Analytical frameworks on Multi-level Governance for SDG localization.

LOCALIZING THE SDGs

UN-HABITAT

Rapid Urbanization

Africa is the fastest-urbanizing region globally.

The continent’s urban population will nearly double by 2050, reaching roughly 1.4 billion people.

In West Africa,
More than half of urban residents live in informal settlements or slums.

More than half of urban expansion between 2001–2020 occurred through “sprawl".

Youth and Inequality

In West Africa,
66% of urban dwellers are under **30**.

At the same time,
circa **20%** of young people (age 15–24) are neither in employment, education nor training (NEET), reflecting significant youth disengagement and lack of access to opportunities in urban areas.

Climate change

Africa contributes <4% of global emissions but is one of the most climate-vulnerable regions, with high exposure to heat, drought, floods, and sea-level rise.

64% of the West African coastline is classified as “high” or “very high” vulnerability to coastal hazards.

By 2030, 47 million people in West Africa are expected to be exposed to sea-level rise;

by 2060 this number could grow to 111–122 million.

Critical Gaps to Address

Critical systemic gaps continue to limit governments' capacity to face these challenges and deliver impact.

Weak data ecosystems, fragmented policy coherence, and **insufficient implementation capacities** prevent local and national governments from working in sync and delivering on shared priorities.

