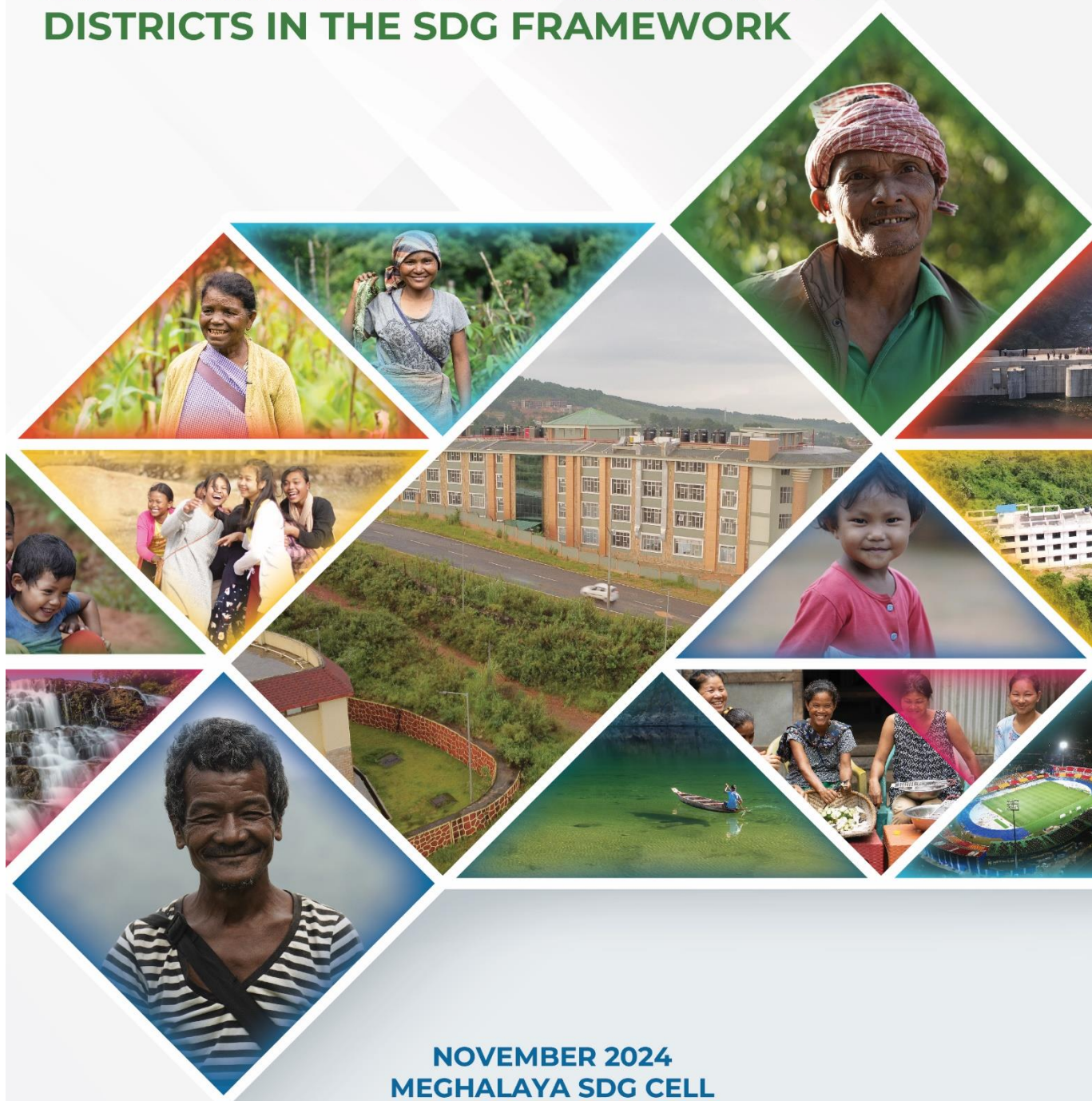




SDG MEGHALAYA: FROM VISION TO ACTION

EVALUATING MEGHALAYA STATE AND DISTRICTS IN THE SDG FRAMEWORK



NOVEMBER 2024
MEGHALAYA SDG CELL

PLANNING, INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

Foreword



Dear Citizens,

I am honoured to present the report titled “From Vision to Action: Evaluating Meghalaya and Districts in the SDG Framework,” as a testament to the pursuit of the State’s aspiration to rank among the top ten states in India in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This document represents pivotal step in our ongoing journey towards sustainable development in Meghalaya. It reflects our collective accomplishments, the challenges we encounter and the strategic measures we are implementing to align with the global SDG Agenda 2030.

Meghalaya, enriched by its diverse culture and abundant natural resources, is making significant strides towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable growth throughout our state. Our path has been marked by remarkable endeavors that highlight the effectiveness of our policies and initiatives. We have made strides in enhancing healthcare access through programs like the Chief Minister’s Safe Motherhood Scheme (CMSMS), alongside accelerated programme implementation initiatives aimed at transforming state finances, infrastructure, and the lives of our people. The intervention in the Lakadong turmeric value chain has been a resounding success which has empowered over 13,000 women farmers and collectives. The districts have adopted innovative approaches under the CM Catalytic Fund to accelerate the SDG momentum in the State. Thus, Meghalaya is on a steady path to achieve its ambitious vision of becoming a model state for sustainable and equitable development.

In a spirit of improving governance and sustainable growth, this report also candidly addresses the challenges we face. Through comprehensive analyses of each district, we pinpoint areas requiring intensified focus and strategic action to ensure no citizen is overlooked in our development efforts.

As we confront these challenges, it is encouraging to observe the progress made across all the districts of Meghalaya. This report not only highlights our statewide achievements but also delves into meaningful developments at the community level. It serves as a reflective tool for assessing our journey thus far and acts as a catalyst for future initiatives.

As we continue to walk on this path together, Meghalaya shines as a model to the world by combining traditional wisdom with innovation, promoting inclusivity, and protecting the environment.

Thank You! Khublei! Mitela!

Conrad K. Sangma
Chief Minister, Meghalaya

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1. Introduction

1.1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Goals were conceptualized at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and is a set of 17 interconnected Goals with 169 targets. Adopted by 193 member countries of the United Nations in September 2015, the SDGs build upon the Millennium Development Goals and represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.

SDGs emerged as a global initiative to address pressing challenges and promote sustainable development. The SDGs acknowledge the interconnectedness of global challenges and the necessity for collaboration on an unprecedented scale. It represents a shared vision for a more equitable and sustainable world, emphasizing the importance of leaving no one behind. The SDGs reflect a commitment to transformative change and recognize the role of partnerships, innovation, and collective action in achieving these ambitious goals.

In essence, the SDGs are a testament to the international community's commitment to addressing complex and interrelated issues to create a better future for the people and the planet. It serves as a guiding framework for governments, organizations, and individuals to work together towards a more inclusive, resilient and a sustainable world. India and the State of Meghalaya have embraced the SDGs agenda as a national priority and a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable development.






1.2. Meghalaya's Endeavour in Promoting Sustainable Development Goals

Meghalaya boasts a rich legacy in sustainable development, evident through its iconic sacred forests and root bridges. These remarkable features not only showcase the state's commitment to sustainable practices but also serve as a major tourist attraction, drawing visitors to witness and appreciate the harmonious blend of traditional wisdom and environmental preservation that defines Meghalaya's unique heritage.

The State's 76% forest cover and natural beauty make it well suited for being a prime tourist destination and form the base for building a green economy. However, the State also poses distinctive challenges and opportunities, including the preservation of indigenous cultures, environmental conservation, and promotion of inclusive growth.

Despite being a small and remote state with a sparse population and limited resources, Meghalaya has to its advantage a set of unique geographic and demographic strengths which hold a robust potential for sustainable development and economic growth. These strengths, if strategically leveraged, can transform the state into a hub of economic activity.

The **five strengths** for Meghalaya can be broadly categorized as:

				
Strategic Location	Agroclimatic Diversity	Young Population	Hydrographic Resources	Natural Beauty

Strategic Location: Meghalaya occupies a strategically advantageous location between Guwahati- North Eastern India's biggest commercial and logistic hub- and the 443 km Indo-Bangladesh border along its south. The state forms a crucial component of the Bangladesh Bhutan India Nepal (BBIN) corridor. Optimizing international border trade in the BBIN region through Meghalaya's borders has the potential to raise India's income by 10% and North Eastern Region's by 45%.

Agroclimatic Diversity: The State has a salubrious climate with high precipitation and moderate temperatures. The state boasts of diverse soil types from alluvial in the lowlands to red-laterite in the hills. Despite being the mainstay for 80% of Meghalaya, agriculture in the state is largely naturally organic, uncontaminated by chemical fertilizers and pesticides. These agroclimatic conditions make Meghalaya ideal for the cultivation of high-value-fruits, spices, and medicinal herbs. State's indigenous produce- the Lakadong Turmeric and Khasi Mandarin- have been GI-tagged. Agriculture Missions in the cultivation of such crops currently support 1 lakh rural households across the state. Some of whom have experienced a 50-100% increase in their incomes. With an 18% GDP contribution, agriculture is still Meghalaya's largest employer.

Natural Beauty: Meghalaya is renowned for its breathtaking vistas embellished with cloud-capped mountains, lush valleys, sacred groves, and some of India's loftiest waterfalls and deepest caves. These natural assets attract thousands of tourists to the State every year. Understandably, the tourism sector plays a prominent role in providing direct employment to more than 50,000 people. It has been estimated that the sector currently contributes about 4% to the state's GDP and holds immense potential to attract big-ticket private sector, investment to the state in developing sustainable tourism.

Hydrographic Resources: The state has more than 4,750 km of perennial rivers and streams with a potential to generate 3,000 megawatts of hydroelectric power. However, with a current installed capacity of 378 megawatt, the State is harnessing only 11.8% of this potential. There remains enormous scope for development in Meghalaya's hydroelectric sector. Several externally aided projects (EAPs) are currently being implemented to augment the generation capacity of the state. With requisite private investment, the State can unlock its potential to emerge a power surplus state.

Young Population: Meghalaya is currently at the zenith of a demographic dividend with 74% of its population below the age of 35. Furthermore, 30% of the state's population in the age group of 15-29 years. This demographic trend positions the state favourably compared to the national average and presents numerous opportunities for socio-economic development. The Government also aims to transform the large youth population into job creators rather than job seekers by fostering an entrepreneurship ecosystem through budget allocations, supportive policies, and vocational training programs.

Regardless of the unique opportunities, the state's socio-economic development is constrained by several challenges. Therefore, the pursuit of understanding the socio-economic development of the state requires a consideration of the following four **challenges** that have significant impact on the development trajectory of the state.



These challenges adversely impact economic growth and public goods provisioning. Efforts of the Union and the State Governments to accelerate development take longer to fructify, as these challenges are formidable and structural in nature.

Hilly Terrain: Meghalaya has an undulating topography characterized by a lofty plateau and a series of hill ranges which rise to a height of 1,961 meters. The terrain is frequently intersected by steep gorges and river valleys. The geographical challenges make it costlier to build infrastructure like roads, bridges, water, and electric supply. This cost disability has resulted in an infrastructure deficit. As per CPWD estimates, the cost of building infrastructure in Meghalaya is almost 35-50% higher than the cost in Delhi. Furthermore, climatic extremities such as heavy rainfall and frequent flooding cause significant damage to build assets in Meghalaya, resulting in their reduced lifespan. This deterioration necessitates higher maintenance and replacement costs, creating additional financial burdens. The steep land gradient also creates a surface water retention challenge creating the need for building costly water storage infrastructure. Moreover, farmers in the state suffer from a paucity of contiguous arable land resulting in small-scale outputs and low incomes.

Dispersed Habitations: The state has more than 7000 villages scattered over an area of 22,429 sq. km surface area. These include mix of small villages and isolated habitations, with many consisting of just 20-25 households. Furthermore, 1822 villages are located in difficult-to-reach; remaining unconnected to state's road network. Due to the remoteness of villages, many Meghalaya travel over large distances to the nearest water resources, schools, or hospitals, often losing a day's wage. This impeded accessibility to services and utilities along with the high cost of developing infrastructure adversely impact Meghalaya's performance in various sustainable development indicators.

Complex Landownership: Land in Meghalaya is owned by the indigenous communities rather than individuals or the government. According to the census 2011 only 24% of rural households own land. Land ownership in the state is governed by customary laws which are protected under the constitutional provision of the sixth schedule. This has led to a fragmented land management system where land acquisition, inheritance, and disputes are resolved through traditional practices rather than codified laws. This poses a significant challenge for the Government in acquiring land for infrastructure development and creating land banks for development.

Limited Economic Diversification: The state's economic diversification faces significant limitations, largely due to its historical dependence on agriculture and the difficulties encountered in developing its secondary and tertiary sectors. The economy in the state is primarily agrarian, with about 80% of the population engaged in cultivation, which has hindered job creation and constrained the overall economic foundation. Moreover, despite having a resource-rich hinterland, the high cost of building transport and manufacturing infrastructure posits significant challenges to industries. As a result, most industrial units are categorized as micro-enterprises. This limits the opportunities for broader economic diversification.

The story of sustainable development in the State over the last decade and a half has been mixed. The National Green Tribunal ban on rat-hole coal mining in the 2014 heavily disrupted the pace of growth, adversely impacting livelihoods. The loss of revenue because of the ban is estimated to be Rs. 8000 crores over the last decade. This has also compromised the State's ability to invest in health, education, and other public infrastructure. Thereby, directly impacting human development and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

However, Meghalaya aspires to be at the forefront of Sustainable Development Goals and is committed to achieve the goals by 2030. The Government of Meghalaya is actively implementing tangible measures to build a sustainable society through improved governance and investment in key growth driving sectors.

