An action-oriented approach to Voluntary Local Reviews

National Capacity Building Workshop on Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing SDGs Through VLRs in Malawi

UN-HABITAT

LOCALIZING THE SDGs

UN-Habitat: mission and work on SDG localization

Urbanization and human settlement matters

Urbanization for reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty

Works in over 90 countries

UN-Habitat's priorities

SDG Localization

Housing

Climate Change

Post-conflict recovery

Resolution on Localizing the SDGs adopted by Member States during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Voluntary Local Reviews

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

- **Data environment**
- **Strategic planning and policy coherence**
- **Participation and awareness raising**
- **Transparency and accountability**
- **Multilevel coordination**
- **International positioning and recognition**

300 VLRS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED **SINCE 2016**

198 LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

24 VLRS SUPPORTED BY UN-HABITAT

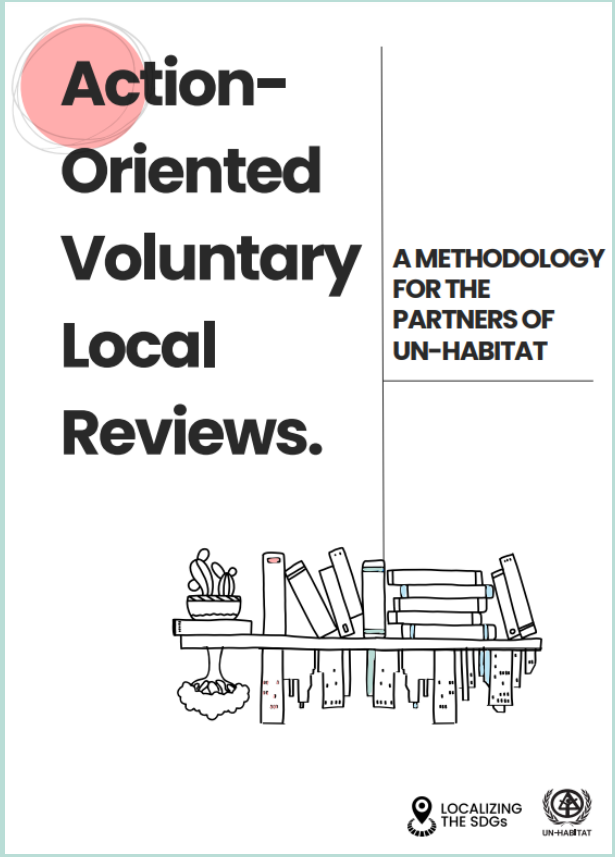
12 VLRS CURRENTLY BEING SUPPORTED BY UN-HABITAT

Frequent questions

What is needed to do a VLR?

How exactly is a VLR made to be 'action-oriented'?

What comes after the VLR?



Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews.

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/02/action-oriented_vlr_methodology.pdf

UN-HABITAT

UCLG CGLU
United Cities and Local Governments

Voluntary Local Review is an assessment of a territory's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by strategic plans to enhance future progress.

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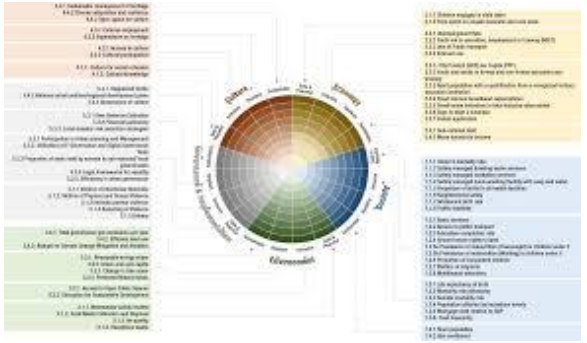
Global and Regional VLR Guidelines

SDG Indicators, national and local indicators

Global Urban Monitoring Framework



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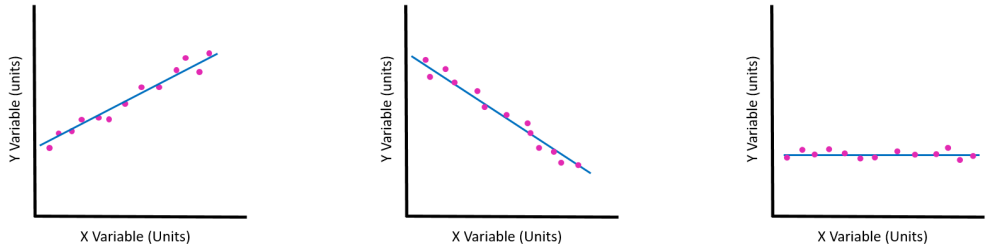
Trends over time



Positive trend

Negative trend

No trend

What are the local priorities?

