



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT

Health and health-related SDGs: progress, problems and prospects for Kyrgyzstan

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Global Child Health



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goals agreed by the UN in 2015;
- Common basis for assessments and commitments;
- 17 goals;
- 169 targets;
- More than 230 indicators



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG Country Context: Progress

SDG progress in country:

- High stated political commitment to the SDG targets
- Close collaboration with international development agencies
- Integration of SDG targets into national policy
 - The SDGs have been incorporated into the National Development Strategy for 2018-2040, the National Development Programme for 2021-2026, the Development Programme "Unity. Trust. Creation" for 2018-2022, and the Health Strategy "Healthy person - prosperous country" for 2019-2030
- The RIA findings indicate that the alignment of the SDGs with the national strategic development planning in the Kyrgyz Republic is at 82%

SDG Country Context: Progress

SDG progress in country:

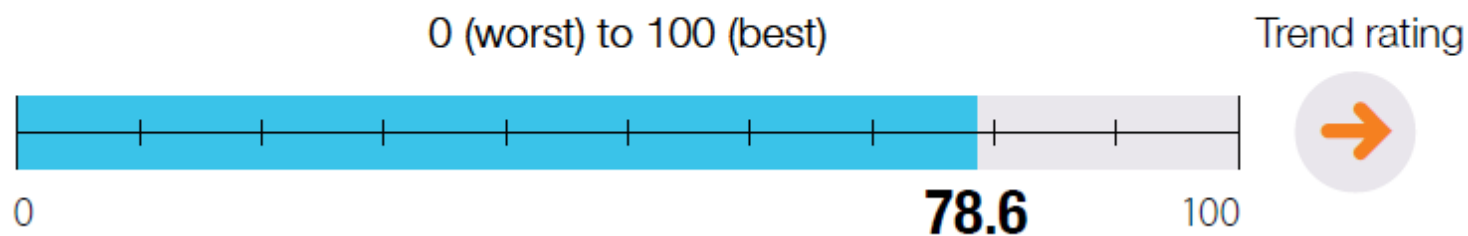
- Significant progress in eliminating extreme poverty (SDG 1) though with reverse of progress in 2021-23, advancing universal health coverage, reducing child mortality (SDG 3), and ensuring inclusive and accessible compulsory education (SDG 4)
- Improvements in life expectancy: 77.31 years (+4.02 years) for females and 70.75 years (+5.55 years) for males
- Implemented universal health coverage and social insurance schemes (MHIF, SGBP)
- Progress in achieving health and health-related SDGs (achieved SDG 3.1)

SDG Country Context: SDGs

SDG Statistics:

- In 2022, the statistical performance index was 78.6.

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDEX



- The lowest data availability: in SDG 11 (20%), SDG6 (27%), SDG 12 (31%)



SDG Country Context: SDGs

Country performance:

In 2023, the country has achieved a score of 74.4 (45th position/166 nations) in SDG progress

SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

Lack of progress in SDGs 2, 5, and 16, while SDG 17 has experienced a decline

SDG 3

‘significant challenges’

‘moderate improvements’



SDG Country Context: SDG 3

Main challenges:

Challenges remain

Significant challenges

Major challenges

SDG 3	Name
SDG 3.2	<i>Neonatal and child mortality</i>
SDG 3.5	<i>Substance use</i>
SDG 3.7	<i>Sexual and reproductive health</i>
SDG 3.8	<i>Universal health coverage</i>
SDG 3.a	<i>Tobacco consumption</i>
SDG 3.4	<i>NCDs</i>
SDG 3.6	<i>Traffic deaths</i>
SDG 3.9	<i>Air pollution</i>
SDG 3.3	<i>Tuberculosis</i>

