GSIJP – HLPF SURVEY RESULTS

High Level Political Forum 2017

This is a GSIJP report on the countries which are presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNR's) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2017. Among a total of 44 countries presenting VNR's, Good Shepherd has a presence in 20 countries. From the 20 countries surveyed, 13 (65%) responded - six were Spanish, one Portuguese and six English.

Argentina; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Italy; Japan; Kenya; Malaysia; Nepal; Panama; Peru; Portugal; Thailand; Uruguay.

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Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Justice, Peace and Solidarity International Office

Working to end poverty, human trafficking and gender-based violence

Advocating with women & girls, migrants and refugees

Recognizing our interconnectedness with the whole of creation, we seek to realize the rights of all and achieve gender equality

GSIJP – HLPF Survey Results
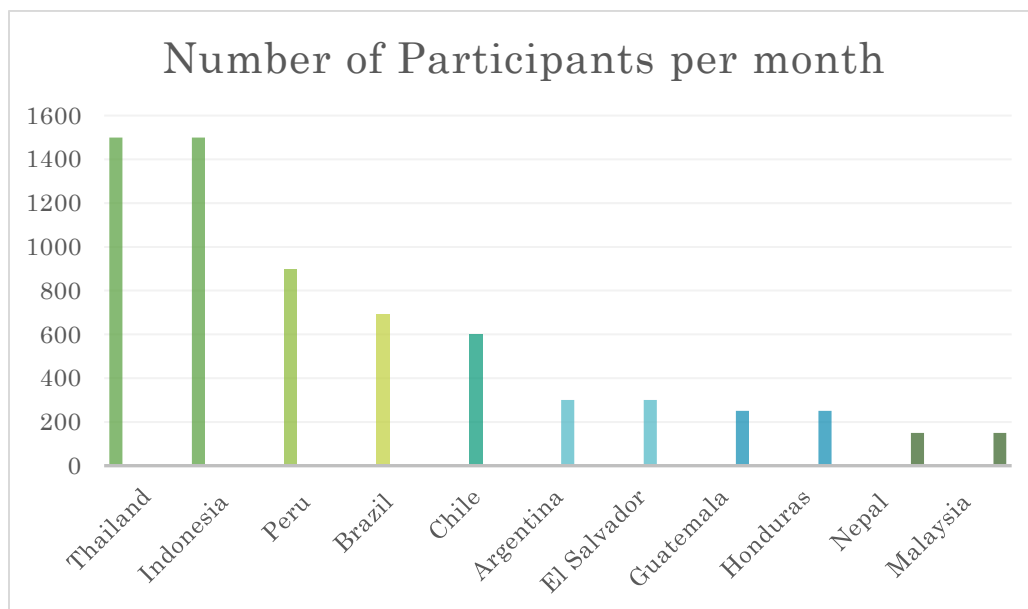
High Level Political Forum 2017

This is a GSIJP report on the countries which are presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNR's) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2017. Among a total of 44 countries presenting VNR's, Good Shepherd has a presence in 20 countries. From the 20 countries surveyed, 13 responded (65% returns). The survey was sent out in 4 languages – English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The 7 countries that did not respond to the survey are Costa Rica, Panama and Uruguay (Latin America); Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal (Europe); and Japan (Asia). Among the 13 respondents, 6 countries (India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand) replied in English, 6 countries (Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru) in Spanish, and 1 country (Brazil) in Portuguese. The countries which responded to the English survey showed more familiarity with SDG's and HLPF than those which responded to the Spanish or Portuguese survey. This discrepancy may be attributed to the fact that the UN website for the HLPF is offered only in English.

Prior to completing the survey questions, background information was sought from the groups participating in the projects. It is not surprising to find that women, youth and children are the central focus in each country and that the outreach in every instance is to people living in poverty. 6 respondents defined particular groups as families, homeless persons, migrants and refugees, prostituted and trafficked persons and people with HIV/AIDS. There was no particular pattern with regard to whether ministries were in the city or in the countryside.

