UN-HABITAT

Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Sensitization Workshop in Kaysone, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR

Proceedings of the

Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Sensitization Workshop in Kaysone, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR

Jointly organized by

Kaysone Phomivane City

And

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

18 July 2024

Kaysone Phomvihane City, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
DPI	Department of Planning and Investment	NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	NUA	New Urban Agenda
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
LSB	Lao Statistics Bureau	UMF	Urban Monitoring Framework
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs	UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment	VLR	Voluntary Local Review
NESDB	National Economic and Social Development Board	VNR	Voluntary National Review
NESDC	National Economic and Social Development Council	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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1. Background to the VLR Sensitization Workshop

Lao PDR faces the highest urbanization rate in Asia, at 4.9 percent, with which a golden opportunity emerges to harmonize local development with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), paving the way for a future where cities flourish with sustainability and resilience. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have long represented a beacon of opportunity for local authorities, illuminating the path towards fulfilling the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) goals and targets, including the ambitious 18 SDGs and their 172 targets. These reviews transcended mere assessments, acting as a mirror reflecting the strengths and weaknesses of local governance, inviting all stakeholders to unite in a harmonious chorus of sustainable development.

Aligned with the global pledge to foster sustainable urban growth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the VLR sensitization workshop in Savannakhet is not merely a project but a commitment to engage local city authorities in a reflective and forward-looking dialogue on their progress in achieving the NSEDP goals and the broader SDGs. The VLR process stands as a bridge, connecting political discourse, knowledge sharing, and cooperative efforts across various governance layers. Experiences from other cities demonstrate the synergy between VLRs and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, highlighting opportunities to align national and local development strategies, policies, and initiatives.

VLRs are a cornerstone in its mission to support cities in integrating the SDGs into their local contexts, particularly within the Lao NSEDP framework. This support includes comprehensive learning and capacity-building

programs, as well as incremental technical assistance. With this being the first VLR workshop in Laos, regionally, UN-Habitat's efforts have borne fruit in the VLRs of Bhopal (India) and Brisbane (Australia) in 2023. Ongoing support for VLRs in Chandragiri (Nepal), Udon Thani (Thailand), and Surigao (The Philippines) continues to share valuable experiences and best practices.

These proceedings mark the first VLR Sensitization Workshop in Lao PDR. This workshop aimed to raise awareness and build the capacities of local government officials and stakeholders. Through this gathering, we aimed to highlight the numerous benefits of VLRs, fostering a collaborative spirit to guide Kaysone Phomvihane City and the nation toward a more sustainable future.

2. Objectives of the VLR Sensitization Workshop

The VLR Sensitization Workshop held in Kaysone Phomvihane City aimed to achieve several key objectives to foster a deeper understanding and engagement with the VLR process. Firstly, the workshop sought to raise awareness by deepening participants' understanding of the VLR process, its purpose, and its significance within the global context. Building this foundation is crucial in highlighting the importance of VLRs in tracking and reporting progress toward the SDGs and the NSEDP goals. Additionally, the workshop aimed to share valuable experiences from other cities, particularly on the VLR process in Udon Thani, Thailand. This session provided practical insights and lessons learned, serving as an inspiration and guide for local authorities in Kaysone Phomvihane City.

Another significant objective was to bolster stakeholder engagement by fostering an understanding of the importance of diverse participation in the VLR process. Engaging a broad range of stakeholders empowers local authorities by incorporating multiple perspectives into the planning process, thereby strengthening their capacities to support the NSEDP and SDGs effectively. It also aimed to ensure alignment between the VLR process and national priorities and standards to facilitate a coherent approach to sustainable development. Lastly, the workshop aimed to initiate a dialogue on how the VLR process could be tailored to the specific context of Kaysone Phomvihane City, encouraging discussions to identify local priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

3. Outcomes Achieved

The VLR sensitization workshop set the stage for a more informed, engaged, and collaborative approach to localizing the SDGs and NSEDP goals in Savannakhet Province. Achieved outcomes include;

- **Enhanced Understanding**: Participants gained a deeper understanding of VLR concepts and their relevance to both local and global development agendas. The emphasis on creating awareness helped solidify the importance of VLRs in tracking progress toward the SDGs and NSEDP goals.
- **Diverse Participation**: The workshop successfully brought together a wide range of participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and other line ministries, local government officials from Kaysone Phomivane City, development partners, academia and research institutions, private sector stakeholders, and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs). This diverse representation ensured a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the VLR process, fostering collaboration and collective action toward sustainable development in Kaysone Phomvihane City.
- **Practical Insights**: The shared experiences from Udon Thani provided practical insights and contextualized the VLR process within the Lao setting. This helped local authorities understand the VLR process.
- **Empowered Stakeholder Engagement**: The focus on stakeholder engagement underscored the importance of collaborative planning and decision-making. This empowerment enabled local authorities and stakeholders to collaborate more effectively, incorporating diverse perspectives into the VLR process.
- **Tailored Strategies**: The open dialogue initiated during the workshop allowed for discussions on how the VLR process could be specifically tailored to the unique context of Kaysone Phomvihane City. This ensured that the VLR strategies developed would be relevant and impactful, addressing local priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

4. Summary of the Proceedings

The VLR Sensitization Workshop in Kaysone Phomvihane City focused on raising awareness and engagement for Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sessions emphasized the importance of VLRs in tracking SDG progress and provided insights into VLR methodologies, regional perspectives, and stakeholder engagement, particularly through various case studies. The workshop underscored the necessity of multilevel coordination, data collection, and inclusive stakeholder participation to ensure successful SDG integration at the local level. The event concluded with a

collective commitment to advancing sustainable development in Lao PDR.

5. VLR Sensitization Workshop Proceedings

5.1 Opening Remarks

Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Mayor of Kaysone Phomvihane City, opened the session by delivering his welcoming remarks, in which he paid his respect to Dr. Avi Sarkar, Regional Advisor and Representative UN-Habitat Lao PDR, distinguished participants from line ministries, representatives from Pakse City and offices and departments from Savannakhet province.

Mr. Prasongsinh acknowledged the importance and significance of this city to Kaysone. He then explained the context of Kaysone as one of the key cities in Lao PDR and its importance and potential for economic development in the region and the country.

Mr. Prasongsinh appreciates the past experiences and ongoing collaboration between Kaysone and UN agencies, especially with UN-Habitat, for their continued support through various projects. He wishes to continue this partnership with UN-Habitat in the future. Finally, he hopes the meeting will be successful and that participants will gain valuable lessons from it.

Dr. Avi Sarkar, Regional Advisor and Head of UN-Habitat Office in Lao PDR, stated that the workshop is a testament to our commitment towards the 9th NSEDP and the SDGs. He outlined UN-Habitat and ESCAP's efforts in the Asia-Pacific Region to provide a coherent approach to the governments. In particular, he highlighted the strong partnership with Kaysone Phomvihane City and Savannakhet in the areas of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and master planning, as well as their crisis response during the COVID-19 pandemic. He outlined the objective of the VLR sensitization workshop – to raise awareness, bolster engagement and ensure alignment for a coherent approach.

5.2 Session 1 – Introduction to VLR: Concept, Methodology and Best Practices

The session on Introduction to VLRs was led by **Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager and Project Team Leader of ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization from UN-Habitat.** He commenced by highlighting the fundamental role of VLRs as a strategic policy tool for local governments to localize the 17 SDGs and monitor their progress towards Agenda 2030. He emphasized the role of VLRs, quoting the UNSG Advisory Committee on Local and Regional Governments, that "cities, local authorities and specifically VLRs are key actors and processes to advance sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism". He reiterated the integral role of engagement at the grassroots level by stating that over 65 percent of the SDG targets are closely linked to the work and mandate of local and regional governments.

The importance of fostering multistakeholder partnerships and enhancing institutional coordination in the VLR process was underscored throughout the session. The comprehensive approach to localize SDGs, taken by UN-Habitat, was outlined, which involved five main stages of planning: (1) Data Innovation; (2) Monitoring and Reporting; (3) Long-Term Planning and Financing; (4) Multi-level Governance and (5) UN-wide Initiative on Localizing the SDGs. He elaborated on how VLRs serve as a dependable mechanism for local councils and governments to evaluate their advancements in sustainable development, citing compelling case studies from various regions, including Bhopal in India that exemplified the seamless integration of VLRs into local planning and decision-making frameworks.

Acknowledging that over 300 VLRs have been published since 2016, the session delved into the pivotal role of VLRs in promoting sustainable development through the formulation of evidence-based policy frameworks and the development of strategic plans aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The session introduced the participants to the Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF), which is a monitoring framework to harmonize existing urban indices and tools and lead towards an agreed universal framework to track the performance of the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Mr. Maroso also underlined that the UMF is a key monitoring tool for guiding VLRs and VNRs and supporting urban data collection. He continued by explaining how VLRs can act as catalysts for advancing gender equality, as seen in Zimbabwe, for fostering social inclusion, as seen in Belgium, and for enhancing community awareness of sustainable development issues – through various case studies.

The session provided a comprehensive understanding of how VLRs play a transformative role in localizing the SDGs, fostering global partnerships, and propelling progress towards sustainable development targets. It underscored the pivotal role of VLRs as indispensable tools for local authorities and governments to drive actionable change, monitor progress effectively, and engage stakeholders collaboratively in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development outcomes. The session by Mr. Riccardo Maroso encapsulated the essence of VLRs as a cornerstone for local sustainable development efforts, emphasizing their significance in shaping a more sustainable and equitable future for communities worldwide.

5.3 Session 2 – An Overview of SDG Localization: A Regional Perspective

The second session of the workshop, conducted by **Ms. Sanjeevani Singh, Economic Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Urban Development Section at ESCAP**, looked at SDG localization through a regional lens. The session started by outlining the role and need for VLRs in enhancing SDG localization, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. She highlighted that at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development lies the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and no place behind.

Further, Ms. Singh discussed the commitments of ESCAP in supporting VLRs as a tool for promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in local development efforts. By strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to work towards Agenda 2030 and enhancing reporting mechanisms through capacity building, technical assistance, financial support and knowledge sharing, ESCAP aims to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, prioritize local pathways to achieve SDGs, and engage stakeholders effectively in the policy-making process. This was substantiated through examples of completed and new VLRs supported by ESCAP regional guidelines in Asia-Pacific.

The session also elaborated on the VLR development process, which links priorities and maps city policies and strategies against the SDGs, taking 6-9 months to complete. This comprises four key stages: (1) Planning and Institutionalizing; (2) Gathering Inputs and Data; (3) Report Writing, and (4) Follow-up. Ms. Singh underlined the crucial role of stakeholder engagement in seizing opportunities provided by VLRs. Building emerging gaps with VLRs was also discussed, including bridging growing gaps in data and raising awareness around SDG localization.

Ms. Singh concluded the session by highlighting the importance of integrating national and local reviews to enhance SDG coherence, particularly by referring to examples of VLR and VNR integration in Surabaya, Indonesia and Dhulikhel, Nepal, amongst others. In summary, Ms. Singh's session reinforced the significance of leveraging VLRs and integrating national and local reviews to ensure comprehensive and effective progress towards the SDGs, especially for nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

5.4 Session 3 – Sharing of Experiences from the VLR Process in Udon Thani, Thailand

The session focused on the Sharing of Experiences from the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Process in Udon Thani, Thailand led by **Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn, a National Technical Expert from UN-Habitat Bangkok Office and a former policy analyst at the National Economic and Social Development Council of Thailand (NESDC)**, the discussion delved into the practical application of VLRs at the local level. The session highlighted the importance of aligning local actions with national policies and international frameworks, emphasizing the significance of coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders. By showcasing the experiences from the Udon Thani City Municipality, Ms. Nirattiwongsakorn underscored the critical role of VLRs in promoting transparency, inclusivity, and sustainable development within communities.

Ms. Nirattiwongsakorn commenced the session by outlining the project's objectives and outcomes – to promote inclusive post-pandemic recovery, strengthen the capacities of local and regional governments to develop VLRs and localize SDGs, and enhance multilevel governance. She further explained the alignment between national, provincial and local levels within the project, particularly emphasizing the participation in workshops from national and provincial government agencies in Thailand, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC). Ms. Nirattiwongsakorn shared local views on Udon Thani's future which were gathered during a capacity-building workshop held under the project, to increase awareness of SDG localization and align national and local projects with the SDGs. She shared the implementation of the UMF, highlighting that Udon Thani City Municipality was the 1st city to apply the UMF.

One key aspect of the session was explaining the structure of Udon Thani City Municipality's VLR. This comprised of 5 key stages: (1) Introduction of Udon Thani; (2) Preparation of the VLR; (3) Monitoring the City's Progress (through 39 UMF indicators in 5 domains); (4) Actions Towards SDGs and (5) Conclusion and Next Steps. The discussion also emphasized the importance of reliable data collection and institutional support in driving effective decision-making processes and fostering community engagement.

By aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leveraging international guidelines, Udon Thani City Municipality demonstrated a proactive approach towards achieving green and resilient urban infrastructure. Through the experiences shared by Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn, the session highlighted the transformative potential of VLRs in driving progress towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for Udon Thani and similar communities worldwide, proving particularly beneficial for Lao PDR.

5.5 UN Resident Coordinator's Opening Remarks

Due to an unforeseen flight delay, **Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR**, delivered his opening remarks at a later time than originally planned.

Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR, delivered his opening remarks in which he highlighted the UN's commitment towards SDG localization in Lao PDR. He expressed his gratitude to UN-Habitat, ESCAP and the Lao Government for paving the way towards achieving the SDGs. With reference to the 2024 SDG Report, Mr. Burkhanov informed the participants of the alarmingly low levels of progress towards the SDGs, with only 17 percent of them on track to be achieved by 2030. He recognized the Lao Government's integration of the SDGs in their planning framework. On behalf of the UN system, Mr. Burkhanov thanked everyone for their commitment towards SDG localization in Lao PDR.

5.6 Session 4 – Stakeholder Engagement VLRs Process: Local and National Actors

This informative session by **Ms. Sanjeevani Singh, Economic Affairs Officer in the Sustainable Urban Development Section at ESCAP**, explored the role of stakeholder engagement in the VLR process. Ms. Singh started by outlining that the participation of national and local governments, civil society, local and religious organizations, universities and research entities and the private sector is integral to the VLR process.

Along with discussing various engagement mechanisms for stakeholders, such as stakeholder workshops and public meetings, Ms. Singh mentioned various ways of addressing emerging challenges and key issues. This included raising awareness around SDG localization, building meaningful engagement along managing effective stakeholder engagement. She concluded the session by providing participants with a better understanding of not only the importance but also the benefits of VLRs. She emphasized that VLRs provide a valuable opportunity for measuring progress and inclusive evidence-based decision-making.

5.7 Session 5 – Participative Discussion on Conducting VLR in Kaysone Phomvihane City

The final session of the workshop focused on incorporating local voices by encouraging an interactive and participative discussion on conducting VLR in Kaysone Phomvihane City. This participative session was led by **Mr. Riccardo Maroso** and **Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn**, from UN-Habitat, with the help of *Mentimeter*.

