDEX 3	Direction
SDG 1: No Poverty			
MPI Headcount Ratio (%)	5.30	9.80	↑
Households covered by health scheme/insurance (%)	50.30	45.80	↑
MGNREGA 2021 – Employment offered against demanded (%) 2020 – Employment provided against demanded (%)	100.00	99.92	↓
Beneficiaries under PMMVY (%)	37.31	93.45	↓
Households living in kachha houses (%)*	4.80	6.00	
SDG 2: Zero Hunger			
Beneficiaries under NFSA (%)	96.67	99.98	↓
Children under 5 years who are underweight (%)*	12.70	11.30	
Children under 5 years who are stunted (%)*	28.90	27.40	
Pregnant women (15–49 years) who are anaemic (%)	34.00	26.60	↓
Women (15–49 years) whose Body Mass Index is below 18.5 (%)	5.30		
Rice and Wheat produced per unit area 2021 – three-year average (kg/ha) 2020 - annual (kg/ha	1737.40	1688.05	
GVA (constant prices) in agriculture (in Lakhs/worker)	Null	1.14	
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being			
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	Null	Null	
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	Null	Null	
Children (9–11 months) fully immunized (%)	101.10	92.00	↑
Tuberculosis cases 2021 – notification against target (%) 2020 – notification rate per 1 lakh population	69.50	237	
HIV incidence per 1,000 uninfected population	0.86	1.18	↑
Life expectancy (years)	Null		
Suicide rate (per 100,000 population)	12.40	5.90	↓
Death rate due to road traffic accidents (per 100,000 population)	6.75	5.27	↓

Institutional deliveries out of the total deliveries reported (%)	90.69	89.90	↑
Monthly per capita out-of-pocket expenditure on health (%)	9.90	9.90	-
Health worker Density SDG Index 4 - Health Worker Density per 10,000 population SDG Index 3 -Total physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population	60.78	50.00	
SDG 4: Quality Education			
ANER in elementary education (class 1–8) (%)	100.00	90.08	↑
Average annual dropout rate at secondary level (class 9–10)	11.90	10.64	↓
GER in higher secondary (class 11–12) (%)	61.30	51.87	↑
Class 8 students achieving minimum proficiency level in language and maths (%)	70.00	68.30	↑
GER in higher education (18–23 years)	32.30	25.70	↑
Persons with disability (>15 years) having completed secondary education (%)	17.40	17.40	-
GPI for higher education (18–23 years)	1.06	0.94	↑
Persons (>15 years) who are literate (%)	99.30	98.50	↑
Schools with access to electricity and drinking water (%) 2021 – both (%) 2020 – any one (%)	81.54	83.76	
Schools with computers (%)	53.50		
Trained teachers at secondary level (class 9–10) (%)	80.80	61.33	↑
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at secondary level (class 9–10)	9.00	10.00	↑
SDG 5: Gender Equality			
Sex ratio at birth*	969	Null	
Average wage/salary received (Female to male)	0.79	0.91	↓
Married women (18–49 years) having experienced spousal violence (physical/sexual) (%)	10.30		
Female to male LFPR (15–59 years)	0.67	0.42	↑
Women in managerial positions in listed companies (per 1,000 persons)	Null	Null	
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (15–49 years)	61.40	63.80	↓
Female operated operational land holdings (%)	11.78	11.78	-
Women (aged 15–49 years) who own a mobile phone that they themselves use (%)	82.30		
Married women (aged 15–49 years) who usually	98.80		

participate in three household decisions (%)			
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation			
Rural population getting drinking water within premises through PWS (%)	100.00	46.17	
Rural population having improved source of drinking water (%)	100.00	100.00	-
SBM(G) – Individual household toilets constructed against target (%)	100.00	100.00	-
SBM (G) – Districts verified to be ODF (%)	100.00	100.00	-
Schools with girls' toilet 2021 – functional toilet (%) 2020 – separate toilet facility (%)	86.90	85.48	
Stage of ground water extraction (%)	3.70	5.26	↑
Blocks/mandals/talukas over-exploited (%)	0.00	0.00	-
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy			
Households electrified (%)	100.00	100.00	-
LPG + PNG connections against number of households (%)	114.03	114.07	↓
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth			
Annual growth rate of GDP (constant prices) per capita (%)	Null	0.97	
Unemployment rate (%) (15–59 years)	2.30	7.30	↑
LFPR (%) (15–59 years)	61.90	52.00	↑
Regular wage/salaried employees in non-agriculture sector without social security benefits (%)	11.00	11.40	↑
Households with any usual member with a bank/post office account (%)	95.70		
Functioning branches of commercial banks per 100,000 population	18.61	17.73	↑
ATMs per 100,000 population	13.92	14.50	↓
Women account holders in PMJDY (%)	52.62	51.19	↑
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure			
Targeted habitations connected by all-weather roads under PMGSY (%)	99.57	67.24	↑
GVA in Manufacturing to total GVA (current prices) (%)	Null	0.64	
Manufacturing employment as a percentage of total employment	5.43	5.34	
GVA in Services to total GVA (current prices) (%)	Null		

Services employment as a percentage of total employment	45.66		
Innovation score as per the India Innovation Index	13.41	16.93	↓
Households that own at least one mobile phone (%)	94.40		
Inhabited villages with 3G/4G mobile internet coverage (%)	77.85		
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities			
Gini coefficient	0.13		
Seats held by women in PRIs (%)	Null	23.64	
SC/ST seats in State Legislative Assemblies (%)	97.50	97.50	-
Ratio of female to male workers as Professionals and Technical Workers (%)	47.40		
Crimes against SCs (per 100,000 SC population)	410.50	0.00	↓
Crimes against STs (per 100,000 ST population)	2.80	0.80	↓
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities			
Urban households living in kachha houses (%)*	0.60	1.30	
SBM (U) - Individual household toilets constructed against target (%)	77.82	18.00	↑
Deaths due to road accidents in urban areas (per 100,000 population)	3.41	5.09	↑
SBM (U) – wards with 100% door to door waste collection	100.00	100.00	-
SBM (U) – MSW processed to the total MSW generated (%)	Null	80.1	
SBM (U) – wards with 100% source segregation (%)	61.95	87.12	↓
Installed sewage treatment capacity to sewage generated in urban areas (%)	9.71	9.80	↓
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production			
Per capita fossil fuel consumption (in kg.)	157.97	127.20	↓
Use of nitrogenous fertilizer out of total NPK (%)	98.41	64.24	↓
Hazardous waste recycled/utilized to total hazardous waste generated (%)	0.00	50.00	↓
Plastic waste generated per 1,000 population (Tonnes/Annum)	1.25	0.01	↓
BMW treated to total BMW generated (%)	100.00	100.00	-
SDG 13: Climate Action			
Lives lost due to extreme weather events (per 1 crore population)	Null	Null	-

Disaster preparedness score as per Disaster Resilience Index	16.50	16.50	-
Share of renewable in total energy mix (including allocated shares) (%)	65.50	65.53	↓
DALY rate attributable to air pollution (per 100,000 population)	1585.00	1585.00	-
Percentage of industries complying with environmental standards	99.60		
SDG 15: Life on Land			
Forest cover (%)	84.53	85.41	↓
Tree cover (%)	2.11	2.09	↑
Area covered under afforestation schemes (%)	Null	0.19	
Change in carbon stock in forest cover (%)	1.33		
Degraded land over total land area (%)	34.92	34.92	-
Increase in area of desertification (%)	47.14	95.52	↑
Wildlife crime cases per mha of protected area	8.00	8.00	-
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions			
Murders per 100,000 population	2.50	1.80	↓
Cognizable crimes against children per 100,000 population	32.00	33.70	↑
Victims of human trafficking per 10 lakh population	0.00	45.00	↑
Missing children per 100,000 child population	0.24	0.00	↓
Courts per 100,000 population	5.95	5.33	↑
Cases under PCA and related IPC per 10 lakh population	8.13	1.67	↓
Charge sheeting rate of IPC crime	58.00		
Births registered (%)*	99.40	100.00	
Population covered under Aadhaar (%)	98.07	94.00	↑

*The data values of the indicator are not comparable due to change in data source.

Source: SDG India Index 2023-24

APPENDIX-E

LIST OF DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR ANSWERS BASED ON QUESTIONS ASKED RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Q. 1. How are the Nodal Officers nominated and appointed in their respective departments? Are there any criteria/qualifications?

Engtin nge in department-ah hian SDG Nodal Officer ruat an nih thin?

Criteria/qualification ngai bik a awm em?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	For SDG Nodal Officer, either Deputy Director (D&M) or Joint Director (D&M) is appointed as per suitability. There are no particular criteria or qualification to be a Nodal Officer and no specifications have been given by Planning Department.
Commerce & Industries Department	The nodal officers for SDG in the initials years have retired and there has been no new appointment. Whoever is available at the relevant time attends meetings and submits data to Planning Department and there are no criteria for appointment.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	The Deputy Director (General Economic Branch) is appointed as the Nodal Officer and the Director, Economics & Statistics is appointed as a member of the Technical Committee (State Level) for SDG implementation.
Directorate of Science and Technology	There is no appointment of Nodal Officer. Department annual reports are presented.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change	Nodal Officers for SDG in EF&CC Dept. are appointed from senior officers of State or Indian Forest Service. The

Department	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Extension Division is the Nodal Officer of Climate Change, looking after environmental matters.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	There are no specific criteria or qualification for the appointment of Nodal Officer in the department. However, the Deputy Director (General) of this department deals with the services relating to the targets of the department for Sustainable Development Goals.
Health & Family Welfare Department	Nodal Officers are appointed by the Government of Mizoram, Health & Family Welfare Department. There are no separate guidelines or order indicating specific criteria/qualification for appointment of nodal officers. However, previous experience/additional qualifications in specific areas are considered while making decisions.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	As per the decision made by the Consultative Technical Committee on SDG on 20 th March, 2019, all officers who attended the meeting were to be appointed as Nodal Officers in their respective departments. Hence, the then Deputy Superintendent of Police was appointed as the Nodal Officer for SDG.
Information and Communication Technology Department	There are no specific criteria for nomination of Nodal Officer for the Department. However, the department nominates Senior Officer we verse with the scheme taken up by the Department.
Local Administration Department	There is no appointment of Nodal Officer.
Lead Bank Office	Nodal Officers are nominated or appointed by the appointing authority of the Ministry and normally, HOD's are appointed as Nodal Officer.

Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	SDG Nodal officers are appointed among the Directorate Officers in the Administrative Department of LESDE. There are no specific criteria for nomination of Nodal Officer for the Department.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	Nodal Officers under various schemes is normally nominate and appointed as per desired by the concerned Ministry either by filling the prescribed form or by giving order issued by the Government of Mizoram (copy enclosed). There is no prescribed Criteria/Qualification to become a Nodal Officer, however he/she must be sound in Computer knowledge/information technology. Nodal Officers under various schemes is normally nominate and appointed as per desired by the concerned Ministry either by filling the prescribed form or by giving order issued by the Government of Mizoram (copy enclosed). There is no prescribed Criteria/Qualification to become a Nodal Officer, however he/she must be sound in Computer knowledge/information technology.
Power & Electricity Department	Executive Engineer (Planning), o/o the Engineer-in Chief is appointed as Nodal Officer. Must be either Executive Engineer or higher post.
Public Health Engineering Department	Superintending Engineer (Monitoring) is appointed as nodal officer for SDG. No specific criteria/qualification required.
Public Works Department	Nodal Officers are appointed in relation to the works concerned with officers. Executive Engineer or Superintending Engineers are usually appointed as Nodal Officers.

Rural Development Department	The Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, has issued a letter to each department requiring the appointment of Nodal Officers, who shall be of a rank not below Group 'A'. Accordingly, our department has nominated Group 'A' officers as SDG Nodal Officers.
School Education Department	Group A or Group B (gazetted) officers may be appointed as nodal officers for SDG.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	There is no appointment of SDG Nodal Officer in the Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	There are no SDG Nodal Officers under Directorate of Women and Child Development.
State Election Commission	Nodal Officer for SDG is appointed as directed by the Planning Department (Technical Committee on SDG). Officers above Group 'A' level are usually appointed as nodal officers.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	The Deputy Director (Plan) is appointed as SDG Nodal Officer as directed by Planning & Programme Implementation Department. There are no stated criteria or qualification required for this position.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	There are no criteria for nomination of SDG Nodal Officer from the Department/ Agency.

Q. 2. Which schemes/govt. policies and programmes (past govt. or new govt.) under the department are aligned or related to achieving the SDGs?

In department hnuaia Central emaw State atanga schemes/govt. policies and programmes awm te hi SDG nen inkungkaina an nei em? Engte hi nge SDG achieve-na tura hman tangkai theih?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	<p>The state introduced a Flagship Programme SEDP (Socio-Economic Development Programme) which was a Family Oriented Programme in the year 2022-23 under which Maize cultivation was implemented. Here, inputs (seeds) High Yielding Variety (HYV) were provided.</p> <p>This programme was carried out in two phases. Here, the farmers/beneficiaries were given financial aid for the procurement of inputs as well as assistance for the cultivation of Maize. This boosted Maize cultivation which is a highlighted crop in SDG indicator framework.</p>
Commerce & Industries Department	<p>The schemes mentioned in SDG dashboard such as Make in India, Start Up India and Stand Up India have not been as effective in Mizoram as compared to other states.</p> <p>Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP), National SC/ST Hub, Ease of Doing Business, ZED (Zero Effect Zero Defect Scheme) are other related schemes.</p>
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	Any/all schemes/govt. policies/projects undertaken by the department are all related to one or any of the 17 SDG goals.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Any/all schemes/govt. policies/projects undertaken by the department are all related to the following SDG goals:

	<p>SDG 3 – Good health and well being</p> <p>SDG 4 – Quality Education</p> <p>SDG 7 – Affordable Energy</p> <p>SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p>SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure</p> <p>SDG 13 – Climate action</p>
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	<p>The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are aligned with SDG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat 2) Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem 3) National Afforestation Policy 4) Green India Mission 5) National Action Plan on Climate Change
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	<p>Under the National Food Security Act, 2013 the Central Government has launched a free food programme – <i>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)</i> for beneficiaries covered under NFSA (AAY&PHH) to fight starvation and to ensure public distribution of nutritious food by distributing fortified rice which will continue up till 2029. The beneficiaries are identified using biometric authentication from their ration card and Aadhaar. Ration card-Aadhaar seeding is one indicator under SDG.</p>
Health & Family Welfare Department	<p>It must be stated that taking into account the multi-factorial causation of indicators such as Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), etc., and indicator referring to Total physicians, nurses, etc., that is funded through multiple sources and the other indicators, all schemes, policies and programmes are aligned or related to achieving the SDGs.</p>

Home Department/ Police Headquarters	<p>The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are aligned with SDG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) Scheme 2) Cyber Crime Prevention against women and children project 3) Emergency Response & Support System 4) Assistance to State for Narcotic Control
Information and Communication Technology Department	Scheme relating to internet connection to Gram Panchayat/Villages and mobile penetration/ coverage to villages.
Local Administration Department	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants. 2. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)
Lead Bank Office	Those schemes falling under Priority Sector.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	<p>There are Central/State implemented schemes/govt. policies and programmes aligned or related to achieving the SDGs. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Industrial Training Institute (ITI) (2) <i>Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)</i> (3) <i>Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC)</i>
Mizoram Scholarship Board	<p>Yes, the schemes/govt. policies and programmes (past govt. or new govt.) under the Department are aligned or related in achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>All the schemes imply Sustainable Development Goals, by promoting and providing financial support through Education.</p>
Power & Electricity Department	All the works concerning Electrification, Hydel & Solar generation are related to SDG and can be useful for achieving the SDGs.