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- 7 respondents (54%) indicated that ministries are both in urban and rural areas (Guatemala, Peru, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Kenya).

- 5 respondents (38%) mentioned they include men in their projects (India, Nepal, Thailand, Kenya and Chile).

- 6 respondents (46%) reported serving whole communities; 2 respondents are from urban areas (Brazil, El Salvador) and 4 respondents are from rural areas (India, Malaysia, Nepal and Kenya).

The number of participants per month varied in number. India and Kenya had the highest numbers of 50,000 and 20,000 respectively, and are not shown in the chart. 11countries ranged between 1500 – 150 participants per month and can be seen below (Thailand, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras Nepal and Malaysia).

The 12 survey questions cross-checked ministries with issues and knowledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 as being reviewed at the HLPF in 2017.

Question 1:   Which issues (poverty, hunger and agriculture, health, gender equality, infrastructure/industry, conserving ocean/marine life and other) is your organization concerned with?

The responses are ranked as follows:

Rank	Issue addressed	Respondents addressing the issue (%)
1	Gender Equality	100%
2	Poverty Eradication	92%
3	Hunger/ Agriculture	62%
4	Health	54%
5	Infrastructure/ Industry	17%
6	Ocean/ Marine life	8%

Question 2: ***Have you heard of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? If yes, how did you hear about it? Social Media, Newspapers, TV, Radio, Government Publications, Community Meetings and Other***

All respondents replied they had heard of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Nepal mentioned all 6 outlets (Social Media, Newspapers, TV, Radio, Government Publications and Community meetings).

- India noted 5 outlets but did not mention Radio.

- 5 countries (Brazil, India, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand) confirmed the availability of government publications. Knowing that these countries are engaging in the Voluntary National Review Process, it could be assumed that the government publication would be an important medium of communications.
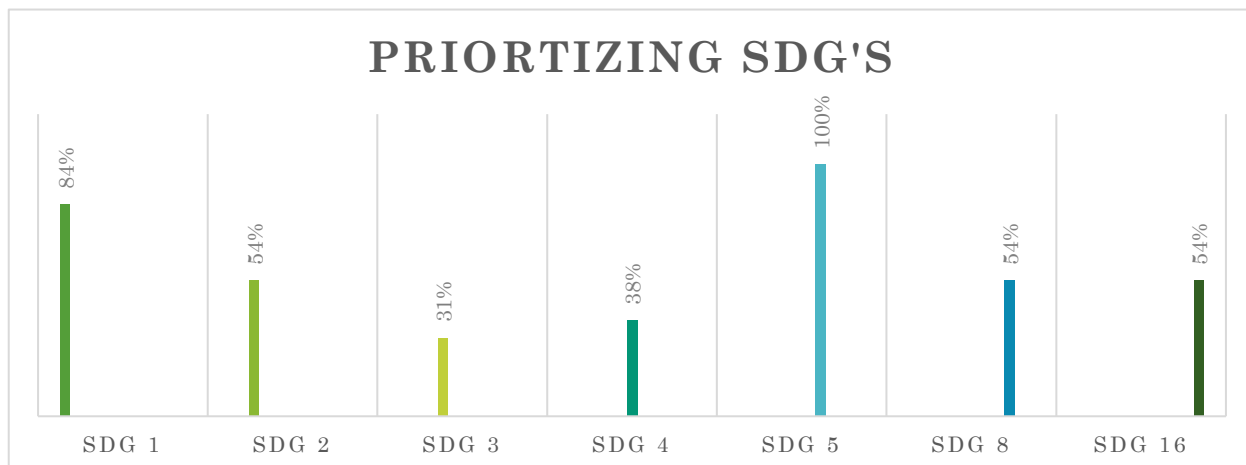
Two observations:

i) Government publications may indicate efforts by the government to create awareness of the SDG's.

ii) 83% of the Spanish respondents received their information about the SDG's from the GSIJP Office.

