South Africa faces issues related to service provision in informal settlements, high levels of air pollution, and unsafe and unreliable public transport. Workers in urban settings often need help with expensive and reliable transportation. Potential solutions include decentralisation, streamlining tender processes for community projects, and prioritising efficient, safe public and private transport

SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SALGA

Inspiring service delivery

- Buffalo City

- City of Cape Town

- City of Johannesburg

- City of Tshwane

- eThekwini

- Kou-Kamma LM

- Mogale City

- Mossel Bay

- Rustenburg

- uMhlathuze

Inspiring service delivery

Commitment to the SDGs at the Local Level

- **Alignment of Local and National SDG Plans**: Municipalities are aligning their development strategies with the global SDGs and the national development framework. There is a consistent effort to integrate SDGs into local governance policies, plans, and service delivery.

- **Mainstreaming SDGs**: Municipalities have mainstreamed SDGs across various local government processes, ensuring that each local government unit considers the SDGs in its decision-making, from infrastructure projects to community health programs.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

- **Inclusion and Equity**: There is a strong emphasis on **inclusive development**, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and rural populations, are included in decision-making processes. Many municipalities have developed specific programs to address the needs of these groups.

- **Targeted Social Programs**: Several municipalities have introduced targeted programs for poverty reduction, gender equality, education, and youth empowerment, focusing on leaving no one behind in the development journey.

- **Gender Mainstreaming**: Local governments are making strides in **mainstreaming gender in their policies and programs**, especially in sectors such as healthcare, education, economic empowerment, and governance. Gender-focused initiatives are addressing issues like gender-based violence, women's leadership, and access to resources.

- **Women's Economic Empowerment**: Some municipalities have focused on **empowering women through entrepreneurship**, leadership, and employment initiatives. Gender-sensitive budgeting and policy planning have been adopted to promote equality.

Sustainable Economic Development and SMME Support

- **Local Economic Development**: Municipalities have prioritized **economic growth at the local level**, with an emphasis on creating jobs, supporting small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), and fostering entrepreneurship.

- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**: Some municipalities have engaged in partnerships with the private sector to stimulate local economic growth, including innovative financing models and infrastructure development programs that contribute to SDG achievement.

- **SMME Support**: A focus on **SMME development** through access to financing, skills training, and creating an enabling environment for small businesses has been central to local economic development plans.

Climate Action and Resilience Building

- **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation**: Local governments are taking steps to address **climate resilience** through **climate change adaptation programs** and efforts to mitigate environmental risks. This includes investments in renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, water conservation, and waste management programs.

- **Green Cities**: Many municipalities are implementing **sustainable urbanization practices** with a focus on building "green cities." This includes integrating **sustainable transportation**, waste reduction strategies, and green infrastructure into urban planning.

Health and Well-Being

- **Improved Healthcare Access**: Municipalities are focusing on improving access to **quality healthcare**, especially in rural and underserved areas, in alignment with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Many municipalities have launched community health programs, mental health initiatives, and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery**: Post-pandemic recovery strategies have been central in the VLRs, with municipalities emphasizing health system strengthening, vaccination campaigns, and addressing pandemic-induced socio-economic impacts.

Education and Skills Development

- **Improving Education Access and Quality**: Municipalities are investing in education and vocational training programs that are aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education), focusing on skills development for youth, especially in the context of the changing labor market and digital transformation.

- **Youth Empowerment**: Many municipalities are designing programs aimed at **youth empowerment** through education, employment, and skills development to create pathways to work and active citizenship.

Inspiring service delivery

Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships

- **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**: Municipalities highlight the importance of building **strong stakeholder relationships**, including civil society, the private sector, and international organizations, to accelerate SDG localization.

- **Community Participation**: There is a focus on ensuring that local communities are actively engaged in decision-making and planning processes, promoting **participatory governance** and transparency in local administration.

Accountability and Transparency

- **Strengthening Governance Structures**: Several municipalities are committed to strengthening their **governance frameworks**, ensuring **transparency, accountability, and integrity** in local governance through anti-corruption measures and the active promotion of **good governance practices**.

- **Citizen-Centered Service Delivery**: Municipalities are increasing their focus on **citizen-centered service delivery** with the use of technology to improve service access and efficiency, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Data and Monitoring for SDG Localization

- **Monitoring SDG Progress**: Municipalities are developing **systems for monitoring SDG progress** at the local level, using data and evidence-based approaches to assess impact. The availability and accessibility of local data have been prioritized to ensure effective tracking of SDG implementation.

- **Feedback Mechanisms**: Municipalities are establishing **feedback mechanisms** that allow residents to voice concerns, track the impact of municipal programs, and ensure greater accountability in SDG localization efforts.

Future Commitments and SDG Acceleration

- **Accelerating SDG Implementation**: South African municipalities are committed to **accelerating the implementation of SDGs** and addressing the gaps in progress. There is a clear recognition that the SDGs are integral to fostering sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities at the local level.

- **Adopting Innovative Solutions**: Municipalities are exploring **innovative solutions** such as **smart city initiatives**, **green technologies**, and digital tools to address urbanization challenges and contribute to SDG achievement in a changing global context.

"No one knows everything,
everyone knows something,
all knowledge resides in networks.

Source : Pierre Lévy, Collective Intelligence: Mankind's Emerging World in Cyberspace, 1997

Lévy 1997

THANK YOU