Mr. Maroso began the session with a short recap of the SDGs and their interlinkage with local action. He followed this by asking the participants to share which SDGs they felt were relevant for Kaysone Phomivane City. SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth saw the highest number of votes, followed by SDG 1, No Poverty, and SDG 4, Quality Education. The participants' data then shared that on a scale of 1 to 5, the extent to which they integrate the SDGs in their work lies at an average of 2.85, with the majority of people voting 1. This was followed by a discussion of various challenges for

development under the three key themes of data, decision making and implementation. It was agreed upon, by a large majority of over 50 percent of the participants, that the biggest challenge for Kaysone Phomvihane City was budget limitations.

To address various discussed challenges to SDG localization in Kaysone Phomvihane City, the participants were asked which government stakeholders they thought should be engaged in VLR development. The majority of the people agreed upon the need for Local Government to engage in VLR development in the city, which was followed by Provincial and National Governments. As for communities, CSOs and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the participants agreed upon various stakeholders, including but not limited to academia, the private sector, and the community present in the project area.

After a short review of the need for data in SDG localization, the participants were asked to provide their insights on which national, provincial or local agencies would have access to useful data for conducting VLR in Kaysone Phomivane City. Answers shared by participants included the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), the local government and the MPI. To conclude, the participants were informed of the various benefits of conducting a VLR, particularly highlighting the role of multilevel coordination in ensuring a successful and impactful VLR process. This was then followed by the majority of participants agreeing that conducting a VLR in Kaysone Phomivane City would be helpful.

Thereafter, **Mr. Bounao Fongkhamdeng, the Deputy Mayor of Pakse City, Champasak Province**, shared some comments and experiences towards achieving SDGs. He began by mentioning various initiatives already in place in Pakse City, such as the Pakse Urban Development Strategy which was put in place in 2012 and aims to be implemented till 2030, amongst others. He suggested considering climate change as a new element while updating strategies, particularly looking at the Pakse Urban Development Strategy.

Following this, **Mr. Kalouna Nanthavongduangsy, the Deputy Director General of the Planning Department of MPI**, reiterated by stating that we are on track for achieving only 15 percent of the SDGs and more than 65 percent of these SDGs require local engagement. He highlighted the importance of coordination between local, national and provincial levels, through various forms such as sharing data. He stated that this coordination and cooperation is crucial in our path towards achieving Agenda 2030.

Ms Norlasin Inthisan, The Deputy Director of the Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) in Savannakhet highlighted various development plans already in place which are working to mainstream the SDGs. She stated that 9 out of the 18 SDGs have already been mainstreamed in the province through the policies. She restated the presence of budget constraints and human resources for mainstreaming SDGs in Savannakhet and underlined the need for further support for VLRs as they are crucial for developing cities.

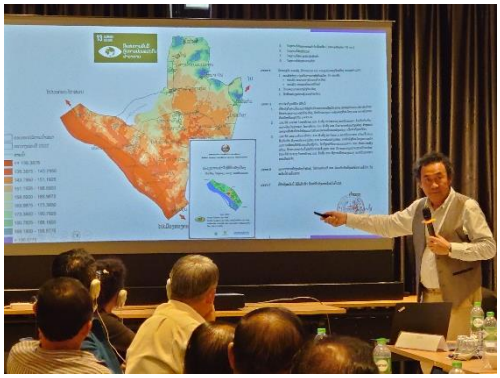
From the Planning Department of MPI, the Deputy Director General posed a question regarding the wording of VLR and VNR. He urged that the VLR and VNR process is not *voluntary* but rather compulsory as one of the steps to achieve the NSEDP. He also underlined the need for coordination at the local and national levels for a successful VLR process.

The session concluded with a collective agreement on the necessity of conducting a VLR in Kaysone Phomvihane City, emphasizing the importance of multilevel coordination, the engagement of diverse stakeholders, and addressing budgetary and resource constraints to ensure the successful integration of SDGs at the local level.

5.8 Session 6 – Efforts and Contributions for Climate Resilience, in Alignment with SDG 11 and SDG 13

The workshop came to an end with a short informative session by **Mr. Buahom Sengkhamyong, Chief Technical Advisor of UN-Habitat Lao PDR**, who provided the participants with a deeper understanding of projects and contributions by UN-Habitat to localize the SDGs – which were further explored during the following field visit organized by UN-Habitat. He outlined efforts made towards achieving SDG 11 by building climate and disaster-resilient capacities of vulnerable small towns in Lao PDR. The project aims to build more than 17,000 hectares of resilient infrastructure, which was previously only 91 hectares, i.e. the municipal, and urban areas.

Further, Mr. Buahom outlined efforts made towards achieving SDG 13, Climate Action, which particularly targeted flood-prone areas in Lao PDR. This included explaining visual 3D maps and providing an overview of the resilient infrastructure plans for flood-prone areas, water drainage plans and construction plans.



5.9 Closing Remarks

The closing remarks were delivered by **Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator**, in which he reiterated the significance of VLRs and how they can be tailored for Kaysone Phomivane City, Savannakhet. He recognized the commitment of the Government of Lao PDR to advancing the SDGs. He then reaffirmed that all efforts towards integrating the SDGs will further demonstrate commitment towards improving the lives of citizens. He appreciated the interactive session and highlighted a few points discussed in the workshop. This included the importance of multilevel governance, diverse stakeholder engagement and robust data in ensuring successful VLRs and high-quality decision-making.

Further, Mr. Burkhanov acknowledged the resource constraints addressed by several speakers and stated that a well-produced VLR will ensure better domestic resource mobilization and coordination among development partners and bring much-needed development finance. He further reiterated the principle of LNOB, especially those in the most vulnerable communities. In closing, he rearticulated the UN's commitment towards the Lao Government and local authorities in pursuing sustainable and urban development. To conclude, he thanked everyone for their active engagement and support and the distinguished Mayor of Kaysone Phomivane City, H.E. Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk.

This was followed by a short closing speech by **Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Mayor of Kaysone Phomivane City**, who reiterated the need for coordination to go forward towards Agenda 2030. He highlighted that the key takeaway of the workshop was keeping in mind the LNOB principle as we work towards localizing SDGs in Lao PDR. On behalf of the provincial and city administration, he thanked everyone for their commitment and support towards the SDGs.

5.10 Road Ahead

The case of VLR in Udon Thani inspired the participating local authorities with the steps to move forward. The VLR could be planned as a 1.5- to 2-year project; planning and institutionalizing; definition of VLR structure and SDGs; collecting data; and reporting and following up with the stakeholders.

- **Planning and institutionalizing:** The stakeholders will be identified. The project team will develop the strategy to engage them such as communities and partners, as well as the political buy-in. The feasibility check of the data access shall be conducted at this stage.
- **Definition of VLR structure and SDGs:** The existing development strategies, policies, and plans of the city will be reviewed to address priority issues. This will be reflected in the identification of priority SDGs to be reviewed.
- **Collecting data:** The data will be collected by the project team. The indicators of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) will provide the framework of comprehensive review.
- **Reporting and following up with the stakeholders:** Based on the review results, the report will address the progress towards SDGs and the alignment of the city's actions to SDGs. The actions will also be aligned with the one at the national level. The VLR is continuous monitoring, thus the endorsement and follow-up after the VLR project is essential.

Annexure

Annex 1: Participants List

No.	Name	Position
Department of International Cooperation (DIC), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)		
1	Mr. Sysomphone Phetdaoheuang	Deputy Director General
2	Mr. Santi Songnavong	Acting Head of Division
3	Mr. Viriya Phounsiri	Deputy Head of Division
4	Mr. Alounsana Chandara	Deputy Head of Division
5	Mr. Viengkham Phanthalamixay	Deputy Head of Division
Department of Planning, MPI		
6	Mr. Kalouna Nanthavongduangsy	Deputy Director General
7	Mr. Ackhalith Sayasone	Technical Officer
Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment		
8	Mr. Phouthaxay Khounvixay	Officer
Department of International Corporation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
9	Mr. Thavisit Homsombath	Deputy Head of Division
Ministry of Home Affairs		
10	Mr. Phetsomphone Souvanvixay	Deputy Director General
11	Mr. Pongphan Xayachak	Head of Division
Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare		
12	Mr. Vanhphone Keoseanyoth	Deputy Director General
13	Mr. Phouthasone	Deputy Head of Division
Ministry of Public Security		
14	Mr. Dalinh Soudachanh	Deputy Director General

No.	Name	Position
15	Mr. Chanthala Kongthavong	Deputy Head of Division
Department of Policy, Ministry of Finance		
16	Mr. Phanomphone Keovongvichit	Deputy Director General
17	Mr. Thongvilay Seanpatham	Deputy Head of Division
Department of Cooperation, The Bank of Lao PDR		
18	Mr. Alounxay Naphaivong	Deputy Head of Division
19	Mr. Phaysouvanh Thepsimeung	Officer
Provincial Administrative Office, Savannakhet Province		
20	Mr. Vannakhone Thorlatha	Deputy Director
21	Miss. Pavina Seetha	Officer
22	Ms. Nansouda Kaisone	Officer
23	Mr. Pilanya Tanvongpaab	Deputy Head of Unit
District Administrative Office, Kaisone City, Savannakhet Province		
24	Mr. Pasongsin Chalernsouk	Kaysone City Mayor
25	Ms. Sulichanh Khamvongthong	Mayor Secritary
26	Ms. Vannaly Keohanam	Kaysone City Vice Mayor
27	Mr. Bounyor Vorlisaksit	Head of Unit
28	Mr. Ponepadit Nakhienaan	Environment Office
29	Mr. Khamsy Thounthavongsak	Officer
30	Mr. Theankeo Phombida	Kaysone City Vice Mayor
31	Mr. Thipphamon Phimmasone	Acting Head of Kaysone City Administrative Office
32	Mr. Ounkham Phiwphachanh	Head of Agriculture and Forest Office
33	Ms. Khamphian Madmanivong	Head of Finance Office
34	Mr. Phetsamone	Deputy Head of Office

No.	Name	Position
35	Ms. Phonexay Xanavongxay	Head of Education and Sports Office
36	Ms. Vilaiya Xanavongxay	Head of Public Health Office
37	Ms. Phoutsenglatsamai Xayamongkhoun	Deputy Head of Industry and Commerce Office
38	Mr. Inpong Porvorladeth	Head of Information, Culture and Tourism Office
Department of Planning and Investment, Savannakhet Province		
39	Ms. Norlasin Inthisan	Deputy Director General
40	Mr. Phady Oliyavong	Head of International Cooperation Section
41	Mr. Dethpaxa Phommasone	Deputy Head of International Cooperation Section
42	Ms. Laydy Xayasen	Officer
43	Mr. Lathda Raxaphon	Officer
Department of Foreign Affairs, Savannakhet Province		
44	Mr. Saysamone Keobounsan	Deputy Director General
Department of Public Works and Transport, Savannakhet Province		
45	Mr. Sombandith Syhalath	Deputy Director General
Provincial of Natural Resources and Environment, Savannakhet Province		
46	Mr. Chanphengsai Daraxavong	Deputy Director General
Department of Industry and Commerce, Savannakhet Province		
47	Mr. Khemmanh Khaimasan	/
Department of Labour and Social Welfare, Savannakhet Province		
48	Mr. Chanthala Keomaneesay	Deputy Director
Department of Home Affairs, Savannakhet Province		
49	Mr. Somsanouk Phetsomphou	Deputy Director General
Department of Public Health, Savannakhet Province		

No.	Name	Position
50	Mr. Phetsamone	Deputy Head of Cabinet Office
Department of Education and Sport, Savannakhet Province		
51	Mr. Anusone Southivong	/
Department of Public Security, Savannakhet Province		
52	Mr. Khamsouk Pasertkhamla	Director General
Department of Finance, Savannakhet Province		
53	Mr. Phaisan Chansina	Deputy Director General
Savannakhet Branch, Bank of Lao PDR		
54	Ms. Avila Khounnavong	Deputy Head of Section
University of Savannakhet		
55	Mr. Phouvong Phommalangsy	Head of Finance Section
Provincial Administrative Office, Champasak Province		
56	Mr. Bounao Fongkhamdeng	Vice Pakse Mayor
57	Mr. Atsavin Khounkeopaseuth	Officer
UN-ESCAP		
58	Ms. Sanjeevani Singh	Economic Affairs Officer
UNRC		
59	Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov	UN Resident Coordinator
UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office		
60	Mr. Riccardo Maroso	Programme Manager
61	Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn	National Technical Expert
UN-Habitat Lao PDR		
62	Mr. Avi Sarkar	Regional Chief Technical Advisor, South-East Asia Urban Basic Services Branch
63	Mr. Buahom Sengkhamyong	Country Chief Technical Advisor

No.	Name	Position
64	Ms. Kumiko Hino	Programme Management Specialist
65	Mr. Phengphone Khamseansouk	National Consultant
66	Ms. Vilaysouk Ounvongsai	Admin & Finance Officer

Annex 2: Agenda

VLR Sensitization Workshop Agenda		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	All Participants
9:00 – 9:15	Welcoming Remarks	H.E. Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Mayor of Kaysone Phomivane City
9:15 – 9:30	Sensitization Workshop Objective Outline	Dr. Avi Sarkar, Regional Advisor and Head of UN-Habitat Lao PDR
9:30 – 9:55	Introduction to VLR, VLR concept, methodology, and best practices.	Mr. Riccardo Maroso, UN-Habitat
9:55 – 10:15	Overview of VLRs – Regional Perspective	Ms. Sanjeevani Singh, ESCAP
10:15 – 10:40	Coffee Break	All Participants
10:40 – 10:50	Opening Remarks	Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator
10:50 – 11:05	Sharing of experiences from the VLR process in Udon Thani Thailand	Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn, UN-Habitat
11:05 – 11:30	Stakeholder engagement VLRs process: local and national actors	Facilitated by Mr. Riccardo Maroso, UN-Habitat
11:30 – 12:15	Discussion on conducting VLR in Kaysone Phomvihane City	Facilitated by Mr. Riccardo Maroso and Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn, UN-Habitat
12:15 – 12:30	Project briefing - the case of local action towards SDGs	Mr. Buahom Sengkhamyong, Chief Technical Advisor of UN-Habitat Lao PDR

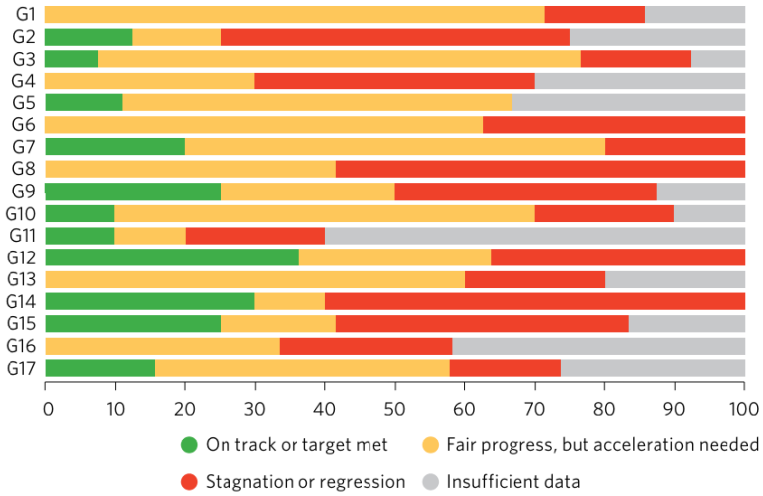
VLR Sensitization Workshop Agenda		
12:30 – 12:40	Summary and Closing Remarks	▪ Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator ▪ H.E. Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Kaysone Phomvihane Mayor
12:40 – 14:00	Lunch	All Participants
14.00 – 17.30	Field Visit Organized by UN-Habitat ▪ Adaptation Fund Project – Sayphouthong	All Participants