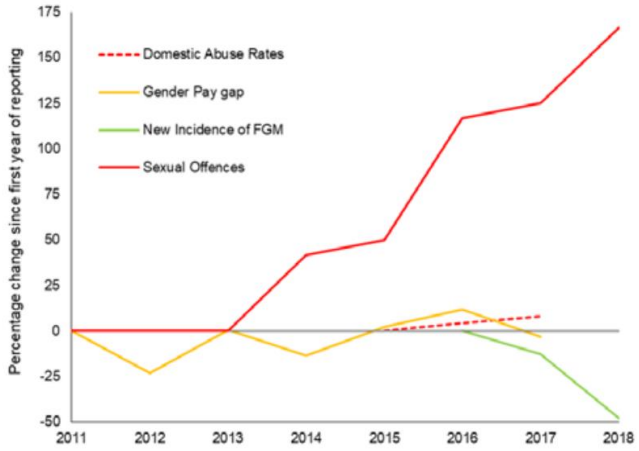
What is needed to achieve them?

Voluntary Local Review is an assessment of a territory's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by strategic plans to enhance future progress

Connected to initiatives, projects, policies

Problem solving

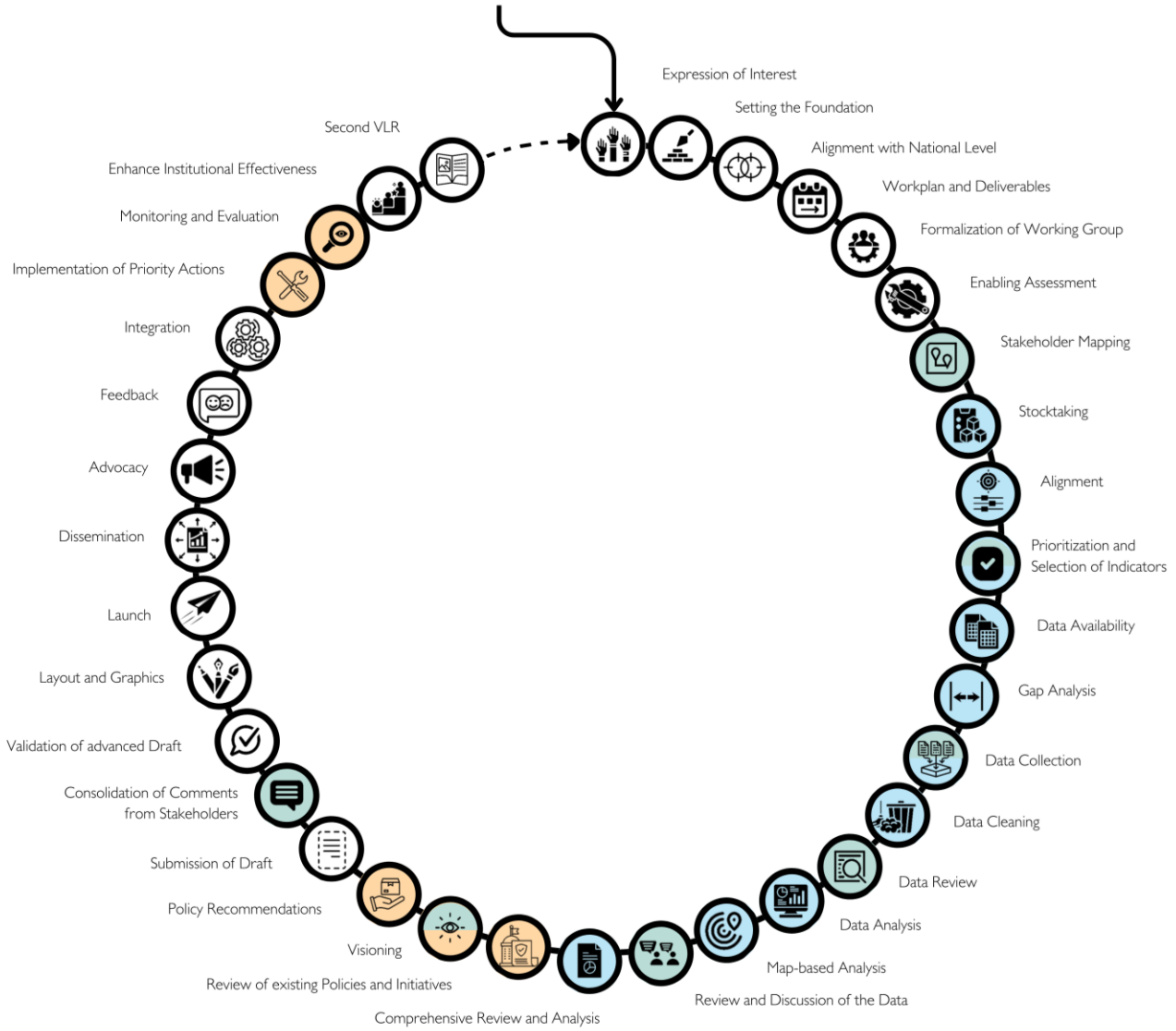
Evidence based



Work Steps

Expression of Interest
Setting the Foundation
Alignment with National Level
Workplan and Deliverables
Formalization of Working Group
Enabling Assessment
Stakeholder Mapping
Stocktaking
Alignment
Prioritization and Selection of Indicators