	<p>Some of the ongoing works under the department are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 10MW Thenzawl Solar - ongoing (2) 5MW Sumsuih Solar - ongoing (3) 24MW Tuirini HEP – DPR completed.
Public Health Engineering Department	The ongoing Central schemes carried out by PHE Department such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM(G)} and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are useful for achieving SDG.
Public Works Department	Yes, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) relating to road connectivity is an important intervention to achieve SDGs.
Rural Development Department	<p>The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) schemes and other government policies and programs are closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). MGNREGA, in particular, contributes directly and indirectly to several SDGs:</p> <p>SDG 1: No Poverty - MGNREGA aims to provide livelihood security to rural households by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment each year, helping to reduce poverty levels.</p> <p>SDG 2: Zero Hunger - By improving the purchasing power of rural households, MGNREGA helps ensure food security and reduces hunger.</p> <p>SDG 5: Gender Equality - MGNREGA promotes gender equality by ensuring that at least one-third of the beneficiaries are women, thereby empowering them economically.</p> <p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - The program includes work on water conservation, irrigation, and sanitation,</p>

	<p>which contribute to better water management and hygiene.</p> <p>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - MGNREGA promotes inclusive economic growth by providing decent work and fair wages to rural workers.</p> <p>SDG 13: Climate Action - Many MGNREGA projects focus on afforestation, drought-proofing, and other activities that enhance environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Government policies, whether from past or current administrations, often build on the principles of MGNREGA and other such programs to further align with the SDGs. For example, the emphasis on water conservation, infrastructure development in rural areas, and social inclusion in recent policies continues to support multiple SDGs.</p> <p>The various other schemes and projects under the department are mostly related to SDGs.</p> <p>Roads & bridges, Water Supply, Community Buildings, Irrigation, Educational Buildings & Quarters, Capacity Building & Skill Development, Health Offices & Buildings, etc. could be instrumental in achieving the SDGs.</p>
School Education Department	<p>The following schemes/policies under the department are aligned with SDG achievement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) - policy ii. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) - scheme iii. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) - scheme iv. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) – scheme.

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	<p>The department works under various welfare schemes which could be aligned with SDG such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National Social Assistance Programme 2) State Disability Pension 3) Grants Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India 4) Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) 5) GIA to Non Governmental Organisations/ Voluntary Organisations 6) Eklavya Model Residential School
Directorate of Women & Child Development	<p>The following schemes/policies under the department are aligned with SDG achievement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Poshan Abhiyan ii. Child Protection Society iii. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) iv. Women helpline.
State Election Commission	<p>The number of women representation in all Local Body Elections which is under the jurisdiction of SEC is aligned with the SDGs. Together there are a total number of twelve (12) Local Body Elections in Mizoram.</p>
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	<p>The following Central Schemes under UD&PA Department could be considered as related to SDG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) - Livelihood & Skill Development (SDG Goal no. 1 – No poverty; Goal no. 10 – Reduced Inequalities) ii. Housing for All/PMAY – Housing Programme

	<p>(SDG Goal. 10)</p> <p>iii. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) – Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG Goal no 6)</p> <p>iv. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) – Clean water & sanitation (SDG Goal no.6) including construction of toilets both community/public toilets designed separately for men and women. Moreover, Solid Waste Management under SBM (U) 2.0 turned out to be one of the most significant.</p> <p>All of the mentioned schemes are crucial for achieving SDG goals. Besides these, State Government’s Flagship programmes such as NLUP, NEDP, SEDP& Handholding Policy are designed to uplift poverty which is clearly an indicator of SDG. UD&PA Department primarily focuses on alleviation of poverty in urban areas.</p>
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	<p>The various schemes under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India especially National Solar Mission are the schemes related to and useful for achieving SDG. Also, the works entrusted to the ZEDA by the state government are crucial for achieving the goals.</p>

Q. 3. What new initiatives (besides aligning existing policies/programmes) have been taken up by the department towards achieving the SDGs?

In hmalakna awm sa SDG nen in align bakah hian SDG tan bika thil thar tih/ hma han lak tharin nei em? Engte nge?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	No new initiatives undertaken.
Commerce & Industries Department	No new initiatives taken specifically for SDG.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	The department aids the SDG Core Committee by providing data which are in hand as well as analyzing raw data when prompted by SDG Core Committee. However, no primary data collection is being made.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Mapping of Science and Technology Needs project has been taken up. This project aims to promote the use of Science and technology in the state of Mizoram. This project highlights the areas in which the state performs low in SDG targets besides studying other areas. The problems are being analyzed and solutions are being worked upon. This aims to improve the performance of the state in achieving the SDGs
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	To include more awareness activities for spreading the message to all stakeholders for achieving SDGs.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	FCS&CA has taken the initiative to increase coverage percentage of beneficiaries under NFSA. As of now, the Department has achieved 99% coverage of the allowed/allocated quota i.e. 706296by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Food & Public Distribution,

	Government of India. In addition, in order to cover larger number of the population of the State under NFSA, the Department has taken the initiative to amend <i>The Mizoram Food Security Rules, 2017</i> , rule 6 and rule 7 (identification of eligible household).
Health & Family Welfare Department	Some key projects that have been implemented that could potentially contribute towards achievement of the SDGs are: 1. Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project (MHSSP) (Externally Aided Project) - loan from World Bank. This is a health systems strengthening project that has impact on all the targets and indicators under SDG-3. 2. Government of Mizoram has an agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Mizoram 3. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded Mizoram State Super-Specialty Cancer & Research Centre (MSSS CRC) is in early stages of implementation to provide better access to cancer care and prevention. 4. Initiatives undertaken through National Health Mission (NHM)
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	Besides existing schemes, action plans like setting up of Child Friendly Room in Police Stations has been done. Establishment of Counseling Centers, setting up Women Specialized Team and conduct of training and awareness programmes are being carried out in various districts.
Information and Communication Technology Department	No new initiative has been taken up
Local Administration Department	No new initiative has been taken up
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of	No new initiative has been taken up

Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	
Mizoram Scholarship Board	<p>Mizoram Scholarship Board on boarded in National Scholarship Portal on 31.05.2024 for the Academic Session 2023-24 for applying scholarship schemes of Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.</p> <p>Suggestion has been given to Ministry of Tribal Affairs Govt. of India for consideration of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Eligibility criteria for availing the scholarship scheme from Rs 2.50 lakh to Rs 6 lakh considering the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers of today ii) Increase of Rate of maintenance allowance considering the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers of today.
Power & Electricity Department	No new initiatives taken up.
Public Health Engineering Department	No new initiatives taken up.
Public Works Department	Initiative is being taken up to work on Phase III of PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana).
Rural Development Department	<p>In Mizoram, specific initiatives under MGNREGA, MzSRLM, and PMAY-G have been tailored to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on the state's unique challenges and opportunities. Here are some of the new initiatives:</p> <p>1. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act):</p>

	<p>a) Afforestation and Reforestation Projects: MGNREGA has introduced extensive tree-planting and forest regeneration initiatives to combat deforestation and promote biodiversity. These projects also help in soil conservation and enhancing carbon sequestration.</p> <p>b) Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Mizoram: Focused on the construction of check dams, contour trenches, and water harvesting structures to address water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management (SDG 6).</p> <p>c) Rural Road Connectivity: Construction of climate-resilient rural roads that can withstand the state's challenging terrain and heavy rainfall, improving accessibility and connectivity (SDG 9).</p> <p>2. MzSRLM (Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission):</p> <p>a) Promotion of Organic Farming: Under MSRLM, there has been a push towards organic farming, which includes training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and certification processes. This supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).</p> <p>b) Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: New initiatives focus on building entrepreneurial skills among rural youth and women in sectors like handicrafts, agri-business, and eco-tourism. This promotes SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).</p> <p>c) Digital and Financial Inclusion: Strengthening the financial inclusion of women through enhanced SHG-bank linkages, providing easier access to credit and financial services (SDG 5 - Gender Equality and SDG 1 - No Poverty).</p>
School Education Department	Efforts towards successful implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 may be considered as a new initiative taken up by the department towards achieving the SDGs.
State Institute of	Not Applicable

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	No new initiatives specifically for SDG has been taken up.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	No new initiatives taken up.
State Election Commission	Besides conducting Local Bodies Elections, there are no programmes that are under the purview of SEC. All these Local Bodies have their own guidelines for election.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	Apart from ongoing schemes already aligned with SDG, there are no new interventions.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	The Solar Policy of Mizoram 2017 is currently under revision process and this aims to achieve higher targets set for achieving the SDGs.

Q. 4. Does the department set up a separate budget for the SDGs?

In department hian SDG achieve-na turin budget siam emaw sum hmuh in nei em?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	No.
Commerce & Industries Department	No.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	No.
Directorate of Science and Technology	No.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	No, separate budget is not required as each schemes are Centrally Sponsored Schemes funded by both Central and State Government on 90:10 ratio basis with specific budget annually.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	The department does not separately setup budget for the implementation of SDGs. However, in the running government budget estimate 2024 – 2025, directions have been given relating to the targets mentioned under the SDGs. Sum of amount is kept for Grant in Aid under the sub-head, Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS). The different Object Head will falls under the Detailed Head of SMS to Generating Awareness among TPDS beneficiaries can be traced to the helping hand for achieving the goals of the SDCs. Also, to expedite the NFSA, a large sum of money is kept for Intra-State Movement of procurement and supply. A large amount is

	kept for food subsidies occupying a large amount in the revenue expenditure of the government.
Health & Family Welfare Department	No.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	No.
Information and Communication Technology Department	No
Local Administration Department	No.
Lead Bank Office	No.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	No.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	No, the Department have no separate budget or set up a for the SDGs
Power & Electricity Department	No.
Public Health Engineering Department	No.
Public Works Department	No. Funds are received on Central Schemes which can be related to SDGs. No funds directly related to SDGs are received.
Rural Development	No, in many government departments, the SDGs are often

Department	integrated into the planning and execution of various existing programs and schemes, rather than having a completely separate budget specifically for the SDGs. This means that while the SDGs are a guiding framework for these initiatives, the funding typically comes from the overall budget allocated to various development programs such as MGNREGA, MzSRLM, and PMAY-G. SDG parameters are however followed for project proposals.
School Education Department	No.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	No.
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	Departments cannot have separate budget on its own if not allocated by government. No separate budget for SDG.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	No.
State Election Commission	No.
Urban Development &Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA)Department	No.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	No separate budget for SDG, funds from Central schemes are however resourceful.

Q. 5. Is the monitoring framework proposed by the nodal department difficult to comply with your department? How does the department go about it?

Planning Dept. lamin in department kaihnawih SDG atan monitoring framework a ruahman te, progress review tur leh report ziah ngai a tih ang te in tihlawhtling zel theih em? Engtin nge in lo bawhzui thin?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	All the frameworks proposed by the Nodal Department could be fulfilled and progress reports were submitted as per requirement.
Commerce & Industries Department	The department is giving best efforts to keep up with the monitoring framework for attaining SDGs.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	The department could not only successfully comply with the monitoring framework proposed by the nodal department but also contributed heavily in the drafting of the monitoring framework.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Efforts and follow-ups are being carried out as best as possible.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	No. Each SDG is implemented by concerned Department as per its mandate and is monitored as per its programme implementation guidelines.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	The monitoring framework proposed by the nodal department is not difficult to comply by the department. However, certain indicator might be needed to be revised by the nodal department. The department can go well along with the framework set by the nodal department.
Health & Family Welfare Department	Data for some of the indicators are not available routinely with the Department with available information management systems. These are indicators which can be monitored only with surveys conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) such as National Family Health Survey (NFHS).
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	The monitoring framework is not difficult to comply with.
Information and Communication Technology	There is no issue relating to monitoring framework. However, Telecom sector is a union subject and the data needed for the SDG cannot be obtained as per the desired

Department	indicator/ goals due to unlimited access.
Local Administration Department	There are no files/direction received from the nodal department relating to this.
Lead Bank Office	Normally, budgets are prepared in such a way that, it is achievable. However, due to certain reasons, non-achievement of budget also happens.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	Could be attained as far as possible. Reports are submitted to the Planning Department following the format proposed by them.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	<p>Monitoring framework proposed by the Nodal Department is difficult to comply within Mizoram Scholarship Board Department since Mizoram Scholarship Board main function is to formulate and implement policies and schemes for all round development of the student and encouraging them to achieve their goals by providing financial assistance to eligible students as per respective scheme Guidelines. Hence few of the normal monitoring works involve under Scholarship Board Department are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Verify the correctness of details in the application form and uploaded documents submitted by the student/ applicant. ii) Ensure the applications scrutinized well-in-time to avoid last-minute rush to verify the applications. iii) Ensure no pending applications, as on last date of verification submitted by students/applicants and monitor overall pendency of the applications for the scheme at different level. iv) Create Login credentials for Institute and District Nodal Officers in case of change/transfer of the said Officers. v) Configured Public Financial Management System (PFMS) details at PFMS Portal for disbursement of scholarship through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

	vi) Conduct physical verification of Institutions/Colleges/Schools for their status of operational or non-operational, and number of enrolments.
Power & Electricity Department	Could be attained as far as possible. The office of the Engineer in Chief collects data from concerned division/sub-division and these data are further submitted to Planning Department.
Public Health Engineering Department	Could be attained as much as possible. The Monitoring Cell of the department keeps proper record of Monthly Progress Reports and data are submitted to planning department based on this.
Public Works Department	Progress review and reports are submitted to Planning Department when asked for.
Rural Development Department	No, the department can comply with the monitoring framework proposed by the nodal department. The monitoring framework typically follows a standardized format, and data needs to be collected from various schemes. The administrative department gathers this data from the subordinate units involved in the schemes, compiles it, and then submits it to the nodal department.
School Education Department	The department is giving best efforts to cope up with the nodal department for attaining SDGs.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable.
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	Data are submitted to Planning Department as when required usually relating to NSAP. The data required by Planning Department for 'Localization of SDG' on the matter of Pension Schemes in targeted areas faced a problem of getting exact figures for target population hence there could be some errors in data collection.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	There is no difficulty in complying with the framework proposed by the nodal department.
State Election Commission	The SEC has successfully performed its roles so far. Meetings are attended and data are submitted to the Planning Department.

Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	The department provides SDG progress review/report to Planning Department as per requirement. For this purpose, data are collected from Schemes/Branches within the jurisdiction of the department.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	The ZEDA agency could comply with the monitoring framework proposed by Planning Department as much as possible. Central Schemes are being looked upon by the agency in order to achieve the SDGs in the state.

Q.6. How often does the department submit reports to nodal department?

Engtia zingim nge Planning Department-ah report in theih luh thin?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	Reports are submitted to Planning Department when requested. There is no particular timeline such as yearly or quarterly.
Commerce & Industries Department	Reports are submitted to Planning Department when requested. There is no particular timeline such as yearly or quarterly.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	Reports are submitted to Planning Department when required. The department is never late in submitting data to Planning Department.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Annually.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	As per required by Planning Department.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	The department submits reports to the nodal department whenever required by the nodal department. There is no such periodic reports, initiated by the department and submitted to the nodal department.
Health & Family Welfare Department	As directed by Planning Department.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	The department submits its report on SDGs to the nodal department on a quarterly basis.
Information and Communication Technology Department	As and when requested by the Nodal Department (i.e. Planning Department)
Local Administration Department	N/A
Lead Bank Office	Monitoring of performance is done normally on monthly basis where branches submitted their reports to their respective controllers.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	As and when requested by the Nodal Department (i.e. Planning Department)

Mizoram Scholarship Board	The Department submits reports as and when information is received from the Nodal Department.
Power & Electricity Department	Quarterly reports are submitted.
Public Health Engineering Department	Reports are submitted on yearly basis.
Public Works Department	Reports are submitted every month.
Rural Development Department	The department does not submit the report to the nodal department regularly; it is submitted only when requested.
School Education Department	Reports are being submitted to the nodal department on a quarterly basis and as per requirement.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	There is no specific mention of when data are to be submitted. They are submitted when asked by Planning Department.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	Reports are submitted to the nodal department quarterly.
State Election Commission	Quarterly Reports are being submitted to the nodal department. Besides this, data could be submitted any time as per requirement by nodal department.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	As and when requested by the Nodal Department (i.e. Planning Department).
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	Reports are submitted when asked by the nodal department.

Q.7. Has the department met the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard up till now? How far have they met the targets since the base-line data? What efforts have been taken to meet the targets?

