

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

February, 15th 2024
14.00 – 17.00 (EAT)

Organized by:



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United Cities
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UNDA14





Time	Segment
14:00-14:10 (10 mins)	Introduction and Moderation by Mr. Martino Miraglia , Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat
14:10- 15:05 (55 mins)	Data track
15:05-16:00 (55 mins)	Stakeholder engagement track
16:00-16:55 (55 mins)	Strategic action and next steps track
16:55-17:00 (5 mins)	Closing remarks

Each track will have:
-Keynote speech
-Pilot experiences
-Respondent intervention
-Open discussion

Housekeeping rules

- There will be no interpretation.
- Please keep the mic muted when you are not speaking.
- Kindly note the meeting will be recorded and transcribed.
- Each speaker will be allotted a 5-minutes for their contribution. **Moderators will manage a timer, and a tone will signal the end of each speaker's allotted time.** We ask speakers, if possible, to keep their cameras on when speaking.
- Kindly keep any intervention concise to allow sufficient time for participants to engage in the discussions.
- **Please use the chat to introduce yourselves**, ask questions, and contribute to the discussion.
- The panel discussion aims to be interactive, please raise your hand, unmute yourselves and use the chat to participate. We would ask you to share your experience concisely.

Time	Speaker
Data track	
Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, UN-Habitat	
14:10- 15:05 (55 mins)	<p>Keynote Speech by UNESCAP</p> <p>Mr. Omar Siddique, Head of Unit, Sustainable Urban Development, UNESCAP</p>
	<p>Udon Thani, Thailand</p> <p>Ms. Siriwarang Homepirome, Secretary to the Mayor</p>
	<p>Hay Ennour, Tunisia</p> <p>Ms. Aida Robbana, Head of UN-Habitat Country Office on behalf of the Secretary General of Hay Ennour</p>
	<p>Respondent: UNECE</p> <p>Ms. Mia Alibegovic, Associate Professional Officer in Economic Affairs, Secretary to the UNECE Forum of Mayors, Housing and Land Management Unit</p>
	<p>Open discussion</p>



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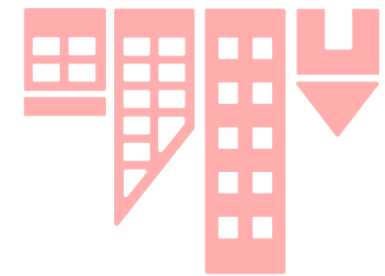


United Cities and Local Governments

Udon Thani City Municipality

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Data Track



UNITED NATIONS PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

2030

AGENDA SUB-FUND

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City Background

- Located in the Northeastern Region of Thailand, 50 km from the Thai – Lao PDR border.
- Population (2024) – 115,218
- Area – 47.70 sq.km.
- Udon Thani is selected as the pilot city based on:
 - Consultation NESDC (responsible for SDG monitoring at the national level) in 2022.
 - Cooperation between UN Thailand and 76 Governors in 2022.
 - Its mature environment to produce a VLR (**minimum data availability**, capacities to promote public participation, and being an intermediate city).



Indicator selection

- Initial data review from national and municipal reports.
- Indicator selection exercise in the VLR Training Workshop on 16 – 17 October 2023.
 - 88 participants (municipal staff and representatives from other agencies)
- UMF indicator selection was based on:
 - City Development Plan alignment,
 - Data availability,
 - Balance between UMF domains,
 - Global relevance.





Data sources

- Data collected by the Municipality,
- National data such as:
 - **Report on Social Situation**
 - **Provincial Development Index**
 - **National statistical Office** and other agencies,
- Provincial data such as:
 - Traffic fatalities,
- Community survey such as:
 - Unpaid time spent on domestic and care work,
 - Satisfaction to E-Governance tools.

UMF Adaptation

- Key indicators selected through voting by key stakeholders
- Team ensured at least one indicator per city objective
- Local indicators integrated in the localization processes

City Objective	Indicators Mapping data sources	Relevance and Importance	Data availability	Data source(s)
	1.2.4 Secure tenure rights to land (Proportion in % population) ร้อยละของประชากรผู้ใหญ่ที่มีสิทธิถือครองที่ดินอย่างปลอดภัย จำแนกเป็น ก) ผู้ที่มีเอกสารสิทธิรับรองทางกฎหมาย (%) และ ข) ผู้ที่เห็นว่าตนมีสิทธิถือครองที่ดินจำแนกตามเพศและประเภทการถือครองที่ดิน (%)	0	No	Have provincial data (NESDC)
	1.2.5a Prevalence of malnutrition (Overweight) in children under 5 (Proportion in % population) ความชุกของภาวะทุพโภชนาการในเด็กอายุต่ำกว่า 5 ปี จำแนกเป็น ก) เกินเกณฑ์ คือ ร้อยละของเด็กอายุต่ำกว่า 5 ปีที่มีค่าคะแนนดัชนีน้ำหนักตามเกณฑ์ส่วนสูงสูงกว่าค่ามัธยฐานเกิน 2 เท่าของส่วนเบี่ยงเบนมาตรฐาน (%) และ	6	Yes	Ministry of Public Health
	1.2.5b Prevalence of malnutrition (Wasting) in children under 5 (Proportion in % population) ข) ต่ำกว่าเกณฑ์ คือ ร้อยละของเด็กอายุต่ำกว่า 5 ปีที่มีค่าคะแนนดัชนีน้ำหนักตามเกณฑ์ส่วนสูง ต่ำกว่าค่ามัธยฐานเกิน 2 เท่าของส่วนเบี่ยงเบนมาตรฐาน (%)	0	Yes	Ministry of Public Health
	1.2.6 Proportion of vaccinated children (Proportion in % population) ร้อยละของเด็กที่ได้รับวัคซีน (%)	4	Yes	Ministry of Public Health
	1.2.7 Welfare of migrants (Standardized checklist aggregates 0-100) มีนโยบายที่เอื้อต่อการย้ายถิ่นฐานและเคลื่อนย้ายของคน ที่เป็นระเบียบ ปลอดภัย ปกติ และมีความรับผิดชอบ จำแนกตาม ก) สิทธิของผู้ย้ายถิ่น (คะแนน)	2	Yes	Department of Administration (MOI) and