Baseline Review of Literature

- 143 separate search terms used related to HHSDG progress, mental health, climate change, gender inequality, and specific HHSDG targets
- Inclusion criteria: post-2015, directly address the HHSDGs OR specific topics within the health-related SDG framework (air, soil, and water pollution, gender, domestic violence, food security, nutrition, poverty, the health workforce, HIV/TB, specific non-communicable diseases, health financing, health systems, etc.)
- Data search tools: Google Scholar, Research Rabbit, Consensus – AI tools for data search allow for a more comprehensive search through scholarly databases, including PubMed and Lens.Org (Research Rabbit) and Semantic Scholar (Consensus).
- Data analysis additional tool: SciSpace - an additional AI tool that allows for rapid identification of the content of research papers.
- Search results: 30 (17 included) reports and 112 (108 included) research papers or articles

Прогресс HHSDG		Психическое здоровье		Изменение климата		Гендерное неравенство		Цели HHSDG	
1.	health-related SDGs, progress, Kyrgyzstan	1.	mental health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	1.	climate change, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	1.	domestic violence, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	1.	maternal health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
2.	health SDG, implementation, Kyrgyzstan	2.	mental health, SDG, [“progress” or “challenges” or “improvement” or “integration” or “monitoring” or “evaluation” or “assessment” or “achieving” or “barrier” or “indicators” or “targets” or “implementation” or “promoting”], Kyrgyzstan	2.	climate change, health, Kyrgyzstan	2.	forced marriage, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	2.	maternal mortality, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
3.	health SDGs, challenges, Kyrgyzstan			3.	climate change, HHSDGs, Kyrgyzstan	3.	early marriage, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	3.	child health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
4.	health SDGs, Kyrgyzstan			4.	climate change, health outcomes, Kyrgyzstan	4.	gender equality, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	4.	child mortality, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
5.	health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan			5.	climate change adaptation, health, Kyrgyzstan	5.	gender, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	5.	neonatal mortality, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
6.	health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan			6.	health vulnerability, climate, Kyrgyzstan	6.	public health, gender, Kyrgyzstan	6.	infectious diseases, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
7.	health, SDG, [“progress” or “improvements” or “implementation” or “integration” or “assessment” or “assessing” or “monitoring” or “evaluation” or “challenges” or “barriers” or “strengthening” or “achieving” or “achievements” or “intervention” or “review”], Kyrgyzstan	3.	mental health systems, Kyrgyzstan	7.	climate change impact, Kyrgyzstan	7.	gender, health, Kyrgyzstan	7.	NCD, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
8.	health systems, improvements, Kyrgyzstan	4.	mental health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	8.	climate change, progress, Kyrgyzstan	8.	gender inequalities, health, Kyrgyzstan	8.	noncommunicable diseases, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
9.	healthcare systems, Kyrgyzstan, SDG	5.	psychological wellbeing, Kyrgyzstan	9.	challenges, SDGs, climate change, Kyrgyzstan	9.	gender, HHSDG, Kyrgyzstan	9.	substance abuse, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
10.	inequalities, health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	6.	psychosocial well-being, health SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	10.	climate change resilience, health, Kyrgyzstan	10.	health, progress, gender, Kyrgyzstan	10.	drug abuse, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
11.	evaluation, health programs, health policies, Kyrgyzstan, SDGs	7.	psychological resilience, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	11.	healthcare systems, adaptation to climate change, Kyrgyzstan	11.	challenges, gender, health, Kyrgyzstan	11.	alcohol, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
12.	barriers, achieving health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	8.	mental health services, Kyrgyzstan	12.	monitoring climate change, adaptation measures, health progress, Kyrgyzstan	12.	monitoring, gender, health, Kyrgyzstan	12.	road traffic, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
13.	health systems strengthening, Kyrgyzstan, SDG	9.	mental health, SDG progress, Kyrgyzstan	13.	climate change vulnerability, progress, health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	13.	assessing, gender inequalities, SDG progress, Kyrgyzstan	13.	reproductive health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
14.	public health, SDG, progress, Kyrgyzstan	10.	mental health, health SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	14.	climate change mitigation, health outcomes, Kyrgyzstan, SDG	14.	gender targets, health SDG, Kyrgyzstan	14.	sexual health services, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