SDG Dashboard siama target kum bithliaha siam kha in meet thei em? Eng chinah nge in hlawhtlin a?Engtin nge hma in lak?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	The department is able to meet the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard up till now.
Commerce & Industries Department	The present officers are not aware of the targets mentioned in the dashboard as the concerned officials have retired. There is a change of approach from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic years.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	To meet the targets in the dashboard, some data could not be submitted as per yearly basis. For example, there cannot be a yearly data on census-survey. (BPL-Baseline Survey @ 2016). Also, in the case of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), the most updated data in all-India is 2020-21 data and 2021-22 data is expected to be published only by August, 2024. Therefore, data are fed as projected/advanced estimate figures in these cases.
Directorate of Science and Technology	SDG targets could not be met in every aspect. The lack of infrastructure and facilities in the state is one of the challenges in achieving the goals.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	Efforts are being made to increase coverage of Wildlife Sanctuaries although progress is not fast and there are several problems such as compensation for displacement, insufficient funding and long duration of process.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	FCS&CA Department has met the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard in terms of percentage coverage of beneficiaries under TPDS.
Health & Family Welfare Department	See table below.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	The department is positively moving towards achieving the targets and crime rates have been reduced as compared to baseline data.
Information and Communication Technology Department	The department has met the target, and much effort is not taken as the penetration and telecom density is quite high in Mizoram.
Local Administration Department	There are no targets for LAD mentioned in SDG Dashboard. Meanwhile, as per the direction given by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, data are collected by LAD to evaluate the status and development of every Panchayat (Village Council). Data are being fed to SDG nodal department as per the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) 2023-24.
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	Yes, the department is taking measures to achieve the targets set by Planning Department from baseline year 2015 to 2024.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	The Department met the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard as of now. However, due to restriction in the scheme guidelines, achieving high percent is impossible.
Power & Electricity	Targets could be met.

Department	In order to meet the targets, serious efforts are taken on electrification, hydel and solar generation and transmission lives have been improved.
Public Health Engineering Department	Yes, the department is able to meet the targets since the ongoing schemes carried out by the department are under Central Schemes. This makes it possible to achieve the targets in some areas even before the targeted year. However, as the state is still growing, efforts for new interventions are also inevitable.
Public Works Department	There are areas in which year based targets could not be met. Efforts could be made by rushing contractors to complete their works as soon as possible.
Rural Development Department	<p>Yes, the Department has met the targets mentioned in the SDG Dashboard up till now.</p> <p>The SDG Dashboard for Mizoram provides key indicators that reflect progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. The department has met its targets, and typically compares current data with baseline figures established in earlier years. The department's progress can be gauged by looking at improvements in key areas like employment generation (through MGNREGA), rural housing (through PMAY-G), and livelihood enhancement programs. Any positive changes from the baseline data indicate progress toward the SDGs. The Rural Development Department focuses on schemes like MGNREGA (employment generation), PMAY-G (housing), and NRLM (livelihoods) to meet SDG targets.</p> <p>Infrastructure Development: Building roads, providing clean water, and improving sanitation in rural areas are critical components of the efforts.</p> <p>Community Engagement: The department engages local</p>

	communities to ensure that development initiatives are sustainable and aligned with the needs of the people.
School Education Department	N/A
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	-
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	The target set on NSAP for 2024 is 80% of eligibles in the SDG dashboard. However, NSAP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the Central Ministry creates Ceiling which could not be altered by the state or concerned department. Also, due to lack of finance from the State, it is difficult to meet the targets. Efforts are being made to increase Central Ceiling.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	There are no specific targets given to the Directorate of Women and Child Development. However, data are being submitted to the nodal department as per requirement.
State Election Commission	Since not much initiatives could be carried out that are within the jurisdiction of SEC, the only way SEC participates is by submitting the latest data possible to the nodal department.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	There are no targets for Centrally Sponsored Schemes related to SDG under the department as per knowledge. However, the department is meeting yearly targets in regards to the Central Schemes and has also received awards at the North East level.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	SDG Targets are met as far as possible. ZEDA is giving best efforts in scouting for funds and schemes.

**Table: RESPONSE TO Q. 7 BY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM**

SHEMATIC INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA (Preferably 2015-16)	TARGETS			COMMENT
		2020-21	2024-25	2029-30	
%age of Children under age 5 years who are stunted	28%	13%	10%	<10%	NFHS-5 data awaited
%age of children under 5 years who are underweight	6.10%	4.50%	3.66%	<2.5%	NFHS-5 data awaited
Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding for children < 6 months	60.6%	75%	90.9%	>95%	NFHS-5 data awaited
%age of Children under age 5 years who are wasted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
%age of children under 5 who are stunted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
%age of children under 5 years who are underweight	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding for children < 6 months	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
%age of pregnant women with full antenatal care	38.50%	50%	70%	90%	71% (HMIS) ³⁴²

³⁴² Health Management Information System

%age of pregnant women who consumed iron folic acid for 100 days or more	53.80%	70%	80%	90%	82% (HMIS)
% age of women receiving post natal care from a skilled health professional within 2 days of birth	64.70%	90%	95%	>95%	NFHS-5 data awaited
Maternal Mortality Ratio	88	<70	<70	<70	Not achieved
%age of delivery attended by skilled health professional/personnel	83.80%	>95%	>95%	>95%	93% (HMIS)
Under five Mortality Rate	46	<45	<35	<25	20.32 (HMIS)
Neo Natal Mortality Rate	9.13	<12	<12	<12	9.74% (HMIS)
%age of children partially immunized	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
%age of children fully immunized	48.30%	>95%	>95%	>95%	89.64% (HMIS)
% age of HIV cases from number of blood tested	255	<65%	<50%	<50%	2.07% (2178 positive from 104467 samples tested)
% age of ART coverage	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Case Notification Rate of TB	86%	90%	90%	90%	76.4%

Malaria Incidence per 1000 population	22.82%	<5	<3	<1	17.8%
Annual Malarial Death	21	<10	<5	<1	13
% BPL families covered under RSBY	72%	>90%	>95%	>95%	Indicator need revision
Total no. of registered practitioners - physicians	356	420	520	600	Not achieved
Total no. of registered practitioners - nurses	765	>850	>1000	>1500	Not achieved
Total no. of registered practitioners - midwives	762	1088	1200	1500	Not achieved
No. of Jan Aushadhi Stores	5	NIL	NIL	NIL	9
%age of women using modern method of planning					NFHS-5 data awaited

Table: EFFORTS BY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

SCHEMATIC INDICATOR	Efforts by the Department (not an exhaustive list)
%age of Children under age 5 years who are stunted	1. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities at village (community) & health facilities level.
%age of children under 5 years who are underweight	2. De-worming of children less than 5 years old twice a year.
Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding for children < 6 months	1. Counseling of pregnant and postnatal mothers. 2. Home visit by ASHA & health personnel.
%age of pregnant women with full antenatal care	1. Counseling of pregnant women at home & health facilities. 2. Home visit by ASHA & health personnel.
%age of pregnant women who consumed iron folic acid for 100 days or more	1. Counseling of pregnant & postnatal mothers. 2. Home visits by ASHA & health personnel.
% age of women receiving post natal care from a skilled health professional within 2 days of birth	1. Home visits by ASHA & health personnel.
Maternal Mortality Ratio	1. Provision of antenatal, intra-natal & postnatal care at health facilities. 2. Training of health personnel. 3. Ambulance service.
%age of delivery attended by skilled health professional/personnel	1. Skilled birth attendant (SBA) training for health personnel.
Under five Mortality Rate	Health systems strengthening approach at all levels including health services delivery and Governance strengthening measures.
Neo Natal Mortality Rate	
%age of children fully	1. Counseling of mothers.

immunized	2. Follow-up by ASHA and health personnel.
% age of HIV cases from number of blood tested	1. IEC efforts by Mizoram State AIDS Control Society (MSACS)
% age of ART coverage	1. Availability of ART services at all districts. 2. IEC 3. Counseling services.
Case Notification Rate of TB	1. Active case finding. 2. Contact tracing. 3. Home visits. 4. Improved coordination with private sector.
Malaria Incidence per 1000 population	1. Source reduction.
Annual Malarial Death	1. Availability of anti-malaria drugs at community level with ASHAs. 2. Early diagnosis through ASHAs.
% BPL families covered under RSBY	1. Beneficiary identification drive.
Total no. of registered practitioners - physicians	The department requests for filling up of vacant posts for various cadres of health personnel to Government of Mizoram.
Total no. of registered practitioners - nurses	
Total no. of registered practitioners - midwives	
No. of Jan Aushadhi Stores	9
%age of women using modern method of planning	1. Improvement in adolescent health services. Availability of family planning commodities with ASHAs and at health facilities.

Q.8. Which is the most successful intervention/scheme aligned with SDG and which one is the most difficult to implement?

SDG kaihawih hmalakna emaw scheme zingah hian in department tan enge hlawhtling ber? Enge hmalak harsa ber?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	<p>The most successful intervention/schemes are Soil Health Card and Rashtriya Krishi Vikar (RKVY)/ National Food Security Mission (NFSM).</p> <p>The most difficult one is Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and has not been implemented till date.</p>
Commerce & Industries Department	<p>Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP) is the most successful intervention.</p>
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	<p>Among the data required for SDG indicators and targets, there is one indicator which was already 100% achieved and that is birth registration.</p> <p>There is difficulty in collecting district-wise disaggregated data. Although majority could be collected, there are a few district-wise data which could not be collected such as District Domestic Product.</p>
Directorate of Science and Technology	<p>The most successful intervention is on Intellectual Property Rights (Patent, Copyright, etc.). Although the targets have not been met, progress could be seen every year.</p>
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	<p>CSS: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH) is the most successful intervention whereas Green India Mission(GIM) is the most difficult to implement due to various factors like funding pattern, land use system, nature of terrain, etc.</p>

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	Coverage of beneficiaries under TPDS has been successful.
Health & Family Welfare Department	The department has not undertaken any study to determine the success/failure of any particular intervention/scheme towards achievement of any specific SDG. The department implements all applicable interventions/schemes to the best of its capability with the support of other stakeholder departments.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	There are no specific schemes or intervention which is most successful or most difficult to implement.
Information and Communication Technology Department	There are no specific schemes or intervention which is difficult to implement pertaining to ICT Department.
Local Administration Department	The efforts taken up for SDG through 15 th FC Grant & RGSA are insufficient. The budgets handed out to VCs for construction of VC Houses, distribution of computers and CSC co-location could not be undertaken at a single time. The 15 th FC Grant to be received by Mizoram is also calculated based on the area and population of VCs and income (absolute share) which makes it difficult for most of the VCs to take up major works.
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	<p>Among the measures taken up by department to achieve the SDGs, efforts towards achieving Goal no. 4 'Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' could be considered as the most successful.</p> <p>There is not much difficulty faced.</p>

Mizoram Scholarship Board	The most successful intervention/scheme aligned with SDG may be Pre Matric Scholarship for ST students and Post Matric Scholarship for ST students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and none of the scheme are difficult to implement.
Power & Electricity Department	All interventions are successful.
Public Health Engineering Department	<p>The most successful schemes are JJM and SBM (G).</p> <p>The department is however unaware of the National urban Drinking Programme mentioned in the Vision 2030 document as one of the interventions by PHE Department.</p>
Public Works Department	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) could be considered as the most successful.
Rural Development Department	<p>In Mizoram, under the Rural Development Department, several interventions and schemes are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among them, the most successful and the most challenging to implement can be highlighted as follows:</p> <p>Most Successful Intervention/Scheme:</p> <p>Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):</p> <p>MGNREGA is closely aligned with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). It guarantees 100 days of wage employment to rural households, contributing significantly to poverty alleviation and promoting inclusive economic growth.</p> <p>Success Factors:</p> <p>Employment Generation: MGNREGA has been highly successful in providing employment opportunities in rural</p>

	<p>areas, particularly during lean agricultural seasons.</p> <p>Asset Creation: The scheme also focuses on creating durable assets like roads, water conservation structures, and irrigation facilities, which have long-term benefits for the rural economy.</p> <p>Social Inclusion: It has a strong emphasis on the inclusion of marginalized communities, including women and SC/ST households, which enhances social equity.</p> <p>Impact: The success of MGNREGA in Mizoram is reflected in its wide coverage and the substantial amount of wages disbursed to beneficiaries, contributing to the reduction of poverty and economic disparities in rural areas.</p> <p>Most Difficult to Implement:</p> <p>Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)</p> <p>PMAY-G is aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 1 (No Poverty), focusing on providing affordable housing to the rural poor.</p> <p>Challenges in Implementation:</p> <p>Geographical Constraints: Mizoram's hilly terrain and remote locations make the construction of houses under PMAY-G logistically challenging. Transporting materials and ensuring timely construction in difficult terrains is often a significant hurdle.</p> <p>Land Availability: In some areas, the availability of suitable land for housing can be an issue, complicating the implementation of the scheme.</p> <p>Fund Utilization: Delays in fund disbursement or underutilization of allocated funds can slow down progress, making it difficult to meet targets.</p>
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	Impact: While PMAY-G has seen successes in many parts of India, in Mizoram, the combination of these challenges often results in slower progress toward achieving housing targets compared to more accessible regions.
School Education Department	The most successful schemes are SSA and RMSA and shortage of teacher is met through these schemes and teacher-pupil ratio have improved to 1:14. Density target of Primary Schools and Upper Primary schools have also been achieved. However, Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) is still low.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not applicable.
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	The various schemes under the department relate to assistance reaching the public hence it is difficult to figure out the most successful and the most difficult to implement. Under NSAP which is related to SDG, all the funding are distributed to the people/beneficiaries hence it could be considered as quite successful. However, these funding are received on a quarterly basis and that makes it difficult to distribute them on time.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	N/A
State Election Commission	Not relevant for SEC.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation	As there are no definite criteria to measure success of the different schemes, it becomes difficult to identify the most

(UD&PA)Department	<p>successful intervention. While some are getting awards, it may as well have been to the poor performance of other competing states.</p> <p>All the schemes can have their respective problems and challenges. For example, PMAY (U) is an all-India scheme in which Central Assistance is similar across all states regardless of geographical terrain and material costs. Other challenges could be the lack of state shares as well as the poor involvement of beneficiaries.</p>
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	<p>All targets are met under ZEDA and there are no crucial problems.</p>

Q.9. How are the data collected and are there any problems faced in data collection? Do you think these data are sufficient to meet the goals?

Engtinngge data te hi collect an nih a, harsatna awmte a awm em? Heng data hmanga target the hi SDG achieve- na turin tawh I ti em?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	Data are collected from District Agriculture Offices (DAO) and Block Agriculture Offices (BAO) and they are sufficient to achieve SDG targets.
Commerce & Industries Department	Data are collected from various branches and submitted to the nodal department.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	Majority of the data are secondary data. Economics & Statistics is a nodal agency in the Official Statistics in which all Official Statistics are fed together. The regularity and availability of data solely depends upon the pace and activeness of all other departments who are feeding data. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics also collects primary data and are taking active measures to collect these data on time.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Data are collected mostly from Patent Information Centre set up by the department as well as from other sources such as University, College, etc. However, there is difficulty in collecting some data for patenting due to lack of proper data management policy. If there is proper data management policy, improvements could be made.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	Data are submitted by Divisional offices at regular intervals (scheme-wise) and it is assumed that these data are sufficient to meet the goals.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	TPDS is 100% digitized and the data are collected from the Department's dashboard. The digital data maintained are reliable and sufficient.
Health & Family Welfare Department	Most data are collected from units providing health services, primarily at health facilities. Many health programmes collect data through online portals. Some data are collected using paper-based reporting formats that are compiled at district level and submitted to concerned

	collecting unit. Data alone will not be sufficient to meet the goals.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	Data are collected by statistical branch from other branches which are then submitted to nodal department.
Information and Communication Technology Department	Data are mainly collected for the secondary data source such as TRAI quarterly report.
Local Administration Department	Since data are collected from various departments and since the Village Councils are not the implementing agencies, there are no proper records maintained by them. These create problems in collection of relevant and reliable data.
Lead Bank Office	Data are entered in the respective portal put through by the operating branches.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	These are the major ways in which data are collected: (1) Labour = registration (2) Employment = Online Registration (3) Skill = survey As for now these data are sufficient to reach the targets to achieve the SDGs.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	Data in Mizoram Scholarship Board is collected through National Scholarship Portal where details of information are captured, and is still considered sufficient to meet the goals.
Power & Electricity Department	Concerned Divisions/Sub-Divisions are requested to submit data in the form of reports. No challenges faced in data collection. These data are sufficient to meet the goals.
Public Health Engineering Department	The PHE Department is divided into various Divisions and is responsible for sanitation (rural) and supply of safe drinking water (rural & urban) in Mizoram. These divisions submit Monthly Progress Reports every month to the office of the Engineer in Chief which are maintained properly and data are further submitted to Planning department as per requirement.
Public Works	Data are collected from various working divisions in the

Department	department.
Rural Development Department	<p>No, there is no problem faced in collecting the data. Schemes like MGNREGA use digital platforms such as NREGASoft, PMAY-G AwaasSoft, NRLM-MIS, and LokOS for real-time data entry and monitoring. This helps maintain transparency and accuracy. Most of the data has been collected from these digital platforms. The Rural Development Department (RD) is not involved in all 16 goals on the SDG dashboard, but the data collected for some goals have been sufficient to achieve those specific SDGs</p> <p>-Besides spot verification and survey, data are collected from already available data -No problems faced in planning & proposal stage. -The sufficiency of these data to achieve the goals will be identified only after execution of the work/projects.</p>
School Education Department	Data related to SDG are collected from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) and not directly from the department. These data are primarily enrollment related.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not applicable.
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	The data are collected from the records kept by District offices. These reports are believed to be a bit unmatched with ground reality.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	There are no difficulties in collecting data. Data are collected through Poshan Tracker and by sending mail (hard or soft copies) to the concerned sub-ordinate offices such as Women Helpline, Poshan Abhiyan, Child protection Services, PMMVY.
State Election Commission	<p>All District Commissioners are appointed as District Election Officers and data are being collected through Role Revision from each District Commissioner's Office.</p> <p>No problems faced.</p>

Urban Development &Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA)Department	<p>Data are regularly submitted to Nodal Department and there are no challenges faced in collecting data.</p> <p>Efforts need to be made on all aspects in order to achieve SDG within time.</p>
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	<p>Data concerning ZEDA are sufficient and there are no problems faced in data collection.</p>

Q.10. What were the main challenges faced by the department in the initial years of SDG implementation and what are the challenges they are facing now?