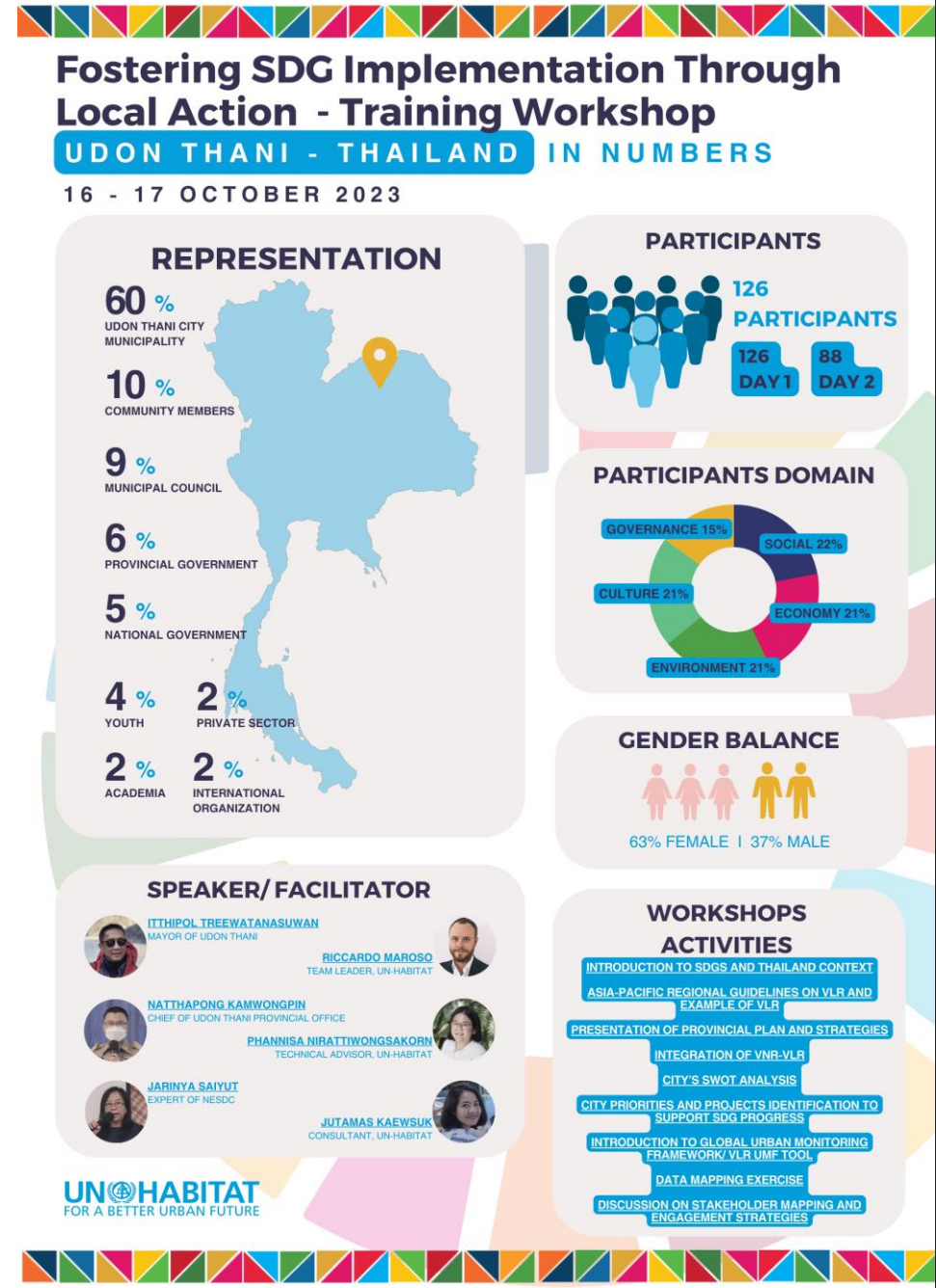
Tam Hoang (UN-Habitat)

Selected Indicators Breakdown

	Social	Economy	Environment	Culture	Governance	Total
Safe & Peaceful	3	1	4	1	2	11
Inclusive	3	3(1)	2	1	2	11
Resilient	3	5(2)	1	2	2	13
Sustainable	2	2	1	2	2	9
Total	11	11	8	6	8	44/77 (57%)

Challenges

- Collected data are similar to SDG and UMF, can be used as proxies.
- A lot of data are collected at the provincial level.





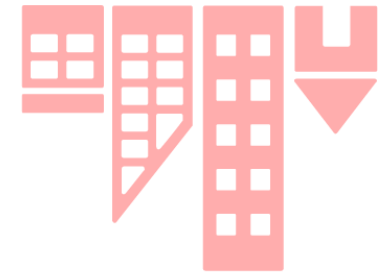
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ENNOUR Municipality - Tunisia

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Data Track

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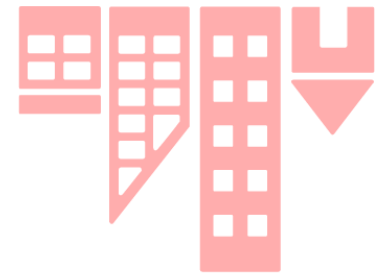
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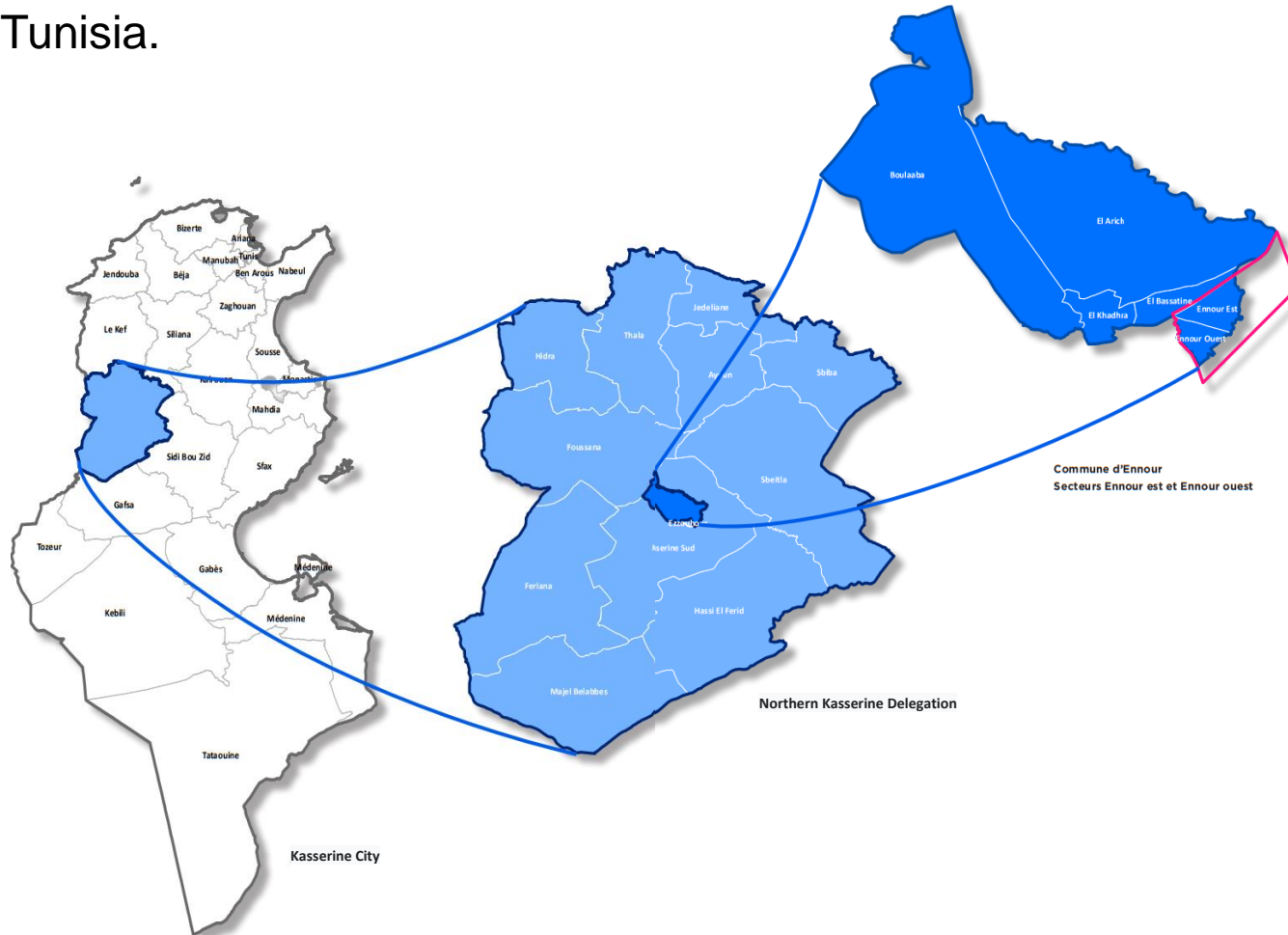
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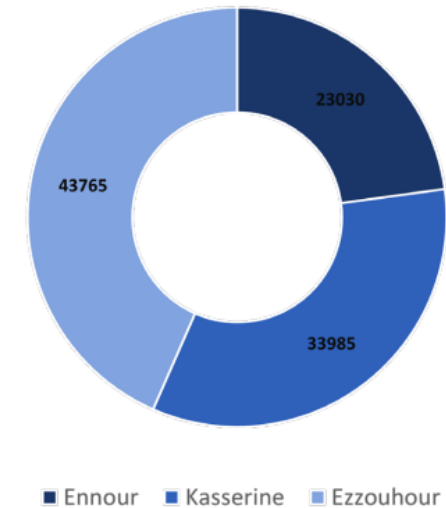