Data Availability
Gap Analysis
Data Collection
Data Cleaning
Data Review
Data Analysis
Map-based Analysis
Review and Discussion of the Data
Comprehensive Review and Analysis
Review of existing Policies and Initiatives
Visioning
Recommendation
Submission of Draft
Consolidation of Comments from Stakeholders
Validation of advanced Draft
Layout and Graphics
Launch
Dissemination
Advocacy
Feedback
Integration
Implementation
Monitoring and Evaluation
Enhance Institutional Effectiveness
Second VLR

Work Steps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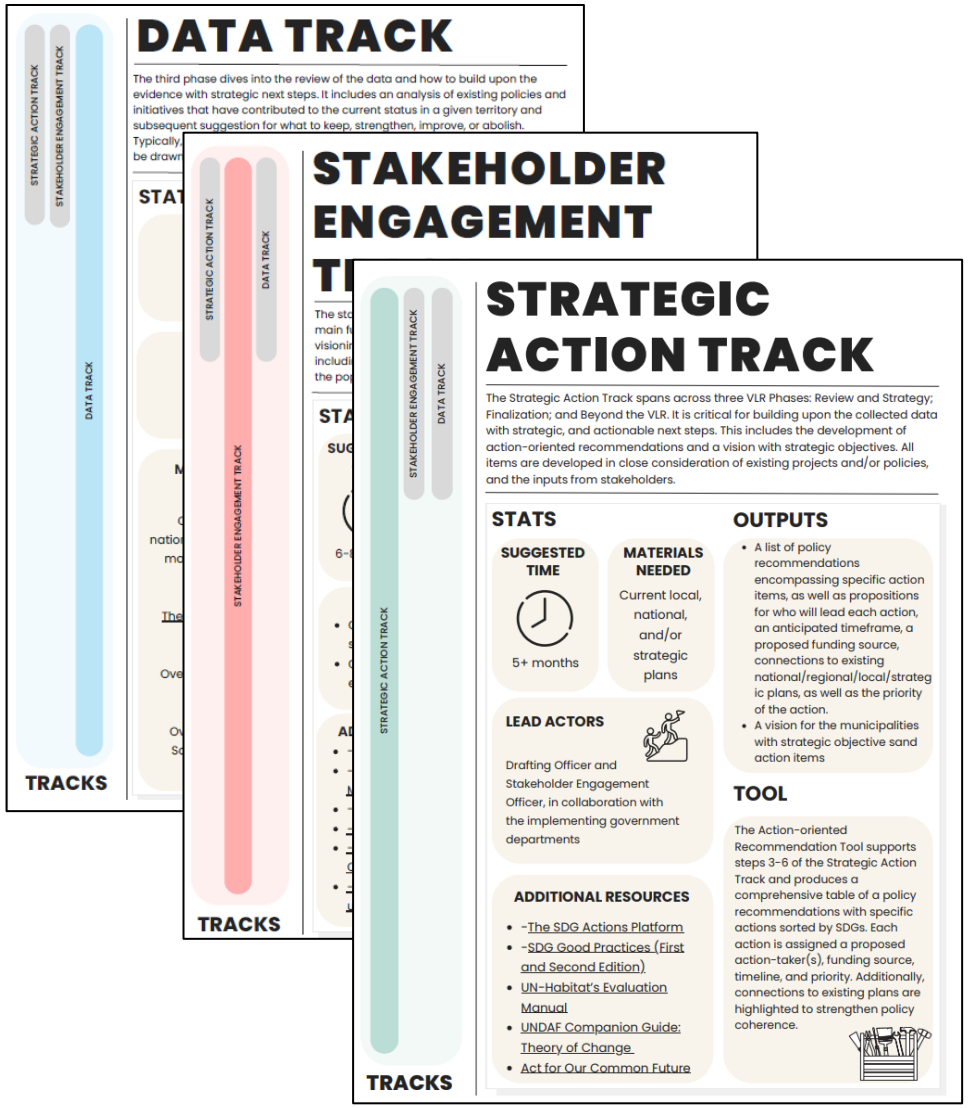