To achieve its vision to be among the top 10 performing state in India, Meghalaya had constituted an SDG Cell, developed a State Indicator Framework and District Indicator Framework for constant measurement of progress. The State has realized that SDGs require strong local implementation to achieve the desired impact and therefore has undertaken the task of developing a Block Indicator Framework and Local Indicator Framework. This strategic initiative is geared towards establishing a comprehensive system that not only aligns with the overarching SDGs but also facilitates monitoring of progress both at the block and village level, ensuring nuanced evaluation of development outcomes.

1.2.1. Progress of Meghalaya in Sustainable Development Goals 2018-2024

Meghalaya aspires to be at the forefront of Sustainable Development Goals and is committed to achieve the goals by 2030. The SDG India Index, since its inaugural in 2018, has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the SDGs. The composite score, ranking and the percentage change of the State against other northeastern states and two other Indian hilly states (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) is plotted in **table 1**. The data below illustrates that Meghalaya ranked at 22nd position and dropped down to 25th position from 2018 to 2023.

Key Highlights of Meghalaya's Progress as per SDG India Index 2018 to 2023:

Between 2018 and 2023, Meghalaya's composite score saw an improvement of **11 points**, rising from **52** to **63**, while India experienced a **14-point** increase in the same timeframe. In 2018, among the Northeastern states, Meghalaya, along with Assam (49), Arunachal Pradesh (51), and Nagaland (51), registered some of the lowest composite scores. By 2023, however, Meghalaya witnessed the least growth in composite score among the eight Northeastern states, as illustrated in graph 1. This more modest growth reflects the impact of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT) ban** and the state's inherent **structural challenges** on its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) ranking.

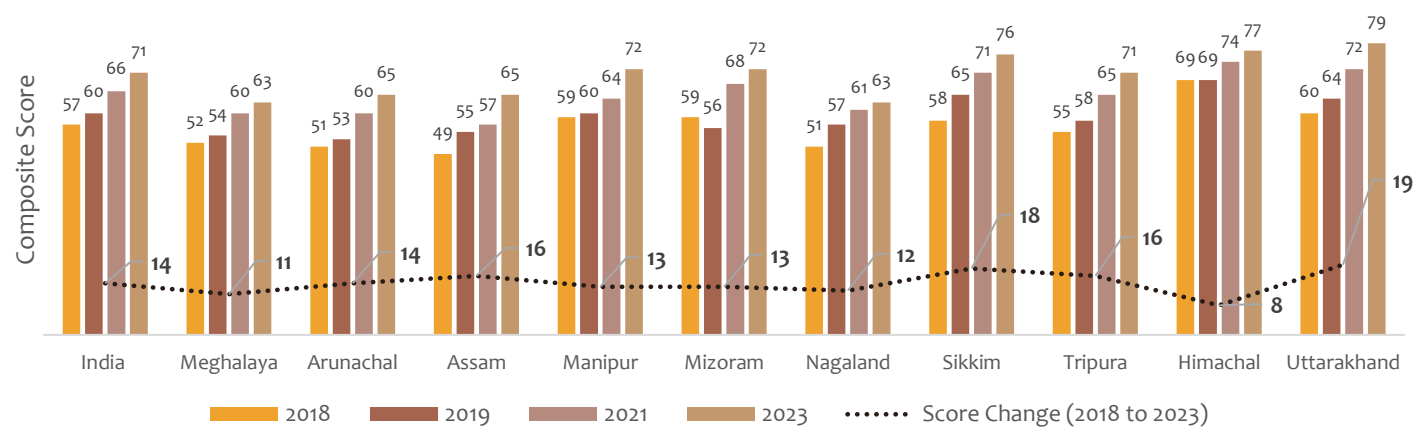
Despite facing these hurdles, the state achieved a moderate **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.4%** in its **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** from the fiscal year 2015 to 2020. During the period of 2020-2024, Meghalaya gained momentum by concentrating on enhancing state capacities for investing in initiatives aimed at the sustainable socio-economic development of the state.

Table 1: Comparison of SDG Composite Scores and Ranks in Northeastern and Hilly States

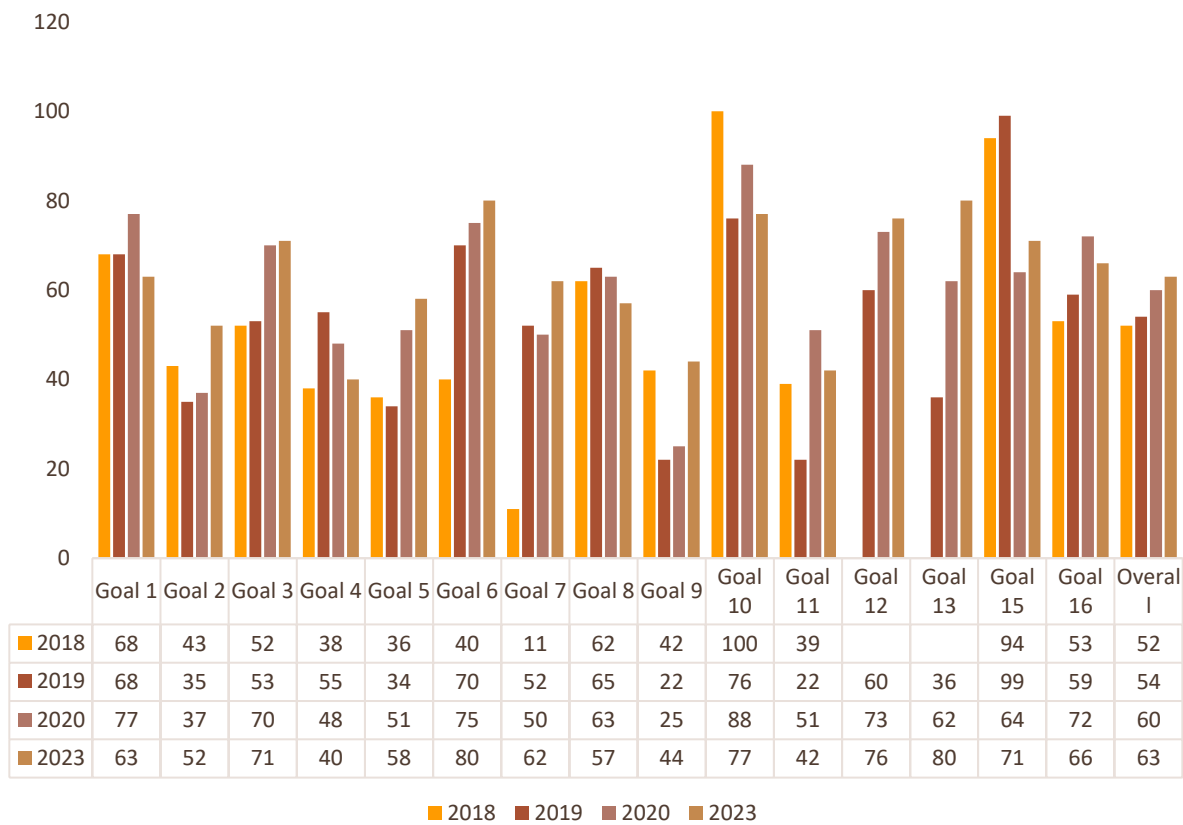
	India	Meghalaya	Arunachal	Assam	Manipur	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	Himachal	Uttarakhand
2018	57	52	51	49	59	59	51	58	55	69	60
Rank		22	23	27	12	13	24	16	19	1	11
2019	60	54	53	55	60	56	57	65	58	69	64
Rank		25	26	23	13	22	19	8	17	2	11
2021	66	60	60	57	64	68	61	71	65	74	72
Rank		23	22	26	16	12	20	8	15	2	7
2023	71	63	65	65	72	72	63	76	71	77	79
Rank		25	24	23	15	13	26	7	16	5	1
Score Change (2018 to 2023)	14	11	14	16	13	13	12	18	16	8	19

Graph 1 further demonstrates the eight northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand (2 Indian hilly states for comparison) against India’s SDG composite score from 2018 to 2023 along with the change point in the same metric.

Graph 1: Comparative Analysis of SDG Composite Scores 2018-2023



Graph 2 demonstrates the goal wise performance in SDGs from 2018 to 2023, reflecting a decline in 6 Goals: Goal 1, Goal 4, Goal 8, Goal 10, Goal 11, Goal 16



The effect of the NGT ban is reflected in the SDG ranking as well. The State's ability to drive economic growth and create jobs, was severely impaired, perpetuating a cycle of underdevelopment and sluggish socio-economic growth. Moreover, the **structural challenges** of the state posed by **Dispersed Habitation**, and difficult **Terrain & Climate**, make it costlier to build infrastructure like roads, bridges which leads to infrastructure deficit. The remoteness of villages creates further disadvantages in accessing services such as schools, hospitals, and market. This hindered accessibility to services and utilities along with high cost of developing infrastructure adversely influence Meghalaya's performance in the Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

Despite these challenges, the State capacities have been substantially strengthened to deliver last mile benefits to every household. A marked increase in the size, scale, and quality of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), farmer producer groups and banking correspondents have boosted entrepreneurship, community development, financial inclusion, and supply chain transformation. This has relied upon the **improved governance in the state ecosystem** which has implemented robust 'Ease of Doing Business' measures to ease the regulatory framework which delivers policy benefits, project implementation and financing of large-scale capital projects through Externally Aided Projects (EAPs). Partnership with leading institutions such as World Bank, IFAD, JICA, ADB and NDB have transformed sectors spanning agriculture, livelihood, health, infrastructure, natural resource management, skill development and tourism for holistic development.

Additionally, Meghalaya has showcased continuous improvement in Sustainable Development Goals like **Climate Action; Clean Water and Sanitation; Reduced Inequalities; Responsible Consumption; Life on Land and Good Health & Wellbeing** which reflect efforts towards socio-economic development. The impact of these initiatives can be measured in the long run since SDG performance indicators are not isolated from one another and various other developmental factors, but function with synergies. As Meghalaya strides towards a sustainable future, the launch of this document by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is a testament to the State' unwavering dedication towards achieving these goals. This document not only measures progress but also lays a foundation for future roadmap.

1.3. Structure of the Report

The SDG journey of Meghalaya through **2021 to 2024** unfolds across six chapters.

Chapter 1, 'The introduction' delves into Meghalaya's geographical nuances and the state's unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This section not only illuminates Meghalaya's performance but also analyses the status of each goal since the inaugural index release, drawing comparisons with other Northeastern and Hilly states of India.

Chapter 2 meticulously explains the Vision of the state and the Methodology, offering an insightful panorama of the Goals and the performance metrics of key indicators, while also acknowledging the limitations of the report. Within this section, the report sheds light on the data employed, the formulas utilized, and the methodology for scoring districts across each goal. The chapter culminates with a district-wise ranking and a comprehensive evaluation of the challenges hindering the state's pursuit of these Goals.

Chapter 3 endeavors to furnish readers with the strategic roadmap devised by the State for achieving SDGs. It subsequently outlines the diverse initiatives undertaken by the state to fulfill its targets, concluding with an emphasis on the pivotal role that districts can play in localizing and attaining SDGs. **Chapter 4** presents district factsheets, enumerating focus areas for each district to enhance their performance.

In **Chapter 5**, the narrative transitions to the way forward for the State and its districts to ameliorate their SDG Rankings.

2. Vision, Objectives and Methodology

2.1. Vision and Objectives

Meghalaya as a State has prioritized Sustainable Development Goals and is continuously taking initiatives to achieve its vision to rank amongst top ten performing states in the country by 2030. To achieve this vision, the role of a regular and comprehensive report card for Goal wise comparison of the progress becomes crucial. Since it has already been more than two years for any district level SDG monitoring report, Meghalaya State has come up with this comprehensive report, **From Vision to Action: District Report 2024**.

The objectives of this report are as follows-

- Rank the 12 districts of Meghalaya based on their relative performance across the 15 SDGs (Goal 14 and 17 are not relevant)
- Identify the critical gaps and challenges in performance and achievements to strategize necessary corrective measures.
- Highlight district disparities across the state so that suitable interventions can be undertaken to iron them out.
- Promote healthy competition among the districts of Meghalaya in their journey towards achieving the Goals.
- Create a platform for collaboration and enable districts to learn from the good practices of their peers.

2.2. Methodology

This section explains the methodology adopted for data, ranking and discusses the limitation of the method.

2.2.1. Data Sampling

The data used in this document can be categorized into two, as listed below.

a. Base line Data (2020-21)

For the SDG baseline, for the 50 indicators, the State SDG cell collected data from all districts and departments through “SDG Meghalaya” mobile based application. Similarly, for 24 indicators the data was taken from the central ministries and the remaining data from taken from National Family Health Survey Report-5 (NFHS-5).

b. Evaluation year data (2023-24)

The data for assessment year has been collected by adopting same approach for 64 indicators.

2.2.2. District evaluation Ranking (2023-24)

An interim analysis has been done towards locating trends against the SDGs at the District level. District level indicators for which data have been provided by the departments up to March 2024 have been considered and the following steps were conducted to arrive at the trends:

- **Raw indicator values were normalized** to arrive at scores of each district against each indicator. The normalization of indicator values into a standard scale of 0 to 100 was done to ensure comparability as different indicators had different ranges of values. For instance, while MMR ranges from 0 to 1,00,000, poverty rate is measured as a percentage. In the normalized range of 0 to 100, 0 indicates the lowest performance and 100 implies that the highest achievement.