Annex 3: Presentations

Presentation 1: Introduction to VLR by Mr. Riccardo Maroso

SDG Progress at the midpoint

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



Source: SDG Progress Report, UN, 2023

2030 Agenda and Local action

Agenda 2030 is an intergovernmental process endorsed by Member States *BUT* **national governments *alone* cannot achieve the SDGs:**

DECADE OF ACTION

Common Agenda

Global action

Local action

People action

"Cities, local authorities and specifically VLRs are key actors and processes to advance sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism"

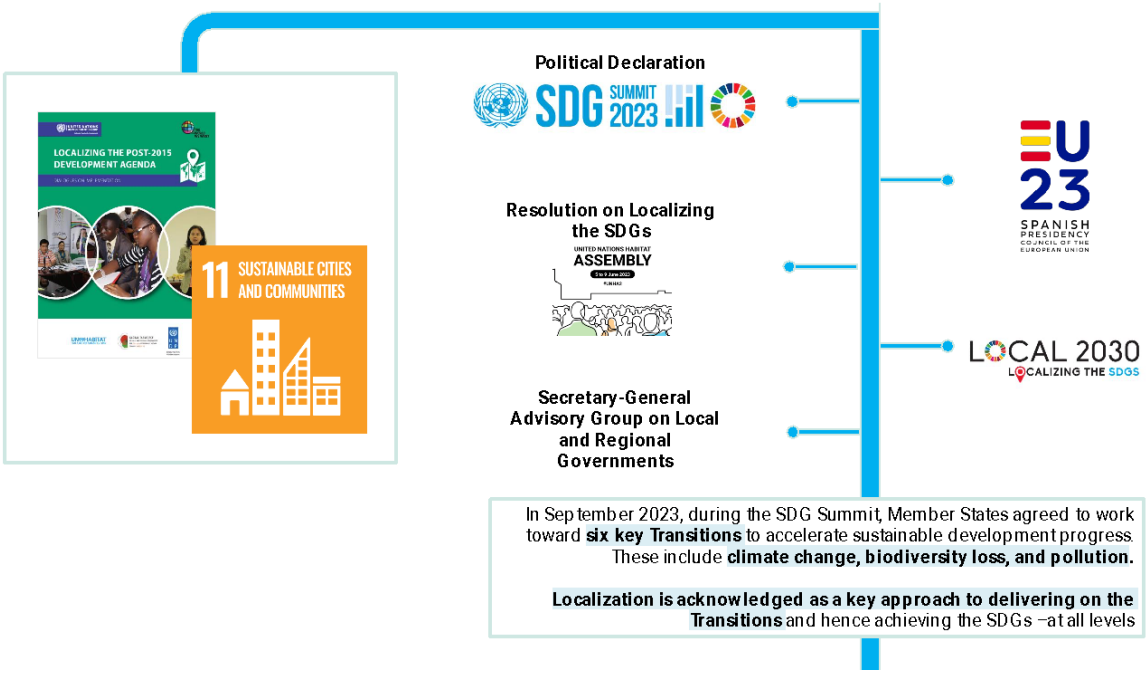
UNSG Advisory Committee on Local And Regional Governments

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

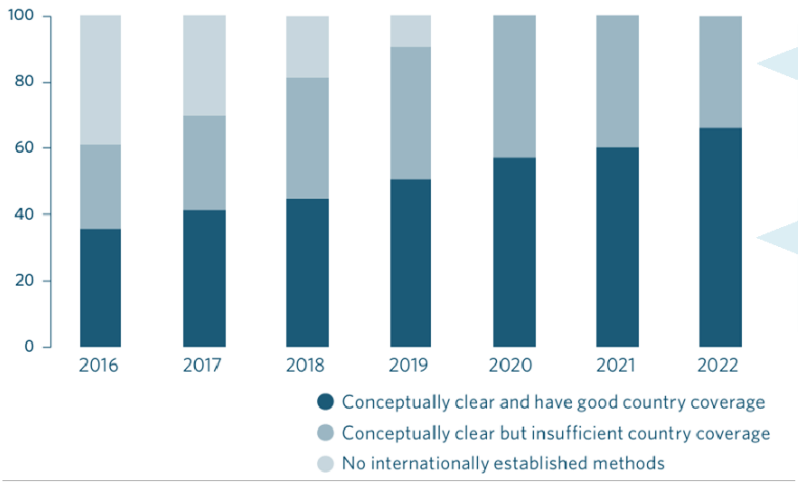
28TH APRIL 2022

G20 ITALIA 2021

G7 GERMANY



Proportion of global SDG indicators, by availability of standards and national data, 2016-2022 (percentage)



Considerable progress has been achieved in the **availability of international data**.

The proportion of **indicators that have good country coverage** has increased significantly to 66 % in 2022.

Source: SDG Progress Report, UN, 2023

6

"**Adequate disaggregated data is still lacking at the local level**, especially as countries and cities aim to decentralize".

Antonio Guterres
Secretary General, UN

23%

Approximately 23% of NSO in LIC and LMIC are experiencing **severe funding shortages**.

The gap is even larger if we look at the issue of **local data**:

Statistical departments face challenges in collecting accurate and updated data.

Not all the statisticians are aware of the SDGs.

The data collected does not always reach the national level.

7

LOCALIZING THE SDGs

What is SDG Localization?

SDG localization is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level. It means placing territories and communities at the center of decision and policy making and of long-term planning for sustainable development.

UN-Habitat Mandade

UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The priorities of UN-Habitat for 2022-23 are Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

Why SDG Localization?

The implementation process of the 2030 Agenda shows that local action and local leadership, as well as the role of local and regional governments, are essential to achieve the SDGs.

Our Principles

Multistakeholder partnerships
Multilevel governance
Inclusion and participation
Policy coherence
Development effectiveness

Our Comprehensive Approach

UN-Habitat offers the most comprehensive approach to localize the SDGs, providing assistance throughout all stages of planning, financing, policymaking, project development and monitoring.

The Global Urban Monitoring Framework	Data innovation
Voluntary Local Reviews	Monitoring and Reporting
SDG Cities	Long-term planning and Financing
MLG Multilevel Governance	Multilevel Governance
LOCAL 2030 Localizing the SDGs	UN-wide initiative on localizing the SDGs

SDG Localization as a Paradigm Shift

SDG Localization is a paradigm shift aimed at transforming governance systems and development frameworks – global, national and local.

Localizing means **placing communities and their quality of life at the center of development.** It focuses on addressing existing development gaps – at all levels – to **transform the SDGs into reality**.

The localization approach is anchored on **coordination, coherence and partnerships across levels, stakeholders and sectors.** It is rooted in **three principles**:

- Ownership and institutional anchoring
- Whole-of-Government
- Whole-of-Society

In September 2023, during the SDG Summit, Member States agreed to work toward **six key Transitions** to accelerate sustainable development progress. These include **climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.**

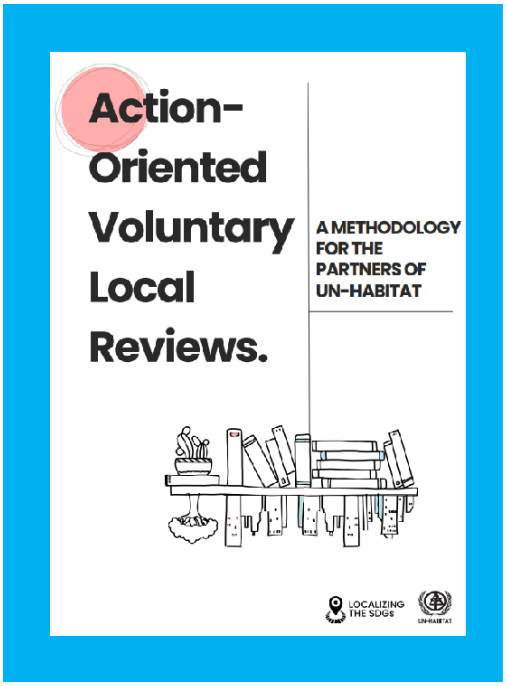
Localization is acknowledged as a key approach to delivering on the Transitions and hence achieving the SDGs – at all levels

How does SDG Localization look like?

Data innovation	Awareness Raising	Planning and mainstreaming	Participation and inclusion	Budgeting and finance
Nakuru (Kenya) The VLR development has been transformed into a digital format. The VLR Task Force has developed a VLR Dashboard that will serve as a living VLR that can be continuously updated.	Bulawayo, (Zimbabwe) Conducted awareness-raising workshops for municipal staff and CSOs on gender issues, guided by the city's gender policy (SDG 5).	Agadir (Morocco) Integration of its Strategic Plan (PAC-Communal Action Plan) and the VLR, showcasing a synchronized and synergistic approach to urban planning. Bhopal (India) Integrated SDGs into urban planning with India's first VLR	Ennour (Tunisia) Provides a particular look into the principle of Leaving no one behind, analyzing SDG challenges from the lenses of the communities (taking into account all the marginalized communities: elderly, youth, people with disabilities, migrants and women).	Brussels (Belgium) Created a Social Impact bond to achieve the goals related to fighting unemployment (SDG 8) Gothenburg (Sweden) Issued a green bond of 70 million euros to achieve climate resilience objectives in line with SDG 13 and 11.6

How does SDG Localization look like?

Policy making	Monitoring	Innovative partnerships	Multilevel Governance
Para' (Brazil) The Government of Para' instituted the State Policy on Climate Change of Para, in 2020, integrating a juridical legal set of plans being implemented by the state government and contributing to achieving SDG 11.b. It supported 52 municipalities in risk and disaster prevention actions.	Niš (Serbia) Establishment of a dedicated monitoring unit within the City administration. Which enables efficient coordination in developing Niš's VLR while also creating the potential to enhance the local government's capacity, ensuring the sustainability and recurrence of the VLR process in the future.	Mwanza (Tanzania) and Tampere (Finland) Kickstarted a twinning project to cooperate in the production of Mwanza's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), to advance together towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.	Argentina In 2015 created a dedicated National inter-ministerial body based on an intersectoral approach. At the subnational level, the province of Cordoba is supporting several municipalities to develop local SDGs plans through a collaborative process among levels of governance.



Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews.

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/02/action-oriented_vlr_methodology.pdf

UN-HABITAT

UCLG CGLU
United Cities and Local Governments

Voluntary Local Reviews

VOLUNTARY
LOCAL
REVIEWS

- Data environment
- Strategic planning and policy coherence
- Participation and awareness raising
- Transparency and accountability
- Multilevel coordination
- International positioning and recognition

300 VLRS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE 2016

198 LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

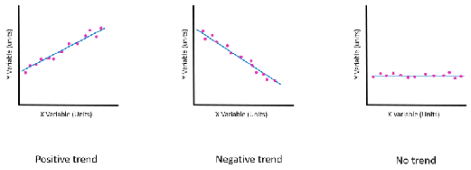
24 VLRS SUPPORTED BY UN-HABITAT

12 VLRS CURRENTLY BEING SUPPORTED BY UN-HABITAT

Voluntary Local Review is an assessment of a territory's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by strategic plans to enhance future progress.

Voluntary Local Review is an assessment of a territory's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by strategic plans to enhance future progress.

Trends over time



What are the local priorities?

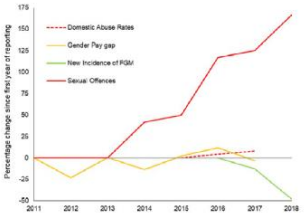
What is needed to achieve them?

Voluntary Local Review is an assessment of a territory's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by strategic plans to enhance future progress

Connected to initiatives, projects, policies

Problem solving

Evidence based



Preconditions for a meaningful VLR

Political buy-in

Access to (a minimal amount of) reliable data

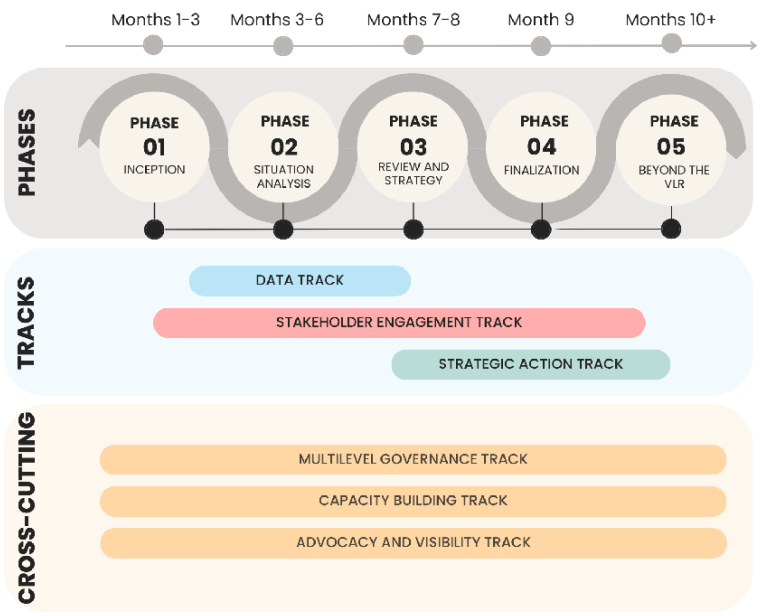
Institutional support to engage communities, partners and stakeholders

VLR Methodology

5 Phases

3 Thematic Tracks

3 Cross-Cutting Issues



Global Urban Monitoring Framework

At the method level:

- Ensure thematic integration and **inter-linkages among various dimensions** of development.
- Design a monitoring framework that allows for **disaggregation of data** and the inclusion of groups that are traditionally excluded.
- An urban framework that works at **different scales and functional urban areas**
- Integrate methods that **enable city comparability**, but also the possibility of more in-depth policy analysis.

https://unhabitat.org/the-global-urban-monitoring-framework

Why a Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)?

1. A monitoring framework to **harmonize existing urban indices** and tools, and lead towards an agreed universal framework to track performance of the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).
2. Serve as a **monitoring tool for** the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme on **SDG Cities.**
3. A monitoring tool for **guiding Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and VNRs** and support urban data compilation for the Common Country Assessments with the UN Country Teams.
4. Function as **guide** for private sector, urban observatories, academia, national statistical systems, etc on urban monitoring.

The Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)

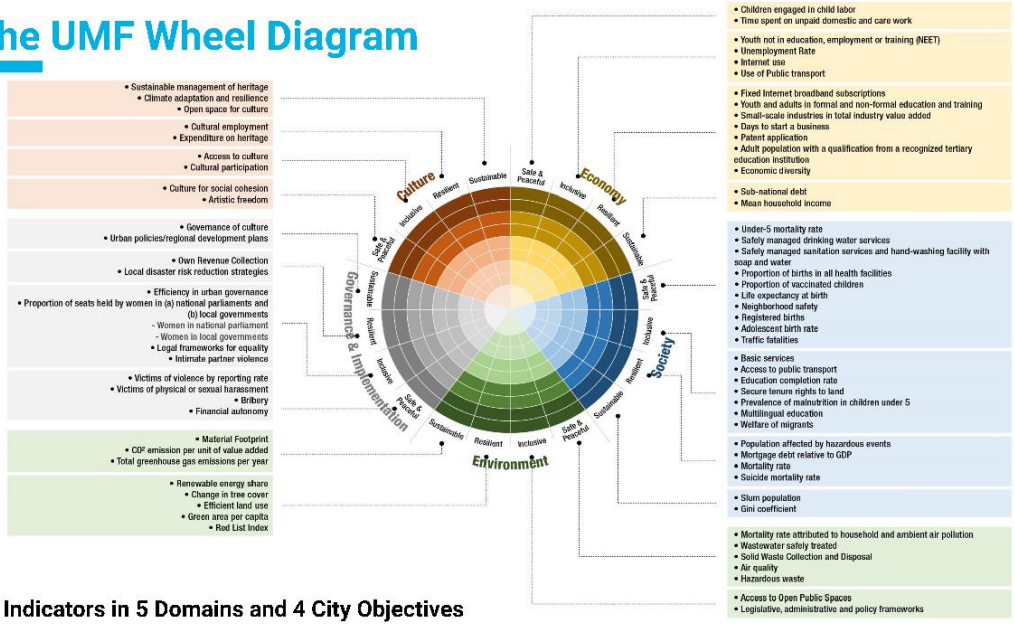
- A list of indicators that is relevant for cities
- Indicators from multiple sources based on a global stocktaking

	SUBJECT MATTER FRAMEWORKS (EXAMPLES)						
	CULTURE	SMART CITIES	LABOUR	ENVIRONMENT	HEALTH	CHILD WELLBEING	OTHER VALUE ADDING INDICES
FACILITATING AGENCIES OR ORGANISATIONS	UNESCO	ITU U4FFC	ILO	UNEP	WHO	UNICEF	CITIIQ
		WCCD		IGES			SPACE SYNTAX

- Approximately 60% of UMF indicators are based on SDG indicators
- Even UMF indicators that are not directly based on an SDG indicator can be used to measure an SDG
- Provides an opportunity for benchmarking

The UMF should not be understood as the sole monitoring framework, but rather as a foundation that can be complemented with other sets of indicators of interest for the municipality

The UMF Wheel Diagram



77 Indicators in 5 Domains and 4 City Objectives

Examples of UMF-VLR integration

Madrid,

Spain (2023)

Aligning multiple sources of indicators: global, regional, national, local

Link to the VLR: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/03/madrid_2023_en.pdf

Figure 22. Main sources

	Source	Organization
	Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	United Nations
	Global Urban Monitoring Framework	United Nations
JRC	European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews	European Commission - Joint Research Centre
REDS	Report "SDGs in 100 Spanish cities"	Sustainable Development Solutions Network / REDS
MADRID	Localization strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in the city of Madrid.	Madrid City Council
	Spanish Urban Agenda	Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda of the Madrid City Council

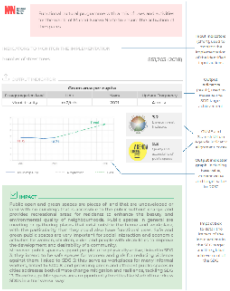


Table 8. Output indicators by source

Target	Indicator	Level	Local indicators	Data sources	Global indicators
1.2	At-risk-of-poverty rate	Triple Analysis			
1.3	At-risk-of-poverty rate (Over 65 years)	Triple Analysis			
1.3	At-risk-of-poverty rate (Under 16 years)	Triple Analysis			
1.3	Number of households receiving Minimum Insertion Income (IMI) or Income guarantee programme in the city of Madrid	Madrid municipality			
1.4	Percentage of people with delay in basic household supply payments	Madrid municipality			
1.4	Percentage of population unable to maintain a comfortable temperature at home	Madrid municipality			
1.4	Percentage of people who cannot afford a meal of meat, poultry or fish (or their vegetarian equivalent) every second day	Madrid municipality			
2.2	Share of overweight or obese children in the population	Madrid municipality			
2.3	Kilograms of processed products commercialized in Mercamadrid	Madrid municipality			
3.4	Life expectancy at birth	Municipality/City			
3.4	Premature mortality rate	Triple Analysis			
3.5	Harmful alcohol consumption per capita (15 years of age and older)	Madrid municipality			
3.6	Traffic fatalities	Triple Analysis			
3.7	Proportion of appointments for maternity care and sexual health (child, women attended in the shortest time)	Madrid municipality			
3.7	Centers	Madrid municipality			
3.7	Proportion of sexual and reproductive health appointments attended at Municipal Community Health Centers	Madrid municipality			
3.8	Population with household health expenditure greater than 10% of total household expenditure or income	Madrid municipality			
3.8	Population with household health expenditure greater than 25% of total household expenditure or income	Madrid municipality			
4.1	Unemployed young people	Madrid municipality			
4.2	Children 0-4 in day care or school	Triple Analysis			
4.4	Proportion of population aged 25-64 qualified with the Highest level of education	Triple Analysis			
4.4	Number of beneficiaries of forms of action (primary, secondary and online) educational trainers in projects co-financed by the Madrid City Council on Education for 4.7 Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship	Madrid municipality			
5.1	Difference between activity/inactivity rate by sex	Triple Analysis			
5.2	Number of fatal victims of gender violence	Madrid municipality			
5.2	Victims of gender based violence	Madrid municipality			
5.4	Domestic and home work ratio	Madrid municipality			
5.5	Proportion of seats held by women in local governments	Madrid municipality			
6.3	Percentage of wastewater generated in the city of Madrid that is treated in facilities with nutrient removal systems (and tertiary advanced filtration and disinfection	Madrid municipality			
6.4	Forested / water consumption per capita	Madrid municipality			
6.4	Total water consumption per capita	Triple Analysis			
6.6	Kilometres of restored watercourses on urban land	Madrid municipality			
7.2	Percentage of total electricity energy consumed that is generated by municipal PV installations	Madrid municipality			
7.2	Renewable energy share of the energy consumed	Madrid municipality			
7.3	Energy intensity	Triple Analysis			

Examples of UMF-VLR integration

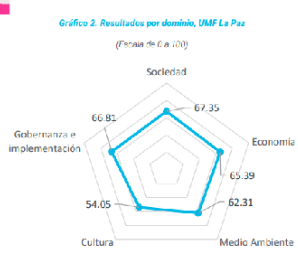
La Paz,

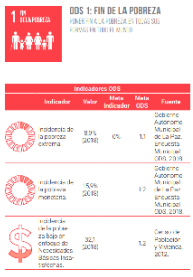
Bolivia (2022)

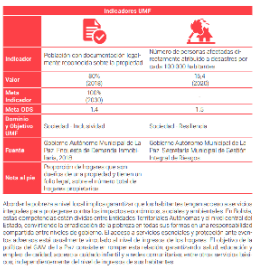
UMF at the center
The SDG-UMF interlinkage could be stronger

Link to the VLR: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/01/la_paz_2022_es-2.pdf

OBJETIVO		INDICADOR	MARCO FUENTE	INDICADOR ESPACIAL
3. Medio ambiente				
3.1 Paz y seguridad	3.1.1	Aguas residuales tratadas de forma segura.	ODS 6.3.1	No
	3.1.2	Recolección y eliminación de residuos sólidos.	ODS 11.6.1	No
	3.1.3	Calidad del aire.	ODS 11.6.2	No
	3.1.4	Residuos peligrosos.	ODS 12.4.2	No
3.2 Inclusividad	3.2.1	Acceso a espacios públicos abiertos.	ODS 11.7.1	Si
3.3 Resiliencia	3.3.1	Cuota de energía renovable.	ODS 7.2.1	No
	3.3.2	Cambio en la cubierta arbórea.	OECD 15.1	Si
	3.3.3	Uso eficiente de la tierra.	ODS 11.3.1	Si
	3.3.4	Zona verde per cápita.	OPI	Si
	3.3.5	Indice de la Liste Roja.	ODS 15.5.1	No
	3.4.2	Emisiones totales.	ODS 13.2.2	No



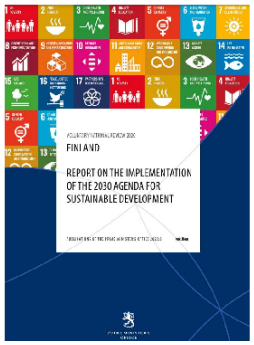




VLR CASE STUDIES

Good practices on institutional alignment, multilevel governance and replicability

Multilevel Governance: Finland and the 6 largest cities

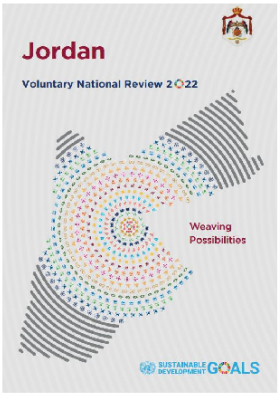


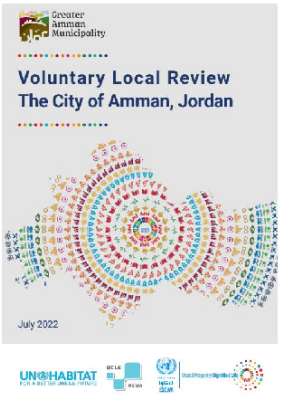
- The 2020 VNR process, led by the Prime Minister's Office, was characterized by a strong multilevel collaboration in Finland.
- The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA), and the six Finnish cities that published their first VLRs (Helsinki, Espoo, Turku, Oulu, Tampere and Vantaa) had a critical role in the development of the VNR. The national government also worked as enablers and brokers of contact among different levels of government.
- The cooperation around the VNR process established a precedent for local-national collaboration on SDG localization.
- Creation of the Finnish community of VLR municipalities that decided to come together and share the opportunities and challenges of the process.
- SDG Twinnings between Finnish cities and African cities around VLRs, through the facilitation of UN-Habitat.
- The next VNR in 2025 will benefit from the advancements on SDG localization in the country.

Multilevel Governance: Jordan

The first VNR submitted by Jordan in 2017 placed a strong emphasis on the involvement of governorate councils as well as elected municipal councils in the review process.

The VLR of Amman played a crucial role in connecting national sustainability efforts closely tied to Jordan's VNR to the local level. By presenting the VLR alongside the VNR, Amman shows tangible efforts to align local initiatives with national strategies, promoting unity and cooperation across different levels of governance.



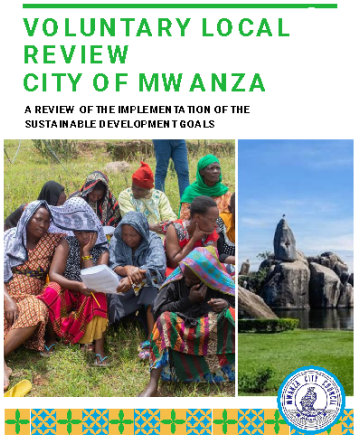


The VLR of Amman highlights not only the city's dedication to progress but also enhances the unity and impact of Jordans wider national initiatives

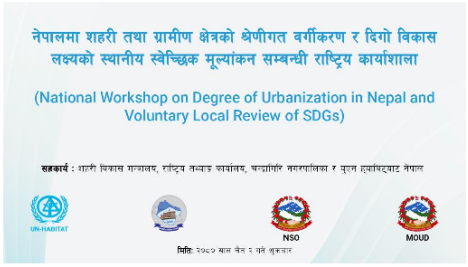
Following this example, the municipality of Irbid is developing the second VLR in the country. It is one of the pilot cities with which Ennour has shared experiences as part of this project.

National scale-up: Tanzania and Nepal

Strong collaboration with the national government during the VLR process created important synergies.



National scale-up in Tanzania:
Based on the experience of the VLR of Mwanza, the fist in the country, a National SDG Localization Programme for Tanzania is being developed by UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNCDF and UNRCO.
In collaboration with the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Local Governemnts

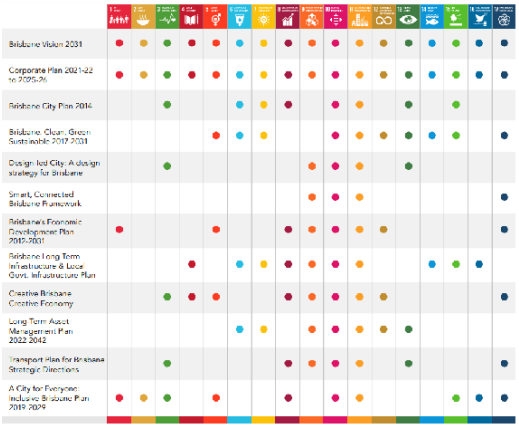


National scale-up in Nepal:
The VLR of Chandraguiri in Nepal has raised the interest of the national government to replicate VLRs in the entirety of the country. A VLR template is being developed to facilitate the scale-up.

In Tunisia, the VLR of Ennour, can also become a reference process for other municipalities to follow.

Strategic Policies Alignment: Brisbane (Australia)

Brisbane's strategic policies are aligned with the SDGs, including Brisbane Vision 2031, long-term plans and other strategies. In this way Brisbane's contribution to the 2030 Agenda positions us as a world leader in sustainability.



Brisbane presented its first VLR in 2023 as part of SDG Cities. The VLR reviewed progress on SDG in line with the strategic policies and plans.

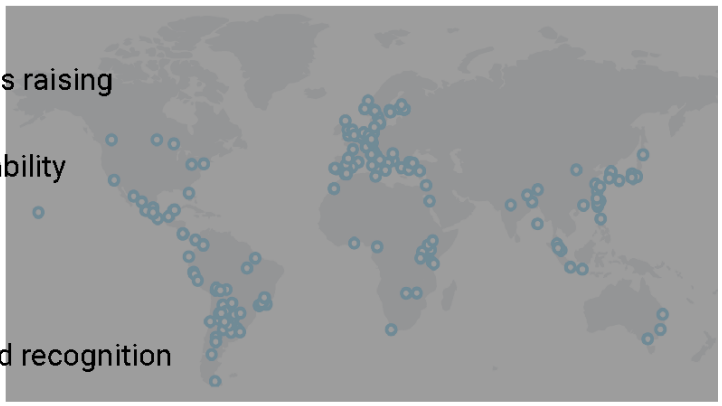
The VLR presents "Commitments and Opportunities" for each area analyzed based on the UMF domains and Objectives

The VLR was structured around 4 main themes: Resilience, Active Healthy and Green, Inclusive Diverse and Equitable, Livable and Connected.

Improve data and action from the bottom-up

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

- Data environment
- Strategic planning
- Participation and awareness raising
- Transparency and accountability
- Multilevel coordination
- International positioning and recognition



Thank you

UN HABITAT
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Tel: (66)2-288-2397

Presentation 2: Overview of SDG Localization – A Regional Perspective by Ms. Sanjeevani Singh

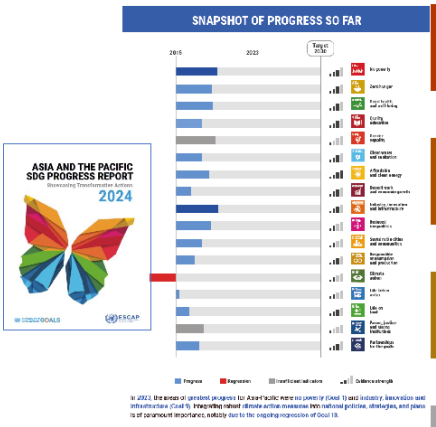
OVERVIEW OF SDG LOCALIZATION – A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sanjeevani Singh, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
sanjeevani.singh@un.org

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

LOCALIZATION IS KEY FOR ACHIEVING SDG TARGETS



Globally only 15% of SDGs on track by September 2023. Targets in AP will only be achieved by 2062 based on current trajectory.