DATA TRACK
The third phase dives into the review of the data and how to build upon the evidence with strategic next steps. It includes an analysis of existing policies and initiatives that have contributed to the current status in a given territory and subsequent suggestion for what to keep, strengthen, improve, or abolish.
STRATEGIC ACTION TRACK
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TRACK
DATA TRACK
TRACKS
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGIC ACTION TRACK
The Strategic Action Track spans across three VLR Phases: Review and Strategy; Finalization; and Beyond the VLR. It is critical for building upon the collected data with strategic, and actionable next steps. This includes the development of action-oriented recommendations and a vision with strategic objectives. All items are developed in close consideration of existing projects and/or policies, and the inputs from stakeholders.
STATS
SUGGESTED TIME
5+ months
MATERIALS NEEDED
Current local, national, and/or strategic plans
LEAD ACTORS
Drafting Officer and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, in collaboration with the implementing government departments
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
-The SDG Actions Platform
-SDG Good Practices (First and Second Edition)
UN-Habitat's Evaluation Manual
UNDAF Companion Guide: Theory of Change
Act for Our Common Future
OUTPUTS
A list of policy recommendations encompassing specific action items, as well as propositions for who will lead each action, an anticipated timeframe, a proposed funding source, connections to existing national/regional/local/strategic plans, as well as the priority of the action.
A vision for the municipalities with strategic objective sand action items
TOOL
The Action-oriented Recommendation Tool supports steps 3-6 of the Strategic Action Track and produces a comprehensive table of a policy recommendations with specific actions sorted by SDGs. Each action is assigned a proposed action-taker(s), funding source, timeline, and priority. Additionally, connections to existing plans are highlighted to strengthen policy coherence.

Tools

Data

- Indicator's Alignment Tool
- City Scan Tool

Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement Tool

Action-Oriented Recommendations

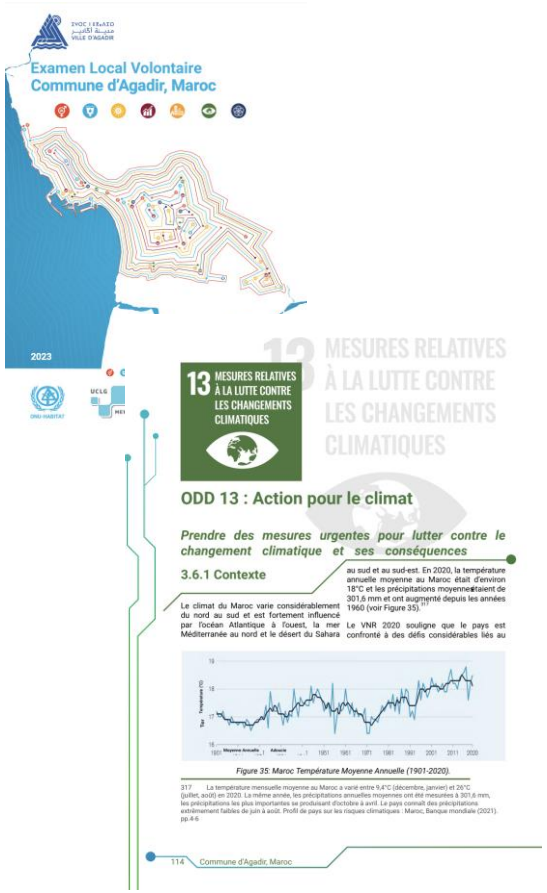
Action-Oriented Recommendations Table

SDG	SDG Target	Links to existing plan(s)	Aim	Action(s)	Evidence	Proposed Implementing Partner(s)	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Funding Source	Priority	Proposed Monitoring Mechanism
e.g. SDG 4	*e.g. 4.1*	*e.g. "City Development Plan" Section 3.2 highlights need to improve education sector*	*e.g. Improvement of Education Quality*	*e.g. Implement continuous professional development programs for teachers (e.g. workshops, and training sessions on modern teaching methodologies, subject expertise, classroom management, and understanding diverse learning needs)*	*e.g. several cities in Finland have improved their education quality, by heavily emphasizing teacher training and support [source].*	*e.g. Department for Education*	*e.g. Development Programmes to be developed by X; First teachers in training by Y.*	*e.g. Lobby for support from national government to secure additional funding earmarked for educational development at the local level.*	*e.g. 2 (if 1=most important and 3=less important)*	*e.g. Student Performance Assessments; Teacher Feedback and Surveys; Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates. To be carried out and collected from Z.*

ZOOMING IN ON THE STRATEGIC ACTION TRACK

Strategic Recommendations

Review of Existing Policies and Initiatives



Visioning and Prioritization

Implementation

Continued Monitoring and Evaluation

Global Community

Advocacy and political engagement

REGIONAL FORUMS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN-HABITAT
ASSEMBLY

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WORLD URBAN FORUM

Networks

LOCAL2030 COALITION
LOCALIZING THE SDGS

Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network

Global Community

Thank you!

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