SDG implement a nih tan tirh khan in department tan harsatna a awm em? Tun hnua hian enge harsatna awm thei ang?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	No challenges faced.
Commerce & Industries Department	There are no officials who are well aware of SDGs as some of them who were nodal officers in the initial years have retired.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	During the initial years of implementing SDG, there were a lot of data which were not available as expected. For example, there was difficulty in collecting data for GSDP in Tourism Sub-Sector for Mizoram since there was no such sub-sector separated yet because it was still combined with other sub-sectors.
Directorate of Science and Technology	Intellectual property management is not an easy task. In order to increase the number of patents, there needs to be improvement in infrastructure, facilities and sufficient human resources. Technological advancement creating the need for high level technology is also a huge challenge.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	There are no specific challenges which can greatly hinder the implementation.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	During the initial years, there were some challenges in using digital platforms due to lack of technical knowledge at the ground level. Hence, maintaining digital record was difficult. However, since years past, these challenges no longer persist.
Health & Family Welfare Department	-
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	No challenges faced.
Information and Communication Technology Department	Access of data for the particular indicator was quite challenging during the inception of SDG.

Local Administration Department	Lack of proper direction and lack of finance/budget.
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	No challenges faced.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	Some scholarships schemes are limited in number or specific to certain fields of study. Finding a scholarship that aligns with a student's chosen course of study can be challenging. Complex application processes are time-consuming, such as Aadhaar based registration, seeding of Aadhaar with Bank account, payment of scholarship through Aadhaar Payment Bridge is still a problem especially for those students hailing from rural areas.
Power & Electricity Department	Compensation
Public Health Engineering Department	The major problem in the beginning was that the department was allotted responsibilities that were not under its jurisdiction. This was later clarified with the Planning Department. No other problems as of now.
Public Works Department	No problem in the initial years. The major problems are: 1) Slow pace of contractors 2) Raw materials (such as sand and rocks) are not sufficiently available. 3) Less working period because of prolonged monsoon season. 4) Funds are not received at the right time.
Rural Development Department	There hasn't been a problem since it is only planning & proposal stage. However, challenges may be faced on the execution of the work. Problems such as delay of funds, delayed work due to natural disasters as well as difficulty in cooperating with the people and the environment could be faced.
School Education Department	The department is well equipped to achieve the goals if there is proper and sufficient funding in the aligned schemes and policy.

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	The main challenge faced is relating to delayed funds received under NSAP.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	No difficulty faced from beginning till now.
State Election Commission	No problems faced
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	No problems faced since initial years.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	There was a struggle in the planning process of targets and the ways to achieve them during the initial years of SDG implementation. No further problems at present.

Q.11. Do you think the department has much to contribute in attaining the goals?

In department hian SDG hlawhtlinna turin mawhpurhna ngaihin in inhria em?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	The responsibility given to the department is sufficient to achieve the goals.
Commerce & Industries Department	The department has their part to play in the process of attaining the goals.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	The data collected by the department has been very useful although the collection process has been quite challenging. This challenge can be solved and data collection will become easier if awareness is spread about the importance of collecting data to indicate the state's performance in SDG.
Directorate of Science and Technology	There is keen importance of having research base planning and management for successful implementation of SDG. If there could be more R&D (Research & Development) budget aligned to Science and Technology Department, it would be possible to have more contribution. At present, Mizoram is having one of the least budget aligned to Research & Development among the all the states/UTs in India.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	The department is giving its best efforts in their contribution towards attaining the goals.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	The department in its function is sincerely coping up with the government plan and schemes. The successful coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA (which is a central government scheme) and Non-NFSA (state government scheme) have enhanced in the fight against hunger in the remotest part of the state. However, the monthly allocation might not serve the necessities with the increasing population and the amount spent on the procurement of the Non-NFSA rice. This might serve a threat in the coming years if the domestic yield of rice is not improved. The department will try its apex strength to provide services to the people but highly depend on the amount of cultivation

	by the state or allotment received from the central government.
Health & Family Welfare Department	The department has much to contribute towards attainment of 'health' related SDGs.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	The department is working towards achieving the related goals and its contribution is hoped to be of great relevance.
Information and Communication Technology Department	Yes
Local Administration Department	Since Village Councils are under the jurisdiction of LAD, the department has a great responsibility for the success of Localization of SDG in Mizoram. However, as there are less direct schemes/funds given to the VCs in Mizoram and also since LAD is nodal department only in two (2) schemes viz. 15 th FC Grant & RGSA, not much efforts could be made besides these.
Lead Bank Office	Yes.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	Yes.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	Yes, the Department has much to contribute in attaining the goals, such as disseminating information to all school/Colleges/Institutions about eligibility criteria etc. for their students apart from giving information through print and electronic media and impart training to all school/Colleges/Institution the process involving various scholarship schemes.
Power & Electricity Department	It can be said that all initiatives taken up by the department is one way or the other related to SDG.
Public Health Engineering Department	The department makes contribution towards attaining the goals through water supply (rural & urban) and sanitation (rural).
Public Works Department	Yes, the department has a lot to contribute for the successful implementation of SDG in the state.
Rural Development Department	Yes, the Rural Development Department (RD) has a significant role to play in attaining many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Even though the department

	<p>may not be involved in all 17 goals, its work in areas like poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, infrastructure development, and social inclusion directly contributes to several key SDGs.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>SDG 1 (No Poverty): Through schemes like MGNREGA, the RD department directly addresses poverty by providing employment and improving rural infrastructure.</p> <p>SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods can contribute to food security and nutrition.</p> <p>SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Rural development projects often include efforts to improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities in rural areas.</p> <p>SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): The department's work in providing jobs and fostering economic opportunities in rural areas supports inclusive and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure): By developing rural infrastructure, the RD department supports the creation of resilient infrastructure and promotes innovation.</p> <p>SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality): The department's focus on marginalized communities helps to reduce inequalities, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>The RD department plays a critical role in advancing several SDGs and has much to contribute to their attainment.</p>
School Education Department	The department plays an important role in achieving Goal no. 4-Quality Education in the state of Mizoram.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	As mentioned in Q.2, there are numerous schemes under the department which could be instrumental in achieving the SDGs.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	Yes. The Directorate of Women and Child Development has a huge responsibility and contribution for attaining the goals.

State Election Commission	As there are no other sources to collect data of Women Representation in Elections besides SEC, it is believed that the SEC has a lot to contribute in achieving the goals.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	The Allocation of Business from State Government to UD&PA Department go hand in hand with SDG and this shows that the department has huge responsibility and also giving its best effort to achieve the goals.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	The department has a huge contribution towards attaining the goals.

Q.12. What achievements has the department made in the process of attaining the goals?

In department hian SDG atana hma in lakna kawngah hian enge hlawhtling nia in hriat?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	Schemes like Soil Health Card and Rashtriya Krishi Vikar (RKVY)/ National Food Security Mission (NFSM) have been successful.
Commerce & Industries Department	There has been an increasing number of MSME registrations and interventions such as Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP) has been quite successful.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	The department has put so much effort and contribution to the Planning Department for the successful implementation of SDG at the state level and has been members of SDG Committees and Sub-committees. The contribution that the department has made is successful.
Directorate of Science and Technology	The department has taken up certain measures to spread awareness on intellectual property among the people. Awareness and seminars have been organized and fifteen (15) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cells have been set up in educational institutions in order to spread awareness about IPR all over Mizoram. Besides this, technical works such as IPR filing and registration have been improving and there is an increasing number of registered intellectual properties.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	1) Achievements towards conservation of forest – prevention and conservation. 2) Rescue Centre for Exotic Bird Species in the process of setting up at Champhai. 3) Setting up of Nature Learning Centre at Champhai is also in the process.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	As stated above, the department is tirelessly giving its efforts for the success of the government plan and actions. Besides the stated NFSA Scheme, the department handles the movement of half yearly allotment of rice received

	through the Welfare Institute & Hostel Scheme, where the targeted beneficiaries are the orphanage homes, prisons , de-addiction centre and centres run by private establishments. The quarterly allotment received through Wheat Base Nutrition Programme and PM-POSHAN have provided a great relief in fighting against hunger throughout the entire state. These schemes have provided supplements for the children and students, providing free of cost nutrition. The department is the nodal department for the stated schemes and the success highly depends on the activity of the department.
Health & Family Welfare Department	The department has implemented interventions/schemes from Central Government ministries that are relevant to 'health' and as designed in these schemes. All the activities undertaken by H&FW Department with its partner departments and other stakeholder department have the potential to impact the attainment of SDGs.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	No specific achievement for taking up the SDG.
Information and Communication Technology Department	No specific achievement for taking up the SDG.
Local Administration Department	There has been an increasing awareness on SDG among the Village Councils and this is hoped to be resulted in their efforts towards the development of their respective villages and society.
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	The department's efforts towards achieving Goal no. 4 'Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' could be considered as the most successful.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	The achievement of the Department depends on cooperation among the stake holders such as all field level officers i.e. State Nodal Officer/District Nodal Officer/Institute Nodal Officer and Head of Institution work as a team to ensure completion of their assigned task within the time schedule.

Power & Electricity Department	<p>Achievements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Electrification (Rural & Urban) (2) Solar Generation (3) Hydel generation <p>Improvements are being made in Generation and Distribution sectors which results in the improvement of Transmission lines this can be considered as an achievement.</p>
Public Health Engineering Department	The department has made efforts and achievements in water supply (rural & urban) and sanitation (rural) for the attainment of the goals.
Public Works Department	Road construction (PMGSY) work has been quite successful.
Rural Development Department	<p>The Rural Development Department (RD) has made several notable achievements in the process of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly through its various schemes and initiatives. Here are some key accomplishments:</p> <p>Employment Generation and Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1 - No Poverty):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGNREGA: The department has successfully implemented the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), providing employment generation to rural households. This has not only alleviated poverty by ensuring a stable income but also contributed to rural infrastructure development, which is crucial for sustainable economic growth. <p>Housing for All (SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMAY-G: The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has been instrumental in achieving the goal of "Housing for All." The department has facilitated the construction of pucca houses, providing safe and sustainable housing for rural families. This directly contributes to improving living conditions and reducing vulnerabilities. <p>Empowering Women and Marginalized Communities (SDG 5 - Gender Equality and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequality):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRLM: The National Rural Livelihoods Mission

	<p>(NRLM) has empowered women and marginalized communities by organizing them into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative has enhanced their access to financial services, improved their livelihoods, and promoted social inclusion.</p> <p>Access to Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation):</p> <p>The RD department has played a key role in improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities in rural areas. Through various schemes, it has facilitated the construction of toilets and the provision of clean drinking water, contributing to better health outcomes and overall well-being.</p> <p>Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods (SDG 2 - Zero Hunger):</p> <p>The department has supported sustainable agricultural practices and diversified livelihoods in rural areas. This includes initiatives to promote organic farming, improve crop productivity, and enhance food security.</p> <p>Infrastructure Development (SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):</p> <p>The department has made significant strides in rural infrastructure development, including the construction of roads, bridges, and community facilities. This infrastructure is vital for improving connectivity, fostering economic activities, and enhancing the overall quality of life in rural areas.</p> <p>These achievements highlight the department's crucial role in advancing several SDGs, particularly in rural areas, where its impact is most profound.</p>
School Education Department	<p>The department has made the following achievements in attaining the goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Girls Hostels have been set up in all eleven districts. Two hostels have been set up in Mamit and Lawngtlai as these are categorized under special focused districts. ii. Percentage of children covered under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) have been improved. iii. A mobile app of 'Student Health Card' is being prepared. iv. Pre-School Children (Balvatika) were now included in the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme under PM-POSHAN.

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	N/A
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	The department has worked towards giving aid and assistance to the less privileged, inclusive education, improving public health and sanitation under various schemes and these are instrumental for achieving the SDGs in Mizoram.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	The department has contributed towards identifying the ground conditions of women and children which are useful data in order to achieve the goals.
State Election Commission	<p>The data collected plays an important role in realizing the role and conditions of women and their representation in elections.</p> <p>These data may be useful for improving women representation in local bodies.</p>
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	<p>There has been quite a number of successful initiatives take up by UD7PA Department which could be aligned with SDGs. Some of these schemes have also received awards at various levels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation): Incentive cash award Rs. 5.79 crore to AMRUT during 2015-19. 2) PMAY/HFA [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)/Housing for All]: Best House Construction award received every year. Lawngtlai district received Asaha India Award 2019 – Best Nagar Panchayat. 3) SBM [Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fastest Moving City in the NE zone under Swachh Surveysan 2017. • Best City in Innovation & Best Practices in NE Zone under Swachh Surveysan 2018. • Lunglei - Best City in Innovation & Best Practices in NE Zone under Swachh Surveysan 2019 (less than 1 lakh population). • Champhai – Cleanest City in NE Zone under Swachh Surveysan 2019 (less than 50000 population). • Vairengte – Best City in Solid Waste Management

	<p>in NE Zone under Swachh Surveysan 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fastest Mover State (less than 100 ULBs) 2021 • Lunglei – Best city in Citizens Feedback in NE Zone under 50k-1 lakh population, and Biate under category less than 25000 population 2021. • Lunglei – Clean city in NE Zone (50k to 1 lakh population) 2022. • Serchhip – Best City in Citizens Feedback in NE Zone (15k to 25k population) 2022. • Lunglei – clean city in NE Zone (50k to 1 lakh population) 2023. • Aizawl – Clean city within Mizoram (more than 1 lakh population) 2022. <p>4) DAY-NULM (Deen dayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission): Mizoram has been one of the best achievers in Nnortheast and Himalayan region and has received several SPARK Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019-20 – 2nd Rank • 2020-21 – 2nd Rank • 2021-22 – 1st Rank • 2022-23 – 1st Rank <p>Efforts towards Solid Waste Management, housing for Urban poor, trainings and clean water and sanitation have been improved as compared to earlier times and hence it can be said that these efforts are successful.</p>
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	<p>One major achievement of the department is that the targets set for solar installation could be achieved.</p>

Q.13. What measures were taken up for the previous MDGs?