Raw data under these SDGs were therefore normalized as follows:

For indicators where increasing or positive value means better performance, for example, the percentage of schools with electricity,

$$x' = \left[\frac{x - \min(x)}{T(x) - \min(x)} \right] \times 100$$

Where, x = raw data value

min(x) = minimum observed value of the indicator in the dataset

max(x) = maximum observed value of the indicator in the dataset

T(x) = target value for the indicator

x' = normalized score after rescaling

For indicators where decreasing or negative value means better performance, for example, Maternal Mortality Rate,

$$x' = \left[1 - \frac{x - T(x)}{\max(x) - T(x)} \right] \times 100$$

Where, x = raw data value

min(x) = minimum observed value of the indicator in the dataset

max(x) = maximum observed value of the indicator in the dataset

T(x) = target value for the indicator

x' = normalized score after rescaling

- **Computation of District-wise score** for each goal followed normalization: This was estimated as the arithmetic mean of the normalized values of all indicators under the SDG, for each District.
- **Ranking of Districts:** After calculating the average normalized scores for each Goal, the Districts were ranked from Rank 1 to Rank 12. The district with highest average score is ranked as 1 and the district with lowest average score is ranked as 12.

2.2.3. Limitations of Methodology

In line with the SDG NER Index, this document is a useful instrument to measure the progress of Meghalaya and its districts in adopting and implementing the SDG agenda, the index has the following limitations:

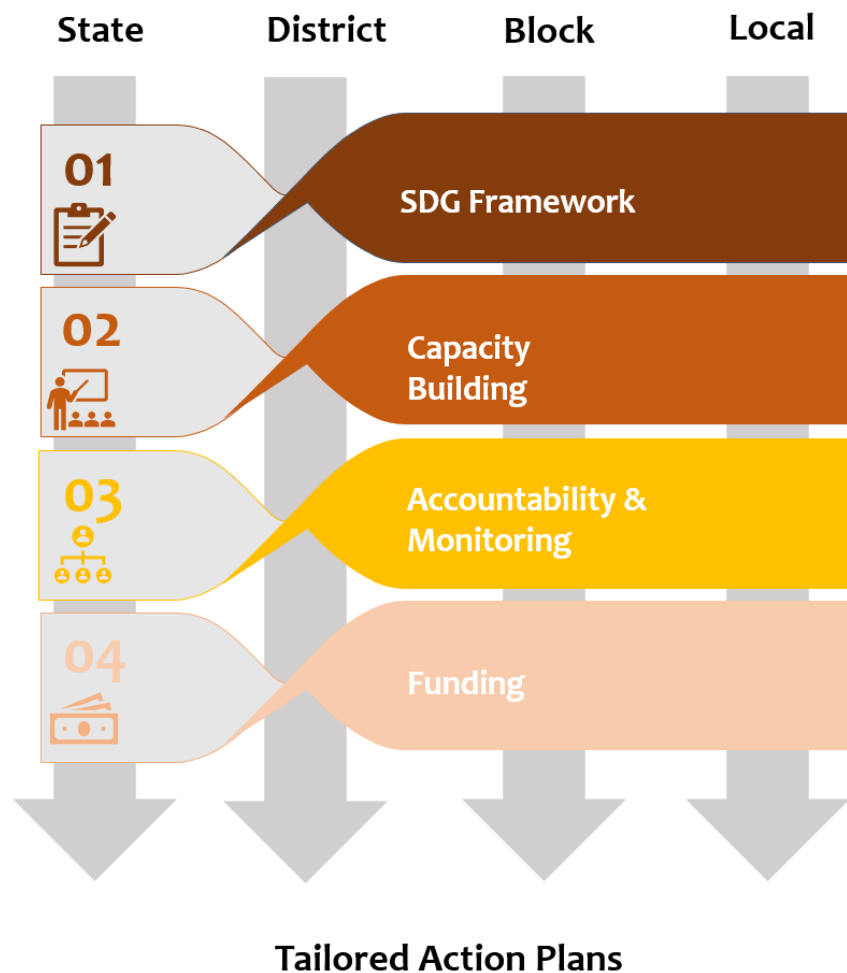
- There is limited comparability to SDG India Index. The indicator sets used for the two indices are necessarily different since some indicators used in the document are specific to the region and do not apply to other States of the country.
- The assessment year for the districts is March 2024 whereas the initiatives include progress made till date.

- The indicators and data from non-government sources have not been included in the interest of data comparability and uniformity.
- For some indicators, data for all districts are not available or applicable. In computing the Index, “null” value has been assigned to these indicators and they have not been included in the computation. For some indicators, data for all districts are not available or applicable. In computing the Index, “null” value has been assigned to these indicators and they have not been included in the computation. **This null/ non-reported value might affect the overall score** while the arithmetic computation of district and composite scores.

3. Roadmap & Initiatives

3.1. Road Map

The state has created a multi-faceted roadmap to realize the vision for SDGs, which shall enable every District, Block and Local area with a tailored action plan for improving SDGs. The framework revolves around five components as illustrated below.



The 5 above components undertake various activities, each with its own status of progress across various administrative tiers, encompassing State, District, Block and Local levels, as illustrated comprehensively below.

3.2. Initiatives

3.2.1 SDG Dashboard & Application

The Government of Meghalaya has launched a mobile application and data dashboard aimed at enhancing sustainable data collection. This application enables stakeholders to easily access, and input data related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The collected data is organized in a district-wise dashboard, integrated with the Chief Minister's main dashboard, showcasing progress across all 12 districts. The initial baseline data for the NER Index was gathered using this mobile app. The SDG Cell is actively working on adding more features and is set to release an upgraded version of the dashboard soon.

3.2.2 CM Catalytic Fund

Acknowledging the limitations of tied funds with specific usage restrictions, the need for additional financial support during implementation is inevitable. Flexibility at this vital stage is essential to meet the unique needs of the districts. In response, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya launched the "CM Catalytic Fund to Districts for Improvement of SDGs."

This innovative fund breaks away from traditional tied-fund models, allowing the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to initiate projects tailored to their districts' requirements. The initiative aims to alleviate financial constraints and promote a bottom-up approach to enhance SDGs performance. Starting with an investment of Rs. 10 Cr, the fund focuses on identifying and addressing immediate opportunities to improve SDG indicators. It also aims to support local initiatives not covered by existing government schemes, ensuring over-all wellbeing of the people and community in Meghalaya.

3.2.3 Linkage of SDGs with E-Proposal system

Navigating the complexities of file and proposal management within the government has traditionally been a challenging process. Recognizing the limitations of this longstanding process, the Government of Meghalaya has introduced an advanced solution: the E- Proposal system which is designed to seamlessly incorporate SDGs and their priorities.

The E-proposal system acts as a digital substitute for conventional paperwork, automating the sanctioning and administrative approval processes across all departments and directorates in Meghalaya. This initiative has successfully reduced the reliance on physical files by 75%, facilitating efficient tracking and monitoring of various schemes. By reducing the use of papers, this system also supports the sustainability efforts, contributing to lessening consumption of paper and thereby reducing the environmental impact.

3.2.4 Meghalaya Next

Meghalaya aims to rank among the top ten Indian States by 2030 in both per capita GDP and Sustainable Development Goal achievements. The Meghalaya NEXT workshop was initiated in response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for a collaborative and consultative policymaking process, which is essential for the state's development.

All State department aligned their next five-year vision with SDGs. With 70% of the population below twenty-nine years of age, there's an urgent demand for development that fosters economic opportunities, stability, and sustainable growth. Addressing these needs requires a strategic vision from the state government.

To facilitate this strategic planning, the Government of Meghalaya organized 'Meghalaya NEXT: Brainstorming the Future', a three-day workshop focused on ensuring policy coherence for achieving SDGs. This event encouraged shared learning and problem solving among senior administrators, enabling each department to pinpoint critical gaps and devise systematic measures for transformative development in Meghalaya.

The State government has identified the following key areas to focus on for the next five years:

- **Driving economic growth:** The creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities and promoting investment
- **Providing durable infrastructure:** All-weather roads, reliable power supply, broadband connectivity

- **Improving health and nutrition:** Enhancing health outcomes of the state's citizens
- **Early childhood development:** Fostering early childhood education and care.
- **Quality Education and Skills Training:** Providing quality education and skilling opportunities for the youth
- **Climate change mitigation:** Implementing strategies for climate change adaption and mitigation.

3.3 State's Interventions on SDGs

3.3.1 Formation of SDG Cell at the State and District

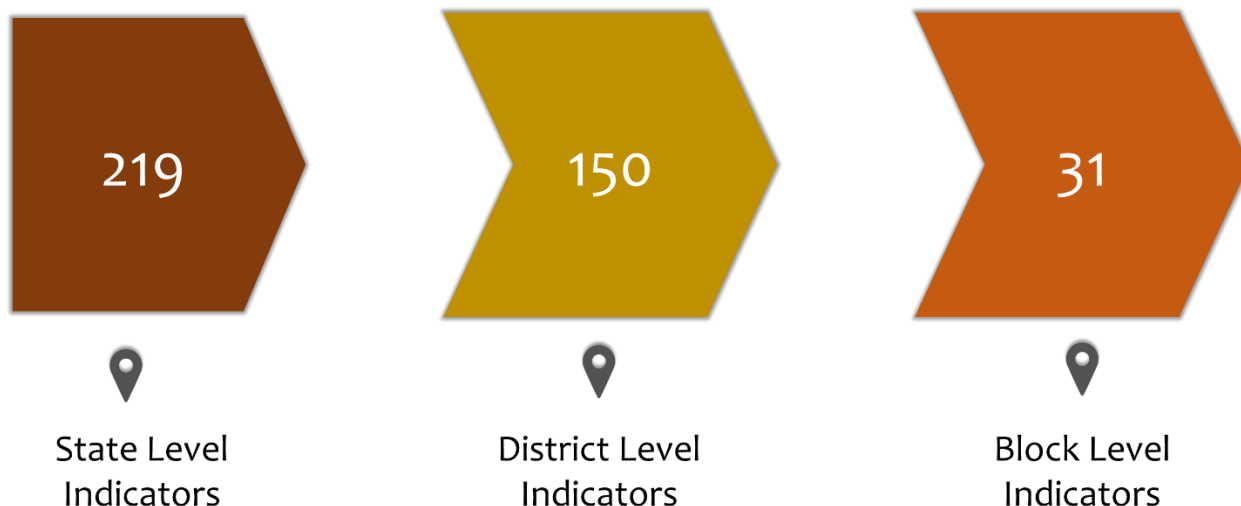
NITI Aayog is evolving into a cutting-edge resource center equipped with the expertise and agility to drive research and innovation, offer strategic policy advice to the government, and address urgent issues effectively. In parallel, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cell in Meghalaya is working towards implementing similar initiatives tailored to the state's unique context.

The SDG Cell is actively engaging with districts and local governments to align its vision with the state's development priorities, sectors, and strategies. It is also establishing frameworks for planning at the village level, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left behind in economic progress. Special attention is being given to these groups to enhance their benefits from development initiatives. Additionally, the cell is crafting long-term policy designs, program frameworks, and initiatives while monitoring their effectiveness and progress. Insights gained from this monitoring process are being utilized for innovative improvements, including necessary adjustments along the way.

3.3.2 SDG Framework

Understanding the Sustainable Development Goals at the local governance level can be challenging, often leading to diminished accountability in their implementation due to insufficient understanding and insights. To address this issue, the Meghalaya SDG Cell developed the State Indicator Framework, which was created by adapting key elements from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) National Indicator Framework and refined through consultations with various departments.

The State Indicator Framework includes localized and disaggregated performance indicators at both the state and district levels. This structure enables local governance to effectively integrate their key performance indices with long-term SDG objectives. Furthermore, this initiative fosters healthy competition among the existing governance structures. The framework consists of 219 indicators aligned with 75 targets across 15 goals. At the district level, 150 multilateral indicators are organized under the District Indicator Framework, which also incorporates indicators from the Northeastern Region-SDG Index (NER-SDG), allowing for concurrent progress tracking on both fronts.



Currently, Meghalaya is working on strengthening the localization of SDGs through the implementation of Panchayat Development Index by the C&RD department. This framework aligns with the nine SDG themes outlined by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. These initiatives are crucial for monitoring SDG progress and fostering growth at a localized level.

3.3.3 SDG Budget

The Government of Meghalaya is actively integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its governance framework, particularly through the budgeting process. This initiative aims to embed SDGs within state policies and financial allocations, thereby fostering an output and performance-

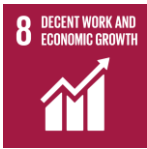













based approach to development. By doing so, the government enhances its capacity to monitor fund allocation and utilization across various departments, facilitating a clearer understanding of the correlation between financial investments and anticipated developmental outcomes.

For the fiscal year 2024-25, **74% of the budget is allocated to SDGs**. It analyzed goal and indicator-wise allocation of the state budget. Each line item in the sub-heads is linked to an SDG indicator and compiled to portray the expenditure the state seeks to make on each SDG indicator and goal. Meghalaya's third SDG budget portrays its commitment to consistently programming for equitable and sustainable development across the State. **The SDG budget for the year 2024-2025 is INR 19,960 Cr.** Goal 4- Quality Education holds the highest allocation of the budget, which is 18.4%, followed by Goal 9- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure at 14.8%. The top contributor to SDGs in terms of proportion of financing is the Department of Education. This is followed by the Public Works Department.

3.3.4 State Government's Interventions on SDGs

The State has made significant progress in recent years, improving its composite score from 52 to 63 in the NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2018-2019 to 2023-24. It has taken a head on approach to overcome the challenges in improving the indicators and achieve the SDGs by 2030. It continues to invest through schemes and programs for the overall improvement of SDGs. Below is the list of programmes launched by the Government of Meghalaya mapped with SDGs.