- Another observation is that 83% of the Spanish respondents replied that the source of their information was from the GSIJP Office.

Question 3: (i) Do your members think of the work they do as connected with the SDG's? (ii) If yes, what goals? (iii) Has your organization begun or changed its programs in response to the SDG's?

(i) A resounding 100% affirmed that their work was connected with the SDG's.

(ii) The following goals were enumerated: SDG's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16 and 17. The respondents' prioritized SDG's as follows:

PRIORTIZING SDG'S

84%	54%	31%	38%	100%	54%	54%
SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 8	SDG 16

(iii) There were 9 'yes' responses (69%) indicating program changes in response to the SDG's. On reflection, this may not be an accurate perception. Restructuring of ministries within the organization has been taking place over the past 6 years (Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF) 2011) with a focus on ministry review, funding, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation. Certainly, there has been an effort to read SDG language into current ministries, but development, implementation nor change in programs has been solely based on the SDG's. The list of issues – poverty, violence, human trafficking, micro finance, building resilience, women's rights, advocacy, capacity building, networking, social-economic issues, campaigns, and CEDAW reporting – were undertaken in response to internal changes and restructuring.

> Respondents' perception indicates program change in response to the SDG's. However, this may not be an accurate perception as restructuring of ministries within the organization has been taking place over the past 6 years.

Question 4: (i) Are your country's people aware of the SDG's? (ii) If yes, what efforts were made? (iii) How do you think awareness could be raised?

(i) 7 countries 54% (India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Kenya, Brazil and Honduras) replied 'yes,'
4 countries 31% (Argentina, El Salvador, Peru and Malaysia) replied 'no' and
2 countries 15% (Chile and Guatemala) replied 'do not know.'
It is worth noting that 5 of the 7 Spanish respondents (71%) answered 'no' or 'do not know.'

(ii) Of the 7 countries that replied in the affirmative, the most creative method of raising awareness of the SDGs came from Nepal, which organized small roadshows. Other suggestions included distributing materials, workshops, seminars and meetings in schools and local settings, public events, networking and advocacy.

(iii) Suggestions with regards to best ways to raise awareness were: Engaging students to disseminate the information; Networking on all levels; Repetition; Training of Trainers; Documentaries; Advocacy; Creating spaces for engagement, implementation and review.

It is worth noting that 5 of the 7 Spanish respondents (71%) answered that they 'do not know' if their country's people are aware of the SDGs, or that they believe there is 'no' public awareness.

Small roadshows are creative ways of raising awareness.

Question 5: Over the past 2 years, are you aware of any new programs to achieve SDG's made by the local/ national government?

6 countries responded 'yes' and 6 responded 'no.'

India reported 7 new programs:

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana,** a small deposit savings scheme for girl children.

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA,** (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency). Yojana was launched with the purpose to provide funding to the non-corporate small business sector, especially micro-enterprises and farmers.

- **Jan Aushadhi Yojana,** to be renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana** – Affordable drugs and medicines

- **The Digital India,** an Indian government program to transform India into a digitally-empowered society and knowledge economy.

- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana,** to increase efficiency of service delivery, especially to women.

- **Indradhanush,** Immunization programme for children and pregnant women

- **Udaan Scheme,** Focus on girls' access to higher technical education

Kenya named 1 program: '**Beyond Zero Campaign**, focusing on achieving zero maternal deaths, and good health and well-being.'

Malaysia made the following comment: "I believe that the strategic direction of the government and agencies is to align all projects toward achieving the targets of the SDG's (although they may not specifically mention it). Through the annual national budget, there are funding allocation for projects to address the B40 (the bottom 40 percent of household income groups). It cannot be ascertained if such projects are specifically SDG directed projects."

Nepal: The government of Nepal, under the National Planning Commission has a project called '**Strengthening National Capitals and Foundations for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)**' to be achieved by 2030. The project is expected to guide Nepal in operationalizing the SDG's at all levels: national, regional and local. It contains Goal-wise indicators and quantitative benchmarks. Nepal is also aspiring to graduate from the least developed countries (LDC's) by 2022; and thus, the SDG indicators set by the government of Nepal will help in achieving these goals.