Data gap

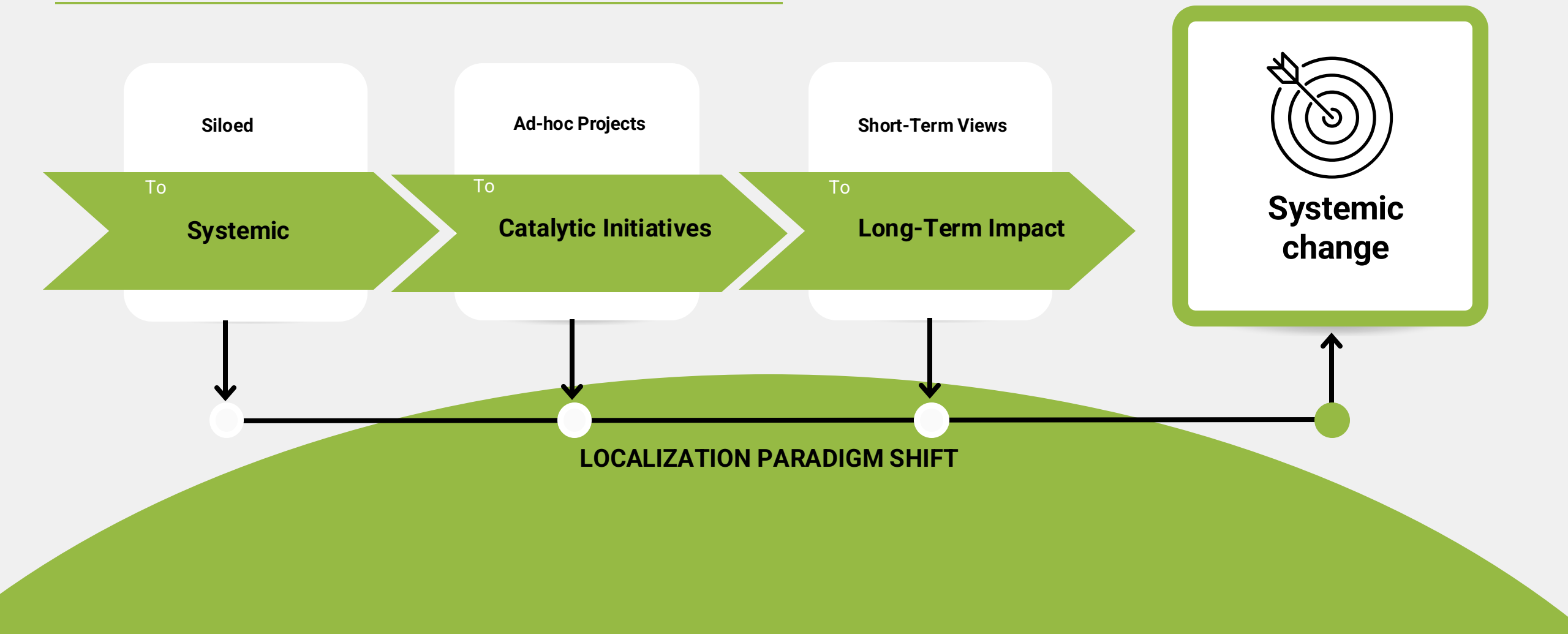
Coherence and decision-making gap

Capacity gap

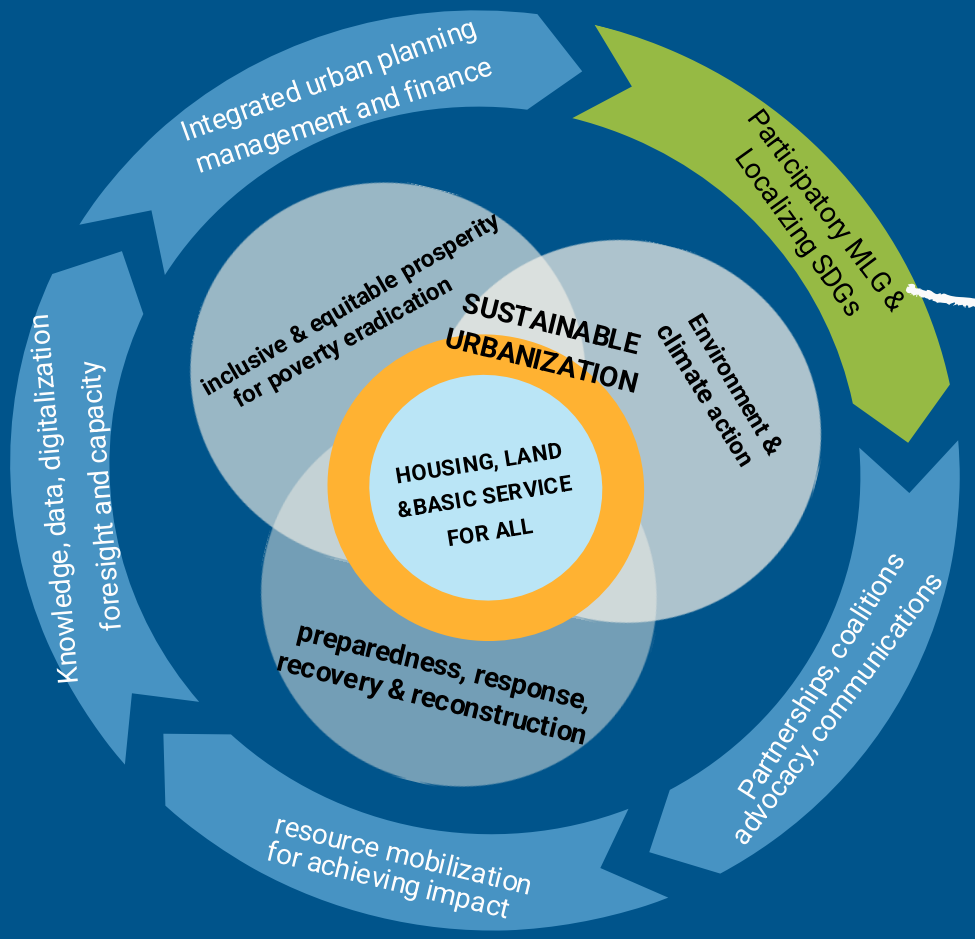
Financing gap

Localization as an opportunity

to change the paradigm: boosting coherence, enhancing cooperation, and multiply catalytic impact to deliver systemic change at the local level.



UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan



Adequate Housing = The Foundation

Adequate housing is not just shelter, it is the roof of the SDGs. It is essential for health, education, dignity, safety and social inclusion – the foundation for human dignity, security, and well-being and for shaping human settelments.