An estimated 65% of SDG targets will not be reached without engagement of subnational & local

Achieving SDGs targets at a local level is critical for achieving the SDGs

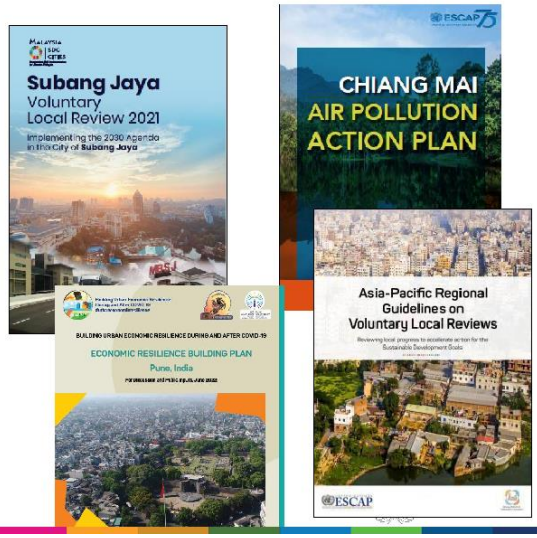
VLRs are key tools for enhancing SDG localization.

WHY IS SDG LOCALIZATION IMPORTANT?

- Address **local needs** & **priorities** & streamlines implementation
- **Leave no one & no place behind**
- Engage all stakeholders & **whole of society**

LEVERAGING BENEFITS FROM SDG LOCALIZATION

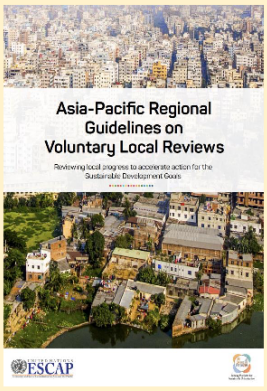
- Enhance **multi-level governance & urban policy coordination**
- Local climate action plans, local resilience & recovery strategies & local air pollution plans
- Facilitate multi stakeholder & private sector **partnerships** for **financing municipal SDG priorities**
- VLR as a practical tool for monitoring SDG localization



ESCAP's COMMITMENTS SUPPORTING VLRs

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR VLRs (2020)

NORMATIVE GUIDANCE



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Normative guidance** through the Regional Voluntary Local Review Guidelines
- **Technical assistance & capacity building** - training and workshops with local stakeholders.
- **Financial assistance for conducting VLR** – City Mayors can send a written request to ESCAP
- **Knowledge sharing and the peer exchange of opportunities across the region** - through platforms such as the APFSD, APUF and other regional meetings and events.

EXAMPLES OF VLRs IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Completed VLRs	New VLRs	VLRs Supported by other institutions
Singra, Bangladesh **Surabaya,** Indonesia Kuala Lumpur federal territory; **Subang Jaya municipality** Nepal, **Dhulikhel municipality** **Nakhon si Thammarat municipality**, Thailand Australia, **City of Melbourne** **Nusantara,** Indonesia **Indonesia, West Java Province,** Indonesia	• **Suva City Council,** Fiji • **Santa Rosa,** Philippines • **Honiara,** Solomon Islands; • **Kolonia, Pohnpei,** Federated States of Micronesia; • **Santa Rosa,** Philippines & **Male, Maldives**	• **Tokyo** • **Yokohama** • **Shah Alam** • **Jakarta** • **Kuala Lumpur** • **Sepang** • **Alor Gajah** • **Melaka Historic City** • **Suwon City** • **Seodaemun-gu District, Seol** • **Shinan-gun** • **Dangjin City** • **Udon Thani**

VLRs SUPPORTED BY ESCAP REGIONAL GUIDELINES

ESCAP LOCALIZATION PLATFORM

GUIDE

- **Normative guidance** - Regional Voluntary Local Review Guidelines
- **Policy briefs** – data, stakeholder engagement, institutional arrangements & implementation, LNOB
- **Enhance capacity building & training – e-learning courses**

SHARE

- **VLR Knowledge sharing** & peer exchange – through platforms such as APFSD, APUF & other regional meetings & events
- **Improve knowledge management** & sharing of best practices, case studies, testimonials

PARTNER

- **Build strategic partnerships** - Government, UN Country Teams, PPSU, Development Partners, Academia
- **Improve collaboration & coordination** with partners

Re-launch of PPSU at the Eighth Committee on Environment and Development in October 2024, Bangkok

VLR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, OPPORTUNITIS & GAPS

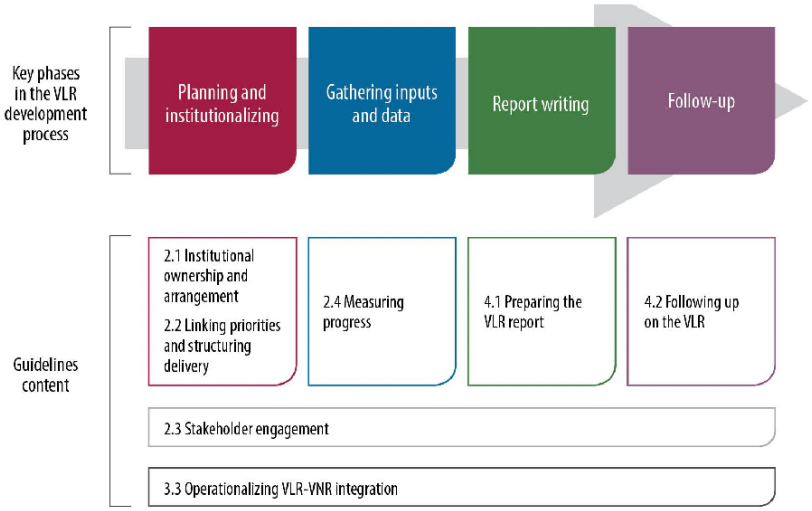
What is a Voluntary Local Review?

A VLR is a process through which SNGs undertake a voluntary review of their progress towards delivering the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

They are guided by the same **principles** as those of the SDGs:

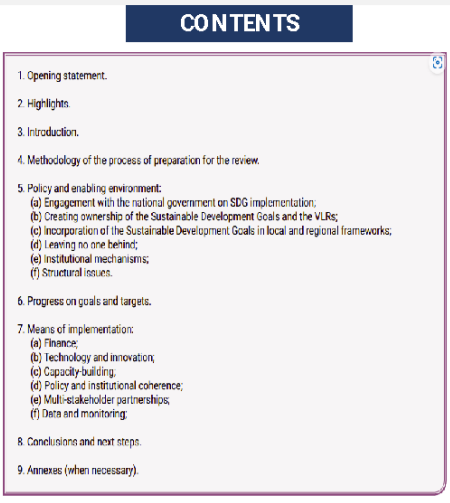
- **leave no one behind,**
- **the right to the city and multi-stakeholder engagement;**
- **universality** across developed and developing countries;
- adoption of an **all-encompassing strategy** to envision the desired future by 2030;
- the need for a robust **evidence base for action;**
- and embracing and integration of **environmental, economic, spatial and social systems**.

VLR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



- Process takes 6 to 9 months to complete
- Linking priorities & Mapping city policies and strategies against the SDGs or the 5 pillars of the 2030 Agenda
- Stakeholder engagement is cross-cutting

OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY A VLR



PLANNING & INSTITUTIONALIZING

HIGH-LEVEL POLICTIAL SUPPORT

- Endorsement from the Mayor
- A sign of the city's commitment to sustainable development

STRUCTURING THE DELIVERY

- City-led, city-wide or regional review
- Model of institutional arrangement
- Establishment of task-team

LINKING PRIORITIES WITH SDGs

- Mapping city policies and strategies against the SDGs or the 5 pillars of the 2030 Agenda - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership

https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews

EMERGING GAPS WITH VLRs

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

- **Data gaps**, establishing protocols & building capacities
- **Citizen generated data**
- Balancing **qualitative & quantitative data**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

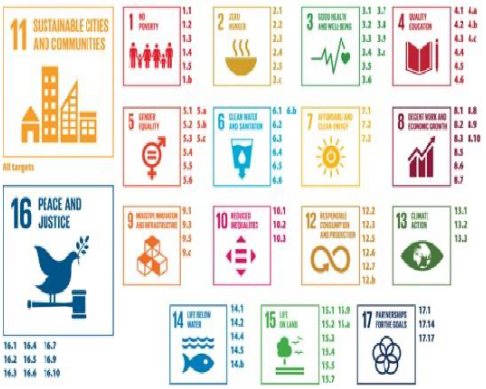
- **Raising awareness** around SDG localization
- **Engaging vulnerable groups** – women/mothers & migrant labor
- **Management of stakeholder engagement** & expectations

IMPLEMENTATION OF VLRs

- **Inform better policy making**, planning & action
- **Enhance budgeting** & prioritization
- **Baseline** for ongoing monitoring & evaluation

VNR & VLR INTEGRATION

INTEGRATING NATIONAL & LOCAL REVIEWS TO ENHANCE SDG COHERENCE



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018.

- Fill information gaps & inform policies & action
- Enhance vertical & horizontal coordination
- Broaden stakeholder engagement
- Strengthen legitimacy of local follow-up & review of SDGs

REGIONAL EXAMPLE OF VLR/VNR INTEGRATION

SURABAYA, INDONESIA

- **Close involvement of national ministry in planning VLR & reviewing draft report**

DHULIKHEL, NEPAL

- VLR core team **received training from VNR professionals**

BOPHAL, INDIA

- Derived and **used VLR indicators** from National Indicator Framework (NIF)

2022 PHILIPPINES VLR

- **Features a VSR & a VLR (Naga City) highlighting experiences from localization**
- National government offers local progress & planning workshops to cities conducting VLRs
- **Issues guidelines on the localization of the Philippines Development Plan,** binding subnational government to create programs, activities and projects that contribute to PDP and SDG targets

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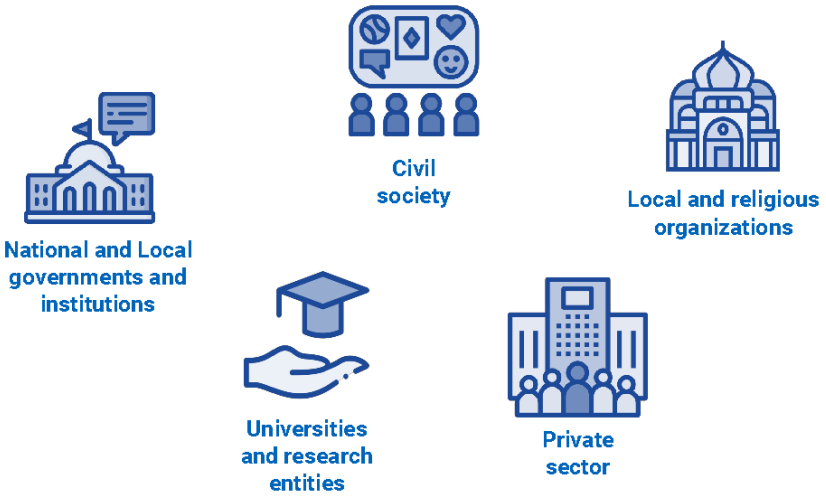
For more information, please visit the Environment and Development Division webpage https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development and contact us as: ESCAP-EDD-EDPS@un.org

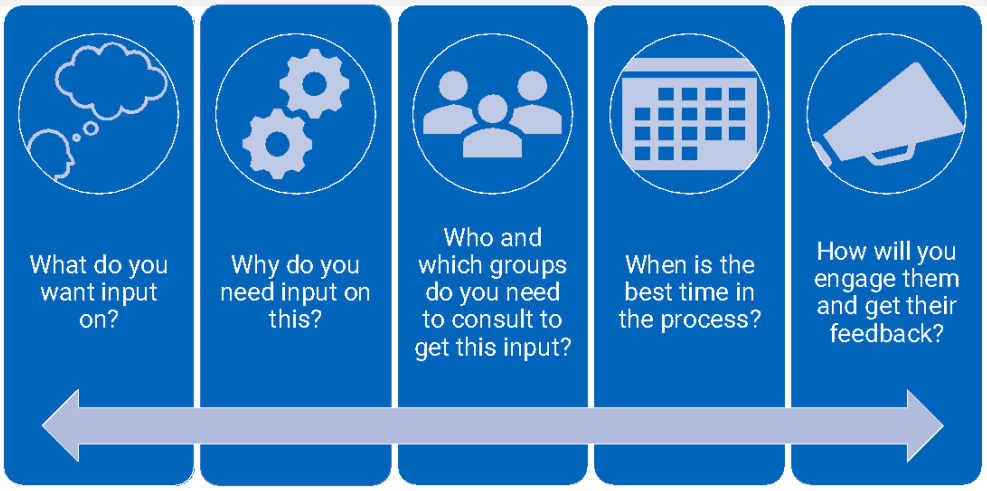
Presentation 3: Stakeholder Engagement VLRs Process: Local and National Actors by Ms. Sanjeevani Singh

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE



STAKEHOLDER MAPPING & PLANNING



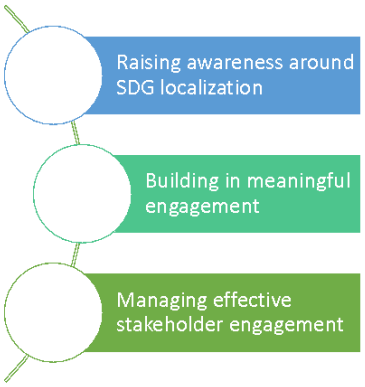
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS, KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Engagement Mechanisms

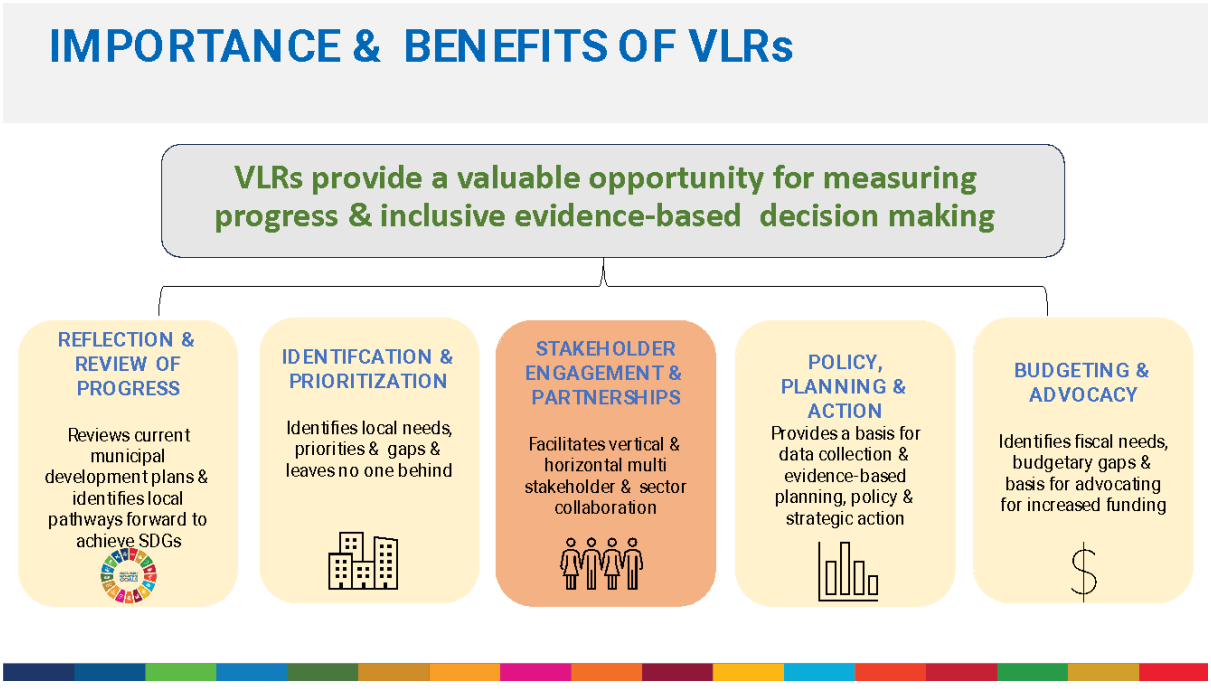
Key Issues

- Taking **a strategic approach** to stakeholder engagement is essential
- Political support & **identifying champions**
- Effective **coordination mechanisms** build trust & buy-in
- Information gathered reflects **multiple voices, experiences & perspectives** at a national, subnational & local level & across sectors & stakeholders