 	CM Elevate Fund
  	Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS)
  	FOCUS and FOCUS+
   	Piggery Mission

 	Meghalaya Early Childhood Development (ECD)
	Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project (MHSSP)
 	Meghalaya Eco-Tourism Infrastructure Development Project (MEIDP)
	Promotion and Incubation of Market-driven Enterprises (PRIME)
 	YESS! Meghalaya
	Cyber Crime Prevention against Women
  	Great Ampati Water Supply Scheme (GAWSS)
  	New Shillong Water Supply Scheme (NSWSS)

 	Meghalaya Power Distribution Sector Improvement Project
 	CM's Solar Mission
	Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP)
  	Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund
 	Homestay Scheme
 	Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP)
	Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)



Community based Forest Management
and Livelihood Improvement



PA Sangma Fellowship for Legal and
Policy Research

4. Role & Performance of the Districts

Districts play a pivotal role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the governmental tier that is most proximate to the populace, districts bear the responsibility for the implementation and oversight of numerous programs and services that are fundamental to the realization of the SDGs.

The roles played by the districts in SDG implementation are:

- a. **Formulating District Indicator Framework:** The District Indicator Framework is a tool that is used to track progress towards the SDGs at the district level. The framework includes a set of indicators for each SDG goal and target. These indicators are used to collect data on a regular basis and to assess the district's progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- b. **Formation of SDG District Cell:** A district SDG Cell is constituted across all districts headed by the Deputy Commissioner. The Cell is responsible to accelerate progress and monitor SDG implementation in the district. The Cell is a focal point for coordination and collaboration across all the line departments and stakeholders in the district.
- c. **Developing SDG District Action Plan:** The District Action plan will help Districts identify the specific goals and targets to focus on. With the help of the District SDG Cell, all departments can deliberate on identification of gaps, strategies to improve its poor performing indicators.
- d. **Implementation of CM Catalytic Fund:** The CM Catalytic Fund is a financial instrument that has been used to support the implementation of SDG projects and initiatives at the district level. The fund is administered by the Planning Department through the SDG Cell in the State.
- e. **Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:** It is important to monitor the progress of the SDG implementation at the district level on a regular basis. This is done through the District Indicator Framework and other data collection mechanisms. The district also established a monitoring mechanism to review the progress of SDG implementation and identify any challenges or bottlenecks through the SDG District Cell.

4.1. Performance of the Districts in Sustainable Development Goals

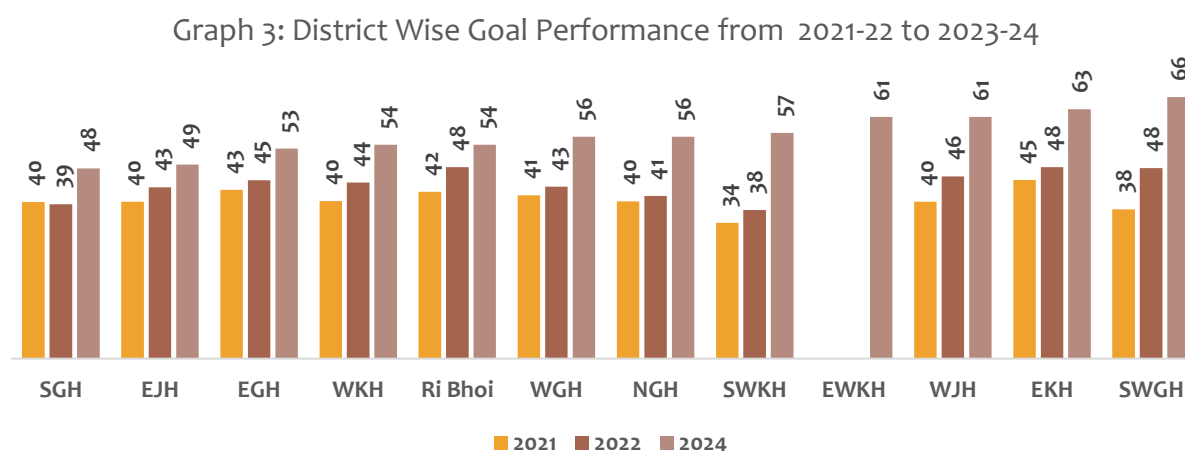
4.1.1. Overview of the Performance of the Districts

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the performance of districts across 15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The evaluation involves the computation and compilation of district-wise goal scores, alongside a comparative analysis of data from the baseline year (2020-21) and the assessment year (2023-24). The objective is to highlight both the progressing goals and indicators within the districts, while also identifying non-performing indicators and goals that require focused attention to enhance overall SDG performance.

The analysis aims to foster cooperative federalism among districts and promote peer learning at the implementation level. In this context, district-wise rankings and overall average scores are presented for 12 districts in Meghalaya. However, the 12th district of Eastern West Khasi Hills was formed in 2021. Therefore, the data presented for the district is from the assessment year only.

4.1.2. District Ranking and Scoring

The below figure shows the ranking and average score of Districts for the baseline year (2020-21) and assessment year (2023-24).



The analysis shows that South-West Garo Hills (SWGH) has emerged as the top performing district in 2023 with an increase in average score of 18- points from 2022 and 28 points from 2021. All the 12 districts have performed exceedingly well in the indicator, “Percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district” under Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

SWGH has reflected the maximum change point in Goal 2, Goal 5 and Goal 12 with a change point of 14, 46 and 57 in average score respectively in 2024. The district has demonstrated striking development on certain indicators which has propelled its progress to Rank 1. The district has strengthened SHG credit linkages doubling its score from 2022. It has also notably expanded social security benefits such as food security through Fair Price Shops (FPS) through a 94.6-point growth. SWGH also demonstrated conscious growth in maternal health indicators scoring over 90 in maternal health benefits, ante natal checkups, and children fully

immunized. The district has also shown higher progress compared to the 2022 top performing district, East Khasi Hills especially across SDG 1, 2, 3 and 9. SWGH, however, still has sufficient room for growth in some indicators such as schools with electricity, computer availability, and percentage of trained teachers at secondary level.

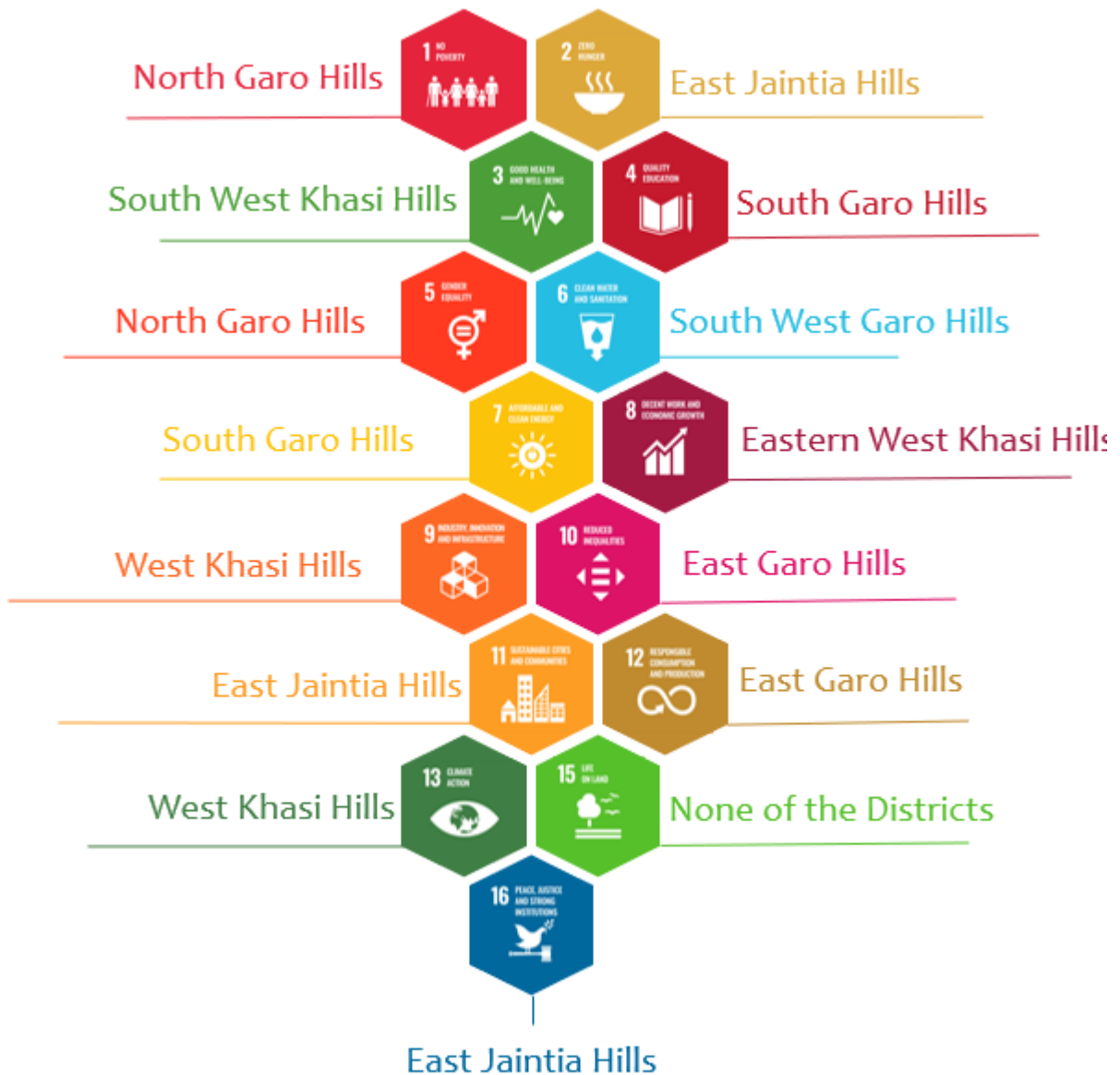
South-west Khasi Hills has seen the most improvement with an 19-point increase in the average score from 2022. It has reflected the highest change in Goal 9, 11 and 13 with an increase of 36, 83 and 52 points respectively in average goal score. Indicators such as access to all weather roads, villages with internet connection and mobile network, percentages of SHGs provided credit highlighted notable growth. However, Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 8: Decent Work marked significant potential for improvement.

South Garo Hills is positioned as the lowest performing district in 2024. The district saw significant fall in scores in several key indicators such as percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY, percentage of affordable houses sanctioned under PMAY, and number of hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY, and infant mortality rate. The fall in score was also observed in critical economic growth indicators such as percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs. The district, however, has driven progress in indicators such as percentage of FPS covered under online transaction system, maternal health indicators, electrified villages, access to formal banking services etc.