SDG awm hmaa MDG a nih lai khan in department hnuaiah hian MDG tihlawhtling turin hmalakna a awm em?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	N/A
Commerce & Industries Department	N/A
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	N/A
Directorate of Science and Technology	No measures were taken up for MDG.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	N/A
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	Old files and records were looked up to find if there have been any measures taken under MDGs. However, records and knowledge were not found under MDGS.
Health & Family Welfare Department	<p>The following Millennium Development Goals are relevant to H&FW Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce child mortality 2. To improve maternal health 3. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases <p>It is possible that much of the activities with direct impact on MDG indicators were through national health programmes under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) - National Health Mission (NHM), the erstwhile National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).</p> <p>It is an established fact that to reduce child and maternal mortality and to bring the incidence and prevalence of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS & malaria down to the levels currently at developed nations, measures that H&FW department can undertake are insufficient.</p>

Home Department/ Police Headquarters	N/A
Information and Communication Technology Department	Under MDG we have not taken any measure. The department involvement is only from SDG.
Local Administration Department	NIL
Lead Bank Office	N/A
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	N/A
Mizoram Scholarship Board	N/A
Power & Electricity Department	N/A
Public Health Engineering Department	Yes.
Public Works Department	N/A
Rural Development Department	<p>The Rural Development Department implemented some measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015. These measures were aimed at addressing critical areas such as poverty, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Here's an overview of some key initiatives related to the MDGs:</p> <p>1. Poverty Reduction (MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger) MGNREGA: The introduction of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005 provided a legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment to rural households. This program was crucial in reducing poverty by ensuring a steady income for the rural poor and by developing rural infrastructure, which contributed to broader economic development.</p> <p>2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MDG</p>

	3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM): NRLM, launched in 2011, aimed to empower women by organizing them into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing access to credit, and promoting income-generating activities. This initiative contributed to enhancing women's economic participation and leadership roles in rural communities.
School Education Department	There were no measures taken up for MDGs.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	-
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	No initiatives taken up for MDGs as per record.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	NIL
State Election Commission	N/A
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	N/A
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	No actions were taken up for MDGs.

Q.14. Is the Planning Department cooperative with your department? Do you think Planning Dept. is actively performing to achieve the SDGs?

Planning Department nen in thawhhona a tha em? SDG hmalakna kawngah an active tawh i ti e m?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	The department is successfully cooperating with Planning Department and the Planning Department has been quite active on their part.
Commerce & Industries Department	Yes, Planning Department is cooperative by calling meetings and requesting data to be submitted.
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	As the Directorate of Economics and Statistics is a branch of the Planning Department there is good cooperation. The planning Department is taking best efforts for the successful implementation of SDG and a separate SDG Cell has been set up under the supervision of officers (Senior Grade and above).
Directorate of Science and Technology	As a branch of the Planning Department, the Directorate of Science and Technology is working in good cooperation with the nodal department. Several officers in the Directorate of Science and Technology are members of SDG Core Committee.
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department	Planning Department is coordinating the reporting of State Level SDGs to national level. The SDGs are achieved by different line departments. It was taking active role during 2016 to 2017 but however became inactive after pandemic breakout in 2020.
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer	As per the conversations and the performance observed, the Planning Department has been cooperating and prompt in

Affairs Department	actions to the requirements of the department.
Health & Family Welfare Department	Yes.
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	Planning Department has been cooperative and actively performing.
Information and Communication Technology Department	They are very proactive and cooperative.
Local Administration Department	All necessary data and actions are actively taken up as per directed by Planning Department.
Lead Bank Office	Yes
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	There is a good cooperation with Planning Department. The initiative taken by the nodal department is good enough.
Mizoram Scholarship Board	Yes, Planning Department is cooperative and actively performing well with Mizoram Scholarship Board for achieving the SDGs.
Power & Electricity Department	There is a good cooperation with Planning Department. The initiative taken by the nodal department is good enough.
Public Health Engineering Department	Planning Department has been cooperative and actively performing.
Public Works Department	There has been a good cooperation with Planning Department which has been active on its part.
Rural Development	Yes, The department has a strong working relationship

Department	with the Planning Department and they are actively contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The nodal department is active and prompt in their efforts towards SDGs.
School Education Department	Yes, there has not been any difficulty in cooperating with Planning Department.
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	Not Applicable.
Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs	No comment.
Directorate of Women & Child Development	Yes, Planning Department is cooperative with WCD. WCD believes that Planning Department is trying its level best to achieve the SDGs.
State Election Commission	Planning Department is working cooperatively with SEC.
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	Cooperation with the Planning Department excellent for the most part and it is taking active role. Nonetheless, there is always room for improvement.
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	The Planning Department is praiseworthy in its efforts towards SDG implementation.

Q.15. Are there any relevant information or something that you want to share?

SDG chungchang bikah sawi belh duh emaw hmalak zel dan tur I neih chuan khawngaihin min tarlansak dawn nia.

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Agriculture Department	NIL
Commerce & Industries Department	NIL
Directorate of Economics and Statistics	<p>Had the government based their policies on the 17 SDGs from the beginning, had the concerned departments/line departments taken measures to address the loop holes, Mizoram as a state would have benefitted more from the SDGs.</p> <p>Also, it might be that the concern is stronger on instant need rather than sustainable goals.</p>
Directorate of Science and Technology	<p>Some of the SDG indicators and targets are not able to bring out the actual picture of the state and the state has been considered to be performing lower than it actually is in some targets. Due to lack of clear cut information and ignorance among those who feed the data at all levels – local, district, state level, etc., there are cases in which reports were considered NIL for SDG indicator. Inorder to tackle this, SDG indicators should be altered in accordance with each state in which primary information will be collected and this will result in a more relevant and reliable data.</p>
Environment, Forest & Climate Change	NIL

Department	
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	The Planning Department, as stated above has been cooperative in their data for the achievement of the SGGs. However, government schemes are dynamic and have been changing according to the requirements of the public. In light of the changing nature of different schemes, series of indicator devised by the planning department needs a revision. FCS&CA Department no longer maintain records of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL). BPL beneficiaries are now being classified under NFSA and APL beneficiaries now comes under Non-NFSA. Similarly, recent enquiry from Planning Department seek for number of gas connections within a family and number of household. These data are not worked out by the department and verbal communications were made with the nodal department.
Health & Family Welfare Department	NIL
Home Department/ Police Headquarters	NIL
Information and Communication Technology Department	NIL
Local Administration Department	Targets to achieve SDG should be made achievable, inter-departmental coordination could be improved and the actual situation at ground level needs to be reflected in the data so that there will be reliable and relevant information for analysis and to achieve the goals.
Lead Bank Office	The Lead Bank works towards achieving the SDGs in such a way that the government has given state-wise budget

	which is distributed to all the banks and branches within the state.
Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department	NIL
Mizoram Scholarship Board	The role played by Mizoram Scholarship Board is not vital compare to other Department. However, a small contribution made by this Department minimized drop-out and poor and meritorious students and lighten their financial burden on Education.
Power & Electricity Department	NIL
Public Health Engineering Department	The implementing department for SDG (nodal department) needs to be cautious and more careful in directing responsibility to line departments.
Public Works Department	NIL
Rural Development Department	The concept of sustainable development has been quite new to Mizoram not only in villages but also in the city. There needs to be more awareness to spread the need and promotion of sustainable development in the state.
School Education Department	NIL
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	NIL
Directorate of Social	NIL

Welfare & Tribal Affairs	
Directorate of Women & Child Development	NIL
State Election Commission	NIL
Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department	<p>There are various efforts and initiatives that need to be done for achieving SDG some of which are as follows:</p> <p>1) SDG 2030 Goal no. 6 ‘Clean Water and Sanitation’ aligns with the works under SBM (U) including construction of both community/public toilets designed separately for men and women.</p> <p>Moreover, under SBM (U) 2.0, Solid Waste Management turned out to be one of the most significant component where certain plans have been developed for all urban towns in the State working towards safe sanitation practices.</p> <p>2) Admissible component under AMRUT 2.0 since October 2021 includes – Water supply (19 projects to be taken up), Sewerage and Septage Management (one project), Rejuvenation of water body (73 projects in 23 towns) and, Development of green spaces and parks (19 projects in 23 towns)</p>
Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA)	NIL

Q.16. In what ways does the department/directorate work to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram?

In department/directorate hian UN UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hi Mizoram-a hlawhtling taka kalpui a nihtheih nan engtinngheh in lak?

NAME OF DEPARTMENT	ANSWERS
Local Administration Department	<p>Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken up Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) for the achievement of SDG. Here, the 17 goals of SDG were clubbed together into nine (9) themes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood (ii) Healthy Village (iii) Child friendly Village (iv) Water Sufficient Village (v) Clean and Green Village (vi) Village with self-sufficient Infrastructure (vii) Socially Just and Socially Secured village (viii) Village with Good Governance (ix) Women Friendly Village. <p>LAD is the Nodal Department in the 15th Finance Commission Rural Local Body Grant. Village Councils select their own Sankalp (resolution) among the nine themes during the award</p>

	<p>period of 2022-2023 and related works are selected under 15th Finance Commission Grant (Untied Grant). The implementation and achievement of this work is then added to the plan.</p> <p>‘Training and capacity building programmes’ on SDG are carried out to Village Councils by SIRD&PR, Government of Mizoram under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a centrally sponsored scheme undertaken by LAD. Besides this, various actions such as construction of VC Houses, distribution of computers for Village Councils, providing Common Service Centres were undertaken including projects to uplift and improve Village Councils and Self Help Groups for economic and sustainable livelihood.</p>
State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR)	<p>‘Training and capacity building programmes’ on SDG are carried out to Village Councils by SIRD&PR, Government of Mizoram under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).</p>
Lead Bank	<p>The government has given state-wise budget which is distributed to all the banks and branches within the state.</p>

APPENDIX-F

ANSWERS GIVEN BY PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT (NODAL DEPARTMENT) BASED ON QUESTIONS ASKED RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Q.1. In what ways does the department work to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram?

(In department hian UN UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hi Mizoram-a hlawhtling taka kalpui a nih theih nan engtin nge hma in lak?)

Answer: Planning & Programme Implementation Department is the nodal department for monitoring and implementation of SDG in the State. Technical committee is constituted for formulation of state indicator frameworks which monitors SDG at village, district, urban body and state level. Mizoram is the first state within the country to take SDG at the grassroots level. 3 local indices have been formulated for monitoring of SDG in the state namely – Composite Indicator Framework (State and District level), Urban Indicator Framework (Urban Local Body- AMC & LMC) and Village Indicator Framework (Village).

Q. 2. How are the Nodal Officers nominated and appointed in the respective line departments? Are there any criteria/qualifications?

(Engtin nge department tinah SDG Nodal Officer ruat an nih thin? Criteria/qualification ngai bik a awm em?)

Answer: Nodal officers for line departments are appointed by their respective offices from those officers whom they see fit and there are no specific criteria or qualifications for it.

Q. 3. Which schemes/govt. policies and programmes (past govt. or new govt.) under the department are aligned or related to achieving the SDGs?

(In department hnuaia Central emaw State atanga schemes/govt. policies and programmes awm te hi SDG nen inkungkaina an nei em? Engte hi nge SDG achieve-na tura hman tangkai theih?)

Answer: All the CSS, State Schemes and Govt. Policies and Programmes are aligned with the indicators during the formulation of the different index for the achievement of SDG.

Q. 4. What new initiatives (besides aligning existing policies/programmes) have been taken up by the department towards achieving the SDGs?

(In hmalakna awm sa SDG nen in align bakah hian SDG tan bika thil thar tih/ hman lak tharin nei em? Engte nge?)

Answer: Best performing villages and localities have been awarded with Project Incentive Award for the development of their respective village/ locality in achieving the SDG's. Low performing villages/localities will also be place under the Reform Action Plan so that there can be an intervention for development through SDG-GPDP convergence, SDG-CSR convergence or it may also be placed under SDG shelf of projects.

Q. 5. Does the department set up a separate budget for the SDGs?

(In department hian SDG achieve-na turin budget siam emaw sum hmuh in nei em?)

Answer: Yes

Q. 6. Is the monitoring framework proposed difficult to comply with your department? How does the department go about it?

(SDG atan monitoring framework a ruahman awm te in tihlawhtling zel thei em? Engtin nge in lo bawhzui thin?)

Answer: There is not much difficulty with the proposed monitoring framework.

Q. 7. How often do line departments submit reports to nodal department?

(Engtia zingin nge line department ten Planning Department-ah report an theihluh thin?)

Answer: Line departments submit their report on an annual basis.

Q. 8. Has the line departments met the targets mentioned in SDG Dashboard up till now? How far have they met the targets since the base-line data? What efforts have been taken to meet the targets?

(SDG Dashboard siama target kum bithliaha siam kha line department ten an meet thei em? Eng chinah nge an hlawhtlin a? Engtin nge hma lak a nih?)

Answer: Kindly look up at SDG India Index and Performance.

Q. 9. Which is the most successful intervention/scheme aligned with SDG and which one is the most difficult to implement?

(SDG kaihnawih hmalakna emaw scheme zingah hian in department tan enge hlawhtling ber? Enge hmalak harsa ber?)

Answer: It may be clarified that central schemes are not formulated specifically to achieve SDG's; rather, existing schemes that have some bearing on certain SDG's are identified. Having stated that, Mizoram has performed well in Goal 6-Clean Water & Sanitation which is affected by the scheme 'Swachh Bharat Mission.' The performance of Mizoram in the implementation of SBM has been recognized by Government of Mizoram through awards and citation. Similarly, the most difficult

scheme to implement is rather hard to state as none of the schemes are formulated entirely for achieving SDG's alone.

Q.10. How are the data collected and are there any problems faced in data collection? Do you think these data are sufficient to meet the goals?

(Engtin nge data te hi collect an nih a, harsatna awm te a awm em? Heng data hmanga target the hi SDG achieve na turin tawh I ti em?)

Answer: Data for Village Indicator Framework is collected by the Village Council, Local Councils collect Urban Indicator Framework and Composite Indicator Framework is collected by concerned line Departments. Collection of timely and accurate data is one of the main problems faced in data collection. SDG index is just for monitoring of SDG's and target setting and does not incorporate mechanisms to effective change.

Q.11. What were the main challenges faced by the department in the initial years of SDG implementation and what are the challenges they are facing now?

(SDG implement a nih tan turh khan in department tan harsatna a awm em? Tun hnua hian enge harsatna awm thei ang?)

Answer: Some of the main challenges faced in SDG implementation are as follows:

- i. In the initial years, there was lack of clarity on how to measure or attain SDG by Government of India.

Presently-

- ii. Multiplicity of Indices that are not aligned with each other.
- iii. Collection of timely and accurate data.
- iv. SDG indices does not incorporate mechanisms to make effective change, it is just an index for measurement and target setting.

Q. 12. Do you think the department has much to contribute in attaining the goals?

(In department hian SDG hlawhtlinna turin mawhphurhna ngaihin in inhria em?)

Answer: Planning and Programme Implementation Department is nodal Department for SDG and works with NITI AAYOG and UNDP to achieve the Goals.

Q.13. What achievements has the department made in the process of attaining the goals?

(In department hian SDG atana hma in lakna kawngah hian enge hlawhtling nia in hriat?)

Answer: SDG Dashboard for Mizoram in collaboration with UNDP is currently under progress and to be launched soon for better monitoring and implementation of the goals. The Department has also proposed for the creation of ‘SDG Model Village’ where all line departments will focus on the smooth implementation of CSS within the village and ‘SDG Focus Village’ where each SDG theme will be adopted by the concerned line departments.

Q.14. What measures were taken up for the previous MDGs (Millennium Development Goals)?

(SDG awm hmaa MDG a nih lai khan in department hnuaiah hian MDG (Millennium Development Goals) tihlawhtling turin hmalakna a awm em?)

Answer: Millenium Development Goals were not adopted at the state level.

Q.15. Are the line departments cooperative with Planning Department in their respective responsibilities towards achieving SDGs? Do you think line departments are taking active roles?

(Line department leh Planning Department te SDG tihhlawhtlin kawngah in thawh hona a tha em? SDG hmalakna kawngah line department te an active tawh i ti em?)

Answer: Line Departments are very active and cooperative for the achievement of SDG in the state.

Q. 16. Has there been any training on SDGs held for officials/ staffs working in their respective line departments?

(SDG kaihhnawihah office- thawk te puala ttraning neih tawh a ni em?)