Comparing India's response with that of Malaysia, the 'real' reality maybe expressed in Malaysia's comment and may qualify the response by India naming seven new programs. Whereas Nepal was very specific about the project called 'Strengthening National Planning and Foundation for Sustainable Development Goals' to be achieved by 2030. **Thailand** noted 'polishing some programs'

Peru was the only Spanish-speaking country to reply 'yes,' with a list of programs. '**Juntos**,' '**Beca**' and '**Cuna Mas**' were named as programs to help people to leave poverty. The issue of gender has been included in the **National Curriculum of Basic Education**. Further, an Aymara language channel was added to **TV Peru** and the **National Radio**.

Question 6: How should your local and/or national government need to do to improve in terms of addressing the SDG's?

All countries responded with the exception of Guatemala. The following are the respondents' recommendations in each country:

- **Argentina**: Enhance industry and production to increase employment and reduce poverty; Government should discourage capital being directed to the exploitative industries rather than to public financial benefits.
- **Brazil**: Return to previously implemented social policies which were more effective.
- **Chile:** Discuss SDG's with citizens
- **El Salvador**: Spread knowledge of SDG's; Create just tax reform & combat tax avoidance; Institutional commitment with monitoring and participation of an organized & empowered civil society.
- **Honduras**: Invest in programs that allow communities to grow and achieve integral development. Support NGO's working with marginalized communities and increase networking for more effective implementation.

- **India:** Build better relations with NGO's; Create awareness among the people; Use Social Media
- **Indonesia:** Support NGO's with finances and regulation
- **Kenya:** Take the SDG's to the grassroots; Sensitize people as to the content of the SDG's; Engage people in implementation; Use technology to collect and store data
- **Malaysia:** Address the issue of corruption (improve accountability and transparency)
- **Nepal**: Translate SDG's into local language; Align SDG's with national plan; Strong monitoring mechanism for SDGs
- **Peru:** Incorporate the SDG's in the local/ regional/ national plans; Focus on poverty eradication and gender equality
- **Thailand:** Need more dissemination of SDG materials

Question 7: Over the past 2 years, are you aware of new partnerships regarding the SDG's between your local/ national government and not-for-profit organizations/ NGO's?

3 countries responded positively:

- **Indonesia** noted the following new partnerships: INFID and Local Government ; Kapal Perempuan and Ministry of Women's Empowerment
- **Malaysia**: Good Shepherd collaborates with relevant Government Agencies to address the issue of Human Trafficking (SDG5); CSO Alliance in collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit (Prime Minister's Office) to develop the SDG Roadmap for Malaysia.
- **Nepal**: Partnership with UN agencies (UNDP & UNICEF). They also reported partnerships between bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and national and local NGO's.

Question 8: (i) Are you partnering with any other organizations to collaborate on specific SDGs? (ii) If so, which goals? (iii) If so, whom are you working with? (iv) If so, how have your programs changed through partnerships?

(i)   11 respondents 85% said 'yes' but only 9 elaborated on the SDG's. **Guatemala** and **Peru** replied 'no'.

(ii)   **India** partners across 7 SDG's. 9 Countries (**Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, and Nepal**), are partnering across SDG 5 and linking with SDG1 in 4 countries (**Honduras, India, Kenya, and Malaysia**). **Brazil** and **Thailand** did not elaborate.

(iii)   10 respondents named other NGO's; **Brazil, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand** each mentioned having relationships with both business and UN Agencies. **Chile** mentioned work with government ministries.