15.	monitoring health progress, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	11.	mental healthcare system, Kyrgyzstan, SDG	15.	climate change resilience, health SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	15.	gender, health-related SDG, Kyrgyzstan	15.	family planning, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
16.	literature review, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan	12.	inequalities, mental health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	16.	health system, adaptation, climate change, Kyrgyzstan			16.	universal health coverage, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
17.	assessing health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	13.	interventions, mental health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	17.	climate change risks, health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan			17.	healthcare services, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
18.	healthcare systems, achieving SDG, health, Kyrgyzstan	14.	mental health, systems strengthening, Kyrgyzstan, SDG implementation	18.	climate change, infectious diseases, Kyrgyzstan			18.	environmental health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
19.	interventions, health-related SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	15.	public mental health, strategies, SDG progress, Kyrgyzstan	19.	climate change, NCD, Kyrgyzstan			19.	hazardous chemicals, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		16.	mental health indicators, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	20.	climate change, noncommunicable diseases, Kyrgyzstan			20.	air, water, soil, pollution, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		17.	monitoring mental health, progress, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	21.	climate change, maternal health, Kyrgyzstan			21.	tobacco, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		18.	mental health targets, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	22.	climate change, child health, Kyrgyzstan			22.	medicines, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		19.	literature review, mental health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	23.	climate change, pregnancy, Kyrgyzstan			23.	vaccines, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		20.	addressing mental health, SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	24.	climate change, nutrition, Kyrgyzstan			24.	health financing, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		21.	mental health, implications, achieving SDGs, Kyrgyzstan	25.	climate change, food security, Kyrgyzstan			25.	health workforce, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		22.	SDG progress, mental health, outcomes, Kyrgyzstan	26.	climate change, water scarcity, Kyrgyzstan			26.	emergency, preparedness, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		23.	mental health promotion, SDG implementation, Kyrgyzstan	27.	climate change, water shortage, Kyrgyzstan			27.	health risk, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
		24.	mental health, policies, strategies, promoting SDG, Kyrgyzstan	28.	climate change, poverty, Kyrgyzstan			28.	poverty, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
				29.	climate change, gender, Kyrgyzstan			29.	social protection, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								30.	nutrition, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								31.	undernourishment, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								32.	malnutrition, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								33.	food diet, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								34.	anemia, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								35.	pregnancy, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								36.	clean water, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								37.	sanitation, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								38.	sanitation facilities, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								39.	sanitation services, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								40.	drinking water, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								41.	hygiene standards, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								42.	electricity, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								43.	clean fuel, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								44.	energy, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								45.	inequalities, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								46.	discrimination, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								47.	disabilities, inequalities, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								48.	harassment, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								49.	disaster, death, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan
								50.	natural disaster, death, Kyrgyzstan
								51.	environmental protection, health, SDG, Kyrgyzstan

