LESSONS LEARNT IN SA VLR PROCESS

National Workshop on “Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing the SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews in Malawi”

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VLR PROCESS

01 Preparedness assessment
- Inception workshop
- Methodology
- Collection of information and data
- Assessment to identify and potentially localize SDG Indicators
- Establish reporting mechanisms to ensure that the VLR results are communicated internally & externally

02 Formulation of proposals for sustainable solutions
- Trainings, consultations and capacity development sessions

03 VLR draft reports
- First draft of VLR's developed

04 VLR Report
- Final draft of VLR's developed
- VLR Writing retreat

05 Peer Learning and monitoring
- Lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the VLR report
- Sharing good practices
Delays in political “buy in” for VLRs

- Institutionalizing VLRs in municipality is imperative to success of Agenda 2030
- Creating SDG awareness at local government

Selection of goals & data sources

- Selecting goals that deal with the mandate of municipalities
- Lack data analysis and data interpretation skills
- Data used for SDG reporting in SA needs to comply with SASQAF

Lack of sector department/relevant stakeholder involvement

- Poor attendance of local sector departments / relevant stakeholders
- Lack of cooperation from local sector departments / relevant stakeholders – content experts

Scientific report writing skills

- Report structure, tone and style of writing and referencing method
## OPPORTUNITIES

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<th>Category</th>
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| Improved understanding of admin data | • Greater need to prioritize quality assessing local level data for reporting  
• Understanding the importance and use of administrative data  
• Closing data gap for national SDG reporting |
| Localizing SDGs to SA context     | • Fostered ownership of SDGs – more relatable  
• Success of Agenda 20230 lies at effective implementation of policies (local government) |
| Greater SDG awareness at local level | • VLR s allowed for greater awareness on SDGs particularly at local government level |
| Investment opportunities          | • VLRs allows municipalities to showcase their strengths – attract international investments and partnerships (Goal 17) |
LESSONS LEARNED – VLRs in SA

- Achievement of SDGs in any country lies at the implementation phase of government (local government)

- Peer learning

- Inter-government cooperation and strong relations with CSO is key to the fruition of the VLR

- Involvement of NSO from inception phase is paramount to the success of the VLR
Thank You!

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