Emerging Challenges



IMPORTRANCE & BENEFITS OF VLRs



Presentation 4: Sharing of Experiences from VLR Process in Udon Thani, Thailand by Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn

UN-HABITAT

Experiences from VLR process in Udon Thani

Presented by: Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn

Date: July 2024

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

2030 AGENDA SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

2030
AGENDA SUB-FUND

Fostering Covid-19 recovery and SDG implementation through local action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries

FUND
UN Peace Development Fund
2030 Agenda Sub-fund

PERIOD
2022-2025

PARTNERS
UN-Habitat, UNECA, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, UNDESA, UCLG

COUNTRIES
Kenya, Ghana, The Gambia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine

COORDINATION
UN-Habitat SDG Localization and Local Governments Team, Urban Practices Branch

Project Objective and Outcomes

OBJECTIVE

To promote inclusive post-pandemic recovery and advance the localization of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Arab States

OUTCOMES

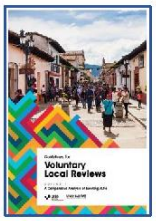
OC 1: Strengthened capacities of Local and Regional Governments to develop Voluntary Local Reviews and localize the SDGs to advance the post- pandemic recovery process

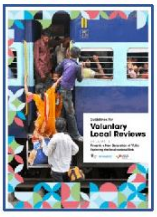
OC2: Enhanced multilevel governance and interlinkages between local and national governments as well as regional and international processes on SDGs implementation and COVID-19 recovery

PROCESS

VLR Methodological Umbrella

Global VLR Guidelines

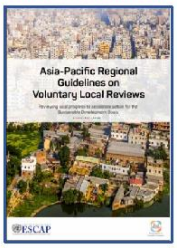




Global Guiding Elements (DESA)

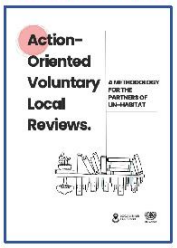
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs_FINAL.pdf

Regional VLR Guidelines (UNESCAP)



https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews

Action-oriented VLRs

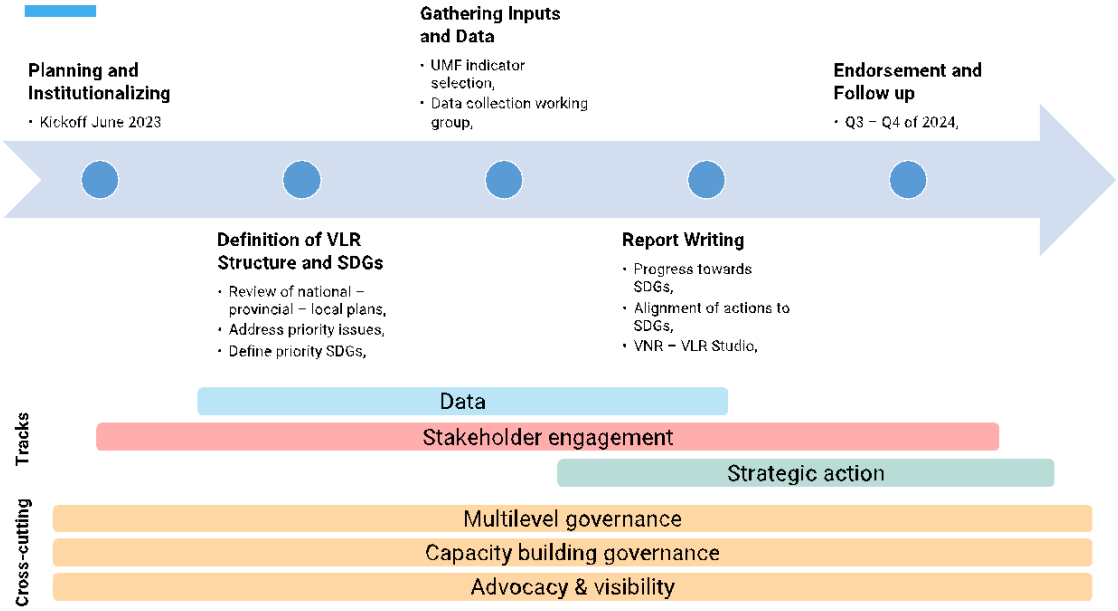


https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/02/action-oriented_vlr_methodology.pdf

City Selection

- **Political buy-in**
- **Access to (a minimal amount of) reliable data**
- **Institutional support to engage communities, partners, and stakeholders**
- **Alignment with national policies** (consultation with NESDC and cooperation between UN Thailand and 76 Governors in 2022)

Summary of Process



Multilevel Governance

Linking National – Provincial – Local Plans

Alignment between National – Provincial – Local levels

- Udon Thani was selected based on a consultation with the national government (NESDC).
- National and provincial plans are reviewed to ensure the local plans are aligned.
- National and provincial government agencies participated in the Training Workshop and informed on the progress (MFA, MOI, NESDC)
- VNR – VLR Studio will be organized to strengthen multilevel governance, engaging ministries as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, NESDC and key UN agencies, such as ESCAP and UNDP.

Stakeholder Engagement

& Capacity Building

Local Stakeholder Consultations

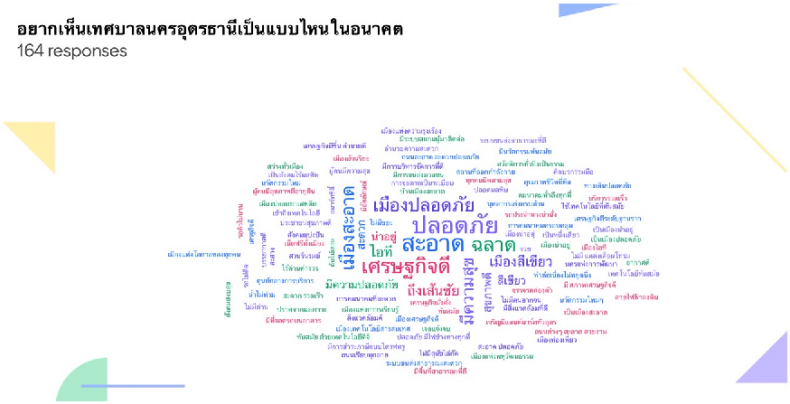
Diverse stakeholders are engaged in the VLR process:

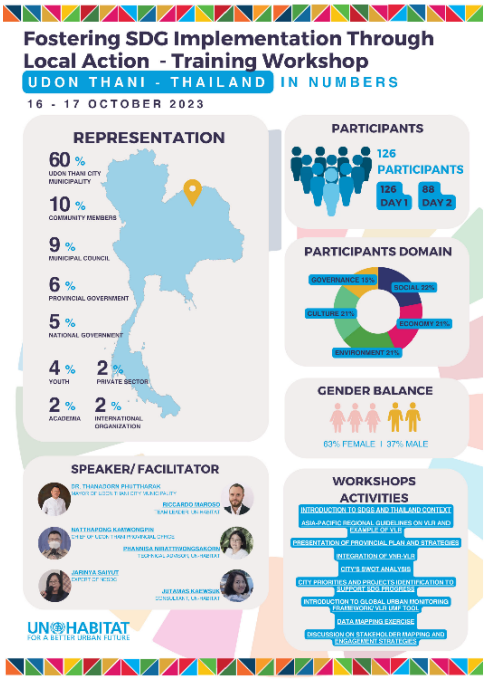
- Municipal council (elected body),
- Community leaders (elected within community),
- Municipal youth panel,
- Udon Thani Rajabhat University,
- School teachers,
- Business owners,
- People with disabilities.

Capacity Building

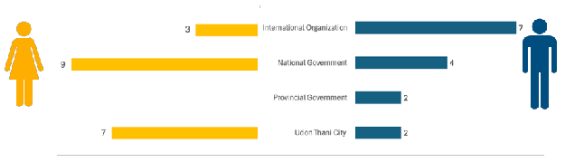
- Introduction to SDGs,
- Understanding local priorities using SWOT,
- Addressing priority SDGs,
- Aligning projects to SDGs and national plans.

Responses from the participants to the question "What kind of future do you want to see for Udon Thani City Municipality?"

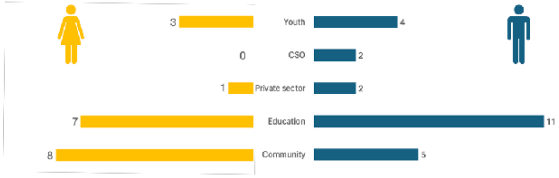




Inception meeting on 27 June 2023



Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop on 26 January 2024



Data Collection

Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)

Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)

UNSC in 2019 recommendation for review the City Prosperity Index frameworks as a tool for urban monitoring.

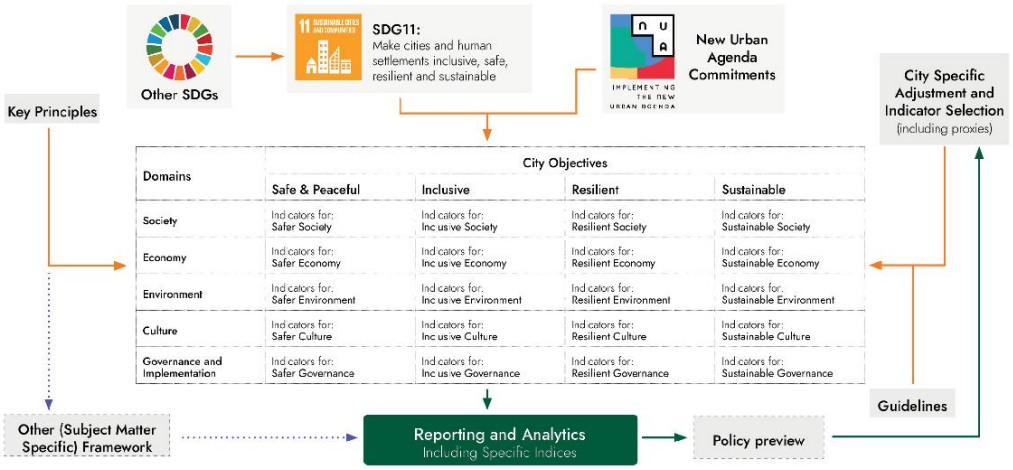
Experts Consultations

The Harmonized Framework

1. **UN Systemwide Strategy on Urban Sustainable Development:** Recognized the need for urban data management aligned to the protocols of data sharing and *comparability at the global level.*
2. **Global stocktaking of urban monitoring frameworks**
   Examples:
   - Culture (UNESCO)
   - Smart sustainable cities (ITU U4FFC)
   - Labour (ILO)
   - Environment (UNEP, IGES)
   - Health (WHO)
   - Child wellbeing (UNICEF)
   - Others (cityIQ, SpaceSyntax etc)
3. March 2022 – Endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission

1. A monitoring framework to **harmonize existing urban indices** and tools, and lead towards an agreed universal framework to track performance of the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).
2. Serve as a **monitoring tool for** the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme on **SDG Cities.**
3. A monitoring tool for **guiding Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and VNRs** and support urban data compilation for the Common Country Assessments with the UN Country Teams.
4. Function as **guide** for private sector, urban observatories, academia, national statistical systems, etc on urban monitoring.

UMF Framework



Indicator Selection Exercise

Participants were broken out into 5 groups.

Each group discussed and vote on the relevance and importance of each indicator.

Data selection criteria:

- Relevance and importance of the indicator,
- Data availability,
- Data source(s),
- Balance of indicators in each domain and city objective.

Selected Indicators Breakdown

	Social	Economy	Environment	Culture	Governance	Total
Safe & Peaceful	4	1	4	1	2	**12**
Inclusive	6	1	1	1	2	**11**
Resilient	4	1	2	1	1	**9**
Sustainable	2	1	1	1	2	**7**
Total	**16**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**39/77 (51%)**

Formation of Working Group

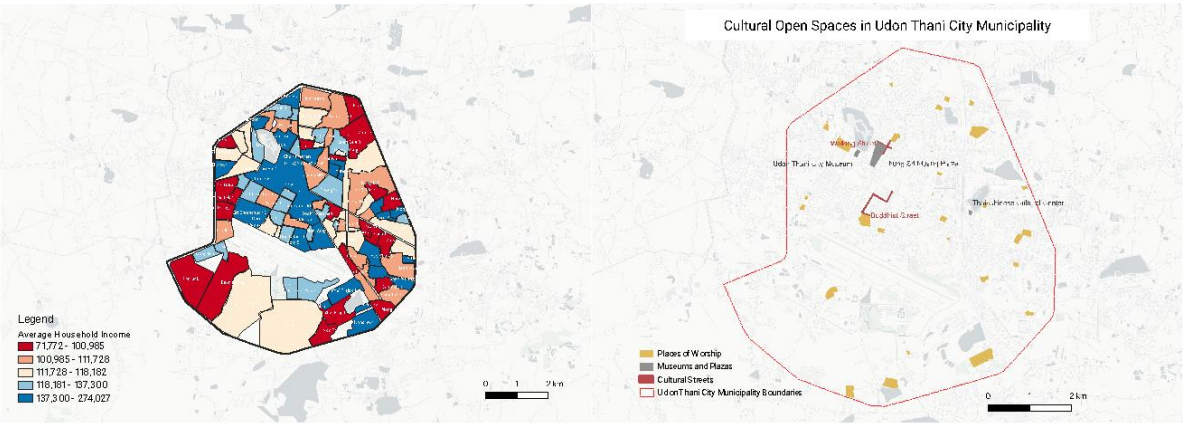
A working group is formed after the Training Workshop.

12 representatives from relevant divisions.

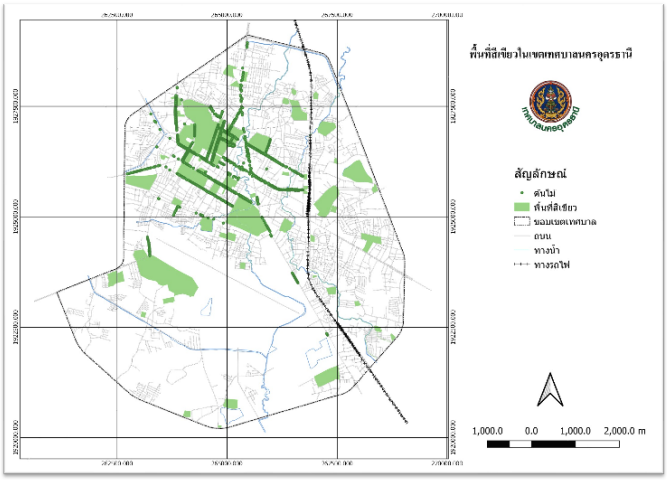
Bi-weekly meeting to follow up on data collection.