Ennour Municipality

A suburb of Kasserine governorate in the interior regions of the country. The municipality of Ennour is part of the Less urbanized regions of Tunisia.



Size of the neighborhoods of the Kasserine governorate in 2022 (Inhabitant)



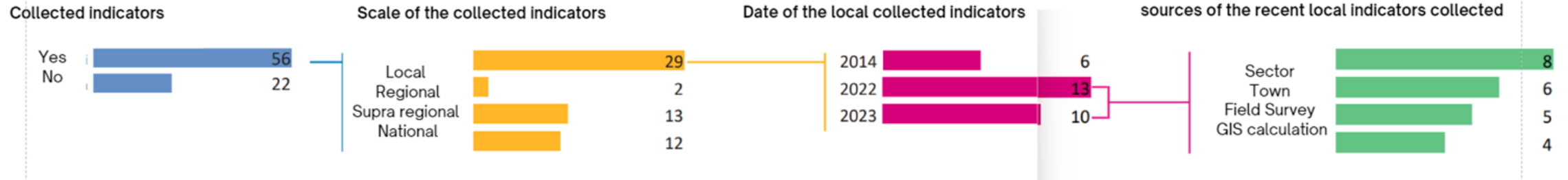


Participatory methodology





Process for the collection and selection of indicators mobilised for the VLR



City stakeholders on a field visit as part of the VLR development process



Youth volunteers collecting spatial data





Priorities expressed by the city's stakeholders

- Urban informality
- Utilities
- Environmental conditions
- Urban transport
- The quality of public spaces
- Poverty and the development of a diversified urban economy.

These priorities guided the VLR towards SDG 11, aligned with the goals of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Detailed Review of SDG 11



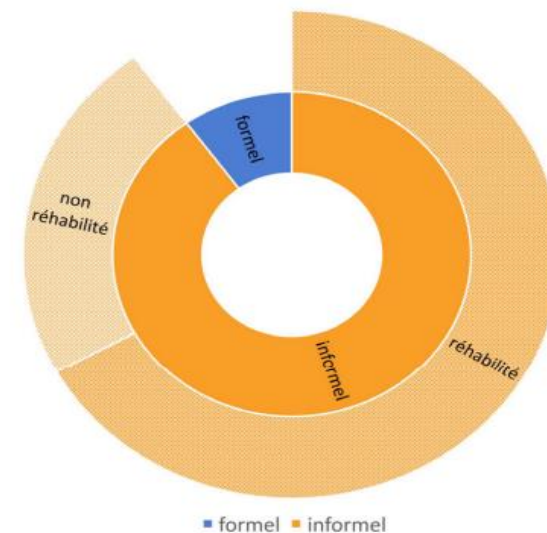


Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Proposed projects:

- Development of a municipal architectural and landscape charter, involving all the actors of the sector, to integrate qualitative values into urban production.
- Participatory development and animation of local public spaces, in collaboration with the municipality and local associations, putting the needs of users at the centre of the approach.

Housing area in Ennour municipality in 2014



Almost non-existent public transportation in the municipality of Ennour

Motorization rate in the delegation relatively low with only **24%** of households owning a private car.

sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable

Proposed projects:

- Creation of a soft mobility network linking the neighbourhoods to the national road, promoting safe pedestrian traffic.
- Establishment of a transport loop adapted for people with reduced mobility, linking the neighbourhoods to the main facilities and commercial spaces.
- Road Safety Awareness Program targeting cyclists and motorcyclists to reduce road accidents.





Target 11.3 : By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Proposed projects:

- Conducting a comprehensive urban restructuring project across the municipality to create available land and reorganize traffic, facilities, and infrastructure.
- Establishing public land reserves in expansion zones to proactively meet future needs and prepare land for public facilities and infrastructure.
- Implementing public land operations targeting disadvantaged communities.

Urbanization is taking over flood zones and forests

26 %
Of forested area lost between 2010 and 2023
40 %
of household waste is not collected causing the proliferation of black spots in the

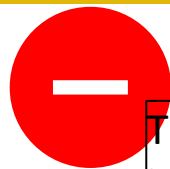
people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Proposed projects:

- Create an inter-municipal controlled landfill to receive household waste from the 3 municipalities of the agglomeration.
- Generalize the collection of household waste by relying on community and private mechanisms in uncovered neighborhoods.
- Undertake a municipal program of greening public space to create a network of islands of freshness.
- Promote peri-urban agriculture by creating short supply chains



Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management



The majority of inhabitants **do not feel safe** in public spaces. The public spaces are the space of psychological and verbal aggressiveness, delinquency and marginality.

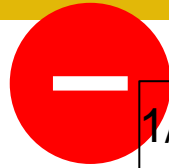
Proposed projects:

- Generalize public lighting to all roads in the municipality
- Identify and address all barriers that hinder the movement of people with special needs in public spaces and facilities.
- Undertake, with the support of civil society, the development of the green spaces provided for in the urban development plan through a participatory and inclusive programming and development process.





Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning



1/ The dichotomy between planning and development with excessive sectorization

2/ The inadequacy of planning tools and the lack of monitoring, evaluation and control mechanisms





Proposed projects:

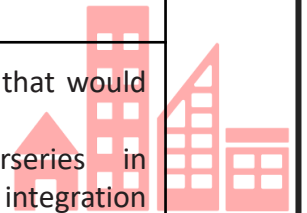
- Undertake prospective studies at the scale of the agglomeration.
- Define, program and manage urban projects.
- Seek out funding opportunities and set up public-public or public-private partnerships.
- Ensure exchanges and consultation between local stakeholders and to lead public debate on issues related to development and land use planning.
- Ensure coherence between development operations carried out by local, regional and national actors.
- Monitor urbanization and urban development progress, along with tracking data pertaining to planning aspects such as employment, housing, transportation, environment, and facilities.

3/ The weakness of the municipalities' resources and the insufficient control of land, hindering the implementation of development plans.


