



**Tools and methodologies for the application of the
Urban Monitoring Framework and Development of Voluntary Local Reviews
in the Arab States Region**

Tuesday 12th September 2023, 10:00am-12:00pm (Cairo Time)

Online: [MS Teams Meeting Link](#)

Background

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an inclusive, resilient recovery from emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, largely depend on local action. The project *“Fostering COVID-19 recovery and SDG Implementation through local action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries”* recognizes the important role of city authorities and was designed to partner with 9 cities in three regions globally to support their localization efforts. Through a territorial approach to sustainable development anchored in multilevel governance, participation, and inclusion, the project aims to reinforce the capacities of local and regional governments and multi-level governance systems to advance the localization of the SDGs.

The meeting will detail the project implementation plan in two cities in the Arab World, namely, Ramallah (Palestine) and Irbid (Jordan). Implementing partners and national consultants will be introduced to the tools and methodologies developed and adopted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) to guide their application of the Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) and development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

The meeting will be an occasion for implementing partners and pilot cities to discuss implementation methods and timelines to meet project objectives and importantly, to support city priorities.

Project implementation in the region is led by the UN-Habitat in partnership with the UNESCWA.

Objectives of the Meeting

- Training on project tools and methodology
- Agreeing on the project implementation plan
- Connecting partners, consultants, and project management team

Agenda

Moderation: Nagwa Lachine, Programme Officer, UN-Habitat	
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Regional Project Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of Regional Project (15 min) <i>Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Lead of Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio, UNESCWA</i> ▪ Q&A (5 min)
10:20 – 11: 15	<p>VLR Tools and Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VLR methodology: Generic and Regional (20 min) <i>Claudia Garcia Zaragoza, Partnerships and Project Officer, UN-Habitat</i> <i>Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Lead of Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio, UNESCWA</i> ▪ Presentation of the UMF-VLR Data Tool (20 min) <i>Claudia Garcia Zaragoza, Partnerships and Project Officer, UN-Habitat</i> ▪ Q&A (15 min)
11:15 – 11:55	<p>Implementation at Country Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of Regional Implementation Timeline (10 min) <i>Nagwa Lachine, Programme Officer, UN-Habitat</i> ▪ Country Specific Context (10 min) <i>Deema Abu Thiab, Head of UN-Habitat Country Office, Jordan</i> <i>Ahmad El-Atrash, Senior Urban Programme Officer, UN-Habitat Palestine</i> ▪ Q&A (10 min) ▪ Discussion with Municipal Representatives (10 min) <u>Guiding questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the main objectives of developing the VLR in your city? - How will the VLR process support local plans?
11:55 – 12:00	Wrap-up and Next Steps

Resources

Online platforms on VLRs and SDG localization

UN-Habitat SDG Localization Platform: <https://sdglocalization.org>

UN-Habitat VLR platform: <https://unhabitat.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>

UNDESA VLR website: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>

UCLG GOLD: <https://www.gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting>

Multilevel Governance Platform: <https://www.multilevelgovernance.org>

VLR Guidelines

UN-Habitat-UCLG Global Guidelines

Vol.1: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/uclg_vlrlab_guidelines_july_2020_final.pdf

Vol.2: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/vlrguidelines_vol2.pdf

UNDESA VLR Guiding Elements:

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

*Please note that **Regional Guidelines for Arab States** are being developed by ESCWA and UN-Habitat

Learning and Capacity Building

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) Learning Modules: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/voluntary-local-reviews>

UCLG SDG Localization Learning Modules: <https://learning.uclg.org/localizing-the-sdgs>