

# Lessons Learned from Implementation at Local Levels and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

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#### What does localizing the SDGs mean?

 Integrating the SDGs in the design, implementation and monitoring of sub-national plans and putting subnational governments at the center of the SDGs





Sub-national governments and other actors (international organizations, civil societies and academics) are crucial to ensure the process is inclusive and accountable











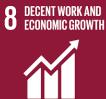






























## MAINSTREAMING the SDGs at COUNTRY-LEVEL



#### The 2030 Agenda Mainstreaming **Reference Guide Areas**

Initiate Now

1. Public awareness

2. Multi-stakeholder approaches

Plan

Do

3. Reviewing plans and adapting SDGs Initiate Over Time

4. Horizontal policy coherence (breaking the silos)

5. Vertical policy coherence (glocalizing the agenda)

6. Budgeting for the future

7. Monitoring, reporting and accountability

8. Assessing risks and fostering adaptability

#### Why Voluntary Local Reviews? Opportunities Provided by VLRs



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, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for a better localization of the SDGs



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

#### There is some SDG Goals and targets that involve subnational governments







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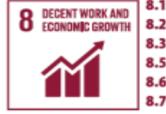












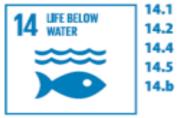








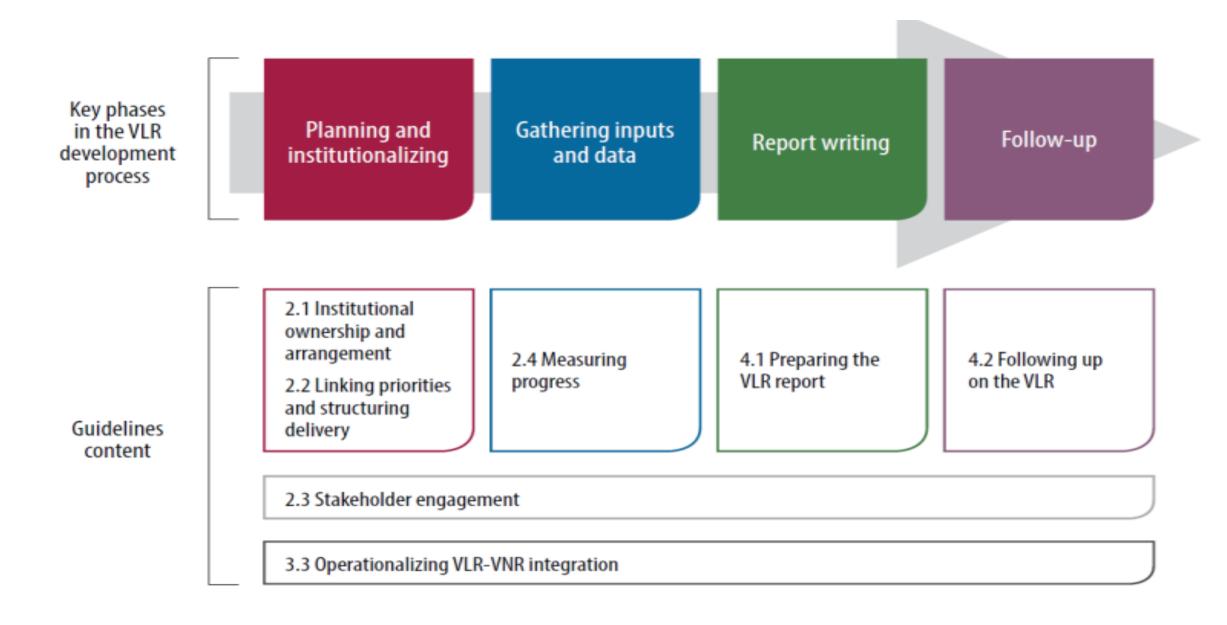




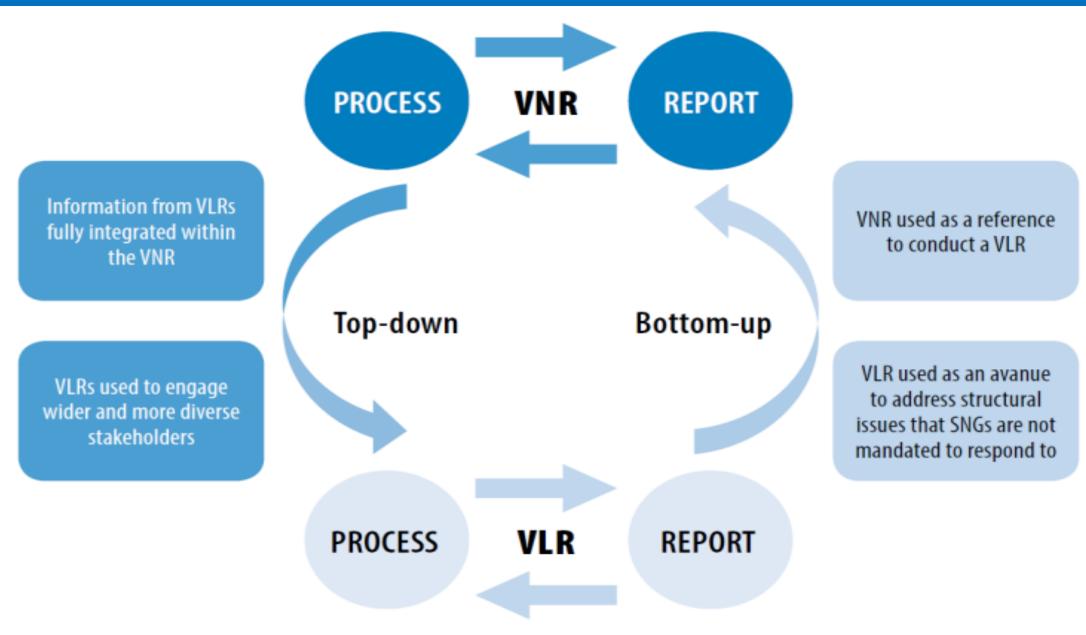