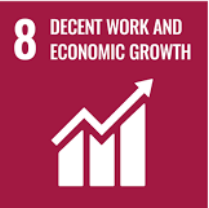



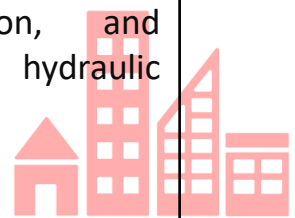


SDG	Current State	Proposed projects
	<p>The poverty Rate of Kasserine Delegation is 32.8%, almost the double of the poverty rate in Tunisia (15.2%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a zone of small urban trades to supervise artisans, improve their visibility, and mitigate local economic informality by providing a visible and accessible reception space.
	<p>Urbanization and urban sprawl Peripheral agricultural companies have already reduced farmland by 26% between 2010 and 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuing and promoting peri-urban agriculture. Create an inter-communal educational nursery that works to promote gardening and domestic market gardening. Organize short supply chains and create points of sale from producer to consumer offering local products.
	<p>The situation is attributable to problems with the functioning of health facilities (undersizing, understaffing and under-equipping), but also to a problem of level, quality and hygiene of life with poor eating habits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the functioning, and therefore the efficiency, of existing health centres by redeveloping them, equipping them with the necessary equipment and strengthening their human resources in line with the real needs of the neighbourhoods served.
	<p>Illiteracy rate for 15-29 year olds North Kasserine, to which the commune of Ennour belongs, was 4.69%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the vocational training offer that would be in line with the real needs of the territory. The development of communal kids' nurseries in neighborhoods to ensure equal opportunities for integration into the education system for all children, regardless of their
	<p>Drop out rate in Ennour = 2.2% compared</p>	





SDG	Current State	Proposed projects
	<p>Female labour force participation rate = 31.94%</p> <p>Female unemployment rate = 40.24%</p> <p>The women of Ennour are excluded from the public space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of local actors (law enforcement officers, health personnel, educational staff, reception staff in administrations, etc.) to detect discriminatory or violent behaviour and to identify women who are victims of discrimination or violence.
	<p>Ennour is part of an economic region with the lowest GDP per capital in the country and the highest poverty rate :</p> <p>GDP per capita = 4472 TD in 2016</p> <p>Poverty rate of 30.8% in 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a business incubator at the level of the industrial zone. • Create an area of small urban trades to welcome and supervise artisans and improve their visibility
	<p>Intense thunderstorms</p> <p>Prolonged dry spells</p> <p>Overconsumption of non-renewable energy</p> <p>High GHG emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a soft mobility framework. • The conducting of an environmental vulnerability study at the municipal level. • The mapping, physical demarcation, and development of flood-prone areas and hydraulic public domain.





Thank you

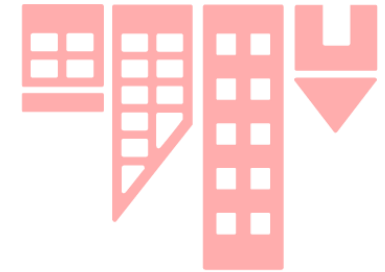
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Time	Speaker
Stakeholder engagement track	
Moderator: Ms. Nagwa Lachine, Programme Officer, ROAS, UN-Habitat	
15:05-16:00 (55 mins)	Keynote Speech by UNESCWA Ms. Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Lead of Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio
	Chandragiri, Nepal Ms. Bhadra Aryal, Section Chief, Disaster Management & Climate, Chandragiri Municipality and Dr. Pratap Chhatkuli, Consultant & Team Leader, VLR preparation team
	Ramallah Municipality, Palestine Mr. Marwan Durzi, VLR Development Expert
	Greater Irbid Municipality, Jordan Ms. Eng. Leila Youssef, Assistant Director of the Directorate of International Programs and Development
	Respondent: UCLG Ms. Sara Hoeflich, Learning Coordinator
	Open discussion



Chandragiri Municipality, Nepal Voluntary Local Review Report & Key Findings

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Stakeholder Engagement Track



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Dr. Pratap Chhatkuli

Team Leader (Consultant), UN-HABITAT Nepal

Ms. Bhadra Aryal

Senior officer, Chandragiri Municipality, Nepal

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What is the added value of involving communities in the VLR process, both from a technical as well as strategic point of view?

- **Policy Framework Assessment:** Communities engage in evaluating the municipality's development policies, assessing their efficacy in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.
- **SDG Awareness and Localization:** Through VLR, communities gain insights into SDGs and their relevance to Nepal, understanding the localization process and the pivotal role of VLR in SDG achievement.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Awareness:** Community members participate in discussions, sharing knowledge and raising awareness about SDGs and the current state of their city, wards, and communities concerning key SDG areas like health, education, water supply, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and city infrastructure.
- **Community Input and Requirements:** The VLR process serves as a platform for community members to voice their needs and concerns, enabling them to articulate their requirements and issues affecting their communities.
- **Interactive Experience:** VLR transcends mere report preparation; it fosters a collaborative environment for knowledge and experience exchange, addressing both demand and supply aspects of sustainable development.



1. Were you able to reach out to different groups? Was there any specific group that difficult to mobilize?

- The primary objective of VLR is to engage with the most vulnerable community groups, aligning with the "Leave No One Behind" principle.
- In line with this principle, ward-level consultations were conducted aiming for meaningful participation from various vulnerable groups within the community.
- Women/mothers' groups in certain ethnic communities found it challenging to participate in the consultation workshops.
- Gap to provide services to the temporary migrant people/factory workers such as education, healthcare, and social safety nets due to lacking data and their regular mobility.

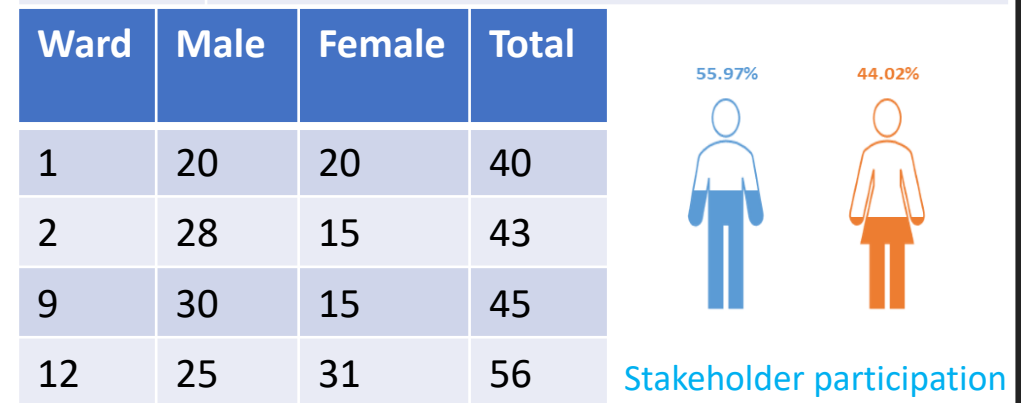




What kind of input were you seeking during the stakeholder forums/consultations? Was the information useful for the report and to address some of the data gaps? How?

- Expectation from the stakeholder’s consultation was to know the actual status of community such as Health, education, gender equality, and social inclusion (GESI), water supply and sanitation, urban infrastructure etc.
- The consultation aimed not only to understand current demands but also to identify areas for future development improvements.
- Qualitative data complemented quantitative data in identifying key community gaps, enhancing the accuracy of our analysis.
- Community-provided data was spatially verified, ensuring the reliability of the information shared.
- Stakeholders didn’t only focus on their demands; they also shared insights into the impact of development activities within their communities, providing a holistic perspective on development needs.