Answer: Capacity building is often carried out with line departments whenever new SDG index is formulated.

Q.17. Has there been any workshops held in the districts on SDGs?

(District level-ah SDG pualin workshop neih a ni tawh em?)

Answer: SDG workshop has been conducted in all the districts.

Q.18. How many consultants has there been in the SDG Cell? Can you please mention their names and year of service?

(SDG Cell-ah consultant engzat nge lo awm tawh?An hming leh thawh kum khawngaiha min tarlansak theih chuan?)

Answer:

1. Pu Lalengkima (2018-2019)
2. Pu C Lalnunmawia (2018-2020)
3. Pu Lalchhuanawma Hrahsel (2020-2022)
4. Dr. C. Vanlalzawna (2018-2022)
5. Pi Rosangzuali Chawngthu (2023-till date)
6. Pi Zopuii Khiangte (2023- till date)

Q.19. As per information from the ‘Progress Report on SDG Implementation in Mizoram 2019-2020’, Consultative Meeting on SDGs with District Line Departments have been taken up in 6 districts. Have they also been taken up in the remaining 5 districts including Aizawl and Champhai?

(‘Progress Report on SDG Implementation in Mizoram 2019-20’ tiha kan hmuh angin SDG puala Consultative Meeting hi District Line Departments te nen district 6-a neih tawh a ni a. District dang 5 ah te hian neih ve tawh a ni em?)

Answer: SDG Consultative meeting has been conducted in all the districts within Mizoram

Q.20. Are there any monetary support given for data collection? If yes, how much?

(Data collecton atan sum hmuh/pekchhuah a awm em? Awm chuan engzat nge?)

Answer: A sum of Rs. 3000/- is given to the respective Village/Local council for collection of data.

Q.21. What exactly comprises ‘Reform Action Plan’ mentioned in the Localization of SDG Plan of Action document?

(Localization of SDG Plan of Action hnuaia ‘Reform Action Plan’ kan hmuh hi engtin taka kalpui turin nge ruahman a nih?)

Answer: Good performing villages/localities are awarded with project incentive award and low performing villages will be identified under Reform Action Plan. Through the RAP, there will be SDG-GPDP convergence, Policy Reform, SDG-CSS convergence and SDG based Shelf of Projects - gap filling intervention for possible funding under MDoNER, NEC, Art. 275(1), PMJVK, GPDP, SEDP, CSR, PMDevINE etc

Q.22. Are there any relevant information or something that you want to share?

(SDG chungchang bikah sawi belh duh emaw hmalak zel dan tur I neih chuan khawngaihin min tarlansak dawn nia.)

Answer: NIL

PHOTO PLATE:Glimpses of field work.



Interview with Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga (IES), Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Government of India at his residence in New Delhi on 10th May, 2022.



Interview with Mr. Lalmalsawma Pachuau (IRS), Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at his office in Aizawl on 27th April, 2022.



SDG banner at SDG Cell/ Coordination Centre, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.



Interview with Zopuii Khiangte, SDG Consultant, SDG Coordination Centre/SDG Cell, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at her office in Aizawl on 13th April, 2023



Interview with Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 22nd May, 2024.



Interview with Vanlalchhuanawma Chawngthu, SPIO/Deputy Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram at Secretariat building on 11th June, 2024.



Interview with Lalbiakthanga Khiangte (IPS) IGP & H.L.Thangzuala (MPS) Assistant IGP, Home Department at Police Headquarters office on 13th June, 2024.





Interview with B. Sanga Ralte, Assistant Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Mizoram at his office on 13th June, 2024



A visit to Directorate of Science and Technology, Government of Mizoram 12th June, 2024



Interview with Remeses Hualhunchunga, Assistant, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 21st May, 2024



Interview with R Vanrengpuia, Deputy Secretary & B. Lalbiakmawii, LDC, State Election Commission, Government of Mizoram at their office on 14th June, 2024.



A visit to School Education Department, Government of Mizoram on 5th June, 2024.



Interaction with TJ Lalnuntluanga, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Mizoram.



Visit to NITI Aayog office in New Delhi on 22nd October, 2024.



With SDG Banner at the office of Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram.



At the SDG Local/ Grassroot Index Ranking Award Programme organized by Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram on 11th August, 2023.

Glimpses of some offices visited during field work:





- Glimpses of some libraries visited:



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List of persons interviewed:

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Interview with Mr. Lalmalsawma Pachuau (IRS), Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at his office in Aizawl on 27th April, 2022.

Interview with Mr. Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo, Research Officer, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at his office in Aizawl on 13th April, 2023.

Interview with Zopuii Khiantge, SDG Consultant, SDG Coordination Centre/SDG Cell, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at her office in Aizawl on 13th April, 2023.

Interview with Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 22nd May, 2024.

Interview with Mr. Lalhmunsiamia, Additional Director, Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 9th May, 2024.

Interview with B. Sanga Ralte, Assistant Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Mizoram at his office on 13th June, 2024

Interview with Joel Lalbiakkima, Scientific Officer, Directorate of Science and Technology, Government of Mizoram at his office on 12th June, 2024

Interview with Arti Chaudhary, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 24th May, 2024

Interview with Remeses Hualhunchhunga, Assistant & MS Thuamliaana, LDC, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 21st May, 2024

Interview with Vanlalchhuanawma Chawngthu, SPIO/Deputy Secretary & Dr. Lalthanpuui, Joint Director (G) & State Public Information Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram at Secretariat building on 11th June, 2024.

Interview with Lalbiakthanga Khiantge (IPS) IGP& H.L.Thangzuala (MPS) Assistant IGP, Home Department at Police Headquarters office on 13th June, 2024.

Interview with Vanlalringa, Senior Informatics Officer & Lalengzuala, Informatics Officer, Information and Communication Technology Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 6th June, 2024.

Interview with Dorothy Muansangi, Deputy Director (Labour), Local Administration Department, Government of Mizoram at her office on 13th June, 2024.

Interview with Robert Zosangliana, Lead District Manager, Lead Bank through telephone on 19th June, 2024

Interview with Lalmuanpuia Fanai, Deputy Director, Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 11th June, 2024.

Interview with Er. Lalmuankima Sailo, Under Secretary, Mizoram Scholarship Board, Government of Mizoram at his office on 30th May, 2024.

Interview with Er. Laltlanthanga, Superintending Engineer (Planning) & Lalmalsawmi, Assistant Engineer, Power & Electricity Department, Government of Mizoram at their office Kawlphetha on 11th June, 2024

Interview with Er. Lalsanga, Executive Engineer & R. Laltleipuii, Assistant Engineer (Monitoring I), E-in-C Office, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024.

Interview with David Sapa, Chief Engineer & Pazawna, Superintending Engineer (Planning), E-in-C Office, Public Works Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 10th May, 2024.

Interview with Denny Lalchhuanawma, Under Secretary & Lalbiakdika, Rural Development Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024

Interview with K. Zohlupuii, Office Assistant, School Education Department, Government of Mizoram at her office on 5th June, 2024.

Interview with Ethel Rothangpuii, Director, State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Government of Mizoram at her office on 21st June, 2024

Interview with Zorinpuii, Superintendent & Vanlaltlana, Field Facilitator, Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024.

Interview with Lalthamawia, Data Entry Operator, Directorate of Women & Child Development, Government of Mizoram at his office on 6th June, 2024

Interview with R Vanrengpuia, Deputy Secretary & B. Lalbiakmawii, LDC, State Election Commission, Government of Mizoram at their office on 14th June, 2024.

Interview with B. Lalchhandama, Research Officer & RK Lalrinawma, Inspector of Statistics, Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 11th June, 2024.

Interview with Thantluanga, Assistant Engineer, Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA), Government of Mizoram through telephone on 20th June, 2024.

List of libraries visited:

Central Library, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram

Mizoram State Library (Central State Library), Aizawl, Mizoram.

North-Eastern Hill University Library, NEHU, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Central Library, University of Delhi, New Delhi.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi.

Christ University Library, Christ University, Bangalore, Karnataka.

Ananda Rangapillai Library, Pondicherry University, Puducherry.

Central Library, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi

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HSSLC (Arts)	Central Board of School Education	2014	Distinction
Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)	University of Delhi	2017	I
Master of Arts (Political Science)	University of Delhi	2019	II
UGC-NET	-	2019	Eligible for Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Registraion No. and Date : MZU/Ph.D./1594 OF 02.11.2020

List of Publications:

1. Lalruatsangi. (2023, October to December). Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of Government in Mizoram. *Indian Journal of Political Science* (A UGC-Care Listed Journal). Volume LXXXIV , Number 04 (ISSN 0019-5510)
2. Lalruatsangi. (2023, October). Sustainable Development Goals and their Environmental Implications. *American Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Development* (An Indexed, Refereed and Peer-reviewed Journal). Volume 05, Issue 10 (ISSN 2360-821X)

List of Paper Presentations:

1. Presented a paper entitled *Reinventing Rural Economy in Mizoram: An Overview of the Role of Micro-Enterprises* at the **National Conference on Reinventing Rural Economy: Key to Economic Revival, Countering Poverty and Unemployment** organized by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj-North Eastern Regional Centre, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India at Guwahati on 21-22nd March, 2022.
2. Presented a paper entitled *Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of Government in Mizoram* at the **National Seminar on Local Governance & Management in Northeast India** organized by Dept. of Management, Mizoram University & Sponsored by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development , Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India at Mizoram University on 26-27th May, 2022.
3. Presented a paper entitled *Changes and Development in Mizoram since Independence: Sustainable Development Goals* at the **National Seminar on Mizoram Since Independence: Changes and Development in Polity and Society** jointly organized by Mizoram Political Science Association (MIPSA) & Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Mamit College at Govt. Mamit College, Mamit, Mizoram on 6-7th October, 2022.

4. Presented a paper entitled *Towards Sustainable Tourism in Mizoram: Socio-Economic Aspect* at the **International Conference on Redefining Tourism Through G20's Key Priority Areas (KPA's)** organized by Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Mizoram University & Sponsored by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at Mizoram University, Mizoram on 18-19th May, 2023.
5. Presented a paper entitled *Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram: An Administrative Evaluation* at the **International Seminar on Recent Trends in Public Administration: G20 Perspectives** organized by Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University at Mizoram University, Mizoram on 23-24th May, 2023.
6. Presented a paper entitled *Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram and it's Interrelations with India's G20 Presidency* at the **National Seminar on Navigating G20's Presidency: Strategizing India's Leadership** organized by Department of Political Science, Pachhunga University College at Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Mizoram on 1st-2nd June, 2023.
7. Presented a paper entitled *An Analytical Study on Sustainable Development Goals and India's G20 Presidency in Mizoram Context* at the **National Seminar on India and G20: Setting A Global Agenda** organized by Department of Political Science, Mizoram University at Mizoram University, Mizoram on 8-9th June, 2023.
8. Presented a paper entitled *Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram: An Evaluative Study* at the **All India Political Science Conference and International Seminar on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future of the Indian Political Science Association (IPSA)** organized by Indian Political Science Association (IPSA) & Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha (Maharashtra) at Wardha, Maharashtra 9-10th, September, 2023.
9. Presented a paper entitled *Bonds of Brotherhood and Ancestral Unity* at the **National Seminar on The Politics of Boundaries: Mapping the Mizo Ethnic Territorial and Cultural Space** organized by Mizoram Political Science Association (MIPSA) & Government T. Romana College at

Government T. Romana College, Aizawl, Mizoram on 1st-2nd November, 2023.

10. Presented a paper entitled *Navigating the Path to Sustainable Development: Mizoram's Pursuit of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Impending Challenges* at the ICSSR, New Delhi sponsored **National Seminar on Sustainable Development in India: Prospects and Challenges** organized by Department of Economics, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Jakhama, Kohima Nagaland & Sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Jakhama, Kohima Nagaland on 10-11th November, 2023.
11. Presented a paper entitled *Integrating Sustainable Development Goals in Northeast India* at the **23rd Annual Conference of NEIPSA & International Conference on Security, Development and Identity: Contestations and Convergences in the Politics of North-East India** organized by Department of Political Science, Tripura University at Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura on 5-6th February, 2024.
12. Presented a paper *entitled Nature & Evolution of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* at the **One Day International Conference on 'Literature, Cultural Studies, Education and Social Science (ICLCSESS)** jointly organized by Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences Research (CHSSR) & IQAC, Government Saitual College, Saitual Mizoram at Government Saitual College, Saitual, Mizoram on 4th September, 2024.
13. Presented a paper entitled *Local Efforts and Environmental Sustainability in Mizoram* at the **61st All India Political Science Conference & International Seminar on 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'** organized by Indian Political Science Association & Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner (Rajasthan) at Rajasthan on 18-19th October, 2024.
14. Presented a paper entitled *Edible Flowers –Promoting Sustainability Through Beauty in Mizoram* at the **National Seminar on Breaking Barriers: Paradigm Shift in Socio-political and Cultural Discourse of North-East India** organized by Mizoram Christian College, Mizoram at Aijal Club on 5-6th June, 2025.

PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE

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DEGREE	:	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT	:	POLITICAL SCIENCE
TITLE OF THESIS	:	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY
DATE OF ADMISSION	:	02.11.2020
APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL	:	
1. DRC	:	25/03/2021
2. BOS	:	12/05/2021
3. SCHOOL BOARD	:	18/05/2021
MZU REGISTRATION NO.	:	2100110 of 2021
Ph.D. REGISTRAIONAND DATE	:	MZU/Ph.D./1594 of 02.11.2020
EXTENTION IF ANY	:	NIL

(Head of Department)

Department of Political Science

ABSTRACT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY

**AN ABSTRACT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**

LALRUATSANGI

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**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DECEMBER 2024**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MIZORAM:
AN EVALUATIVE STUDY**

By
LALRUATSANGI
Department of Political Science

Supervisor
Prof. JANGKHONGAM DOUNGEL

Submitted
In partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in Political Science of Mizoram University, Aizawl.

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks to examine the status and role of government in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ in Mizoram. Sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). Sustainable development arises from the notion and understanding that development can be destructive. If development is taking place without proper utilization of resources and consideration of its future effects, it can be very harmful and dangerous for the environment and the people as well as animals living in it and hinders the economic growth in the long run. However, technology and social organization can be both managed and improved to pave the way for a new era of economic growth.²

The concept of sustainable development has dominated the international agenda since the 1990s and has been embraced by governments at all levels, most notably since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio³. This concept further evolved into a set of goals, an extension of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be achieved by Member States of the United Nations by 2030 presented in a blueprint called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.

The 17 SDGs with 169 targets and 247 indicators focus on three elements: Economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Countries of the world are striving to achieve these goals and are moving forward with the aim of integrating all efforts towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient future. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the SDG framework does not distinguish between “developed” and “developing” nations. Instead, these goals apply to all countries. There is a growing need and importance in understanding the inter-linkages among

¹ The abbreviation will be used henceforth.

² Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future.

³ Richard Munton & Kevin Collins (1998). *Government Strategies for Sustainable Development*. Geography. 83(4), pp. 346-357.

the goals and between the targets for integrated governance and policy coherence in implementing the SDGs.

The SDGs have been adopted by the UN Member States and they have been implemented at various levels such as national level, sub-national level or state level, district level and village level.

SDGs AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

India, as a Member State of the United Nations and a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has played an important role in shaping the SDGs. Its national development targets are reflected in the SDGs and it can also be said that India had been effectively committed to achieving SDGs even before they were formally crystallized. India has a federal structure of government and therefore, the responsibilities have been divided among different bodies that will lead the efforts of implementing ministries, departments and agencies at the central and state levels. The responsibility to provide the overall coordination and leadership of the UN's agenda 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (called as SDGs) is vested in the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

Several forums have been organized by the Indian Parliament for policy and action development perspectives on the elimination of poverty, promotion of gender equality and addressing climate change. Hence, it is evident that the country's commitment to the national development agenda is reinforced. To spread awareness about the Goals, unify stakeholders and build capacities for the realization of SDGs, NITI Aayog has organized several consultations at national and regional level. The NITI Aayog has also carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 goals and 169 targets to Nodal Central Ministries, centrally sponsored schemes and major government initiatives. A mapping of the SDGs and targets has been carried out in a similar manner by most sub-national governments to the departments and programs in their respective states. The ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation has

developed a list of draft national indicators along the lines of the global SDG indicators.⁴

In order to coordinate the review and process of documentation, the NITI Aayog set up a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Task Force. State and Union Territory governments report on their perspectives and progress on the various programs and initiatives at the sub-national level. The VNR Task Force review the information collected from the different sources, deliberated upon them and analyzed and covered them in a report submitted to the High Level Political Forum of the United Nations. A state wise rank and performance index is also prepared by the NITI Aayog every year since 2018.