Topic	Number of papers/articles	Number of reports
HHSDG	4	8
Maternal mortality/health	2	3
Neonatal and child mortality/health	7	3
Infectious diseases	9	5
Noncommunicable diseases	15	5
Mental health	10	4
Substance use	7	1
Road traffic	0	3
Sexual and reproductive health	5	2
Universal health coverage	6	6
Environmental health	19	3
Tobacco control	3	1
Medicines (vaccinations)	2 (3)	2(5)
Health financing	3	2
Health workforce	3	4
Emergency preparedness	2	2
Poverty	1	3
Nutrition	8	3
Gender	8	2
Water and sanitation	3	5
Energy	4	0
Inequalities	1	1
Climate change	11	4

Key (High-level) Findings

Challenges and bottlenecks:

- Inefficient implementation of policy (lack of coordination between different levels of government and other stakeholders, poor communication strategy, limited engagement of civil society and academia)
- Achieving equity and universal health coverage is significantly limited with notable disparities, high levels of poverty, and weak social assistance systems that fail to adequately support vulnerable populations.
- Health workforce shortages, insufficient quality of medical education, poor retention and preparedness of health workers at the PHC level, limited capacity-building opportunities
- Poor/uneven quality of health services, outdated infrastructure

Key (High-level) Findings

Challenges and bottlenecks:

- High and rising poverty rates
- Persistent funding gap and high out-of-pocket health expenditures (despite MHIF and SGBP)
- Limited integration of HHSDGs into subnational budgeting processes
- Inefficient use of resources (high unnecessary hospitalization rates, lack of preventive measures)
- Regional disparities (urban vs rural, among oblasts)
- High risks of water and energy scarcity

Topics for ongoing / further investigation

- How are the key challenges being addressed?
- What are the health system requirements / recommendations?
- Climate-change risks and adaptation in Kyrgyzstan
- Mental health in Kyrgyzstan
- Gender equity and health in Kyrgyzstan

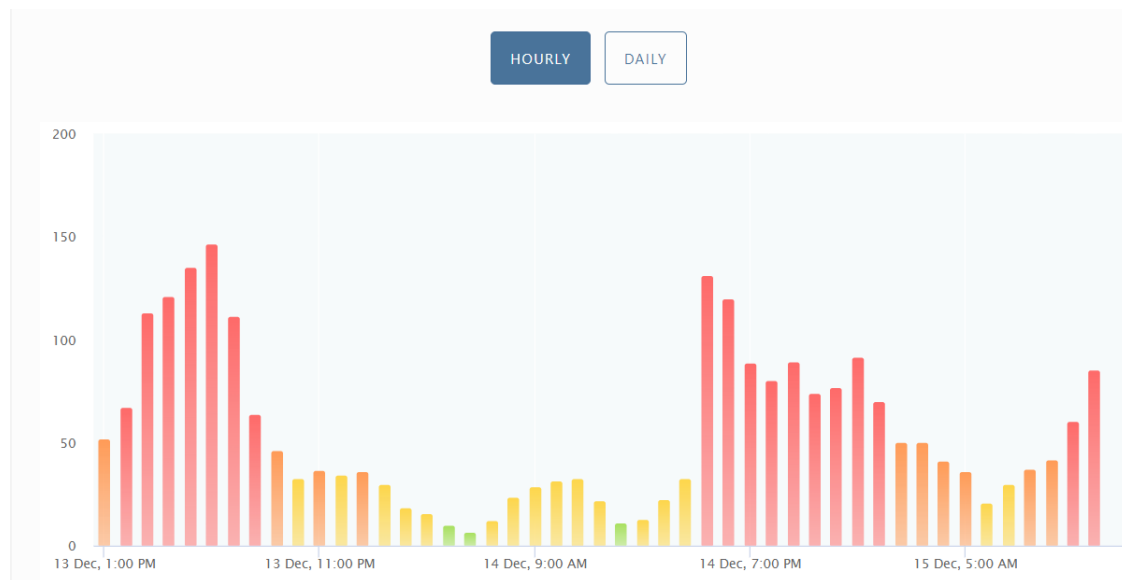
SDGs Kyrgyzstan Context: Climate Change

- High vulnerability to climate change in mountainous regions
- Spillover effects on agriculture, increased vulnerability to drought, and risks to food security and nutrition
- Stated policy priorities give significant focus to climate change and disaster risk reduction, but there is slow progress in implementation
- Limited resilience to climate change and limited adaptation strategies, including planning and funding
- The current progress of the national “green” policy shows a lack of commitment, understanding, management, coordination, and financial resources resulting in poor implementation



