UN-HABITAT’S SDG LOCALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OVERVIEW

Introduction

As the lead UN agency working with local and regional governments and the custodian of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat is driving the portfolio on SDG Localization since the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan, SDG localization is one of the four key priorities for 2022-23.

UN-Habitat is directly leading the main UN high-level processes linked to local governments and SDG Localization including:

- Local 2030 Coalition
- UN Task Force on the Future of Cities
- UN Secretary’s General Advisory Group of Local and Regional Authorities
- The local action dimension of the Decade of Action

The work on localizing the SDGs is guided by a partnership-based territorial approach anchored in the principles of leaving no one and no place behind; multilevel governance, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

What do we offer?

Technical cooperation: Applying UN-Habitat’s approach and methodology that is being applied to several new city cooperation schemes worldwide

Strategic partnership: enabling the meaningful connection with local, regional and national governments, local government association, international organizations, UN Agencies, academia, civil society and other relevant global stakeholders.

Research and guidelines: Improving knowledge on SDG Localization and Multilevel Governance through cutting-edge research

- Global VLR Guidelines V.I
- Global VLR Guidelines V.II
- Africa VLR Guidelines
- Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization Research

Learning and capacity building: Leading the development of tools to support knowledge development and expertise, alongside key partners

- SDG Localization Modules
- VLR MOOC

Multilevel Governance: Fostering cooperation across levels of government to strengthen the national frameworks and support towards localization. Enhancing the connection between: VLR, VSR and VNR processes.

Multilevel governance platform

Advocacy and visibility: Bringing local action and SDG Localization in at the center of high-level global and regional processes, creating spaces for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.

UN-Habitat’s SDG Localization approach

UN-Habitat has developed the largest and most complete approach to localize the SDGs in the UN system, providing assistance throughout all stages of planning, policymaking, project development and monitoring.

This is anchored around five main components and programmes:

Global Urban Monitoring Framework: UN-wide framework of data and indicators to track the performance of the urban components of the SDGs.

Voluntary Local Review: UN-Habitat leads the VLR global movement by offering technical assistance, guidelines, connection to VNR process, visibility and networking. The new “Forward-looking VLRS” are on the piloting phase.

SDG Cities Flagship Programme: Long-term SDG localization process of planning, identification of gaps and development of policy and projects that builds on the VLR and the UMF.

Multilevel governance: UN-Habitat looks at opportunities to strengthen coordination across levels of government to advance on the implementation of the SDGs.

Local 2030 Coalition: UN-wide initiative on Localizing the SDGs that connects all the SDG experience at the local level with the international realm.

Advocacy and visibility: Bringing local action and SDG Localization in at the center of high-level global and regional processes, creating spaces for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.
Where do we work?

Who do we work with?

- Cities, local and regional governments
- Local and regional governments associations: global, regional, national
- National governments
- UN-system: UNRECs, UNDESA
- Research and academia

Ongoing support:
- Turkey: Istanbul
- Spain: Madrid
- Finland
- Georgia: Tbilisi
- Serbia: Nis
- India: Bhopal
- Nepal: Itahari
- Philippines: Malaybalay
- Thailand: Udon Thani
- Tajikistan: Dushanbe
- Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek
- UAE: Abu Dhabi
- Jordan: Irbid
- Tunisia: Ennour
- Palestine: Ramallah
- Morocco: Agadir
- Kenya: Nakuru
- Ghana: Obuasi
- The Gambia: Kanifing
- Tanzania: Mwanza

Previously supported:
- Italy: Metropolitan City of Florence (2021)
- Kosovo: Vushtrri (2022)
- Jordan: Greater Amman Municipality (2022)
- Costa Rica: Atenas, Belén, Escazú, Goicoechea, Sarchí, Puriscal (2022)
- Bolivia: La Paz, El Alto, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (2022)