(iv)   9 respondents noted consequential change:

- **Brazil**: Strengthening networks; Uniting human and financial efforts to face challenges
- **Chile**: Supporting the creation of public policies
- **El Salvador**: Enhanced program provision through increased finances
- **Honduras**: Improved relationships with NGO's leading to improved services for nutrition and education
- **India**: Improved collaboration
- **Indonesia**: New partnerships
- **Kenya**: Better understanding of NGOs (a collaborator with government, and not a competitor)
- **Malaysia**: Developing new markets for socio economic empowerment project; Expanding networks to collaboratively address the issue of human trafficking
- **Thailand**: Started to make changes within our own structures (results not seen yet)

Question 9: Have you knowledge of the VNR's during the HLPF 2017? How can the NGO participation be improved?

From the 13 respondents, 5 replied 'yes,' 3 replied 'no' and 5 were 'aware but not of the specifics.' Of the 5 which replied 'yes,' 2 were invited – Kenya and Malaysia. Malaysia said 'We've attended to workshops and roundtable discussion related to SDGs.'

All 13 respondents gave suggestions for an improved NGO participation. Collectively, respondents touched on the following themes:
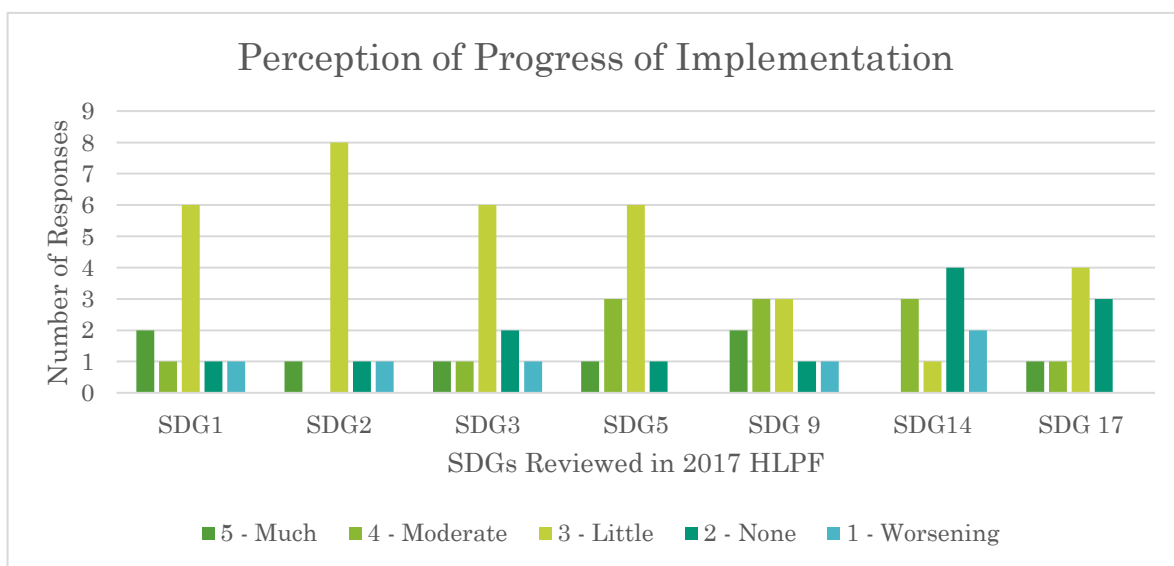
- Governments should regularly engage and consult with NGOs & CSO networks as partners for input, policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Need for increased transparency, communication, data and funding from governments so NGOs can work effectively, create partnerships, and participate meaningfully.
- Need for increased NGO partnership & inclusive multi-stakeholder meetings between the government and NGOs to coordinate and share expertise.
- Ensure the autonomy of NGOs so they can monitor government commitments and policy implementation.