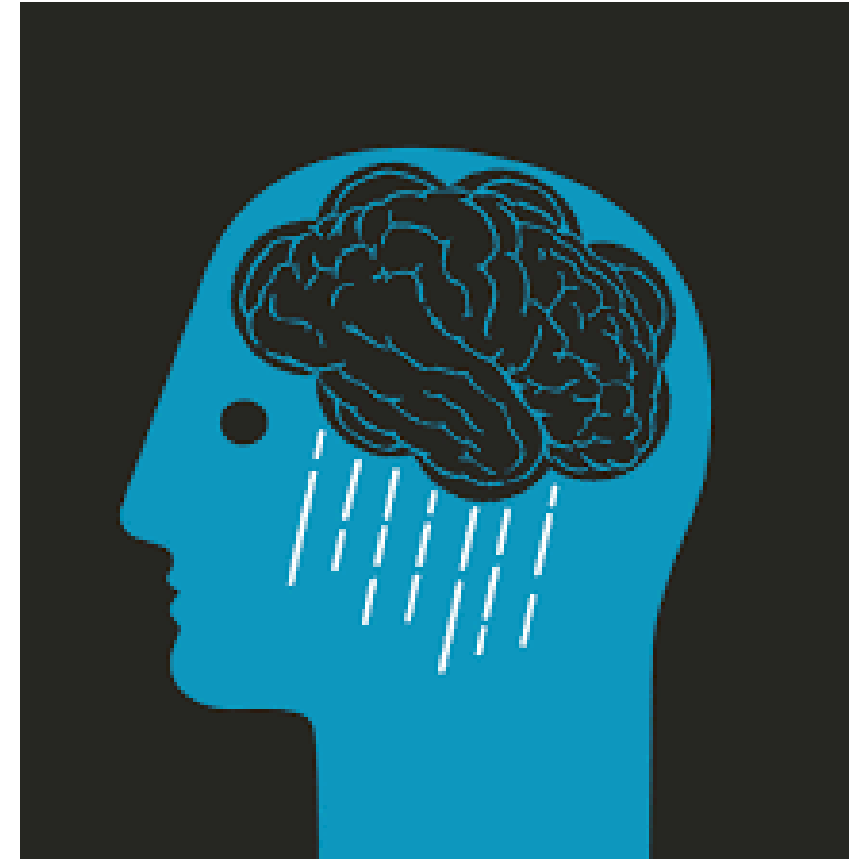
SDGs Country Context: Example of Air Pollution

- UNICEF estimated 112 deaths and economic loss of more than \$20 million USD due to exposure to PM2.5
- WHO's guideline of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



SDGs Country Context: Mental Health

- Retained the characteristics of the previous Soviet system
- Mental health services not prioritized in healthcare reforms
 - Extremely low funding
 - Lack of clear strategy and plans, limited intersectoral collaboration
 - Chronic shortage of human resources
 - No programme evaluation
 - Highly stigmatized
 - Little focus on reducing suicide, tackling substance abuse or on multimorbidities (e.g. mental health disorder linked to NCDs)
 - Remains centred around inpatient hospital care; outpatient care remains under-resourced



SDGs Kyrgyzstan Context: Gender Equity

- High prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate-partner violence (IPV)
- Structural and legal barriers in seeking help, including financial dependence on the abuser, stigma, social acceptance, and inadequate enforcement of laws
- Regional disparities: women in rural settings often experience poverty and insufficient access to basic services
- Traditional views contribute to unequal land ownership and control over resources, giving men more decision-making power
- Absence of family planning policies and sex education leads to high rates of abortion, adolescent births, and maternal mortality



SDGs Kyrgyzstan Context: Gender Equity

Gender differences:

- Males prevail in mortality rates, including neonatal and child mortality, and those attributed to non-communicable diseases, except for diabetes. Males also have higher incidence rates of infectious diseases and substance use.
- Females are more frequently affected by domestic violence, mortality attributed to diabetes, and, recently, HIV incidence.



Next Steps

- Finalise and circulate baseline report
- Who are the key stakeholders to engage with? Particularly with respect to mental health, gender equity and climate change – and their impacts on health?
- What activities could be useful in the next 1-3 years in helping Kyrgyzstan achieve the health-related SDGs?
- What are the key / interesting / important research questions that a university should be addressing in this field?
- Who are the partners that we should join with to promote successful interventions?