Participatory Multilevel Governance and SDG Localization

Delivering long-term, systemic change requires effective governance systems anchored on empowered institutions at all levels.

Guiding Frameworks

Resolution 2/6: Localizing the SDGs
United Nations Habitat Assembly (June 2023)

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

New Urban Agenda

Pact for the Future

GLOBAL SYSTEM

LOCAL 2030

LOCALIZING THE SDGS

Stakeholder

- National Governments
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Youth
- Local and regional governments
- Private Sector

Leading UN Entities

UN-HABITAT

FAO

UNDP

Participating UN Entities

UN environment programme

DESA

UNFPA

unicef for every child

World Health Organization

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

ILO

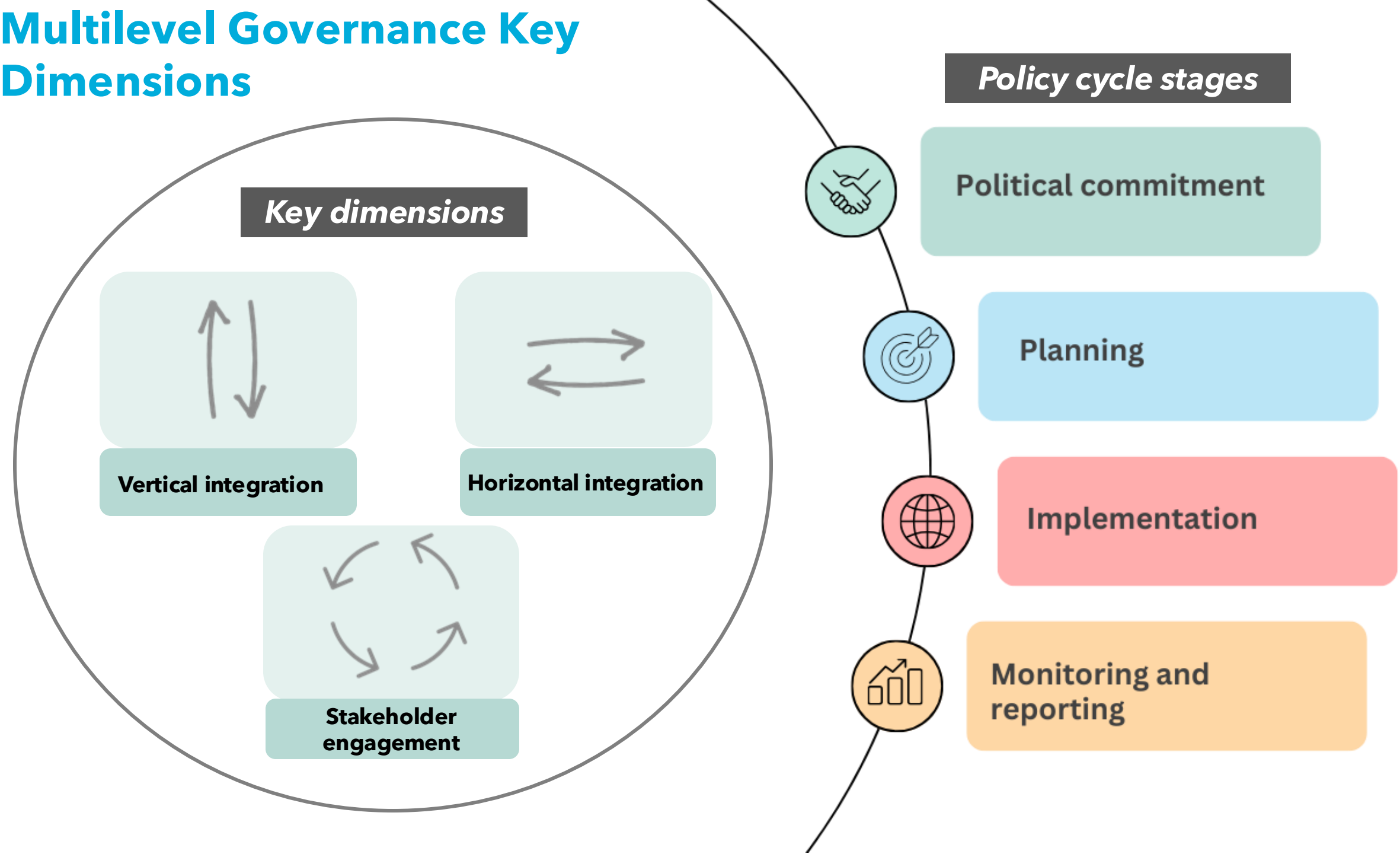
IOM UN MIGRATION

United Nations Regional Commissions ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE

UN WOMEN

Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization Principles

Multilevel Governance Key Dimensions



NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

Partner Countries

Partner Institutions

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

KUNTA' LIITTO

International Olympic Committee

ICSC
ISTITUTO PER IL CREDITO SPORTIVO E CULTURALE

National SDG Localization Frameworks in Senegal and Tunisia

TUNISIA

- Interministerial and multilevel Steering Committee.
- Support to the development and implementation of the National Development Plan 2026-2030.
- VLRs in the target municipalities.
- Support to the integration of local level findings in the VNR 2026.
- Identification of high-impact and catalytic projects.

Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

SENEGAL

- Interministerial and multilevel Steering Committee.
- Support to the revision of the National Territorial Development Plan of Senegal and operationalization of the Territorial Poles.
- Development of the Local Action Plan for the NUP.
- VLRs in the target cities and poles.
- Identification of high-impact and catalytic projects.

Ghana Smart SDG Cities

SDG Localization in Ghana is locally led, nationally enabled, and reinforced through multilevel learning.

National Coordination

- Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs and National Development Planning Commission coordinate SDG Localization
- National frameworks, VLR guidelines, and alignment with development plans
- Technical backstopping provided in coordination with UN-Habitat

Local Implementation & Ownership

- Implementation delegated to metropolitan and municipal assemblies
- Cities establish Smart SDG Cities Implementation Committees
- Local governments lead planning, data collection, stakeholder engagement, and VLR drafting with support from NDPC, MLGCRA and UN-Habitat

Multilevel learning

- City-level data and VLRs generate evidence on SDG progress and gaps
- Local monitoring informs planning and institutional capacity needs
- Evidence feeds upward into national SDG monitoring and policy learning

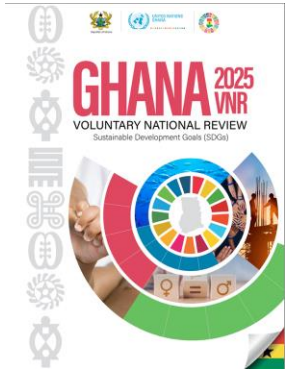
VLRs and VNRs – Multilevel Governance and Impact

Localizing VNRs: Why it Matters

- VNRs are the main national SDG reporting tool at the HLPF
- Many SDG targets are delivered **locally**, with uneven progress across territories
- Without localization, VNRs risk missing **place-based challenges and local contributions**

VLRs as a Key Enabler

- VLRs provide **granular, place-based SDG evidence**
- Capture local priorities and implementation realities
- Strengthen VNRs by making them **more grounded, representative and actionable**



"By documenting the processes and progress, the VLR provides concrete, evidence-based examples of local successes and challenges. These results feed directly into the Voluntary National Review (VNR), thus enhancing its credibility and relevance."

Voluntary Local Reviews

VLR aims to assess SDG progress within a given territory with a locally developed narrative.

438 *VLRs currently published*

Voluntary National Reviews

serve as a basis for the regular reviews high-level political forum (HLPF)

402 *VNRs currently published*

39% in 2023

>50% in 2024

VNRs that included the participation of local and regional governments.

Analytical frameworks on Multi-level Governance for SDG localization.

Thank you!

Martino Miraglia
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UN-Habitat

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