Lessons learnt from implementation at local level and Voluntary Local Reviews in Zimbabwe

Presentation Outline

✔ Overview of SDGs implementation in Zimbabwe
✔ Conceptual Framework of VLRs
✔ Voluntary Local Reviews in Zimbabwe
✔ Lessons Learnt from Pilot VLRs
✔ Benefits of VLRs.
Overview of SDGs implementation in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 are implemented through national development plans.
10 +1 Priority Goals
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 2: Zero hunger
- Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals
- Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- + Goal 16
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- Conceptual Framework of VLRs
- Voluntary Local Reviews in Zimbabwe
- Lessons Learnt from Pilot VLRs
- Benefits of VLRs.

SDGs2021
Conceptual Framework of Voluntary Local Reviews
Conceptual Framework

• Voluntary Local Review is a process in which authorities at sub-national level voluntarily review and follow-up implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of their respective areas.

• This process becomes a vehicle for sharing experiences, challenges and lessons learnt, as well as to open avenues for new partnerships to address problems (opportunity for improvement) the local authorities might confronting.

• VLRs enables local authorities to engage communities in the process, thereby strengthening the accountability and inclusiveness of their policymaking.
Voluntary Local Review in Zimbabwe
Overview of local authorities in Zimbabwe

• The country has 92 local authorities.
• Of these, 32 are urban while 60 are Rural District Councils.
• The Councils are divided into 1958 administrative Wards that are led by elected Councilors.
• In rural areas traditional institutions that include Chiefs, Headmen and Village Heads are key to development planning and management.
• While all rural local authorities are generally of the same status in terms of influence and functions, Urban Councils are slightly different.
### Urban Councils by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1 – Cities</th>
<th>Tier 2 – Municipalities</th>
<th>Tier 3 – Town Councils</th>
<th>Tier 4 – Local Boards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harare</td>
<td>Redcliff</td>
<td>Chiredzi</td>
<td>Ruwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulawayo</td>
<td>Beitbridge</td>
<td>Chipinge</td>
<td>Chirundu</td>
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<td>Gweru</td>
<td>Chegutu</td>
<td>Lupane</td>
<td>Epworth</td>
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<td>Masvingo</td>
<td>Chitungwiza</td>
<td>Plumtree</td>
<td>Hwange</td>
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<td>Kadoma</td>
<td>Chinhoyi</td>
<td>Norton</td>
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<td>Kwekwe</td>
<td>Gwanda</td>
<td>Shurugwi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutare</td>
<td>Marondera</td>
<td>Zvishavane</td>
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<td>Victoria Falls</td>
<td>Bindura</td>
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<td>Rusape</td>
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• To date, 2 pilot Voluntary Local Reviews have been conducted, one for Harare and the other for Victoria Falls.

• These were done under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe.

• Plans are afoot to cascade the VLR process to all the local authorities with priority being accorded to rural areas.

• Work is in progress to conduct 4 VLRs that are expected to be complete during the first quarter of 2022.
Lessons learnt from the Pilot VLRs

• The local authorities have successfully integrated the 2030 Agenda in their Strategic Plans.

• Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, remarkable improvements had been noted at local level in SDGs 3, 4, 6, 9 and 11:

• The mobilization of adequate finance is important for the attainment of sustainable development. This requires proactive involvement and partnership of all stakeholders and the integration of various sources of finance.
• The SDGs must be fully integrated and mainstreamed into local authorities’ development plans and strategies since they provide a platform for the localisation of SDGs.

• VLRs increasing public awareness, knowledge and perceptions of SDGs and empower local communities and citizens to take action in their own local communities.

• The Devolution agenda will accelerate sustainable development and enables communities to directly benefit from resource endowments within their local communities thereby contributing to the attainment of SDGs at local level.
• VLRs reflect real progress being made in attaining SDGs since they are done at local level.

• Can be utilized by policy makers to inform evidence-based development plans and interventions.

• Enables people centered decision making that is more relevant to address problems being faced at the local level.

• Vehicle to initiate local action, and people action that is required for the acceleration of SDGs implementation.
Benefits of VLRs

- VLRs provides a clear roadmap for more balanced and equitable development.
- VLRs provides a platform for localizing SDGs.
- Provides an opportunity for stakeholders (private sector, civil society, academia, residents, etc) to contribute to development.
- Enables sharing of experiences and best practices.
- Enhanced awareness of SDGs at local level.
Recommendations

• Various financing mechanisms should be put in place to address the financing gap among local authorities.

• Establishment of formal stakeholders’ participation mechanisms to ensure inclusivity in national development.

• Strengthening of partnerships.

• Elaborate framework on how VLRs will be integrated into Voluntary Local Reviews.

• Decentralization and autonomous local governance framework to ensure that political, administrative and fiscal powers of local governments are commensurate with their responsibilities.
Thank you