Ward selected	Representative feature
1	Natural landscape, resources, park
2	Isolated, ethnic community, rural typology
9	Traditional settlement, cultural heritage
12	Urban Area



- Elected ward and municipal officials
- Government officials (health, education, administration)
- Women groups and cooperatives
- Children and elderly citizen club
- Consumer committee (water supply, forest, tole sudhar)
- General public
- UN Habitat team





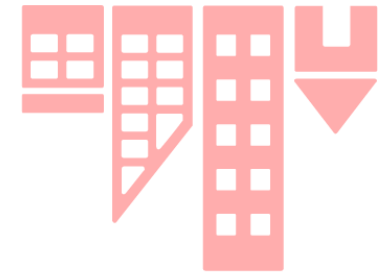
How do you plan to continue engagement with stakeholders and to “give back” the results of the VLR to communities?

- Organize a half-day VLR sharing meeting with executive members and all section of the Municipality.
- Identify gaps in disaggregated data and align them with policies, which still pose challenges for city development interventions.
- Formulate an action plan by the Municipality to achieve the SDGs on time, i.e., before 2030.
- Ensure understanding of the SDGs by all key stakeholders, from the ward level to the municipal level, crucial to uphold the principle of "Leave No One Behind."
- Publish VLR reports in Nepali language and disseminate them up to the ward level and to involved stakeholders.
- Enhance collaboration between Local, Provincial, and Federal level agencies to address data gaps and strengthen the capacity of local levels for data management.
- Share VLR reports with federal (national) level stakeholders to disseminate its results effectively.
- Preparation and dissemination of the VLR template to scale up the VLR movement.





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An aerial photograph of Ramallah, Palestine, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous multi-story apartment buildings and a prominent white minaret. The city is built on a hillside, with a mix of modern and traditional architecture. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky with scattered clouds. The text 'Ramallah Municipality' and 'Palestine' is overlaid in white, semi-transparent font across the center of the image.

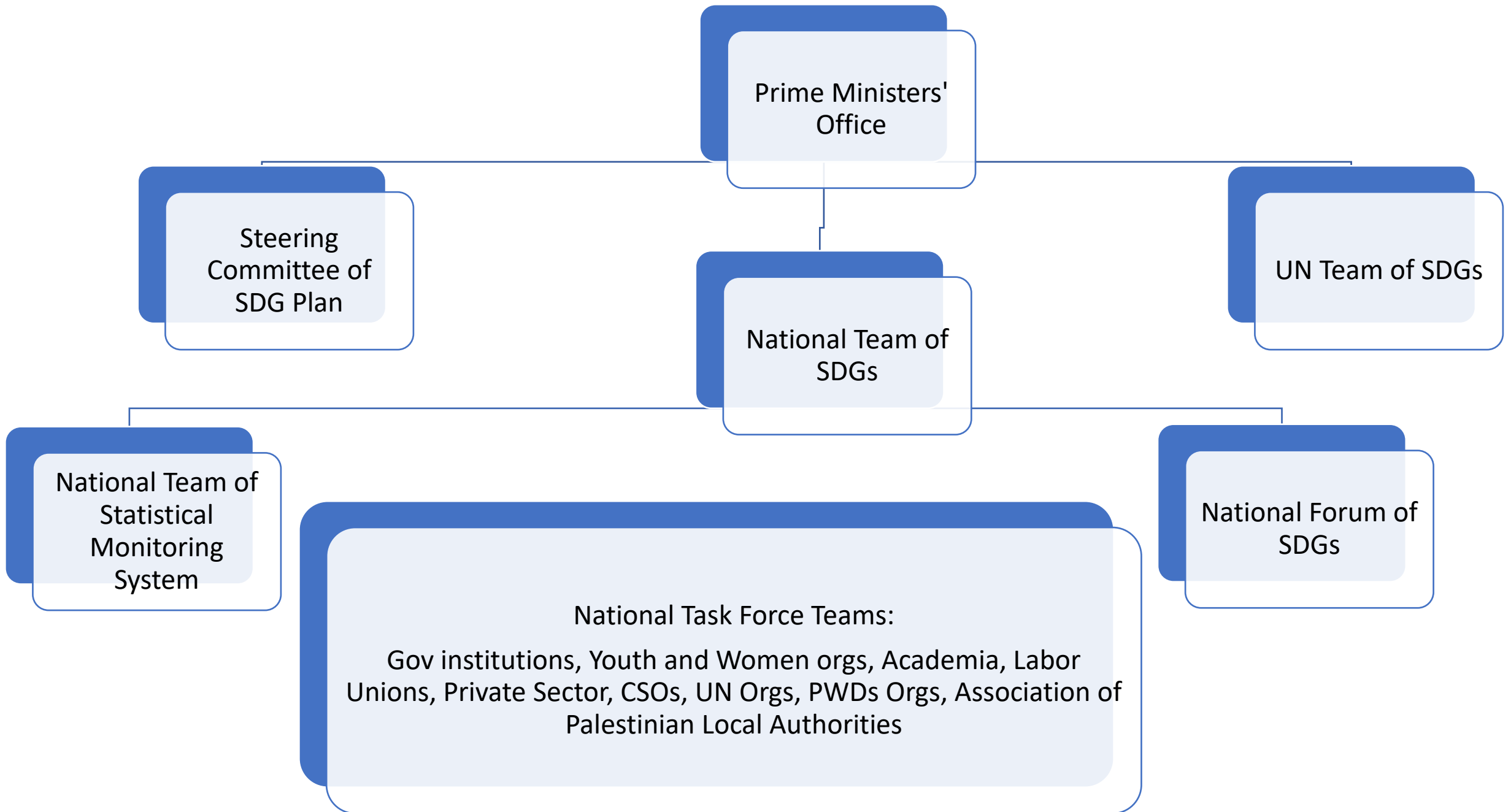
Ramallah Municipality Palestine

Voluntary Local Review

Overview of SDGs Coordination at National/Strategic Level

- PMO is leading the SDGs coordination
- Coordination is done with national government, local and international stakeholders
- All statistical data is the primary responsibility of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and definition of indicators
- Collected data are agreed by the national team
- The Palestinian government has issued two VNR reports covering all SDGs and the upcoming one has been postponed, noting that it will cover selected SDGs.





Prime Ministers'
Office

Steering
Committee of
SDG Plan

UN Team of SDGs

National Team of
SDGs

National Team of
Statistical
Monitoring
System

National Forum of
SDGs

National Task Force Teams:
Gov institutions, Youth and Women orgs, Academia, Labor
Unions, Private Sector, CSOs, UN Orgs, PWDs Orgs, Association of
Palestinian Local Authorities



Policy environment

- Role of Palestinian local authorities are defined by the local authority law (LAL).
- The law assigned LGUs 27 comprehensive functions that crosscut activities of key line ministries, such as health, education, water, and electricity.
- 30 targets (18% of the total 169 targets) can be contributed to by LGUs based on their legal mandate .
- The functions can be categorized per the following: utilities and infrastructure (roads, water, and electricity), physical planning, public health, social/cultural, administrative, and licensing of trade and businesses.
- According to the LAL, LGUs are elected and independent bodies with large mandate and financial autonomy. In practice, LGUs lack administrative and financial autonomy in managing their daily operations, revenues, and expenditures because of control by the central government.
- Ramallah municipality is not responsible of provision of water and electricity.
- Stakeholder analysis were conducted listing main stakeholders and their respective roles.

Coordination with UN Organizations

Goal	PA Focal Point	UN Organization
1 and 10	Ministry of Social Development	UNDP, UNICEF
2	Ministry of Agriculture	FAO
3	Ministry of Health	WHO
4	Ministry of Education	UNESCO
5	Ministry of Women Affairs	UN Women
6	Water Authority	UNICEF
7	Energy and Natural Resources Authority	UNDP
8	Ministry of Labor and Ministry of National Economy	ILO
9	Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Housing and Public Works	UNIDO
11	Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Housing and Public Works	UN-Habitat
12-15	Environment Quality Authority	UNDP
16	Ministry of Justice	UNDP
17	Office of the Prime Minister	UNESCO

Ramallah Municipality New Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

- Formulated after intensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.