4.2. Goal Wise: Top Performers



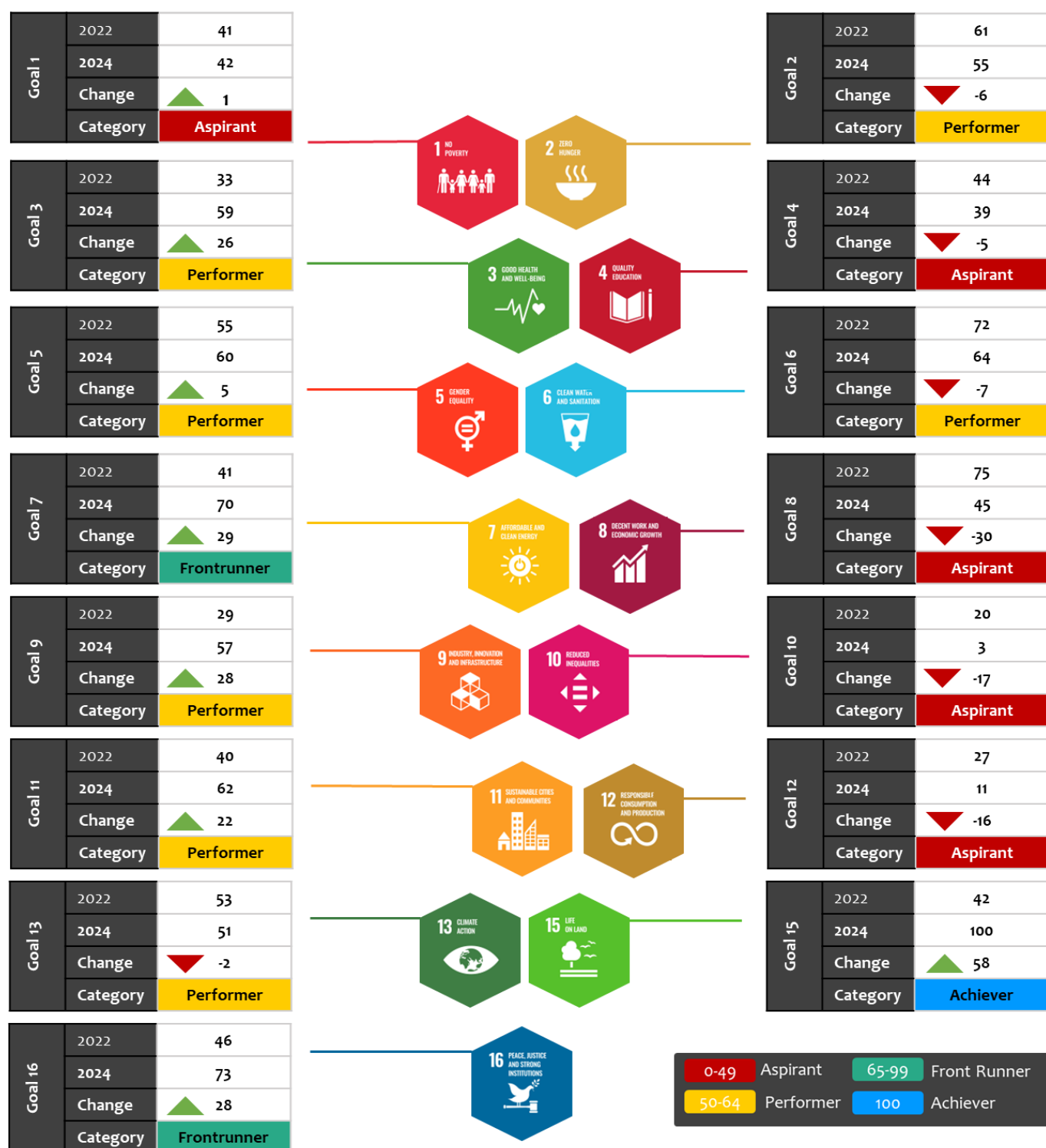
4.3. Goal Wise: Poor Performers



4.4. District Report Card

Goal	Year	EGH	EJH	EKH	NGH	Ri Bhoi	SGH	SWGH	SWKH	WGH	WJH	WKH	EWKH
Goal 1	2022	40	48	53	34	27	26	38	40	36	51	43	
	2024	42	54	53	38	58	40	50	61	42	63	45	74
	Trend	↑ 2	↑ 6	↓ 0	↑ 4	↑ 30	↑ 14	↑ 12	↑ 21	↑ 5	↑ 13	↑ 3	↑ 74
	Category	Asp.	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run
Goal 2	2022	61	47	60	59	69	48	54	60	66	56	57	
	2024	55	48	57	71	56	45	67	64	54	60	73	76
	Trend	↓ -6	↑ 0	↓ -3	↑ 11	↓ -13	↓ -4	↑ 14	↑ 3	↓ -12	↑ 4	↑ 17	↑ 76
	Category	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	F. Run	F. Run
Goal 3	2022	33	18	20	17	21	30	25	19	19	17	12	
	2024	59	46	51	52	55	54	60	37	53	43	57	44
	Trend	↑ 27	↑ 28	↑ 31	↑ 35	↑ 34	↑ 24	↑ 35	↑ 18	↑ 34	↑ 26	↑ 45	↑ 44
	Category	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.
Goal 4	2022	44	44	46	35	38	29	33	30	41	48	44	
	2024	39	28	47	35	32	22	23	23	31	38	31	34
	Trend	↓ -5	↓ -16	↑ 1	↓ 0	↓ -6	↓ -8	↓ -10	↓ -7	↓ -9	↓ -10	↓ -13	↑ 34
	Category	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.
Goal 5	2022	55	31	42	29	39	39	46	40	46	46	39	
	2024	60	38	63	23	60	43	93	42	37	74	66	67
	Trend	↑ 5	↑ 7	↑ 21	↓ -6	↑ 21	↑ 4	↑ 46	↑ 3	↓ -9	↑ 27	↑ 27	↑ 67
	Category	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	Perf.	Asp.	Asp.	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run
Goal 6	2022	72	62	57	67	72	63	48	79	57	61	78	
	2024	64	58	77	59	60	68	33	67	53	67	67	75
	Trend	↓ -7	↓ -4	↑ 20	↓ -7	↓ -12	↑ 5	↓ -15	↓ -12	↓ -4	↑ 6	↓ -11	↑ 75
	Category	Perf.	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	Perf.	F. Run	Asp.	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run
Goal 7	2022	41	34	39	36	13	32	55	47	40	7	33	
	2024	70	68	94	78	58	0	91	40	77	39	60	85
	Trend	↑ 29	↑ 33	↑ 55	↑ 42	↑ 45	↓ -32	↑ 36	↓ -6	↑ 38	↑ 33	↑ 27	↑ 85
	Category	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run	Asp.	F. Run	Asp.	Perf.	F. Run
Goal 8	2022	75	88	78	67	77	71	71	71	82	76	77	
	2024	45	67	78	41	62	51	60	42	44	52	71	27
	Trend	↓ -30	↓ -21	↓ 0	↓ -26	↓ -15	↓ -21	↓ -11	↓ -29	↓ -38	↓ -24	↓ -6	↑ 27
	Category	Asp.	F. Run	F. Run	Asp.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	Asp.	Perf.	F. Run	Asp.
Goal 9	2022	29	40	62	36	44	11	70	12	59	69	7	
	2024	57	56	66	62	64	21	82	48	84	67	21	55
	Trend	↑ 28	↑ 16	↑ 4	↑ 26	↑ 20	↑ 10	↑ 12	↑ 36	↑ 25	↓ -2	↑ 14	↑ 55
	Category	Perf.	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run	Asp.	F. Run	F. Run	Asp.	Perf.
Goal 10	2022	20	34	40	27	21	20	25	42	16	41	27	
	2024	3	22	34	11	13	22	12	31	19	31	13	12
	Trend	↓ -17	↓ -12	↓ -6	↓ -16	↓ -8	↑ 2	↓ -13	↓ -11	↑ 3	↓ -9	↓ -14	↑ 12
	Category	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.
Goal 11	2022	40	100	63	11	100	24	100	17	42	42	100	
	2024	62	0	83	49	22	53	87	100	59	63	50	56
	Trend	↑ 22	↓ -100	↑ 20	↑ 38	↓ -78	↑ 29	↓ -13	↑ 83	↑ 17	↑ 21	↓ -50	↑ 56
	Category	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run	Asp.	Asp.	Perf.	F. Run	Ach.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.	Perf.
Goal 12	2022	27	35	47	39	55	35	32	27	28	66	33	
	2024	11	45	35	63	65	60	89	47	47	74	74	100
	Trend	↓ -16	↑ 10	↓ -12	↑ 23	↑ 10	↑ 26	↑ 57	↑ 20	↑ 18	↑ 8	↑ 40	↑ 100
	Category	Asp.	Asp.	Asp.	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	Asp.	Asp.	F. Run	F. Run	Ach.
Goal 13	2022	53	33	72	58	73	65	54	15	42	63	63	
	2024	51	64	44	66	53	70	57	67	62	84	8	50
	Trend	↓ -2	↑ 31	↓ -28	↑ 8	↓ -20	↑ 5	↑ 3	↑ 52	↑ 20	↑ 21	↓ -55	↑ 50
	Category	Perf.	Perf.	Asp.	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	Asp.	Perf.
Goal 15	2022	42	4	24	57	29	44	14	14	23	5	20	
	2024	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Trend	↑ 58	↑ 96	↑ 76	↑ 43	↑ 71	↑ 56	↑ 86	↑ 86	↑ 77	↑ 95	↑ 80	↑ 100
	Category	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.	Ach.
Goal 16	2022	46	31	21	43	47	48	56	48	54	42	35	
	2024	73	36	66	91	57	79	85	78	76	61	68	53
	Trend	↑ 28	↑ 5	↑ 45	↑ 48	↑ 11	↑ 31	↑ 28	↑ 30	↑ 23	↑ 19	↑ 33	↑ 53
	Category	F. Run	Asp.	F. Run	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run	F. Run	Perf.	F. Run	Perf.

4.4.1. East Garo Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State schemes against target
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women who completed 4 ANC's in the district
- ✓ Percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district

Best Performing Goal



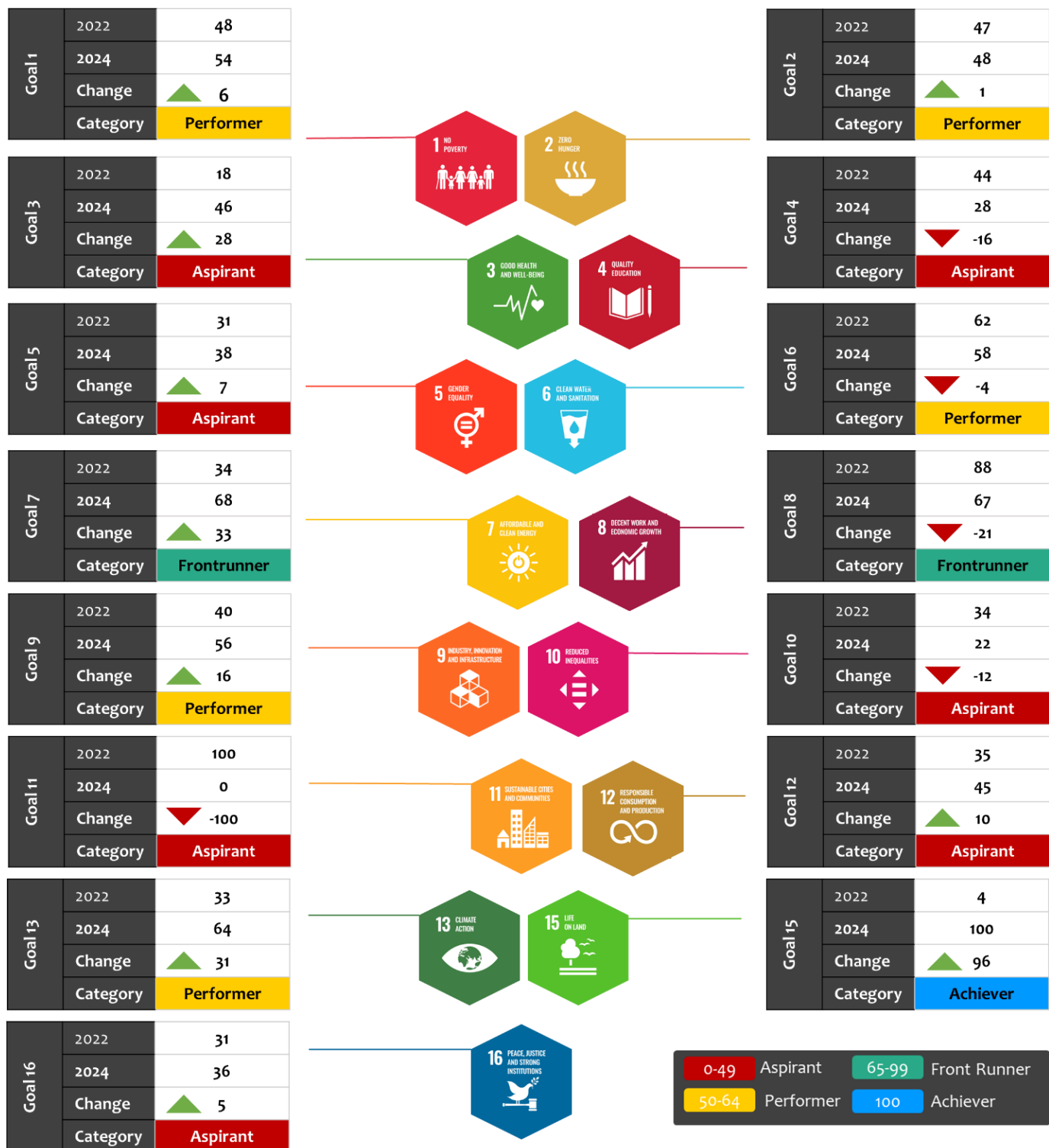
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY or related state schemes per 10,000 eligible population
- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned
- ✓ Average yield of rice (kg/ha)

4.4.2. East Jaintia Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Average yield of rice (kg/ha)
- ✓ Percentage of area under micro/minor irrigation in the district
- ✓ Area under watershed management as a percentage of total geographical area

Best Performing Goal



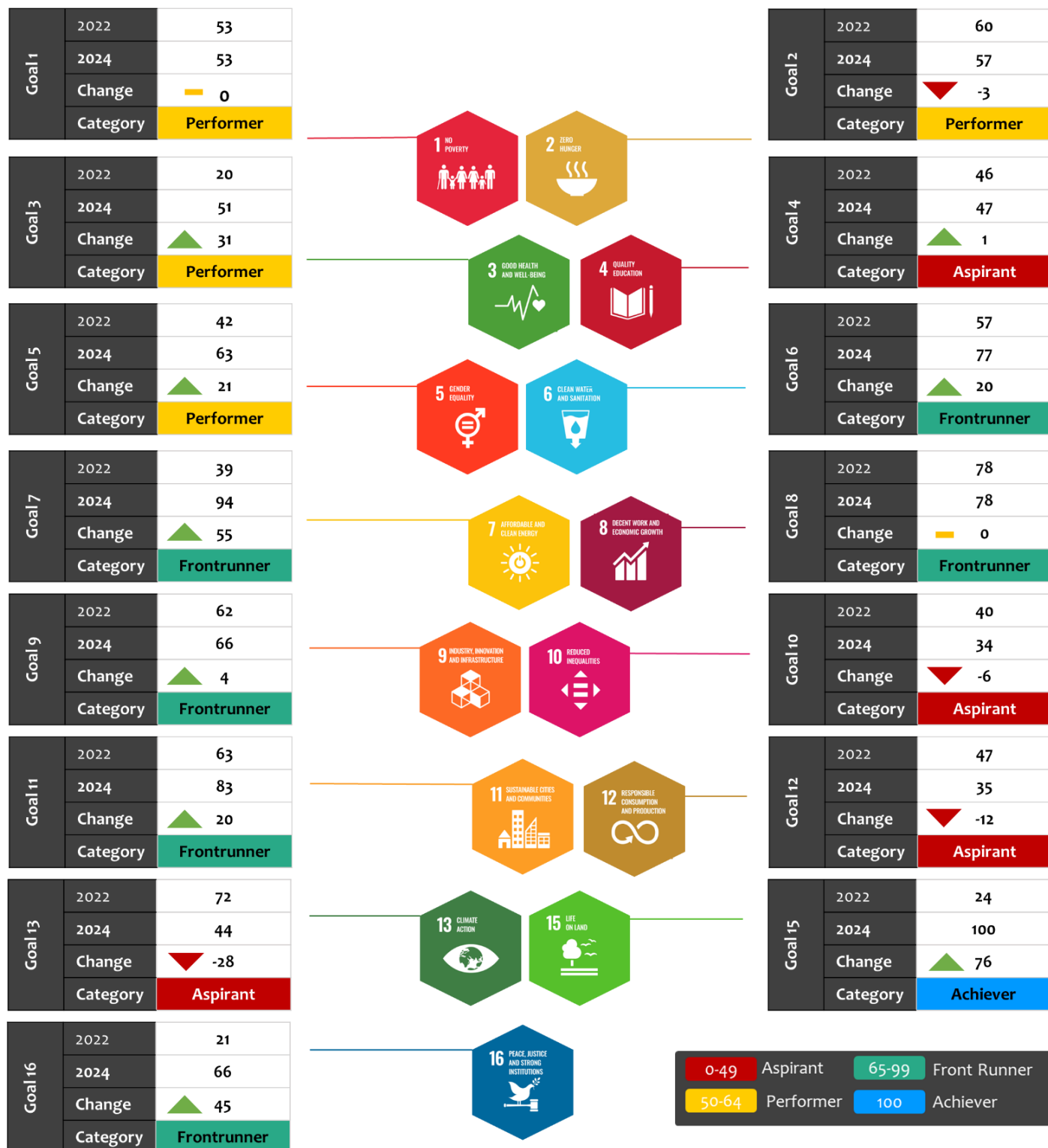
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY or related State Schemes per 10,000 eligible population
- ✓ Percentage of area under micro/minor irrigation in the district
- ✓ Percentage of sexual crime against women to total crimes against women