Position and Section	Domain
Secretary to the Mayor	
Division Director, Strategy Department	
Division Director, Bureau of Education	Culture
Division Director, Bureau of Tourism	Culture
Community Developer, Department of Social Welfare	Culture
Educational Supervisor, Bureau of Education	Environment
Sanitary Officer, Bureau of Sanitary Work	Environment
Director, Bureau of Public Health	Social
Nurse, Bureau of Public Health	Social
IT Specialist, Tax Department	Economy
Budgeting Division Director, Stategy Department	Governance
ID Division Director, Civil Registration Department	Governance
Division Director, HR Department	Governance

Examples from Draft Udon Thani VLR



Examples from Draft Udon Thani VLR



Total green area (sq.m.)	5,208,010.71 (Natural – 320,582.10; Parks– 1,021,447.03; Special – 3,412,057.57; Roads – 453,924.00)
Population (2024)	115,218
Total green area per capita (sq.m./person) * WHO's minimum 9.00 sq.m./person, recommended 50.00 sq.m./person	39.89
Public green area per capita (sq.m./person) * City Municipalities' average 4.08 sq.m./person * ONEP's goal (2023 – 2027) 10.00 sq.m./person	8.86
Green area to total area (%) * City Municipality average 44.28% * ONEP's goal (2023 – 2027) 10.00%	10.92
Accessibility to green space Population within 500-m distance to parks * Average 2,000	44,329 (Nong Prajak and Thung Sri Mueang – 26,631; Nong Sim – 6,238; Nong Bua – 5,409; Municipal 8 Urban Forest – 6,051)
tCO2e (Department of Climate Change and Environment, 2024)	4,584.56

Alignment with the National Government

- UMF is adopted by NESDC as an urban monitoring tool for the national plan (NESDP).
- UN-Habitat presented UMF in the UMF Introductory Workshop organized by NESDC to 30 national agencies.
- Udon Thani City Municipality is the 1st city to apply UMF.
- NESDC will test UMF with 30 city municipalities in 2024 – 2025.

Strategic Action

Linking Data to Actions to SDGs

Priority SDGs and Actions

- Offer training programs for community health volunteers.
- Conduct screenings for gallbladder cancer.
- Encourage leaders to lead exercise activity in their community.

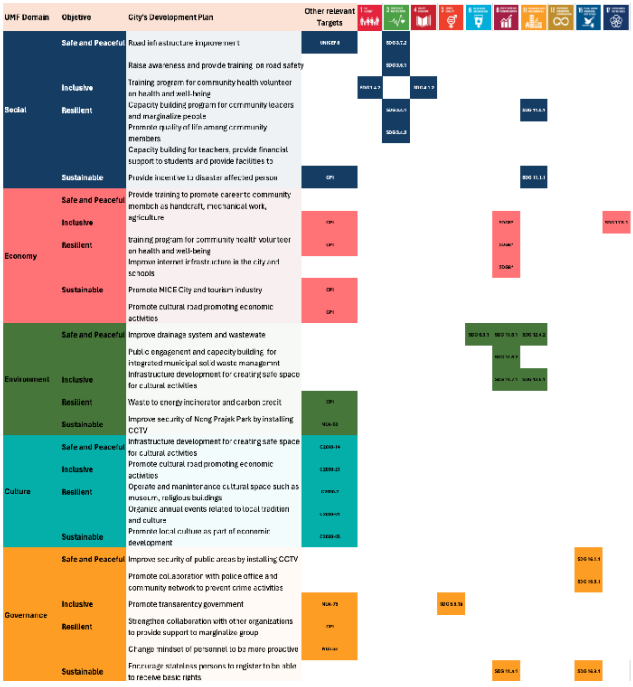
- Waste to Energy
- Cultural Street

- Excellence Learning Center
- Promoting online commerce skills
- Eco-schools and zero-waste schools
- Equal Education

- Carbon Credit - Thailand Voluntary Emission Reduction Program: T-VER

- Promoting community-based tourism
- Promoting cultural street
- Digital Transformation in Udonthani "Udon Thani Walking Street Mobile Application"

- Smart Safety Zone 4.0
- Stateless people registration
- Transparent governance



Draft VLR

Structure of Udon Thani City Municipality's VLR

(1) Introduction of Udon Thani City Municipality
Summary of Udon Thani City Municipality's context, including governance structure and relevant plans.

(2) Preparation of the VLR
Summary of the process of Udon Thani City Municipality's VLR.

(3) City's progress
Udon Thani City Municipality's progress by 39 UMF indicators in 5 domains i.e., Social, Economy, Environment, Culture, and Governance and Implementation.

(4) Actions towards SDGs
Udon Thani City Municipality's priority SDGs (SDG 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, and 16) and relevant actions and initiatives.

(5) Conclusion and next steps
Main conclusions and impact of VLR and future actions.

Advocacy

Global and Regional

VLRs in Regional and Global Advocacy

APUF8 Asia-Pacific Urban Forum 8

APFSD Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WORLD URBAN FORUM ELEVENTH SESSION

VLR-VNR studios

Presentation 5: Discussion on Conducting VLR in Kaysone Phomvihane City
Facilitated by Mr. Riccardo Maroso and Ms. Phannisa Nirattiwongsakorn

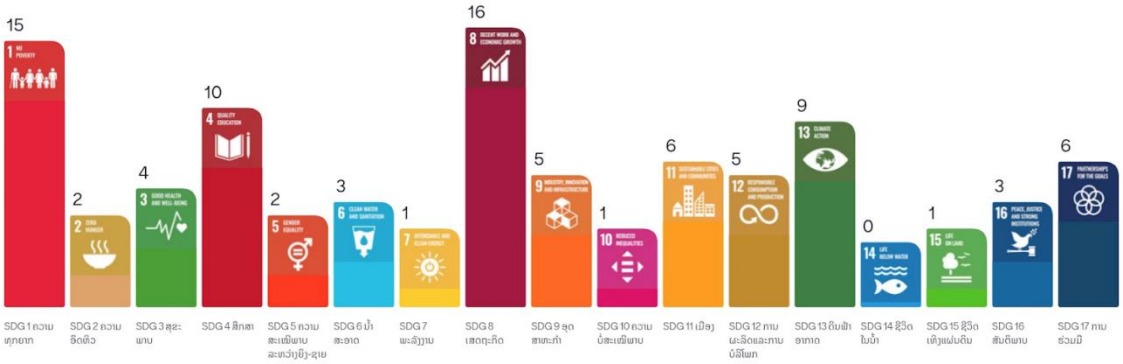
Mentimeter

SDGs IN LAO PDR AND KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE CITY

2030 Agenda and Local action

Mentimeter

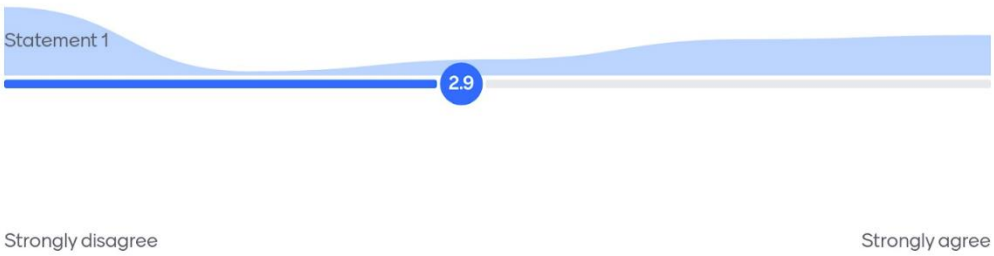
What do you think are the most relevant SDGs for your agency? ທ່ານຄິດວ່າ SDG ໃດກ່ຽວຂ້ອງກັບອົງກອນຂອງທ່ານ?



9 31

Mentimeter

To what extent do you integrate SDGs to your work at the moment? ເຈົ້ານຳໃຊ້ SDGs ເຂົ້າໃນວຽກງານຂອງເຈົ້າແນວໃດ?



22 41

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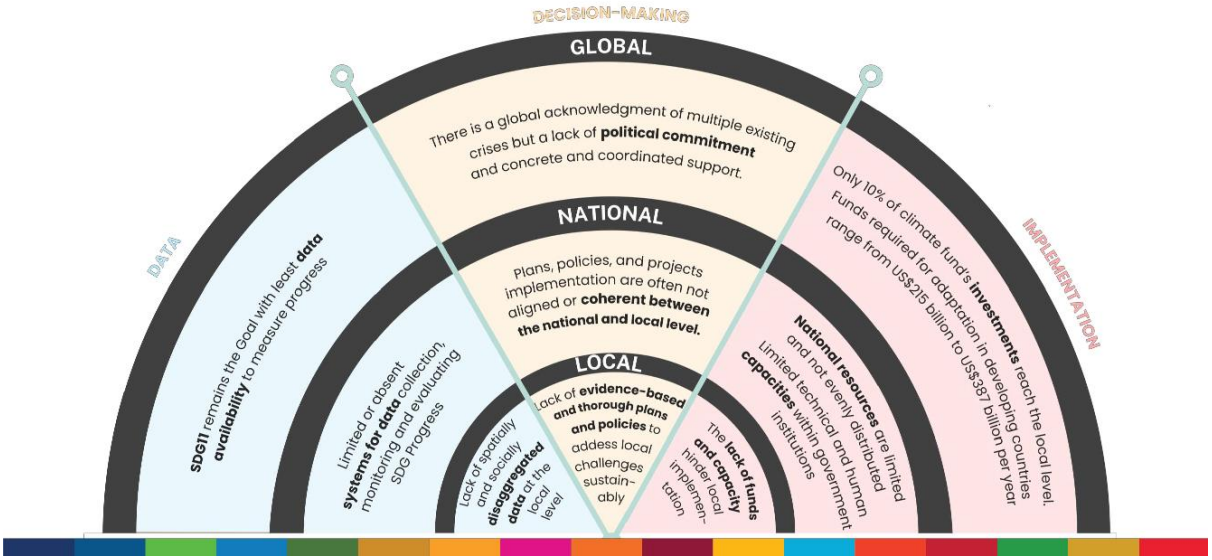
CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LAO PDR AND KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE CITY

7

Common challenges for development

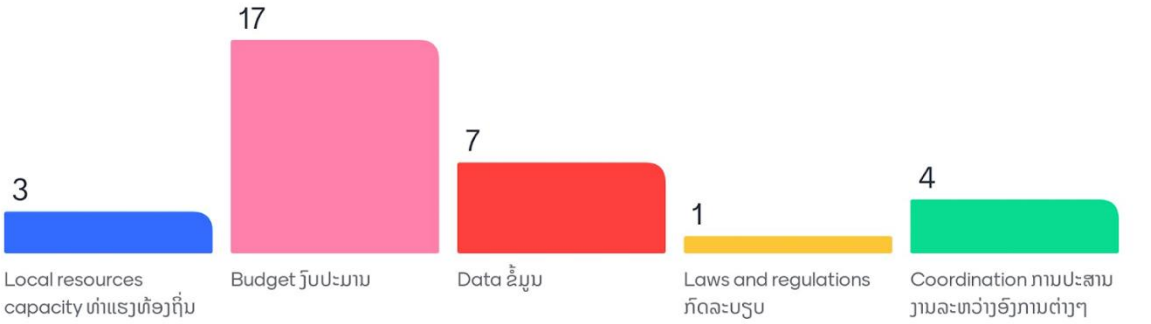


Common challenges for development

- Local human resources / capacities
- Budget limitations
- Data availability and collection
- Laws and regulations
- Internal and external coordination

Mentimeter

What is the most challenging issue for development? ບັນຫາທີ່ທ້າທາຍທີ່ສຸດໃນການພັດທະນາຕົວເມືອງຂອງທ່ານແມ່ນຫຍັງ

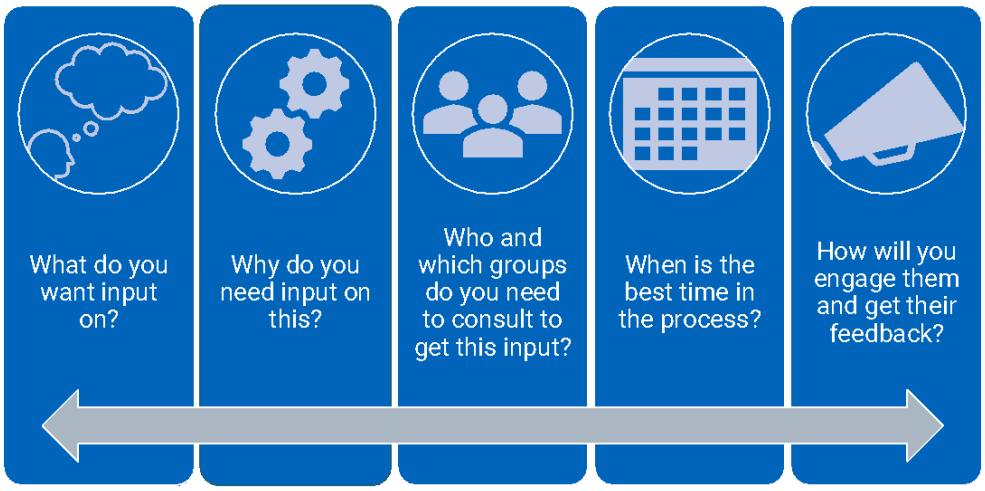


Mentimeter

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Who should participate in the VLR development

Stakeholder Mapping & Planning



Mentimeter

What organization do you represent here today? เจ้าเป็นพะนักงาน จากบ่วยงาน ใด

United Nations	Bank of lao pdr	UN Habitat Laos	United Nations
Department of Climate Change, MoNRE	Bank of the Lao PDR	National Goverment	DIO, MOFA

Mentimeter

What organization do you represent here today? เจ้าเป็นพะนักงาน จากม่วยงาน ใด

Department of Planning, MPI	Savannakhet university	Ministry of Planning and Investment	MoHA
Ministry of Finance	ກົມແຜນການແລະການຮ່ວມມືສາກົນ.ກະຊວງແຮງງານແລະສະຫວັດດີການສັງຄົມ	MoHA	ຈາກຫ້ອງວ່າການນະຄອນໄກສອນ ພົມວິຫານ ແຂວງ ສະຫວັນນະເຂດ

6 27

Mentimeter

What organization do you represent here today? เจ้าเป็นพะนักงาน จากม่วยงาน ใด

ພະແນກແຮງງານ ແລະສະຫວັດດີການສັງຄົມແຂວງສະຫວັນນະເຂດ	ຫ້ອງການ ຖວທ ນະຄອນໄກສອນ	DPI savannaket	Ministry of Finance
ຫ້ອງການກວດກາ ແລະ ຄວບຄຸມຢາເສບຕິດ, ກະຊວງປ້ອງກັນຄວາມສະຫງົບ	ລັດວິສາຫະກິດ ນ້ຳປະປາແຂວງ	ພະແນກອຸດສາຫະກຳ ແລະ ການຄ້າ	savannakhet of finance department

