

Introduction and lessons learned from the Voluntary Local Reviews

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Local Governments and the SDGs

- Local and regional governments play a very important role in the achievement of the SDGs.
- As the level of government closest to local communities, they best understand local people's needs and priorities.
- **It is estimated that 65% of the targets under the SDGs are linked to the mandates and work of local governments.**



What are the Voluntary Local Reviews?

A method for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs carried out by local, municipal and regional governments or their associations.

Voluntary Local Reviews are similar to Voluntary National Reviews. Both are essential tools to implement the SDGs and monitor progress

The VNRs and the VLRs

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNR)

- Driven by national governments
- Has an official basis in the 2030 Agenda
- To date, 191 countries have presented at least one VNR
- Presented annually at the High-level Political Forum

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLR)

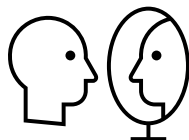
- Driven by local and regional governments and their associations
- Unofficial
- To date, local and regional governments and their associations have produced more than 280 VLRS
- Presented in various unofficial formats

The VLRs can inform the VNRs and viceversa. One important Benefit of carrying out the two process Together is that they can strengthen multilevel governance and thus improve the cohesion of policies and programmes.

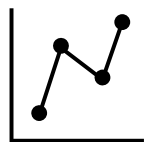
VLR Opportunities



A VLR allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking



A VLR invites self-reflection



A VLR provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want



A VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development.

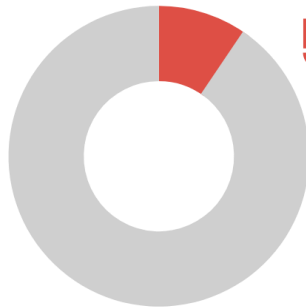
Voluntary Local Reviews



VLRs across the globe

To date, there are more than 280 VLRs globally. Approximately 5% of these documents were produced in African countries.

AFRICA



5% of existing VLRs

12 VLRs

7 Countries

Lessons Learned from the VLRs(1)

1. The VLRs can raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Eg.. **Kadiköy** (Türkiye) launched a Project called “Tell us Kadikoy” to engage the public in the planning and monitoring of the SDGs.*

2. The process of conducting a VLR can help governments align their processes and budgets with the SDGs.

*Eg. **Melbourne** (Australia) and **Mixco** (Guatemala) identified their first VLRs as reference points for ongoing monitoring and review of policies and planning.*

*Eg. **Belo Horizonte** (Brazil) developed transparent tools to monitor the allocation of government budget to each SDG.*

3. The process of producing a VLR presents an opportunity to improve local data on the SDGs.

*Eg. **Kambia** (Sierra Leone) faced a lack of data, but still improved monitoring to determine that progress had been made on a total of 26 indicators.*

Lessons Learned from VLRs(2)

4. The VLRs present an opportunity to engage different stakeholders in policy, especially vulnerable and underrepresented groups.

*Eg. The Mayor of **Orlando** (United States) formed a group of community leaders, private sector representatives, NGOs and other institutions to inform the city's VLR. The group continued collaborating on the implementation of the SDGs even after the publication of the VLR.*

5. Governments can link their VLRs to their VNRs to promote multilevel governance.

*Eg. In indonesia, the Ministry of Planning and Development (BAPPENAS) has a formal reporting requirement and national indicator framework for all regions and municipalities. **West Java** (Indonesia) is currently using this framework to produce its first VLR.*

The practice of conducting VLRs

Globally, the VLRs are growing in both their numbers and their prominence. They are increasingly recognized as an essential tool for monitoring and accelerating SDG implementation.

To see more VLRs, please visit:
<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>





Thank you!