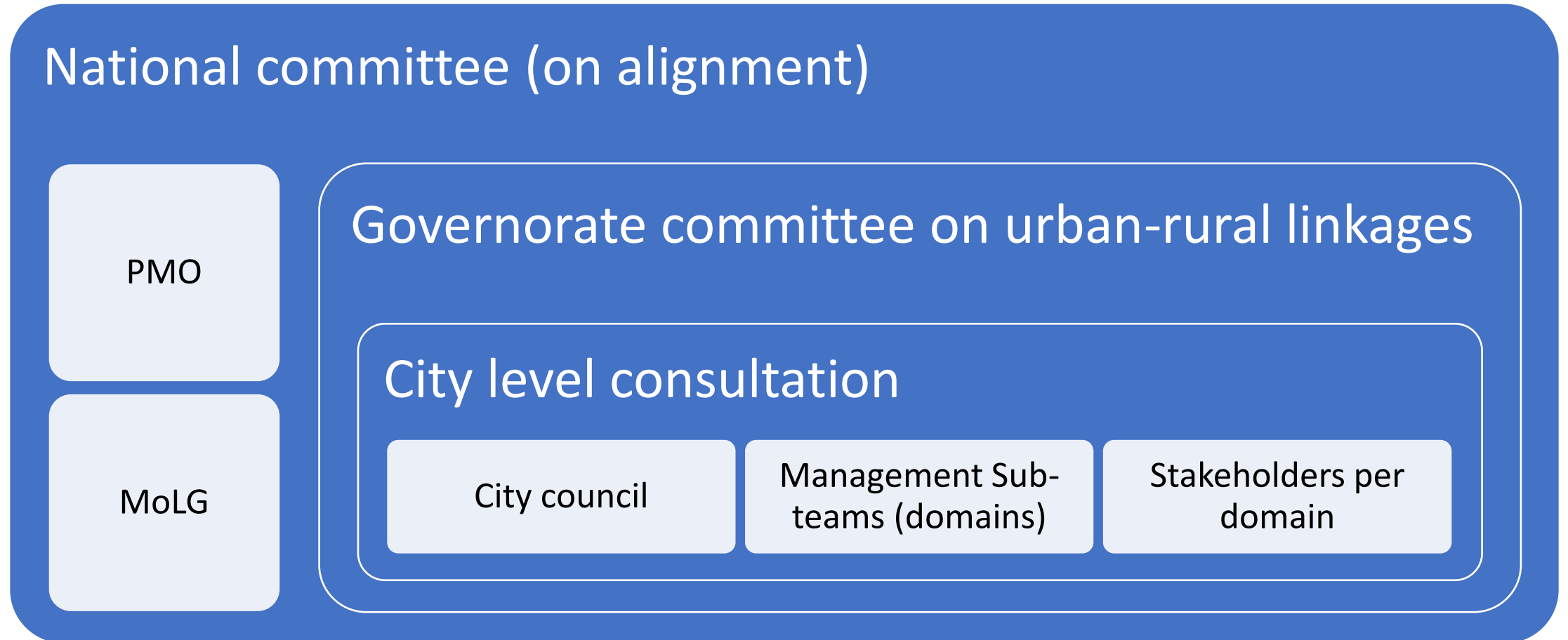
Domain	Stakeholders by Type
Infrastructure and environment 3 committees	Transportation, Environment, climate change and public health, and Infrastructure (electricity, tele-communication, water, waste water, solid waste)
Local economic development 2 committees	Tourism and entertainment, and economic and investment (employment, agriculture, trade and industry)
Social development 5 committees	Youth and women, Culture, Senior citizens, and People with Disabilities
Governance 4 committees	Urban planning, Good governance, Digitization, and Outreach and local and international networking

Ramallah Municipality's New Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

- SWOT analysis was utilized to list the main issues, means to address issues and strategic objectives in four domains. A spatial SWOT analysis will be prepared as well.
- Strategic objectives were tentatively aligned with SDGs
- Strategic objectives per domain:

Domain	No of Strategic Objectives
Infrastructure and environment	10
Social development	9
Local economic development	5
Governance	11

Overall structure of consultations



Overall process – Main Steps

1

Step 1: alignment between national and sectoral priorities and RM strategic priorities (strategic and resilience plans)

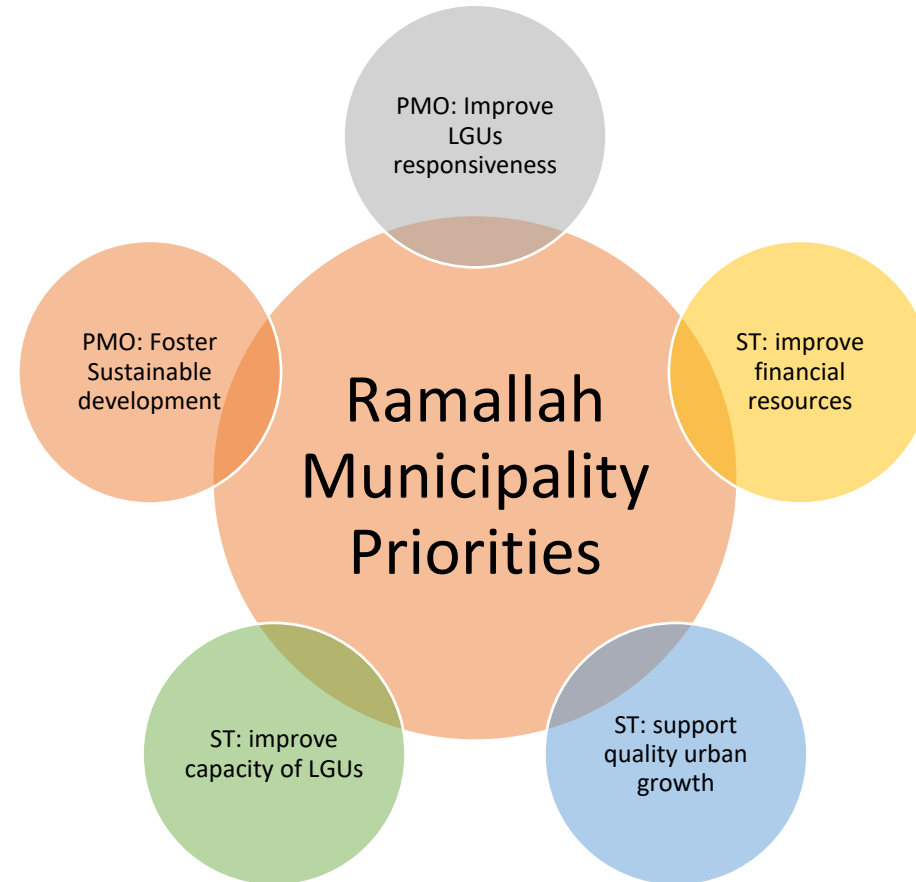
2

Step 2: alignment between RM strategic priorities and SDGs and related priority indicators

3

Step 3: narrow down of selected SDGs

Step 1: Alignment with National Priorities as per Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Local Government sector strategy (ST)



Step 1: cont.