6 27

Mentimeter

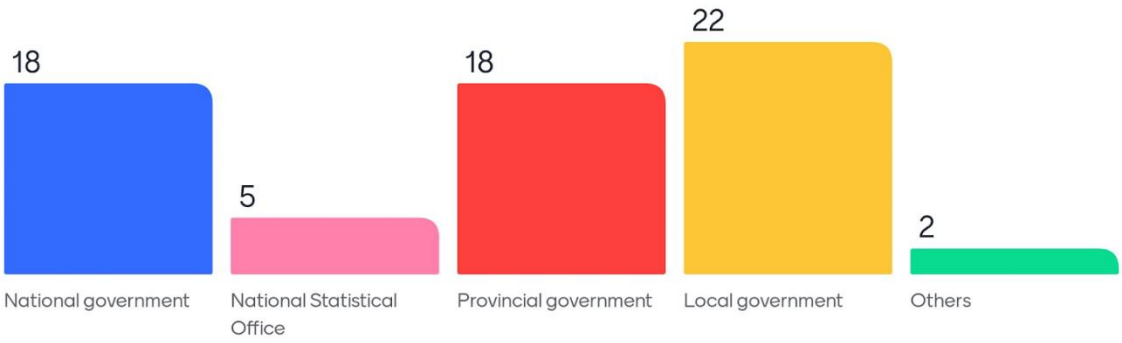
What organization do you represent here today? เจ้าเป็นพะนักงาน จากม่วยงาน ใด

ຫ້ອງການອຸດວາຫະກຳ ແລະ ການຄ້າ ນະຄອນໄກ	ຫ້ອງວ່າການແຂວງສະຫວັນນະ ເຂດ	Natural Resources and Environment Office	ກະຊວງແຜນການ ແລະການ ລົງທຶນ

6 27

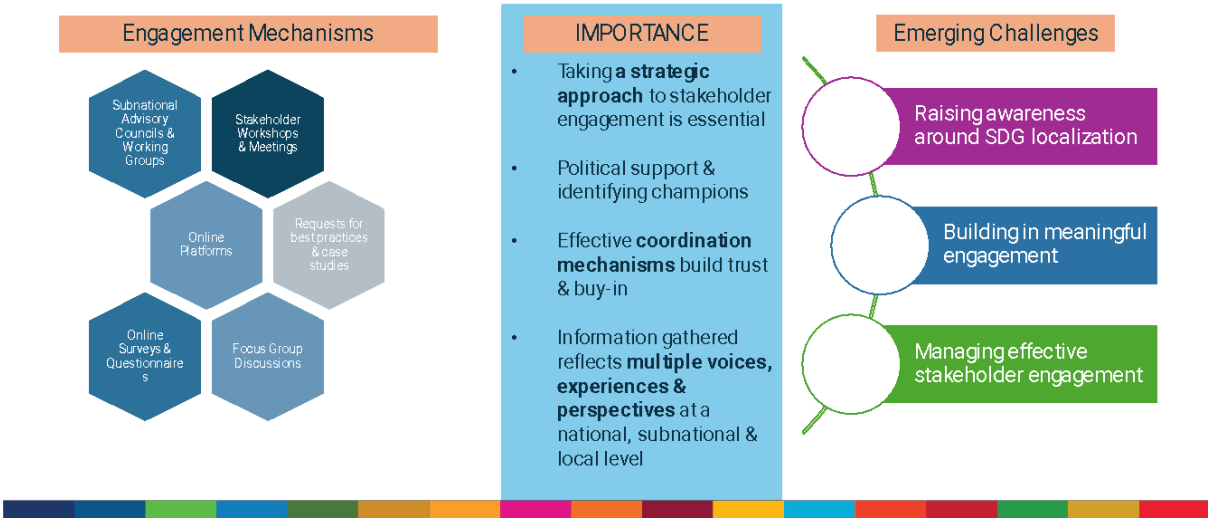
Mentimeter

What government stakeholders from Kaysone Phomvihane do you think should be engaged in the VLR development? ม่วยงานใดถวมมิส่วมร่วมในการกะกรม VLR?



11 29

Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms, Importance & Challenges



Mentimeter

What communities, civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) do you think should be engaged in VLR development?

Youth	ປະຊາຊົນໃນເຂດໂຄງການ	Academia	Academia
Bank, microfinance, investor	Academia, private sectors, NPOs, communities	ປະຊາຊົນ	ສະພາອຸດສະຫະກຳແລະການຄ້າ

6 27

Mentimeter

What communities, civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) do you think should be engaged in VLR development?

Citizens	ผู้ที่ยู่ในชุมชน	People	UN, NGO, CSO, Universities, Private sectors,
Civil society, Academai, pi at sector	People in projects area	นักทุละกิด	Cso

6 27

Mentimeter

What communities, civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) do you think should be engaged in VLR development?

NGOs, population, Local government	Private sector	Gender, community	ຫ໊ວໜ່ວຍທຸລະກິດ
Education	ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງມະຫາຊົນ	ນັກທຸລະກິດ	ປະຊາຊົນ

6 27

Mentimeter

What communities, civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) do you think should be engaged in VLR development?

Businessmen's Association	Private sector and citizens	ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສັງຄົມ	ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສັງຄົມ
ພາກສ່ວນ ອົງການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ ຈາກNGO ຊຸມຊົນ ສະຖາບັນການ ສຶກສາ ພາກເອກະຊົນມະຫາວິທະຍາໄລ ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງ ແມ່ຍິງ ຊາວກຸ່ມບ້ານ ກຳມະບານ	ປະຊາຊົນຜູ້ທີ່ມີຄວາມຮູ້ຄວາມສາມາດ ໃຫ້ເປັນຜູ້ປະສານງານຕໍ່ໃຫ້ຫລາຍໆຄົນ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ຮູ້ເຖິງຈຸດປະສົງຂອງວຽກງານ ນີ້	ຜູ້ນຳຊຸມຊົນ	ນັກທຸລະກິດ,

6 27

Mentimeter

What communities, civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGO) do you think should be engaged in VLR development?

private sector	CSA, group of beneficiaries and impacted individauls, local decisive authorities,

6 27

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DATA

"**Adequate disaggregated data is still lacking at the local level**, especially as countries and cities aim to decentralize".

Antonio Guterres
Secretary General, UN

23%

Approximately 23% of NSO in LIC and LMIC are experiencing **severe funding shortages**.

The gap is even larger if we look at the issue of **local data**:

Statistical departments face challenges in collecting accurate and updated data.

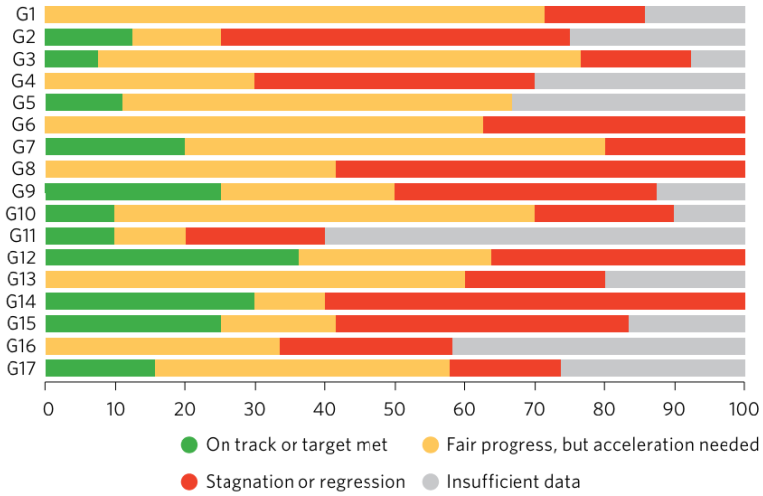
Not all the statisticians are aware of the SDGs.

The data collected does not always reach the national level.

18

SDG Progress at the midpoint

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



Source: SDG Progress Report, UN, 2023

Mentimeter

In Lao PDR, what national, provincial or local agencies have data that would be useful in conducting VLR? ນ່ວຍງານໃດມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳລັບ VLRs?

LSB, and concern ministries at the national level and local level	MPI/DPI	Provincial and distric	ພະແນກແຜນການແຂວງ ສູນ ສະຖິຕິ
provincial	DPI	Local Government,	ພະແນກແຜນການແລະການ ລົງທຶນແຂວງ

8 27

Mentimeter

In Lao PDR, what national, provincial or local agencies have data that would be useful in conducting VLR? ນ່ວຍງານໃດມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳລັບ VLRs?

LSB	National statistics Bureau	ສູນສະຖິຕິ, ພະແນກແຜນການ ລົງທຶນ ແລະ ອົງການປົກຄອງ ແຕ່ລະຂັ້ນ	1. Lao Statistic Bureau, MPI at central leve2. Statistic office of Department of Planning and Investment at sub national level
National level	ສູນສະຖິຕິແຂວງ	MPI	ຫ້ອງການແຜນການ

8 27

Mentimeter

In Lao PDR, what national, provincial or local agencies have data that would be useful in conducting VLR? ນ່ວຍງານໃດມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳລັບ VLRs?

ພະແນກແຜນການ ແລະ ການ ລົງທຶນ	MPI	DPI , MPI, LSB	MPI, education, lsw, statistic sector,
ບັນດາພະແນການອ້ອມຂ້າງແຂວງ	Local government	local government	ພະແນກແຜນການ ແລະ ການ ລົງທຶນ

8 27

Mentimeter

In Lao PDR, what national, provincial or local agencies have data that would be useful in conducting VLR? ນ່ວຍງານໃດມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳລັບ VLRs?

ຂັ້ນທ້ອງຖິ່ນ ແມ່ນທ້ອງການ ແຜນການນະຄອນ	ສູນສະຖິຕິ	ຂັ້ນທ້ອງຖິ່ນ	ສູນສະຖິແຕ່ລະຂັ້ນ
ສາທາລະນະສຸກແລະສຶກສາຂັ້ນ ທ້ອງຖິ່ນ			

8 27

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IMPLEMENTATION OF VLRs

IMPORTANCE & BENFITS OF VLRs

VLRs provide a valuable opportunity for measuring progress & inclusive evidence-based decision making

REFLECTION & REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Reviews current municipal development plans & identifies local pathways forward to achieve SDGs

IDENTIFCATION & PRIORITIZATION

Identifies local needs, priorities & gaps & leaves no one behind

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Facilitates vertical & horizontal multi stakeholder & sector collaboration

POLICY, PLANNING & ACTION

Provides a basis for data collection & evidence-based planning, policy & strategic action

BUDGETING & ADVOCACY

Identifies fiscal needs, budgetary gaps & basis for advocating for increased funding

Improve data and action from the bottom-up

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VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

- Data environment
- Strategic planning
- Participation and awareness raising
- Transparency and accountability
- Multilevel coordination
- International positioning and recognition

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Do you think conducting a VLR would be useful for your city? ທ່ານຄິດວ່າການສ້າງ VLR ມີປະໂຫຍດຕໍ່ເມືອງທ່ານ ບໍ?

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

17 27

Mentimeter

Thank you

2

Annex 4: Press Releases

LAO PRESS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Vientiane Times

http://vientianetimes.org.la http://vientianetimeslao.la

Mr Bakhodir Burkhanov, Mr Prasongsinh, Dr Avi Sarkar and Ms Daovone Saisoulean host the inaugural Voluntary Local Review Sensitisation workshop in Savannakhet province.

Savannakhet in partnership with UN-Habitat hosts first Voluntary Review Workshop to drive sustainable development

In a significant move towards sustainable urban development, Savannakhet province successfully hosted the inaugural Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Sensitisation Workshop on July 18.

This landmark event, organised by the City of Kaysone Phomvihane in collaboration with UN-Habitat, aimed to propel the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in alignment with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP).

The workshop convened local government officials, development partners, academia, and private sector stakeholders to enhance capacities and foster a cooperative framework for sustainable development, according to a press release from the United Nations.

The Voluntary Local Review process serves as a vital instrument for local authorities to evaluate their progress towards the NSEDP goals and SDGs, identify areas of strength and improvement, and promote inclusive stakeholder engagement to pursue these objectives.

The project received special commendation from the district Governor, Ms Daovone Saisoulean, who emphasised its critical role in fostering socio-economic development within the district.

This initiative aligns with the themes discussed at the Voluntary Local Review workshop, serving as a model of successful local action in the face of global climate challenges.

Dr Sarkar emphasised the distinctive aspect of the project, noting that it integrates climate hazards into the urban planning process, ensuring that resilience measures are embedded at every stage of development.

Dr Avi Sarkar, Regional Advisor for Southeast Asia and Head of the UN-Habitat Office in Laos, highlighted UN-Habitat's role in bolstering local capacities.

"Our goal is to create a collaborative platform where stakeholders can actively engage and exchange insights. This workshop reflects our collective commitment to advancing sustainable urban development," he said.

Over 70 participants engaged in discussions on the benefits of the Voluntary Local Review process, such as strengthening local and national data environments, fostering participation, and improving planning and budgetary processes to fulfil the SDGs and the NSEDP.

UN Resident Coordinator Mr Bakhodir Burkhanov emphasised the strategic importance of the VLR process, saying "Voluntary Local Reviews help to strengthen data environments at the local and national levels, foster participation, guide planning and budgets, and enhance multistakeholder coordination, thereby transforming the

The Mayor of Kaysone Phomvihane City, Mr Prasongsinh (centre) co-chairs the Voluntary Local Review workshop.

SDGs into reality at the local level. The United Nations is committed to supporting this process and leaving no one behind."

The workshop featured in-depth presentations on VLR concepts and methodologies, shared insights from regional VLR experiences, and discussed adapting the VLR framework for Kaysone Phomvihane City.

This encouraged dialogue on best practices and effective integration of SDG localisation into local planning processes.

The Mayor of Kaysone Phomvihane City, Mr Prasongsinh, affirmed the city's dedication to sustainable development, saying "By enhancing our monitoring capabilities and aligning local strategies with broader frameworks, we are building resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities."

The workshop underscored the importance of multi-level governance, stakeholder collaboration, and robust data environments to achieve the ambitious targets set by the 2030 Agenda.

The event concluded with a collective call to action for all sectors of society, including local governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector, to unite in advancing the SDGs.

This collaborative spirit and shared expertise are set to drive successful VLR implementation in Kaysone Phomvihane City and significantly contribute to the ongoing development of Savannakhet province.

Representatives from various national ministries and provincial and city government departments and offices were present, marking a comprehensive approach to sustainable development discussions.

This project, a collaborative initiative led by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, alongside provincial and district governments, showcased an integrated approach to urban planning with a focus on climate resilience.

A fully formalised water supply system will benefit approximately half of the district's population (about 57,000 people, of whom 53 percent are female), highlighting the tangible benefits of strategic planning and cooperation.

This centrally controlled water supply system will reduce the technical challenges of local communities regarding operation and maintenance.

The project started with the development of a town-level master plan and defined land use such as conservation areas. It will secure water resources as well as preserve biodiversity and will contribute to the sustainable development of the district.

The field visit was attended by officials from various ministries, including the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who praised the ongoing efforts.

By **Times Reporters**
(Latest Update July 24, 2024)

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Source: July 24, 2024, Savannakhet in partnership with UN-Habitat hosts first Voluntary Review Workshop to drive sustainable development, Vientiane Times, https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_141_Savannakhet_y24.php