(you)th as engaging stakeholders

Endridge Chapani
Nyasha Sibanda

ZYC
Zimbabwe Youth Council
OVERVIEW:

- The importance of youth engagement in the SDGs,

- How Voluntary Local Reviews can help ensure that the youth are not left behind

- How youth engagement can be strengthened for a more robust sub-national SDG review process.
Importance of youth engagement in the SDGs

Young people make up a significant proportion of the population in Zimbabwe, and they have the potential to be powerful agents of change. By engaging them in the SDG process, they can bring a fresh perspective, energy, and innovation to the work. Youth engagement can also lead to increased buy-in from the younger generation, making the SDGs more relevant and sustainable in the long term.

Young people in Zimbabwe are already engaged in various SDG-related activities, such as youth-led advocacy groups, volunteer programs, and awareness campaigns. For example, the Youth for SDGs platform is a space for young people to discuss and advocate for the SDGs, and it has helped to amplify the voices of young people in Zimbabwe. There are also many organizations working with young people to implement the SDGs at the local level, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Plan International.
How to boost youth engagement for a robust sub-national SDG review process in Zimbabwe

- First, there should be increased investment in youth capacity building and training to give them the skills and knowledge they need to effectively contribute to the SDGs.

- Second, there should be more opportunities for youth to be involved in decision-making processes, such as through youth advisory boards and other forms of representation.

- Third, there should be a greater focus on addressing the specific needs and challenges of young people, such as youth unemployment and lack of access to education.

- Another idea to boost youth engagement is to create more opportunities for youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship. For example, there could be more incubators and accelerators.
- One more idea is to create more platforms for youth to share their voices and experiences. This could be done through social media campaigns, storytelling initiatives, and other forms of digital media. There could also be more efforts to amplify the voices of young people from marginalized groups, such as those with disabilities or from rural areas. These platforms can help to build a more inclusive and participatory SDG process.

- There are many different digital platforms that can be used for youth engagement. For example, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram can be used to share information and collect feedback. Additionally, online survey tools like SurveyMonkey and Google Forms can be used to gather data from young people. Finally, chatbots and AI-based platforms like WhatsApp and SMS can be used to collect information and provide support to young people.
Another way to use technology to engage the youth is through citizen science projects. Citizen science is a way for the general public to participate in scientific research. For example, young people could use mobile apps to collect and analyze data related to the SDGs, such as air quality or wildlife populations. One example of a citizen science project related to the SDGs is the global CoralWatch project. This project involves the use of a mobile app to monitor the health of coral reefs around the world. The data collected by volunteers is used to generate a global map of coral reef health, and to inform decision-making around reef conservation. Do you think this is an effective way to engage young people in SDG-related activities?

Gamification

Innovation Acceleration programs
How can Voluntary Local Reviews help ensure that the youth are not left behind
One way VLRs can help ensure that the youth are not left behind is by including a dedicated section on youth-specific issues. This section could include an assessment of the progress made in achieving the SDGs for young people, as well as recommendations for future action. Additionally, VLRs can include indicators that specifically measure the impact of SDG initiatives on youth, such as youth unemployment and youth participation in decision-making. Do you think this would be helpful?

Another way that VLRs can help ensure that the youth are not left behind is by involving young people in the process of developing and implementing the VLR. This can be done by establishing youth-led committees or working groups that provide input into the VLR process. These committees can also be tasked with monitoring and reporting on the progress of SDG initiatives that affect young people.
Youth are the future, and the future is now. The SDGs are an opportunity for young people to create a better world, but only if they have the tools and resources they need to succeed. Let's work together to create a world where everyone, especially young people, can reach their full potential and help us achieve the SDGs. A world where no one is left behind.
Making SDGs Appealing

KISS
Engagement Gap - THE Blazer SQUAD
YOUTH IN ACTION

CONSULTATIONS

SDG 3

SDG 4

SDG 5 & 16

SDG 11 & 12

SDG 10

SDG 9

SDG 8
MURI KUFUNGEI?

YOUTH AS KEY STAKEHOLDERS