SDGs AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

At the sub-national level or state level in India, the 28 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs) are mapping SDG goals and targets in their respective development design and objectives. The 15-year vision strategy roadmaps are prepared by the state governments and they are now at various stages. Strategic insights from the national development and 2030 agenda have been coordinated by most of the state governments with their own specific context and priorities. At the sub-national or state level the State Planning and Development Department take up the responsibility for implementing and facilitating the process of SDGs by providing the necessary information and support.

The Economic Survey 2020-21 reported that *localization of SDGs is crucial to any strategy aimed at achieving the goals under the 2030 Agenda*. This essentially involves the process of adapting, planning, implementing and monitoring the SDGs from national to local levels by pertinent institutions and stakeholders. The SDG India Index and Dashboard, designed and developed by NITI Aayog, is the principal tool to measure and monitor SDG performance at the national and sub-national levels. With the Central Government's support and with the help of allied institutions, the states are institutionally empowered and positioned to achieve the

⁴ VNR Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to the UN High Level Political Forum, 2017

SDGs. The States are the key actors in the process of localization of SDGs with the Central Government playing an enabling role.⁵

SDGs IN MIZORAM

India is a signatory to UN's Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is adopted by 193 countries at the 70th Summit of UN on 25th September 2015 and came into force on 1st January 2016. India being a signatory, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India and National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog have done many exercises on the indicators.

So far as has been reported by NITI Aayog in its baseline-index reports, Mizoram is occupying a front position in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. In Mizoram, Planning and Programme Implementation Department is the Nodal Department. A State level Monitoring Committee on SDGs has been established on August, 2016 which comprises of Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram as the Chairman, Planning Secretary as a Member Secretary of the Committee and Secretaries of all line Departments are members of this Committee.

An enthusiastic SDG Cell/SDG Coordination Centre has officially been established by Planning & Programme Implementation Department. A Technical Committee on SDGs under the Chairmanship of Director, Economics and Statistics is also set up to prepare and finalise schematic indicators for the goals and mapping of concerned Departments/Offices have also been done. On the basis of Schematic Indicators for the Goals, Baseline Data (2015-2016 or latest) and targets for 2019-20, 2024-25, 2029-30 are collected by the Technical Committee from concerned departments/offices.

The Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram has prepared Vision Document 2030 Mizoram with the baseline-inputs. It

⁵ Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2020). *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*. Economic Survey 2020-21, Vol. 2, p. 206-207

includes 15 years' vision, 7 years' strategy and three years' action plan anchored in and within the framework of New Economic Development Policy of the State Government. Data is collected each year starting from the baseline data, which will be continued till 2029-2030 from concerned departments/offices for evaluating and estimating as to whether the targets are properly approached or not. Furthermore, SDGs are localized down to the district level by means of customised SDGs Schematic Indicators at the district level. The District Planning Committee is given the responsibility as monitoring machinery for this.

There are many challenges the state could face in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram and the development strategy for the people will have to be participatory and should be calibrated in their own setting.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The scholar reviewed 10 articles, 14 books, and 3 reports. The literature review indicates a substantial body of work on sustainable development. There is a small amount of literature regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and no targeted study has been conducted on SDGs in Mizoram. The introduction of SDGs by the United Nations has alarmed governments, economists, research scholars, entrepreneurs and humanity as a whole. SDGs were very recently implemented in Mizoram and hence it is clear that there is huge research gap in this field. The scholar examines the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram to address existing gaps in the literature within the field.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Sustainable Development is a concept that is one of the most discussed topics in the international arena. It is adopted at the national level by NITI Aayog, the nodal agency at the national level in India, and by the Planning and Implementation Department at the sub-national level or state level. The 17 SDGs with 169 targets and 304 indicators focuses on three elements; Economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. With such an importance given to the SDGs at the international level and down to the local level, there are many

challenges in its successful implementation especially in a backward state like Mizoram where development needs to be carried out at the grass-root level.

Mizoram is one of the smallest states in India located in the north eastern region. Although the state is backward in economy, infrastructure and other areas, the literacy rate is remarkably high as compared to many other Indian states. This suggests that there is scope for a successful sustainable development. Development can be destructive and for a state like Mizoram, the implementation of development in a sustained manner is a new challenge for the people and the government. Most of the people in Mizoram are tribal people and they have close connection with the natural environment. Sustainable development will enable a suitable environment where the people will live prosperous lives in their natural settings, preserving their identity and culture while at the same time leaving room for future generations to flourish. Hence, the Government must ensure that the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram is judiciously prioritized and adopted in accordance with local challenges, capacities and resources available.⁶

There have not been many significant researches towards this approach and this study aims to provide more information and add to the literature in the field for further studies. The information collected could serve as a tool for transparency and accountability in the state government's aim to achieve these goals and will also create better awareness among the people of Mizoram.

This research will also have a prospect of influencing further initiatives of the state government towards attaining its vision for the SDGs in Mizoram and influence or inspire other states as well.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study provides an overview of the role and functions of the state government in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram. It examines the nature and evolution of the UN's SDGs in the international and national levels. It further examines the procedures in the establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

⁶ Economic Survey 2019-20, Government of Mizoram.

Development by the state government in Mizoram. The research is largely based upon the administrative functioning of the state government in their effort towards SDG implementation in the state. It also studies the problems and challenges faced by the state government including future prospects in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research constitutes a pioneering evaluative study of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, as no prior thesis has comprehensively assessed the Government of Mizoram's implementation of SDGs within the state. Through this study the government can evaluate its performance on the 17 goals and targets. It can also identify areas for improvement with the help of this research. It also has the prospect to impact future actions by the government. There have not been many noteworthy studies on this strategy, therefore this will contribute to the body of knowledge as well as expertise in the subject for future study. The data gathered will be used as a tool to increase openness in the government's efforts to accomplish these objectives and raise awareness among the people of Mizoram.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The research is subject to certain limitations. A notable limitation is that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a fledgling program now still in progress, with 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. A further limitation is related to the data collection method, which includes both the researcher and the line departments responsible for the SDGs. A multitude of challenges, such as time constraints and the accessibility of relevant documents and individuals, together with insufficient recordkeeping and office documentation, have hindered the comprehensive execution of the investigation. The issue of collaboration within line departments was encountered, necessitating the collection of certain information through the submission of Right to Information (RTI) requests.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
2. To examine the initiatives taken by the state government in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram.
3. To analyze the challenges being faced by the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram.
4. To evaluate the performance of the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What are the initiatives taken by the state government in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram?
3. What are the problems and challenges faced by the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs?
4. What are the achievements of the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram?

METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative in nature. The approach is both analytical and descriptive. The research employs primary and secondary data sources. The Primary data is collected through schedule, interview and observation method. It aims to give an insight into the role of the government of Mizoram towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the state by providing a detailed report on the implementation of the SDGs in the state. It is analytical in nature as it also aims to analyze its performance, effectiveness, challenges and future prospects at various levels.

Interviews are conducted with 39 government officials, particularly the officials from the nodal department as well as officials from 24 concerned departments known as line departments.

Moreover, semi-structured interviews are conducted with policymakers, experts, and local leaders to gain in-depth insights into the challenges and strategies related to SDGs. A purposive sampling method is used for interviews and focus groups to select participants who are knowledgeable about the SDGs in Mizoram. Besides leading government officials of stakeholder departments, high-level monitoring committee members, technical committee members, partner members and relevant persons are interviewed by employing semi-structured interviews and telephone interviews. Questionnaires are distributed among the concerned government officials of line departments and monitoring committee members at the state level and district level. Primary sources encompass government notifications, gazette publications, government data, and information obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, among others. Secondary data include books, newspapers, journal articles, video clips and magazines.

Also, the research is interdisciplinary in nature as the concept of SDGs is relevant not only in Political Science but also in Economics, Environment, and Sociology and there have been multiple studies of this topic in other fields. Opinions and perceptions of people who belong to government institutions and community organizations are used in this study.

CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter is an introductory part of the thesis. It gives an overview of the research topic and it includes review of literature, research problems, research objectives, research questions, research methodology, scope of the study, significance of the study and limitations of the study. As it is the first part of the thesis, it highlights a brief outline of the concept of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its relevance in the present world condition.

Chapter II: Nature and Evolution of Sustainable Development Goals.

The second chapter deals with the nature and evolution of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It traces back a series of events that have led to the adoption of

the Millennium Development Goals that further evolved into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It looks into the nature of the SDGs by analyzing the preamble and declaration of the UN member states in their adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the main targets and indicators of the 17 SDGs and further gives a brief note on the implementation process.

Chapter III: Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram.

Chapter three deals with how the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being implemented in the state of Mizoram. It first gives a detailed account of how the SDGs are implemented at various levels such as national level, state level and local level. It provides a detailed account on the key priorities and the process of implementation and the initiatives taken by the state government. It looks into the baseline data of various goals, indicators and the targets to be achieved by 2030. It also looks into the various initiatives taken by the Government of Mizoram in the implementation of SDGs in the state.

Chapter IV: Problems and Challenges of Implementation

This chapter covers the problems and challenges faced by the state government in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram. It explores the limitations and difficulties as well as challenges encountered over the process of implementation. It first looks into the possible and ongoing problems of SDG implementation from various existing literature. The chapter includes an analysis of the interview of the nodal department for SDG in the state, i.e. the Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram as well as various line/concerned departments to find out the major problems and challenges faced in the implementation of SDGs in the state.

Chapter V: State Government and its Achievements.

This chapter describes the achievements of the state government in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram at different levels such as state level, district level and village level. It first looks into various existing literature to find out the major achievements that the state has attained towards SDGs. The chapter

provides an analysis of the interview of the nodal department for SDG in the state, i.e. Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram as well as various line/concerned departments to find out the achievements and successes that the state has attained in the implementation of SDGs in the state.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

This concluding chapter is analytical, summing up interpretation of all the previous chapters. It includes the summary, significance of the study, limitations of the study, major findings of the study and recommendations and suggestions to the research problems. It also consists of a brief overview of the status of Mizoram in the most recent SDG India Index (2023-24).

FINDINGS:

The major findings of the study are as follows:

Nature and Evolution

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a collection of global objectives designed to tackle various social, economic, and environmental issues while fostering sustainable development globally. Since its adoption in 2015, the UN and numerous parties have endeavored to advance and execute the SDGs worldwide. Governments, civil society, the commercial sector, and international organisations are collaborating to attain the objectives by 2030. The UN Sustainable Development Goals constitute a holistic framework for tackling global issues and advancing sustainability. They originated from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are supplemented by specific objectives and indicators, and emphasize inclusiveness and universality. Towards the end of the time allocated for the MDGs, there was an urge to develop a broader set of objectives, focusing on economic, social, and environmental aspects, and transforming relations between developing and developed countries. This resulted in a shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Tracking advancement and promoting cooperation are essential to their success.

The fundamental nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lies in their profound contribution to nature and the environment. The Sustainable Development Goals and goals acknowledge the essential role of a healthy environment in addressing contemporary challenges, including food and water security, poverty, and climate change. It recognises the imperative to conserve the environment for its intrinsic value and to guarantee that by 2030, the demands of over 9 billion individuals may be fulfilled. The SDGs are inherently related to the environmental as it was observed that many of the goals have direct dependence on thriving ecosystems, biodiversity and its impacts such as clean water, climate regulation and fertile soils. This is evident from the SDG goals such as SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Other goals also take parts the responsible management of natural resources and the shift toward renewable energy such as SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). These goals, although indirectly, reinforce the interrelationship between ecological integrity and human well-being.⁷

Since the 1990s, governments at all levels have adopted the concept of sustainable development, especially following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. This concept evolved into a set of targets, an extension of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that United Nations Member States are required to achieve by 2030. This initiative is referred to as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A decade of efforts by nations and the UN, particularly the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has culminated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Initiatives taken by the state government in the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram

The implementation strategy for SDGs in Mizoram includes the creation of a comprehensive monitoring system, which comprises committees at the state, district, and village levels responsible for gathering baseline data and monitoring progress. Regional workshops and sensitisation sessions have enhanced collaboration and

⁷ United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, fostering a collective understanding of the SDGs and their significance in local contexts. Mizoram has engaged with district and state-level line departments, educational institutions, and the public through consultative meetings and awareness campaigns to promote a culture of SDG awareness and localisation.

The localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram is emphasized through the establishment of State Indicator Frameworks, District Indicator Frameworks, and Local Indicator Frameworks, which ensure that monitoring mechanisms align with local needs and priorities. Collaborations with international organisations such as UNDP, alongside partnerships with educational institutions, have enhanced the implementation process through the provision of technical expertise and capacity-building support.

The Mizoram Vision 2030 establishes a comprehensive framework for aligning state objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby facilitating their implementation in the region. Mizoram continues to uphold its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and regional instability, as evidenced by its strategic planning, monitoring mechanisms, and stakeholder engagements.

The dissemination of information via SDG booklets, wall hangings, video clips, and quiz competitions demonstrates Mizoram's dedication to enhancing public awareness and engagement in the SDG agenda. The success of initiatives like the SDG Symposium and Inter-college Quiz Competition underscores the engagement of educational institutions and youth in promoting SDG advocacy and action.

Problems and challenges faced by the government of Mizoram in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs

A multitude of issues may be discerned from the current literature and data supplied by line departments on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram. The literature review identifies several issues, including data entry errors leading to discrepancies, inefficiencies in committees established for SDG implementation, inaccuracies and biases in data transfer and processing, difficulties in creating a high-quality database, challenges in enhancing essential

primary requirements, the state's recent developmental trajectory and the repercussions of insurgency, lagging industrialization, environmental issues, inadequate budgeting, absence of a distinct budget for SDG, and errors in constructing the indicator framework, among others.

Responses from line departments reveal several issues faced by the state in the implementation of SDGs. These include a lack of comprehensive understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the administrative level; gaps due to the transfer and retirement of knowledgeable officials; challenges arising from the pandemic; neglect in the appointment and re-appointment of nodal officers; inconsistent metrics for SDG indicators compared to other states; difficulties in adhering to the SDG monitoring framework; absence of fixed deadlines for data submission, leading to delays in report publication; failure to meet targets established for line departments; difficulties in data collection; discrepancies between data and actual conditions; challenges related to compensation; and delays in funding for projects and schemes associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in Mizoram reveals a picture of progress and challenges that are intertwined. It can be observed from the various problems mentioned by line department that there are various issues that hinder and delay the movement towards achieving the SDGs in the state such as limited infrastructure, particularly in remote areas and vulnerabilities to climate change. One of the major challenges is the state's difficult hilly terrain, which continues to hinder infrastructure growth, access to healthcare, and educational equity in remote rural areas.⁸ Another alarming factor is the pressing health issues, especially the HIV prevalence rates i.e. 2.73% of the adult population, one of the highest in India according to the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).⁹ Such challenges persist even though there are improvements in public health indicators such as a high immunization rate and relatively low infant mortality rate.

⁸ TERI. (2022). *Localizing SDGs in the North Eastern Region: Mizoram Case Study*. The Energy and Resources Institute

⁹ National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). (2023). *Annual HIV Estimations Report – India*. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

These issues clearly indicate that no action comparable to the Sustainable Development Goals has occurred in the history of the Government of Mizoram. The state government is simultaneously maintaining current policies and programs while striving to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts are likely to be inconsistent, given there is no financing or financial support at the administrative level. The metrics specified by NITI Aayog failed to accurately reflect the state's actual conditions. Therefore, the execution of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Government of Mizoram requires examination and comprehension, taking into account these issues and obstacles.