#### Conducting a Voluntary Local Review



#### **Operationalizing VLR-VNR integration**



#### Actions to consider when integrating VLRs and VNRs

Set up a national mechanism to support and consolidate the VLRs Design and communicate the VNR timetable to allow SNGs to submit VLRs that actually inform the VNRs Design the VNRs and VLRs as an interconnected stakeholder engagement mechanism

### The SDGs Localization Experience in Kenya

### The Kenya VLR Process Experience

VI. Roadmap is to roll-out VLRs to all 47 counties (to have a bottom up VNR process —where VLRs contribute to the national VNR)

V. Private sector (Kenya Private Sector Alliance/KEPSA) and CSOs (Kenya SDGs Forum) produced complementarity VNRs which were annexes to the Kenya VNR 2020 (this was also the case in 2017)

IV. Five VLRs were an input in the 2020 Kenya VNR – best practices at SDGs reporting at sub-national levels

III. Five Counties (Busia, Kisumu, Kwale, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) piloted VLRs in 2019 (supported by the UN)

II. Training of SDGs Champions from all 47 counties in 2019 (supported by the UN)

I. SDGs were mainstreamed in County Intergated Development Plans (CIDPs) in 2018 (supported by the UN)

#### Some Lessons Learned

- Linkage between planning and budgeting is weak there is need to cascade an integrated financing framework to the sub-national level to strengthen the link between planning and budgeting. Ghana is a very interesting case study in this regard.
- Need to align sub-national COVID-19 response plans to the SDGs to build forward better.
- Need to invest in data at the sub-national level to track progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Capacity building is still needed at sub-national level on SDGs mainstreaming, implementation and reporting.
- Need to strengthen the link between the VLR and VNR processes.