- To sync with national coordination committee, RM established a technical committee consisting of PMO, PCBS, APLA and UN-Habitat
- Two meetings were held
- Agreement on overall process and alignment between the national priorities and RM priorities based on strategic and resilience plans
- PCBS shared recent data at governorate level (no data at local level): data on 20 indicators



Step 2: Alignment between RM strategic priorities and SDGs and related priority indicators

- Led by RM management team
- Four meetings were held
- Discussion on most relevant indicators per selected SDGs to reflect issues identified and strategic objectives
- The resulting work:
12 SDGs: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17
- Update UMF

Step 3: Step 3: narrow down of selected SDGs

- Rapid consultation with stakeholders from strategic planning committees, PA focal points and Governorate level on priority SDGs.
- Interviews with UN and PA local level focal points on data and development challenges.
- Capture policy and emergency strategic priorities, e.g. limitations of urban extensions due to Israeli occupation
- Capture action oriented recommendations per SDG (policy, institutional, partnerships)
- List venues and partnerships of community engagement
- Collect missing data at local level, qualitative and quantitative



Difficulty in aligning strategic objectives and SDGs priority indicators



Absence of data at local level



Requirements of abundance by agreed upon indicators at national level, with marginal opportunity to adjust based on local needs



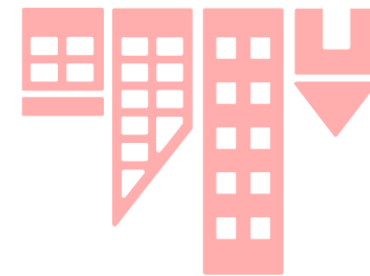
Management team and stakeholders are influenced by the classical services of municipalities (less on development mandate)



[Irbid Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for the Development of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR)]

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Stakeholder engagement track



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2030

AGENDA SUB-FUND

UNDA14



What is the added value of involving communities in the VLR process, both from a technical as well as strategic point of view?

➤ Through participatory processes, a VLR help communities to make decisions and communicate a strong narrative while increasing the relevance of local governments as key actors to deliver results towards the global sustainability goals.

➤ *Launch the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for the Development of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of Irbid City*





Were you able to reach out to different groups? Was there any specific group that difficult to mobilize?

➤ Were you able to reach out to different groups?

❖ Communication Skills

Effective communication is the foundation to reach out to different groups. The ability to create and distribute effective information, develop meaningful relationships, build trust, and listen to different groups input is essential.

The basic communication skills required for any successful stakeholder engagement project include the following:

- Effective Writing:** The ability to create clear and concise written messages in plain language.
- Visual Rhetoric:** The ability to combine words and graphics to make complex issues understandable to a general audience.
- Public Speaking/Presenting:** The ability to present information to large audiences in a comfortable and understandable way. The ability to create effective visual information that assists the audience's understanding.
- Interpersonal and intercultural skills:** The ability to relate to people in face-to-face situations, to make them feel comfortable and secure, and to be mindful of cultural factors that may affect interest level, accessibility, impact, values, or opinions.
- Active listening:** The ability to focus on the speaker and portray the behaviours that provide them with the time and safety needed to be heard and understood. The ability to report back accurately and fully what you have heard from participants.

➤ Was there any specific group that difficult to mobilize?

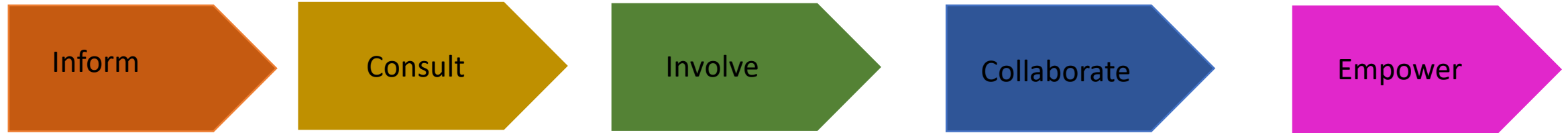
Work to create a culture of trust and collaboration between Greater Irbid Municipality and citizens by developing diverse and attractive participatory processes.





What kind of input were you seeking during the stakeholder forums/consultations? Was the information useful for the report and to address some of the data gaps? How?

➤ **What kind of input were you seeking during the stakeholder forums/consultations?**



➤ **Was the information useful for the report and to address some of the data gaps? How?**

The specifics of the data will determine the scope of the preparation of the VLR.

Irbid City datasets should be combined with the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) data to paint a complete Picture.





How do you plan to continue engagement with stakeholders and to “give back” the results of the VLR to communities?

VLR - Local Project Committee

The role of the VLR Committee is to provide specific feedback on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) , based on specific local priorities , which will help to properly achieve the results. The VLR Committee is a powerful tool to advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VLR – City Lab

Irbid City Lab is a physical environment created in order to practice collaborating with different stakeholders to guide the decision-making process while promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue for the development of the voluntary local review (VLR) for Irbid City .

The Irbid City Lab is a great opportunity for the greater Irbid municipality to hold activities that involve stakeholders to reflect the participatory approach for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

During a facilitated workshop, participants with different roles align and offer diverse insights. Therefore, decision-makers can obtain a more interconnected perspective of what a VLR should include. Through structured discussion, brainstorming, and ideation, co-creation workshops help to draw clarity that can lead to better scenario designs for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





Thank you

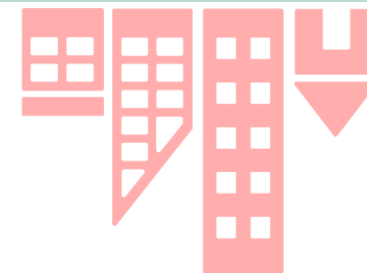
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Time	Speaker
Strategic action and next steps track	
Moderator: Mr. Martino Miraglia, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat	
16:00-16:55 (55 mins)	Keynote Speech by UNDESA Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch
	Georgia Ms. Natia Tsikaradze, Head of Strategic Planning and Coordination Unit, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Administration of the Government of Georgia
	Niš, Serbia Ms. Milena Dinić Branković,, VLR development expert
	UNRCO Tanzania Mr. Evance Siangicha, Senior Economist
	Respondent: UNECA Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif, Senior Development Officer, Capacity Development Division
	Open discussion
16:55-17:00 (5 mins)	Closing remarks



VLR of the City of Niš, Serbia

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Strategic action and next steps track