4.4.3. East Khasi Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) provided credit linkage
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women who completed 4 ANC's in the district
- ✓ Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treated out to total MSW generated

Best Performing Goal



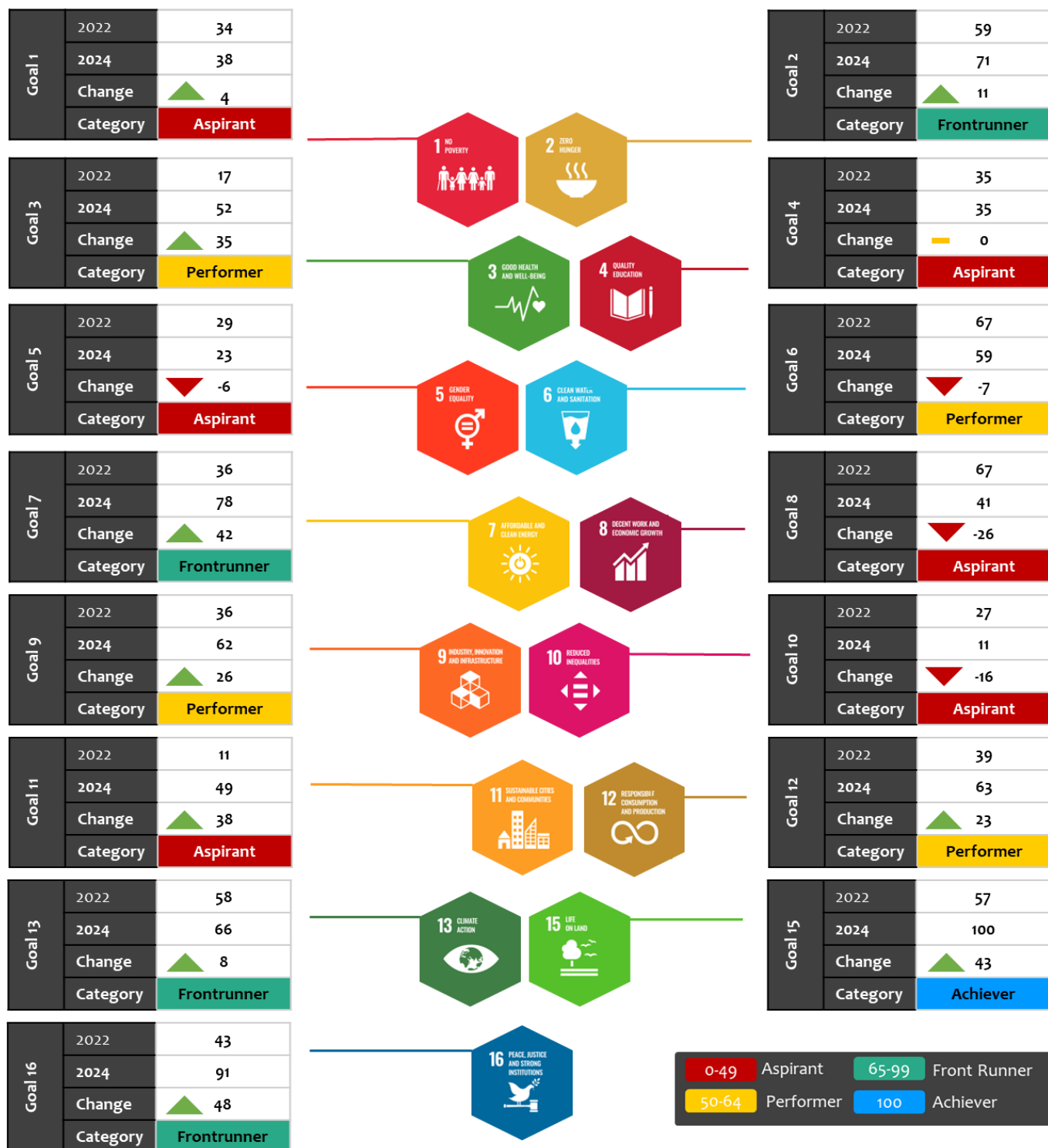
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Average yield of rice (kg/ha)
- ✓ Productivity of fruits and vegetables (kg/ha)
- ✓ Hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY or related State schemes per 10,000 eligible population

4.4.4. North Garo Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women who completed 4 ANC's in the district
- ✓ Percentage of anganwadis with own buildings
- ✓ Productivity of fruits and vegetables (kg/ha)

Best Performing Goal



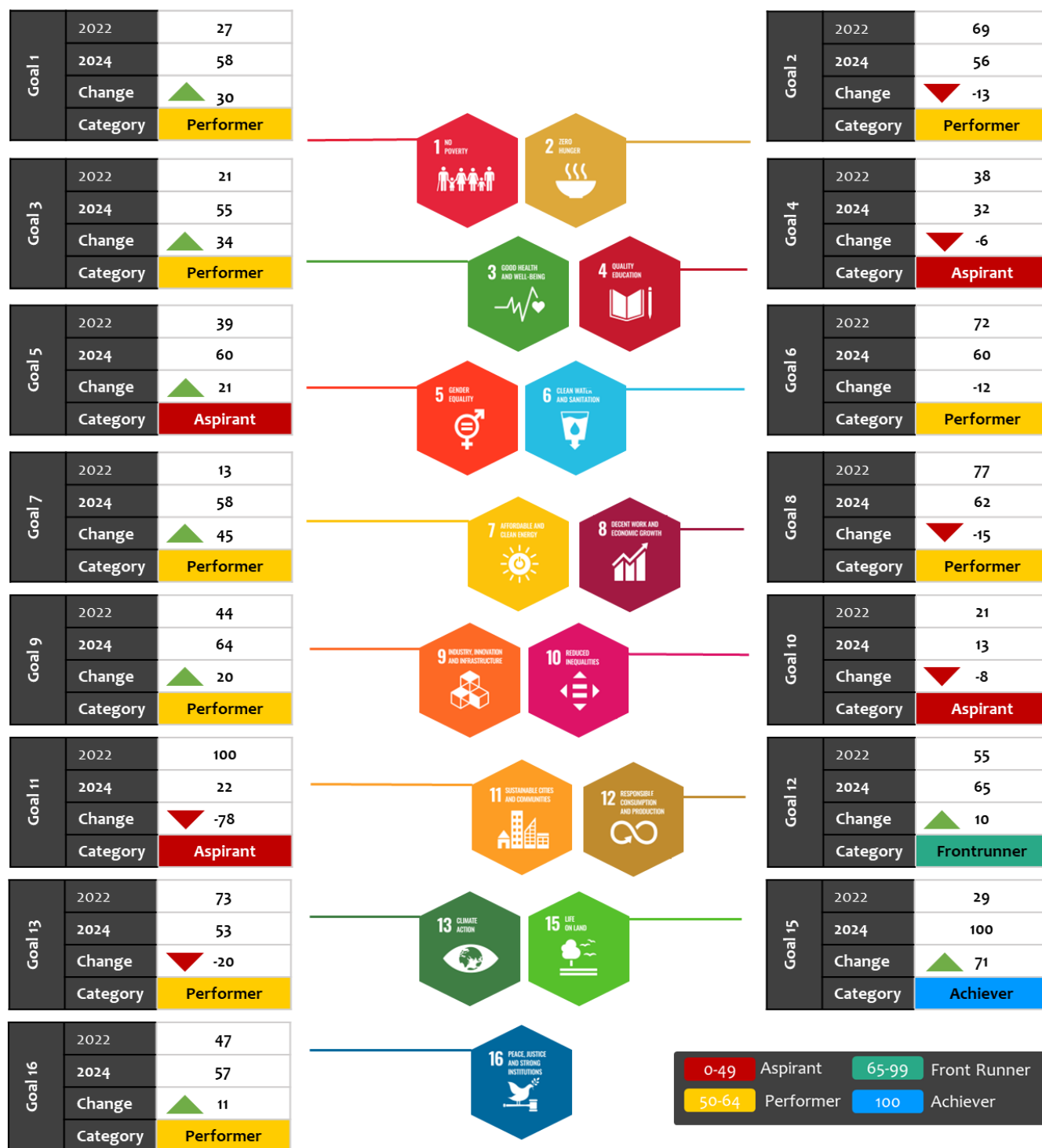
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or nay other maternity related State schemes against target
- ✓ Percentage of sexual crimes against women to total crimes against women
- ✓ Hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY or related State schemes per 10,000 eligible population

4.4.5. Ri Bhoi: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) provided credit linkage
- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State Schemes against target
- ✓ Percentage of sexual crimes against women to total crime against women

Best Performing Goal



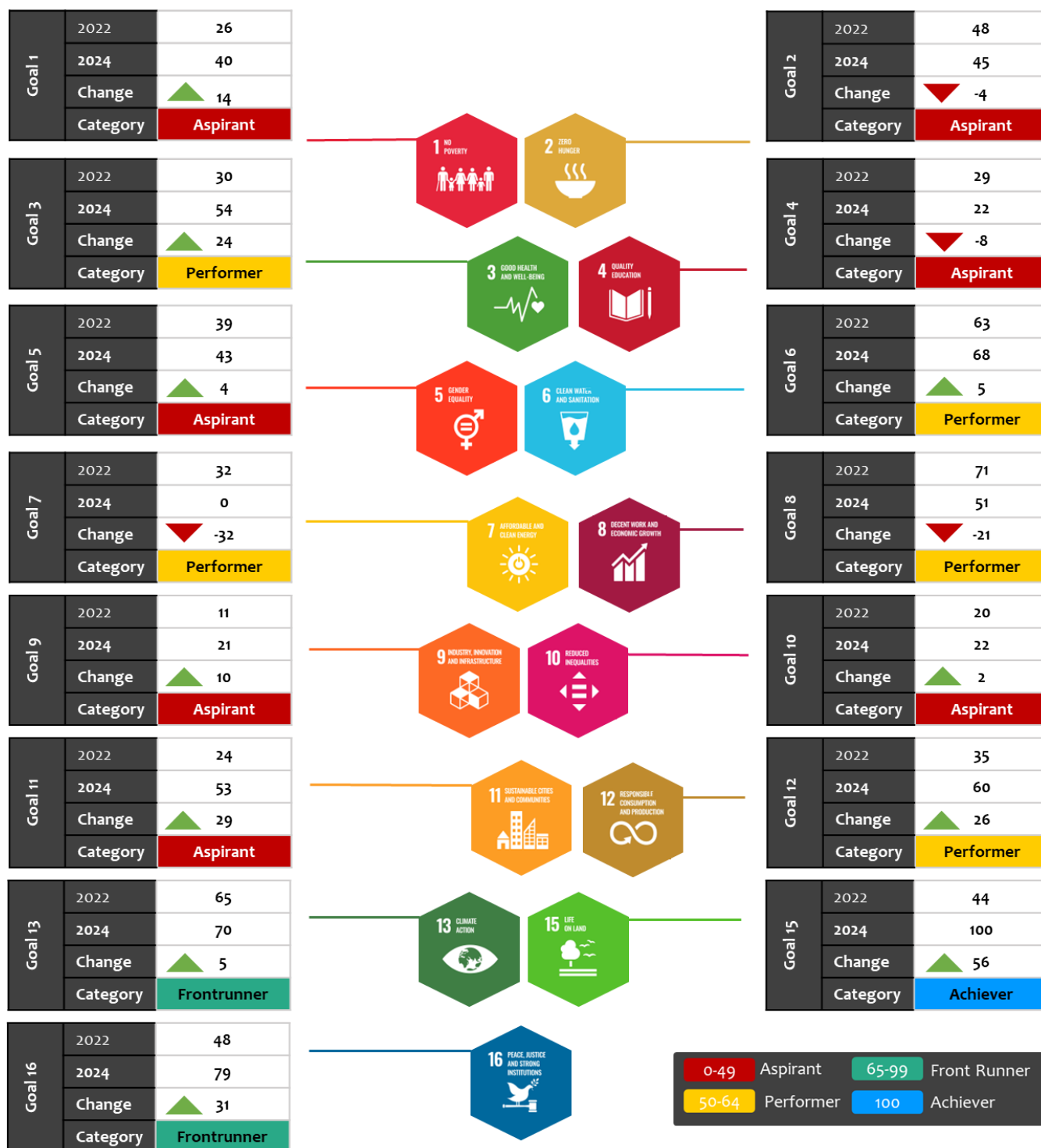
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of fair price shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district
- ✓ Persons with Disability (PWDs) provided employment as a percentage of total employment demanded by PWDs under MGNREGA
- ✓ Percentage of area under watershed management as a percentage of total geographical area

4.4.6. South Garo Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Productivity of fruits and vegetables (Kg/ha)
- ✓ Percentage of sexual crimes against women to total crimes against women
- ✓ Houses completed under PMAY and/or other schemes as a percentage of net demand assessment (U)