Achievements of the state government at various levels in the implementation of the SDGs in Mizoram

As the Government of Mizoram proceeded to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, stakeholders approached the initiative with much enthusiasm and optimism, aiming to showcase the state's significant potential for sustainable development. Each line department and nodal department, by aligning their respective schemes with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and optimising the utilisation of these schemes, can significantly contribute to achieving the goals within the state. The findings are evident in the state-wise rankings of the SDG India Index published by NITI Aayog. Mizoram's position as a front runner among the 32 states in the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 is significant. Mizoram has achieved a score of 72, securing the 13th rank among Indian states, and has met Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) with a score of 100. Mizoram is classified as a front runner in Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), achieving a score of 76, and similarly ranks as a front runner for Goal 13 (Climate Action). Mizoram has consistently demonstrated advancement across various indicators, despite its ranking appearing lower than in previous years.

The Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram has conducted various workshops and seminars to enhance awareness and promote public participation and responsibility in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. The workshops included stakeholders, students, research scholars, and representatives from local organisations. Further, the Planning

and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram formulated the State Indicator for SDG prior to its establishment by the NITI Aayog in the early years of SDG implementation. Following the release of a State Indicator Framework by the NITI Aayog, the national nodal agency, the state government was required to modify its previously established State Indicator to align with the indicators proposed by NITI Aayog. This indicates the state's much enthusiasm. On September 29, 2022, the Planning and Programme Implementation Department of the Government of Mizoram released a Plan of Action for the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals within the state. This seeks to guarantee that the benefits of development are clearly observable and accessible to all individuals. This Plan of Action encompasses a Reform Action Plan that will be developed based on data from the Local Indicator Framework (LIF).

The state's achievement may serve as an inspiration and model for other regions both nationally and globally. It is important to recognise that even minor improvements in numerical indicators or statistics can represent significant advancements in practical terms or when observed at the grass-root level. Despite the presence of significant challenges, it is clear that progress continues to be made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram.

Analysis of Performance of Mizoram in the SDG India Index 2020-21 and 2023-24:

In terms of state wise ranking, Mizoram ranks 13th position in the SDG India Index 2023-24 which is one rank lower than its previous 12th rank in the SDG India Index 2020-21. However, Mizoram scores 68 in the overall performance in the SDG India Index 2020-21 which is higher than the national score of 66. Following the next SDG India Index 2023-24, Mizoram showed progress with a score of 72 which is one point higher than the national score of 71.¹⁰ This indicated that even though the rank may be one position lower, the overall performance of Mizoram is comparatively improving. This is the result of the efforts made by stakeholders despite various challenges faced in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram.

¹⁰ SDG India Index 2023-24

The performance of Mizoram in each of the 17 SDG goals as per the SDG India Index 2020-21 and SDG India Index 2023-24 may be highlighted as follows¹¹:

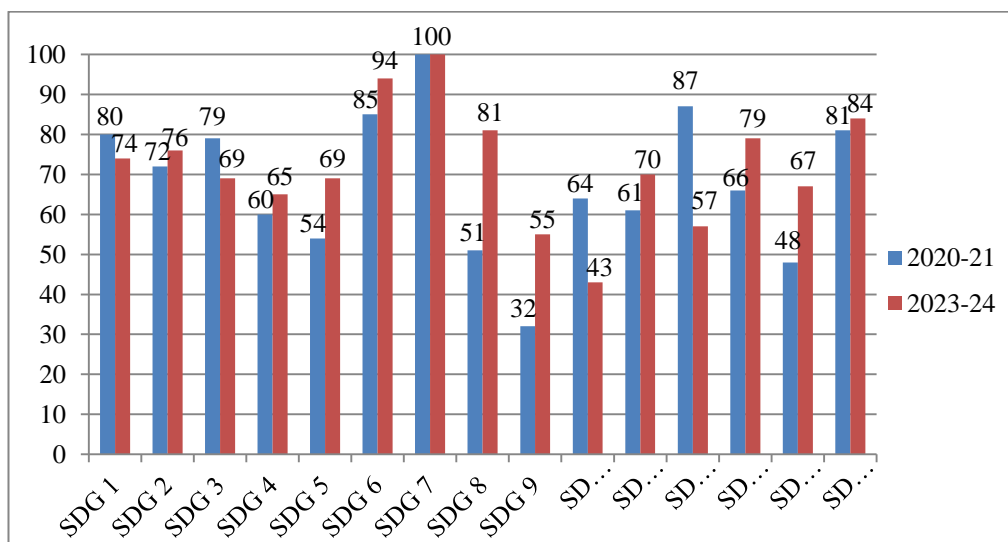


Figure 1: Performance of Mizoram in the 17 SDG goals as per the SDG India Index 2020-21 and SDG India Index 2023-24. (Source: NITI Aayog)

It can be understood from the above figure that Mizoram improved its performance in 10 goals during 2023-24 as compared to the previous performance in 2020-21. These goals are Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 15 (Life on Land) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). In Goal 8 (Affordable and Clean Energy), the state retains its score of 100 in 2020-21 and 2023-24. This is the result of achievement of 100 percent household electrification in Mizoram as per the national indicator. In four goals such as Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), the state faces reduction in the scores.

Mizoram performs lowest in Goal 10, which emphasizes on reduced inequalities. It scores 43 and is the lowest score among all the other states in India.

¹¹ SDG Goal 14 and Goal 17 are not relevant for Mizoram.

The line departments responsible towards this goal as mentioned in the Vision 2030 document are Directorate of Economics & Statistics and State Election Commission.

As mentioned above, the state has achieved 100 percent in Goal 7 which relates to Affordable and Clean Energy. This could be the result of successful schemes such as The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yajona (RGGVY), the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) Part A and Part B, The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana along with interventions like 10MW Thenzawl Solar, 5MW Sumsuih Solar, 24MW Tuirini HEP – DPR.

The highest increase of performance is on Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) with a score of 51 in SDG India Index 2020-21 and a score of 81 in SDG India Index 2023-24. The increase is by 30 points which is a huge achievement which could be possible due to successful implementation of schemes like Make in India, Start Up India, Stand Up India, Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Programme (PMEGP), Skill- India- Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Mizoram Building and Other Construction Welfare, Seekho & Kamao, National ST/SC Hub and Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) under concerned departments like Economics and Statistics Department, Commerce and Industries Department, Labour Employment and Skill Development and Lead Bank

The most substantial decrease in the performance of Mizoram among the goals is towards Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) in which the difference is similarly 30 points from the SDG India Index 2020-21 to SDG India Index 2023-24. There can be various reasons for this decline such as the state's huge dependency on imported goods, lack of independence in economy and others. The departments responsible for this goal are Commerce & Industries Department and Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation Department and the schemes involved are National Mission on Food Processing (SAMPADA) and State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU).

It can be seen from the SDG India Index 2023-24 that the state performs remarkably well in Goal 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal 4 (Quality Education)¹². The goals in which improvements have to be made are Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).¹³

Another relevant point observed is that the state of Mizoram is in Achiever category in one goal, that is, Goal 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy). It is in Front Runner Category in eleven goals such as Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal 4 (Quality Education). In Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Mizoram is able to place itself in Performer category and is in Aspirant category in Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Additionally, a comparison of the earlier SDG India Index 2020-21 with the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 allows for an analysis of the trends in the indicators associated with each goal (Appendix-D). Of the 108 indicators pertinent to the state of Mizoram, 30 are demonstrating improvement, while 25 indicate a decline in performance. Additionally, 16 indicators remain static, of which 3 have already been achieved. Thirty-seven indicators were unable to indicate their trend direction (improving or declining) due to insufficient data availability and the non-comparability of data values resulting from changes in data sources.

¹² The goals are arranged in order of their score, the goal in which the highest score is achieved is written first, followed by the second best score and so on.

¹³ The goals are arranged in order of their score, the goal in which the lowest score is attained is written first, followed by the second lowest score and so on.

A tendency of progress for the state of Mizoram in its efforts towards achieving the SDGs is indicated by the analysis of the state's performance in the Sustainable Development Goal India Index 2023-24. Despite the fact that there is a need for serious action to be taken on specific goals and indicators that are still showing a decline in performance, the presence of more goals that are making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with a greater number of indicators reflecting a positive trend in comparison to those showing a decline or stagnation, serves as a positive affirmation for the state and stakeholders.

SUGGESTIONS:

Based on the research findings, several key recommendations and suggestions may be emphasized as follows:

- 1) A suggestion to/for the Planning Department on the manner in which they carry out measures: The Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram is the nodal department and the primary agency for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mizoram. As such, it is essential for the department to consistently attend to and fulfill their obligations at all times. It is imperative that the department exercise extreme caution and attention when delegating responsibility to line departments. Additionally, the timely submission of data must be consistent across all departments, irrespective of the frequency, whether it is quarterly, annually, or half-yearly.
- 2) Recommendation to concerned departments/line departments: It is recommended that relevant departments conduct regular investigations into the nomination of a Nodal Officer with the task of overseeing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) within their respective departments. The challenges associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the state could be effectively addressed if each department has a designated officer (Nodal Officer) responsible for the SDG. This may result in fairness and uniformity in the initiatives undertaken by line departments. Moreover, the issue of bias may be mitigated if the SDG Nodal Officer

is granted direct reporting responsibilities to the head of the department, rather than through intermediary channels.

- 3) The insufficiency of financial resources for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals represents a major challenge that needs to be addressed. To elevate the priority of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the departmental level, it is essential that all relevant departments receive financial support.
- 4) The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been adopted by the government of India. This policy is based primarily on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on Goal 4; which is Quality Education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be mandated as a subject within the curriculum of educational institutions, including schools and colleges.
- 5) Awareness and training programs are essential for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into policy frameworks at both state and national levels. To ensure the impact of such initiatives, it is essential that they are carried out consistently and systematically by both state governments and civil society organizations. The main aim of these programs is to enhance knowledge and comprehension of the SDGs, targeting both policymakers and the wider public, including local communities. Enhancing the understanding of the SDGs enables individuals and institutions to acknowledge their significance and the necessity for their incorporation across diverse governance and societal sectors.
- 6) When individuals are adequately informed about the significance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while understanding their personal and communal duties, it significantly improves the effectiveness of political parties incorporating SDGs in their electoral manifestos. This establishes a positive cycle of accountability, policy formulation, and public involvement that fosters more significant and durable development results. As people gain awareness of the SDGs and their significance, political parties will be necessitated to articulate clear,

concrete strategies that align with the electorate's expectations, fostering a more robust and sustainable future for all.

- 7) In Mizoram, the state's flagship programs must prioritise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote enduring and resilient progress across several sectors. Considering Mizoram's distinctive geographic, cultural, and socio-economic features, integrating these programs with the Sustainable Development Goals can tackle local issues while advancing national and global development initiatives. For example, prioritising SDG 1 (No Poverty) may effectively address poverty through specialized livelihood initiatives, while SDG 13 (climatic Action) is particularly pertinent in Mizoram, which contends with climatic vulnerabilities including erratic rainfall and soil erosion. By incorporating SDGs into important areas like as education, healthcare, sustainable agriculture, and infrastructure development, Mizoram can make sure that its progress is inclusive, ecologically sustainable, and socially equitable.
- 8) The schemes carried out by various departments under Government of Mizoram should be designed and planned from the grassroots level and upward to specifically meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, rather than merely aligning existing schemes with them. This approach ensures that each program and initiative contributes directly to measurable targets and outcomes aligned with global and national development priorities. Embedding the SDGs at the core of programme design makes it possible for Mizoram to ensure that its developmental efforts are both responsive and transformative in addressing the state's unique challenges.
- 9) To sustain and enhance its position in national rankings, Mizoram must strategically adapt and implement initiatives that align with the National Indicators. These indicators function as essential benchmarks for assessing a state's development and its alignment with national objectives, including those established by the government in areas such as poverty alleviation, health, education, infrastructure, and sustainable development. The capacity of Mizoram to meet or surpass these indicators is crucial

for sustaining its competitive position and securing ongoing advantages from national policies, funding, and support.

- 10) It is essential for states such as Mizoram to work towards achieving the National Indicators; however, full compliance may not always be attainable due to local constraints, distinct challenges, or particular developmental circumstances. In these circumstances, it is essential for the nodal agency like NITI Aayog to implement a more adaptable strategy, acknowledging that uniform solutions may not be suitable for the diverse socio-economic and geographic contexts of different states. NITI Aayog must emphasise equity in development by compromising and addressing the unique challenges faced by each state in a realistic and context-sensitive manner.

CONCLUSION:

As the Government of Mizoram got set to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Mizoram, it was with great enthusiasm and hope that the stakeholders took measures in order to project the state of Mizoram with great potential towards development in a sustained manner. The results could be seen in the state-wise rankings of SDG India Index released by NITI Aayog over the years. Mizoram has always shown progress in each indicator although its rank may seem to be lower than the previous years. Even though there are certain undeniable problems and challenges and even though the nodal department may have taken a different approach, it is evident that efforts are still made and achievements are still attained in the implementation of SDGs in Mizoram.

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List of persons interviewed:

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2. Interview with Mr. Lalmalsawma Pachuau (IRS), Secretary, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at his office in Aizawl on 27th April, 2022.
3. Interview with Mr. Isak Lalmuanpuia Chuaungo, Research Officer, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at his office in Aizawl on 13th April, 2023.
4. Interview with Zopuii Khiangte, SDG Consultant, SDG Coordination Centre/SDG Cell, Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram at her office in Aizawl on 13th April, 2023.
5. Interview with Dr. Samuel Lalliansanga, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 22nd May, 2024.
6. Interview with Mr. Lalhmunsiamia, Additional Director, Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 9th May, 2024.
7. Interview with B. Sanga Ralte, Assistant Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Mizoram at his office on 13th June, 2024
8. Interview with Joel Lalbiakkima, Scientific Officer, Directorate of Science and Technology, Government of Mizoram at his office on 12th June, 2024
9. Interview with Arti Chaudhary, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 24th May, 2024
10. Interview with Remeses Hualhunchhunga, Assistant & MS Thuamliaana, LDC, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 21st May, 2024
11. Interview with Vanlalchhuanawma Chawngthu, SPIO/Deputy Secretary & Dr. Lalthanpuui, Joint Director (G) & State Public Information Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram at Secretariat building on 11th June, 2024.

12. Interview with Lalbiakthanga Khiangte (IPS) IGP& H.L.Thangzuala (MPS) Assistant IGP, Home Department at Police Headquarters office on 13th June, 2024.
13. Interview with Vanlalringa, Senior Informatics Officer & Lalengzuala, Informatics Officer, Information and Communication Technology Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 6th June, 2024.
14. Interview with Dorothy Muansangi, Deputy Director (Labour), Local Administration Department, Government of Mizoram at her office on 13th June, 2024.
15. Interview with Robert Zosangliana, Lead District Manager, Lead Bank through telephone on 19th June, 2024
16. Interview with Lalmuanpuia Fanai, Deputy Director, Directorate of Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department, Government of Mizoram at his office on 11th June, 2024.
17. Interview with Er. Lalmuankima Sailo, Under Secretary, Mizoram Scholarship Board, Government of Mizoram at his office on 30th May, 2024.
18. Interview with Er. Laltlanthanga, Superintending Engineer (Planning) & Lalmalsawmi, Assistant Engineer, Power & Electricity Department, Government of Mizoram at their office Kawlphetha on 11th June, 2024
19. Interview with Er. Lalsanga, Executive Engineer & R. Laltleipuii, Assistant Engineer (Monitoring I), E-in-C Office, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024.
20. Interview with David Sapa, Chief Engineer & Pazawna, Superintending Engineer (Planning), E-in-C Office, Public Works Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 10th May, 2024.
21. Interview with Denny Lalchhuanawma, Under Secretary & Lalbiakdika, Rural Development Department, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024
22. Interview with K. Zohlupuii, Office Assistant, School Education Department, Government of Mizoram at her office on 5th June, 2024.

23. Interview with Ethel Rothangpuii, Director, State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Government of Mizoram at her office on 21st June, 2024
24. Interview with Zorinpuii, Superintendent & Vanlaltlana, Field Facilitator, Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram at their office on 5th June, 2024.
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26. Interview with R Vanrengpuia, Deputy Secretary & B. Lalbiakmawii, LDC, State Election Commission, Government of Mizoram at their office on 14th June, 2024.
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28. Interview with Thantluanga, Assistant Engineer, Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA), Government of Mizoram through telephone on 20th June, 2024.

List of libraries visited:

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- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
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