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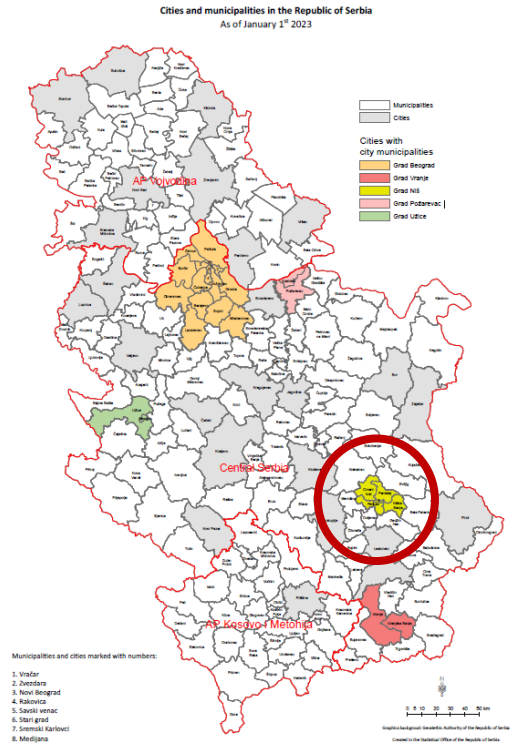
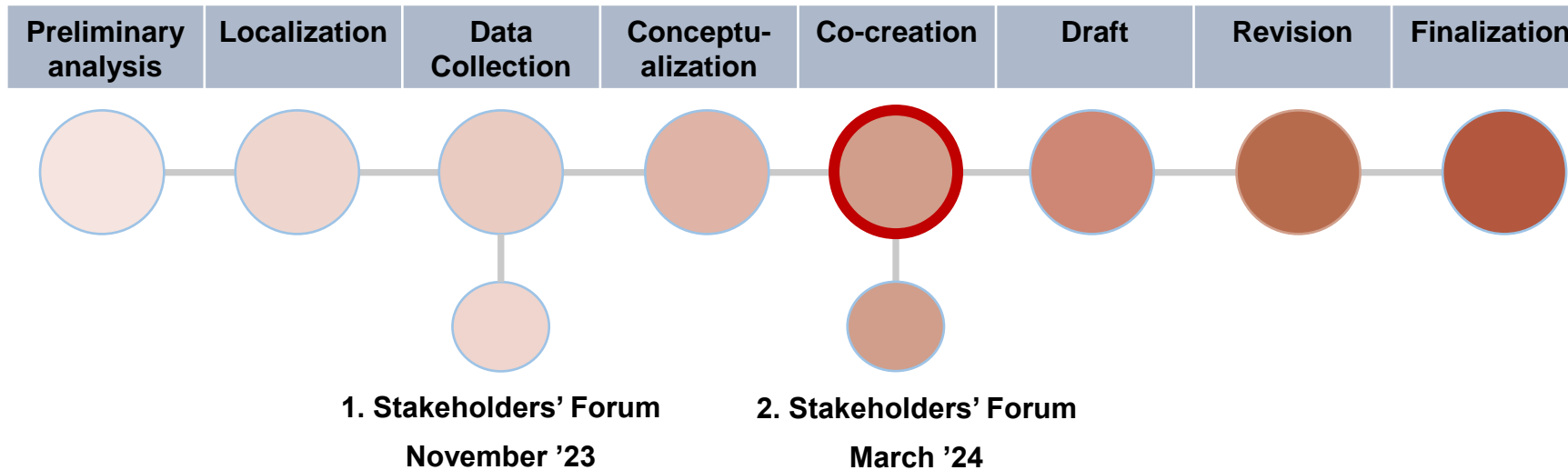
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VLR of the City of Niš, Serbia

- First VLR in Serbia, third in the region of Southeast Europe
- City of Niš is a second-tier city with a population of 249,501 inhabitants

August '23

May '24





Strategic, action-oriented and useful VLR Niš

- Inform local bodies of VLR: connect decision-making and resource allocation with VLR findings, integrate VLR findings and recommendations into relevant local policies and programs
- Prioritize recommendations identified in the VLR based on potential impact and feasibility, address the most critical issues first to effectively exploit limited resources
- Use VLR as an information base to integrate SDG targets when developing new strategic plans for the City of Niš: ***Spatial Plan of Niš 2025-2035, General Urban Plan 2025-2035***
- Use VLR to enhance implementation of the current ***Development Plan of the City of Niš 2021-2027***
 - Align VLR priorities with Plan's established development directions and priority goals
 - Review assigned responsibilities, established timelines and allocated resources in line with VLR
 - Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress towards the goals outlined in the Plan and VLR, and perform regular evaluations of key performance indicators

Ways to identify the most urgent challenges to address

Review existing data, plans and reports; Engage with a diverse range of stakeholders; Identify gaps and challenges; Acknowledge local efforts; Rank challenges based on severity and urgency.





Contribution of the VLR Niš

- Planning

Harmonize planning documents with VLR

Improve the monitoring and evaluating process to enable evidence-based planning

Change the local perspective on gathering, exchanging and providing information, support information base and promote evidence-based planning

- Projects and Budgeting

Select and prioritize specific projects and allocate financial resources based on VLR Niš findings and recommendations – focus on addressing key challenges identified in the assessment

- Investment

Showcase Niš's development potentials and investment opportunities established in the VLR to attract domestic and international investment

Specific example in this regard

Niš should prioritize investments in renewable energy projects, such as solar power installations and energy from biomass, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance energy security.



Linking VLR Niš process with national level

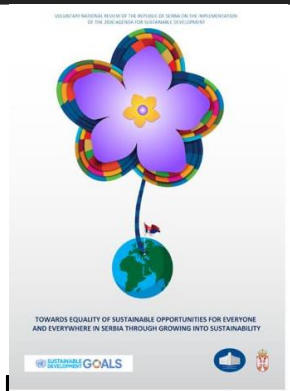
- Established Monitoring Department of the City of Niš

Helps to establish mechanisms for monitoring progress on SDG implementation at the local level, and to connect local and national reporting systems

- Raised awareness among local authorities about the importance of SDGs and their role in the advancement of SDGs
- Strengthened cooperation with institutions at the national level during VLR creation, particularly with Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
- Built partnerships and networks between government, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and other stakeholders
- Explored in VLR: link between the national and the local level, between VLR and VNR

Scale up into a nationwide process

- As a pioneer process in Serbia, VLR Niš will enable other cities to use the applied methodology and set of indicators for conducting VLRs across Serbian municipalities, with support of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism.



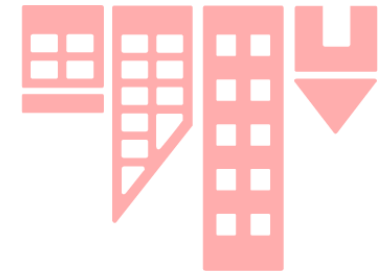


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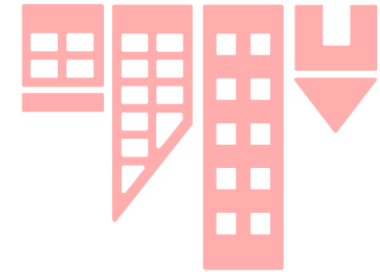




Mwanza City VLR 2023: A Dynamic Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Tanzania

Voluntary Local Reviews Global Workshop

Strategic action and next steps track



Organized by:



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United Cities and Local Governments

Mwanza VLR

- In 2023, Tanzania successfully reviewed for the first time Agenda 2030 and its SDGs at the local level through Mwanza City VLR.
- Concurrently, Tanzania's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) aligned with the Mwanza VLR, providing a cohesive narrative for sustainable development in the Country .
- The joint efforts resulted in the presentation of the VNR at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023.
- The Mwanza VLR played a crucial role as a catalyst, engaging stakeholders, identifying challenges, and fostering a comprehensive understanding of the local context in the SDG journey.





Strategic Impact and Future Initiatives

- **Culmination at HLPF:** Presentation of VNR in July 2023, with a side event on SDG Localization, sharing Mwanza VLR insights.
- **VLR's role as a catalyst:** Engaging stakeholders, identifying challenges, and fostering a comprehensive local understanding.
- **Post-HLPF Feedback Session (September 2023):** Emphasis on SDG-aligned budgeting, involving planning officers from all ministries.
- **Data Availability Challenge:** Addressed through collaborative efforts, Goal Tracker Project increased SDG indicator data from 37% to 55.2%.
- **President's Office Role:** Bridging ministries and local authorities, facilitating dialogues at different levels during Mwanza VLR.
- **Future Plans:** SDG Localization program based on Mwanza





Thank You