Best Performing Goal



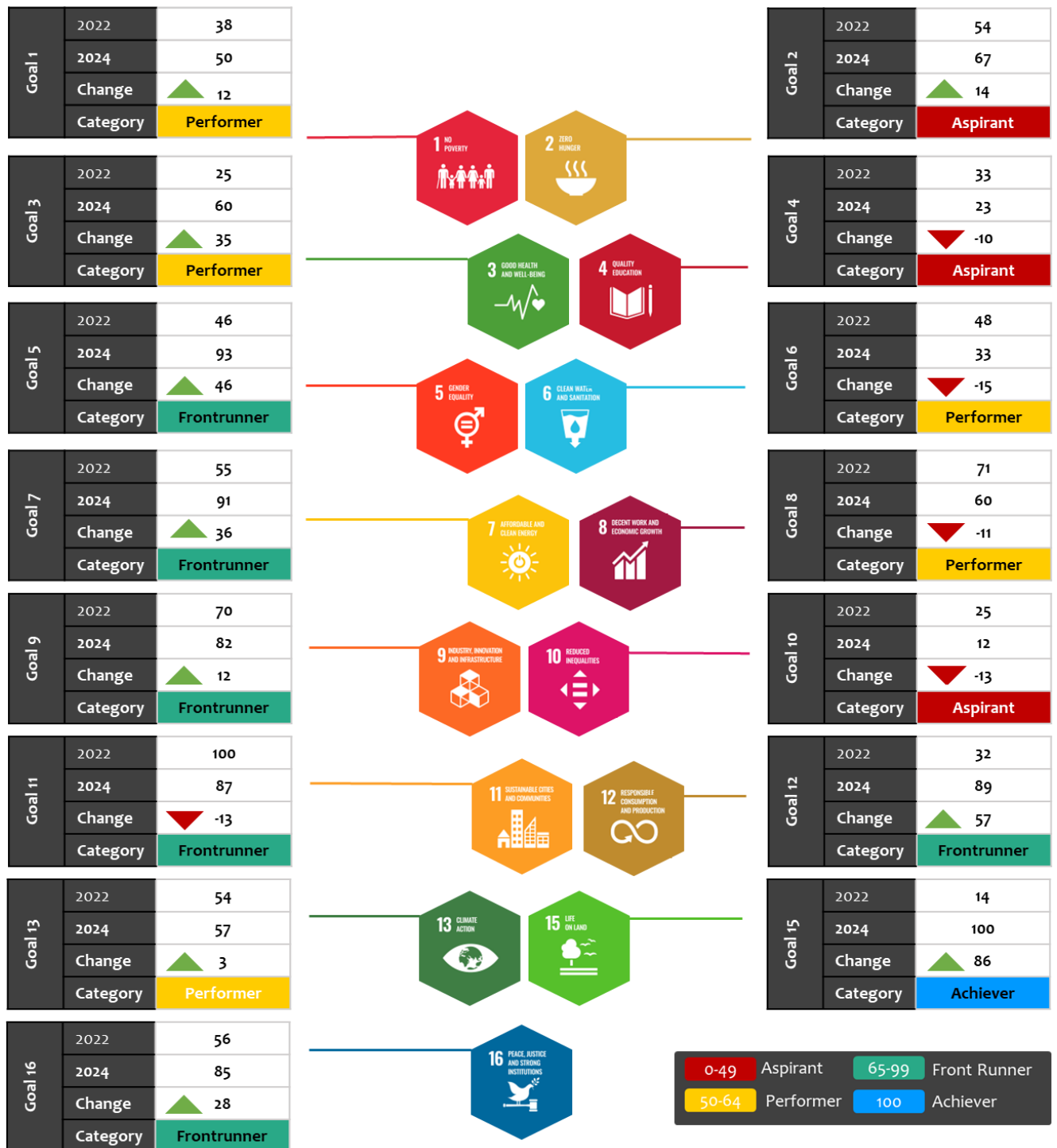
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned
- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State schemes against target
- ✓ Pupil teacher ratio at secondary level (class9-10)

4.4.7. South-West Garo Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district
- ✓ Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel
- ✓ Average yield of rice (kg/ha)

Best Performing Goal



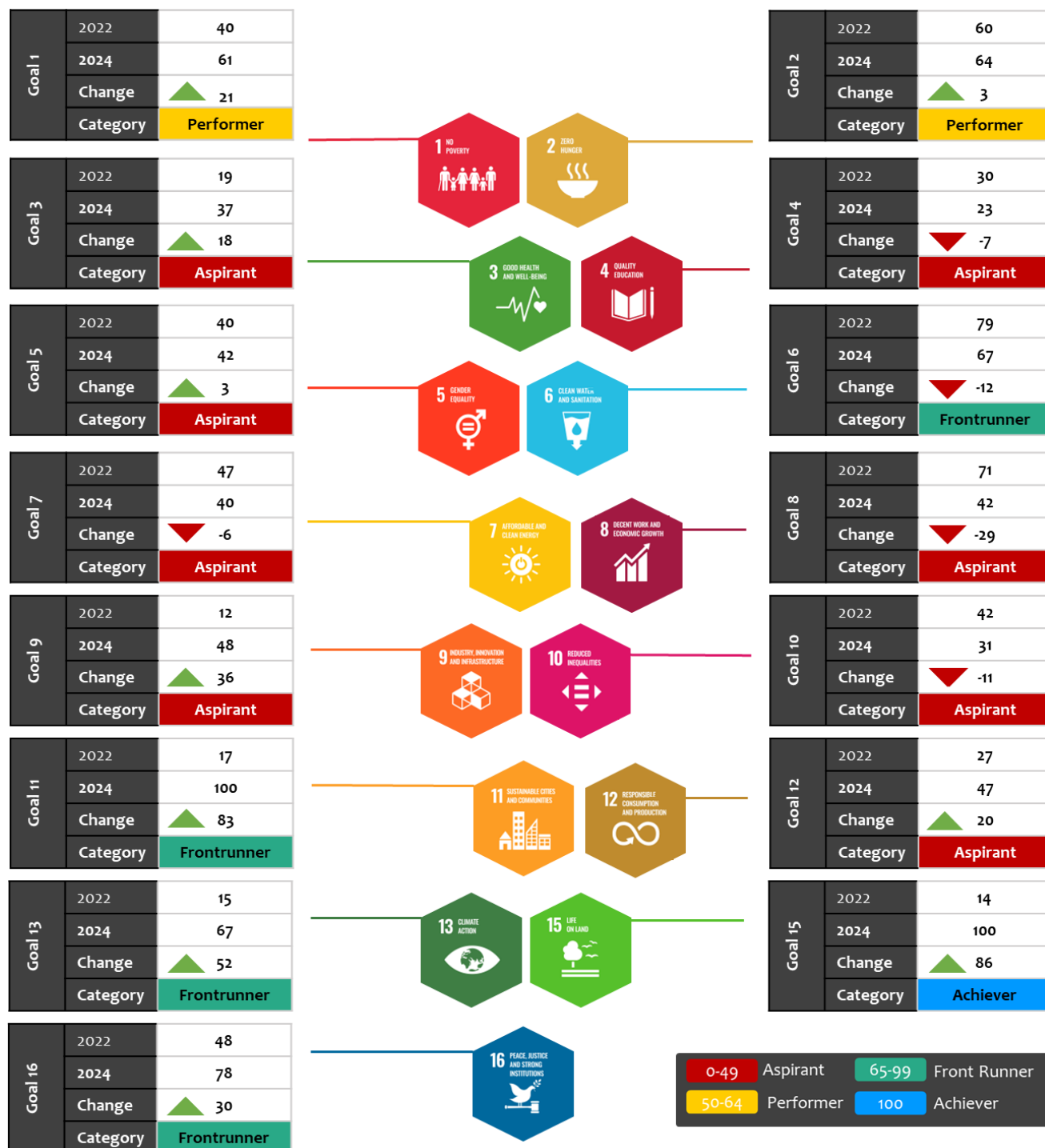
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Persons with Disability (PWDs) provided employment as a percentage of total employment demanded by PWDs under MGNREGA
- ✓ Toilets constructed against target- SBM (G)
- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned

4.4.8. South-West Khasi Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State schemes against target
- ✓ Percentage of self-help groups (SHGs) provided credit linkage
- ✓ Percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district

Best Performing Goal



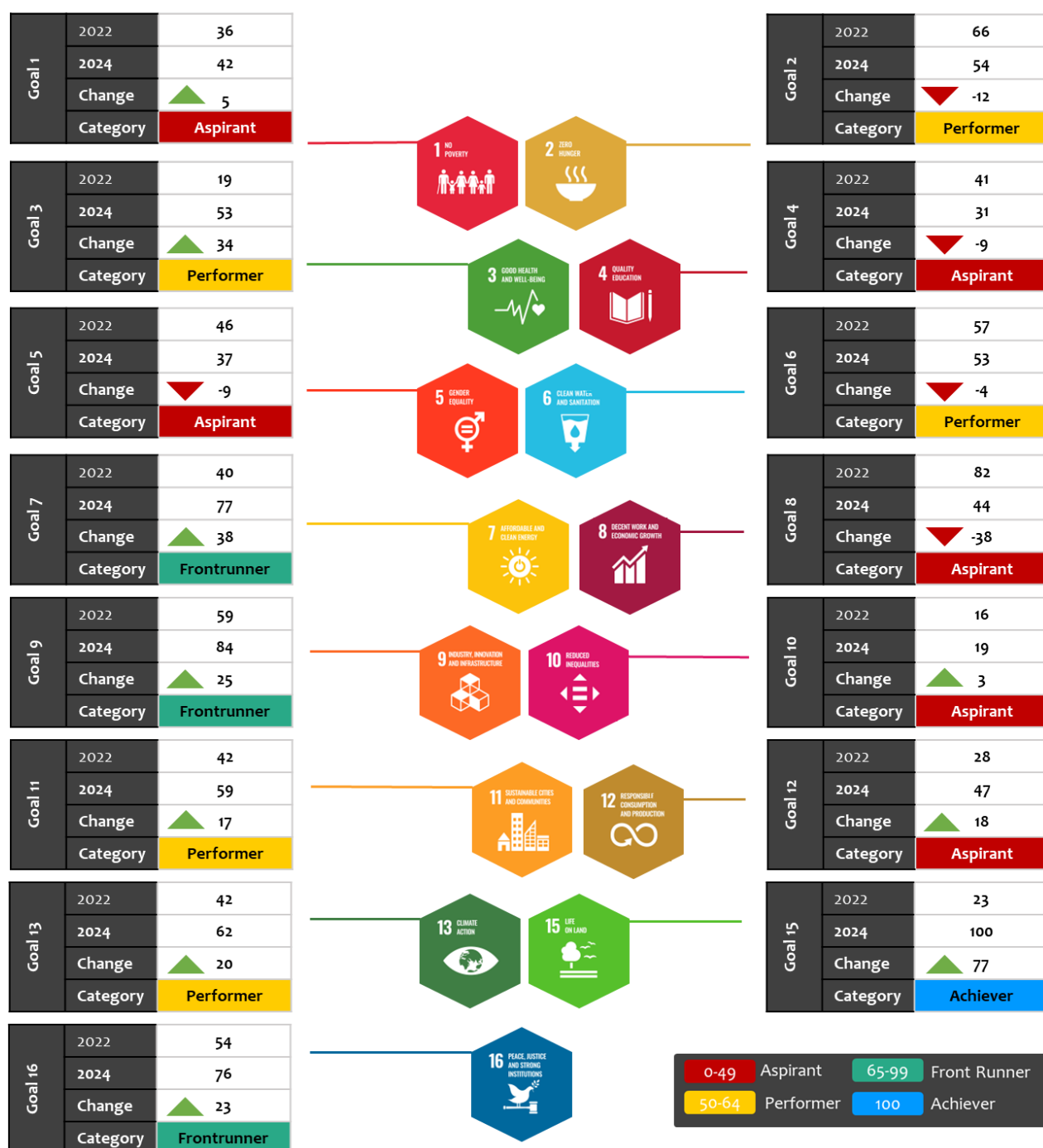
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Productivity of fruits and vegetables (kg/ha)
- ✓ Persons with Disability (PWDs) provided employment as a percentage of total employment demanded by PWDs under MGNREGA
- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned

4.4.9. West Garo Hills





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of children aged 9-11 months fully immunized
- ✓ Percentage of TB cases successfully treated among TB cases notified to the national health authorities
- ✓ Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel

Best Performing Goal



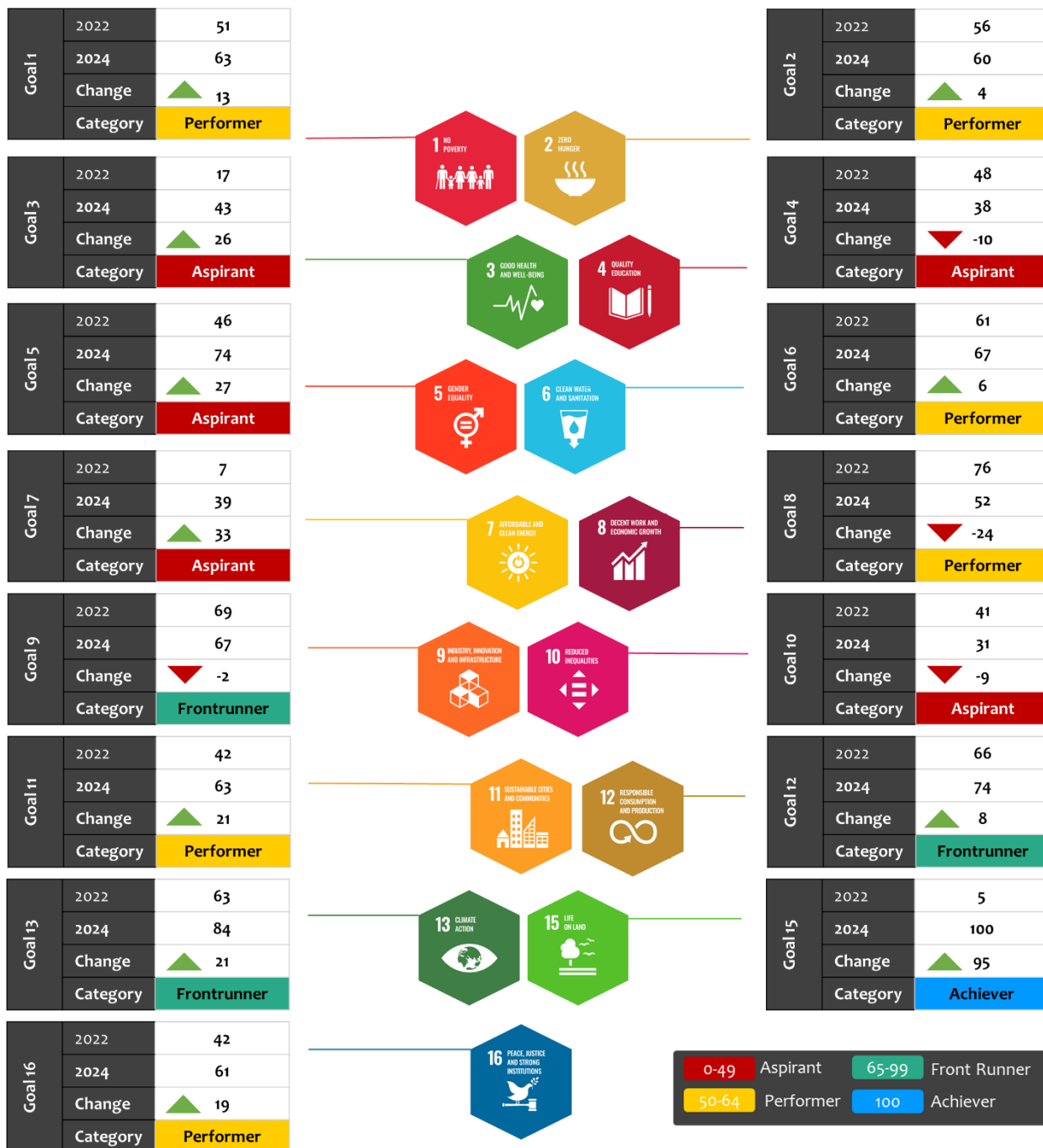
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) provided credit linkage
- ✓ Percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) covered under online transaction system for PDS in the district
- ✓ Hospital beds empaneled under PMJAY or related State schemes per 10,000 eligible population

4.4.10. West Jaintia Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Houses completed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and/or other schemes as a percentage of net demand assessment (Urban)
- ✓ Percentage of sexual crimes against women to total crime against women
- ✓ Percentage of village covered by a mobile network

Best Performing Goal



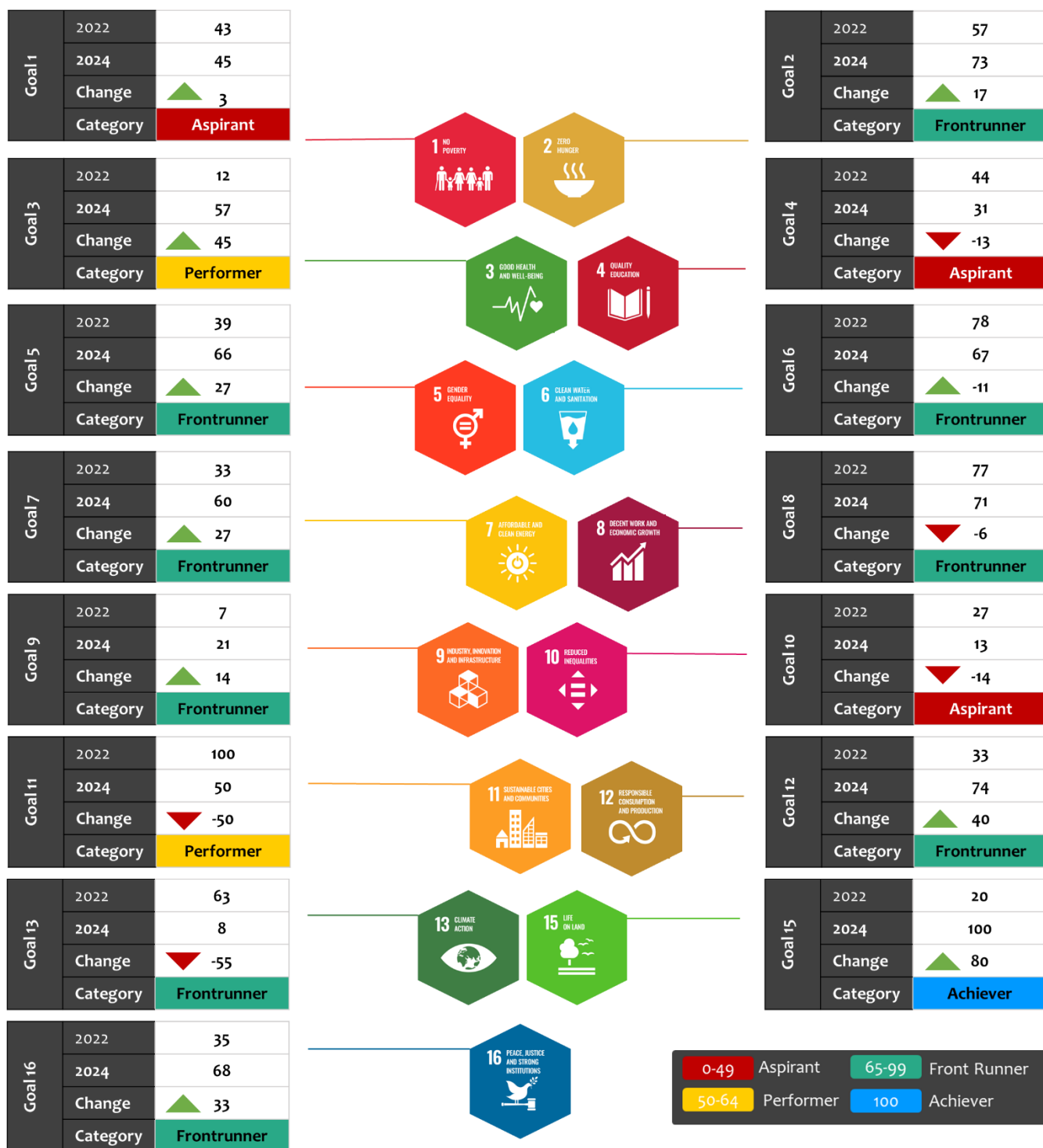
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women who completed 4 ANC's in the district
- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned
- ✓ Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treated out of total MSW generated

4.4.11. West Khasi Hills: Goal Wise Performance





Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women who completed 4 ANC visits in the district
- ✓ Percentage of area under micro/minor irrigation in the district
- ✓ Percentage of TB cases successfully treated among TB cases notified to the national health authorities

Best Performing Goal



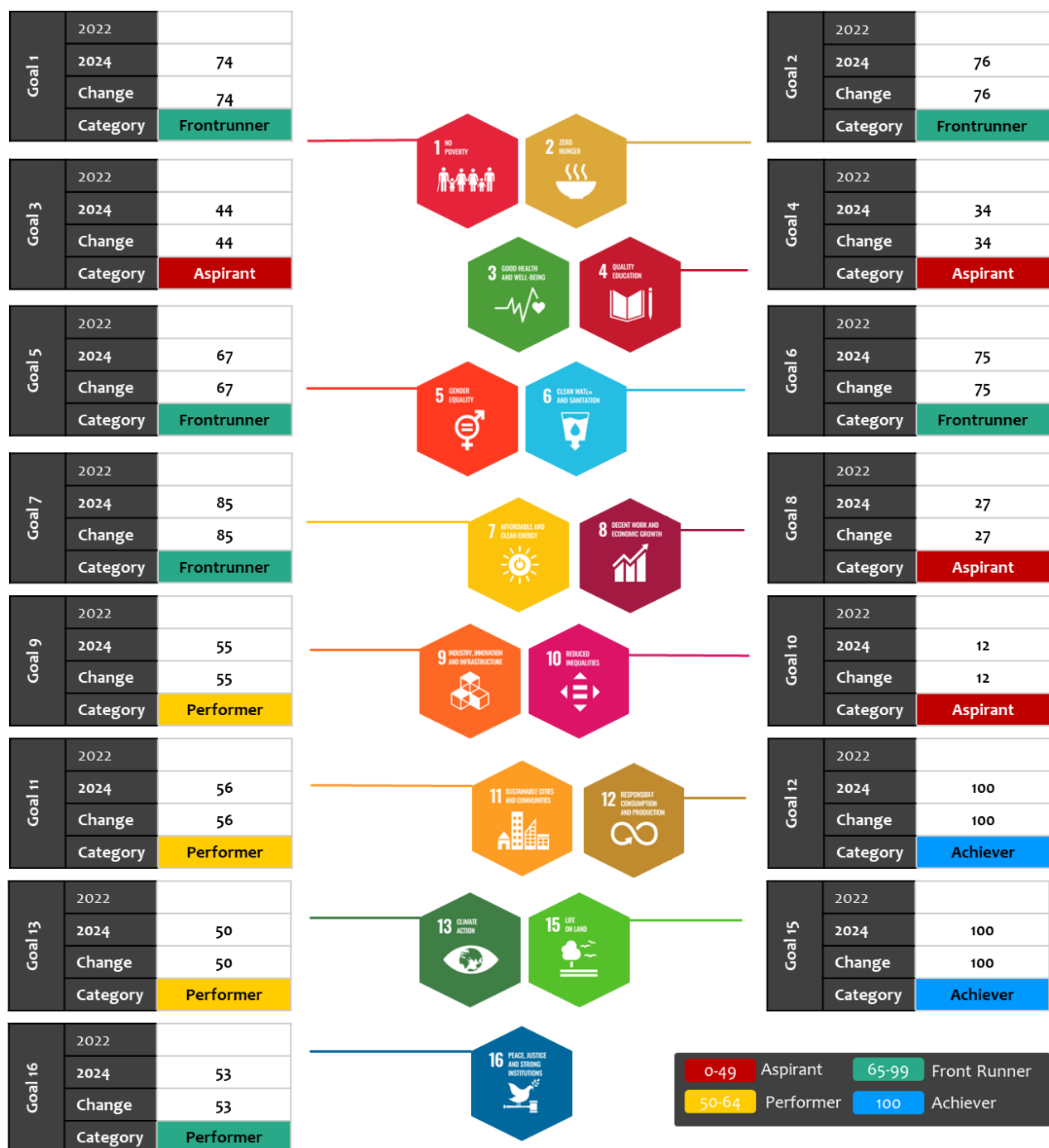
Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State schemes against target
- ✓ Percentage of schools with computers available
- ✓ Area under watershed management as a percentage of total geographical area

4.4.12. Eastern West Khasi Hills: Goal Wise Performance





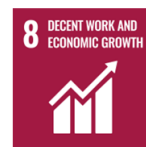
Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) provided credit linkage
- ✓ Crimes against women per 10,000 female population
- ✓ Percentage of women receiving benefits under PMMVY or any other maternity related State schemes against target

Best Performing Goal



Poor Performing Goal



Non-Performing Indicators

- ✓ Percentage of loans disbursed to MSMEs against sanctioned
- ✓ Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treated out of total MSW generated
- ✓ Area under watershed management as a percentage of total geographical area

5. Way Forward

Meghalaya's pursuit of its aspiration to rank among the top ten states in India, while simultaneously honouring its rich legacy of sustainable development, represents a complex journey that requires a

synthesis of tradition and modernity. By strategically aligning its initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the state can advance this objective with a clear sense of direction.

Cultural and Environmental Alignment

Meghalaya's approach should prioritize goals that resonate with its unique cultural and environmental context. This alignment will enable the formulation of localized action plans that actively engage communities, promote economic diversification, and enhance youth education on sustainability issues. Moreover, the state must emphasize the preservation of its pristine natural resources, the development of sustainable infrastructure, and the promotion of social inclusion.

Collaboration and Monitoring

Key to this transformative journey is collaboration among various stakeholders, rigorous monitoring of progress, and the integration of policies across sectors. Through innovation, cultural preservation, and a steadfast commitment to sustainable development principles, Meghalaya can create a future characterized by economic prosperity alongside cultural richness and environmental stewardship.

The Government of Meghalaya is currently undergoing the exercise of identifying the sticky indicators that have hindered the State's ranking in the Sustainable Development Goals and require systematic and strategic interventions. This process shall be followed by inter-departmental meetings to develop focused approaches to mitigate the challenges. The implementation of the interventions shall be continuously monitored and evaluated to ensure Meghalaya can positively perform to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Key Areas for Focus

In addition to these overarching themes, Meghalaya should concentrate on several critical areas:

1. **Strengthening Data Collection and Monitoring Systems:** Enhancing these systems is essential for effectively tracking progress towards the SDGs. Improved data collection will allow the state to identify gaps and challenges, facilitating targeted interventions.
2. **Promoting Partnerships and Collaboration:** Building strategic partnerships with the central government, neighbouring states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector is vital for achieving SDG objectives.
3. **Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Public Support:** Increasing awareness about the SDGs among citizens will be crucial in garnering public support for their realization.

By leveraging its traditional institutions and knowledge systems, Meghalaya can expedite its progress towards the SDGs and foster a more sustainable and inclusive future for its people.



PLANNING, INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND
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