Question 10: Are there government agencies/ department/ or ministry responsible for the implementation of the SDG's?
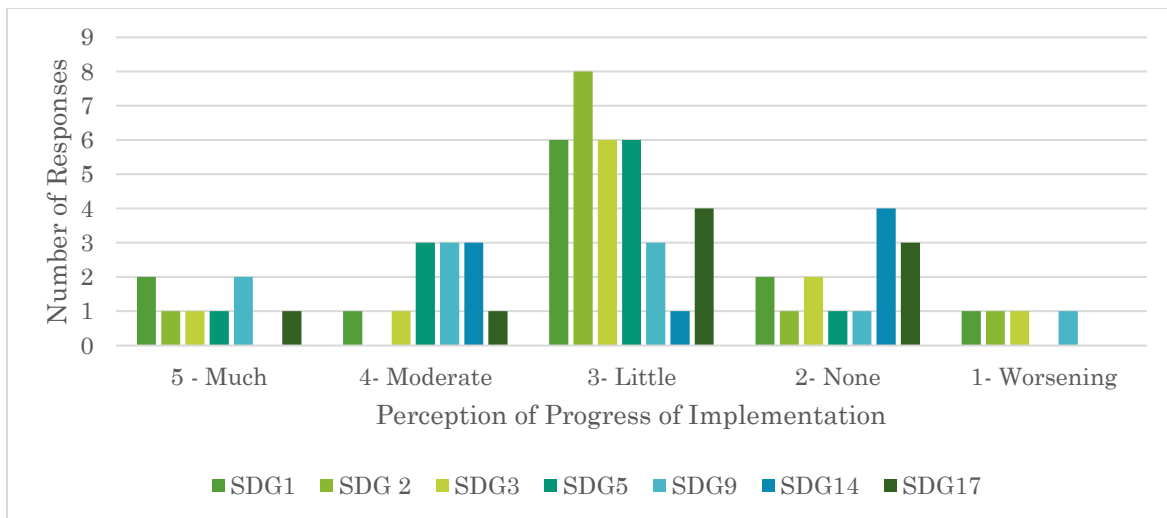
There seems to be some depth of knowledge about government's engagement with the SDG's. 7 countries replied in the affirmative and 6 said 'no':

- **India**: DMEO (under NITI)
- **Malaysia**: Economic Planning Unit (EPU)
- **Kenya**: Ministry of Devolution and Planning
- **Nepal**: Two High Level Committees (The National Steering Committee and their Implementation Coordination and Monitoring Committee); nine Thematic Working Groups
- **Thailand**: Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- **Brazil**: IBGE/IDH Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics; HD Indices with UNDP
- **El Salvador**: National Council for Sustainable Development

Question 11: What is the rate of the progress in working towards the SDG's (particularly the ones being reviewed in HLPF 2017) since 2015?

Bars indicate the number of responses received from respondents ranking their perception on a scale of -1 to 5+ of implementation of SDG 1,2,3,5,9,14 and 17. Assigning a number value to these perceptions (3 points for much progress, 2 points for moderate progress, 1 point for little progress, 0 points for no progress, and -1 points for worsening, there is most perceived progress for the implementation of SDG 5 (15 points), then SDG 9 (14 points), SDG 1 (13 points), SDGs 2 and 3 (10 points each), SDG 17 (9 points), and finally SDG14 (5 points).

Bars indicate the number of responses received from respondents ranking their perception of progress in implementation of SDG 1,2,3,5,9,14 and 17 on a scale of 1 to 5. There is a bell-shaped trend here, with most respondents perceiving that there is a little progress being achieved in SDG implementation.

Question 12: Further Comments

6 respondents provided further information on completion of the survey:

- **Brazil**: The survey facilitated a review of Brazil's social, political and economic situation, pointing to the fragmentation of social policy and corruption.
- **El Salvador**: The respondent noted that the government is supporting children's education through the provision of meals, shoes and school materials.
- **Honduras**: The respondent wondered if there is commitment and trust between government ministries and NGOs.
- **India**: The government needs to be an enabler rather than an enforcer!
- **Kenya**: 'Involve everyone in the planning and the achievement of SDGs. "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND".
- **Thailand**: The respondent appreciates the sincerity of the government in wanting to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, though progress is slow. Dealing with every issue may be difficult, but Good Shepherd wishes to have more members making an impact at the community level.