"Fostering COVID-19 recovery and SDG Implementation through Local Action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries"

City experiences /Amman's first VLR-2022
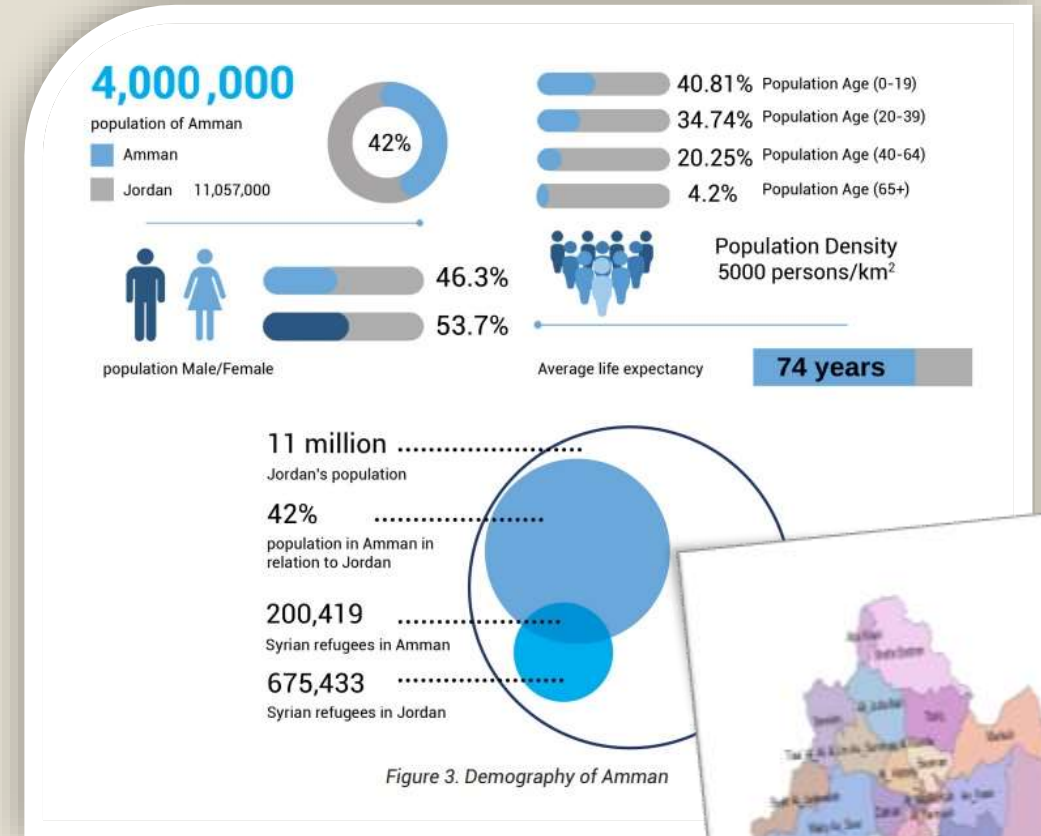
Beirut, 15 March 2023

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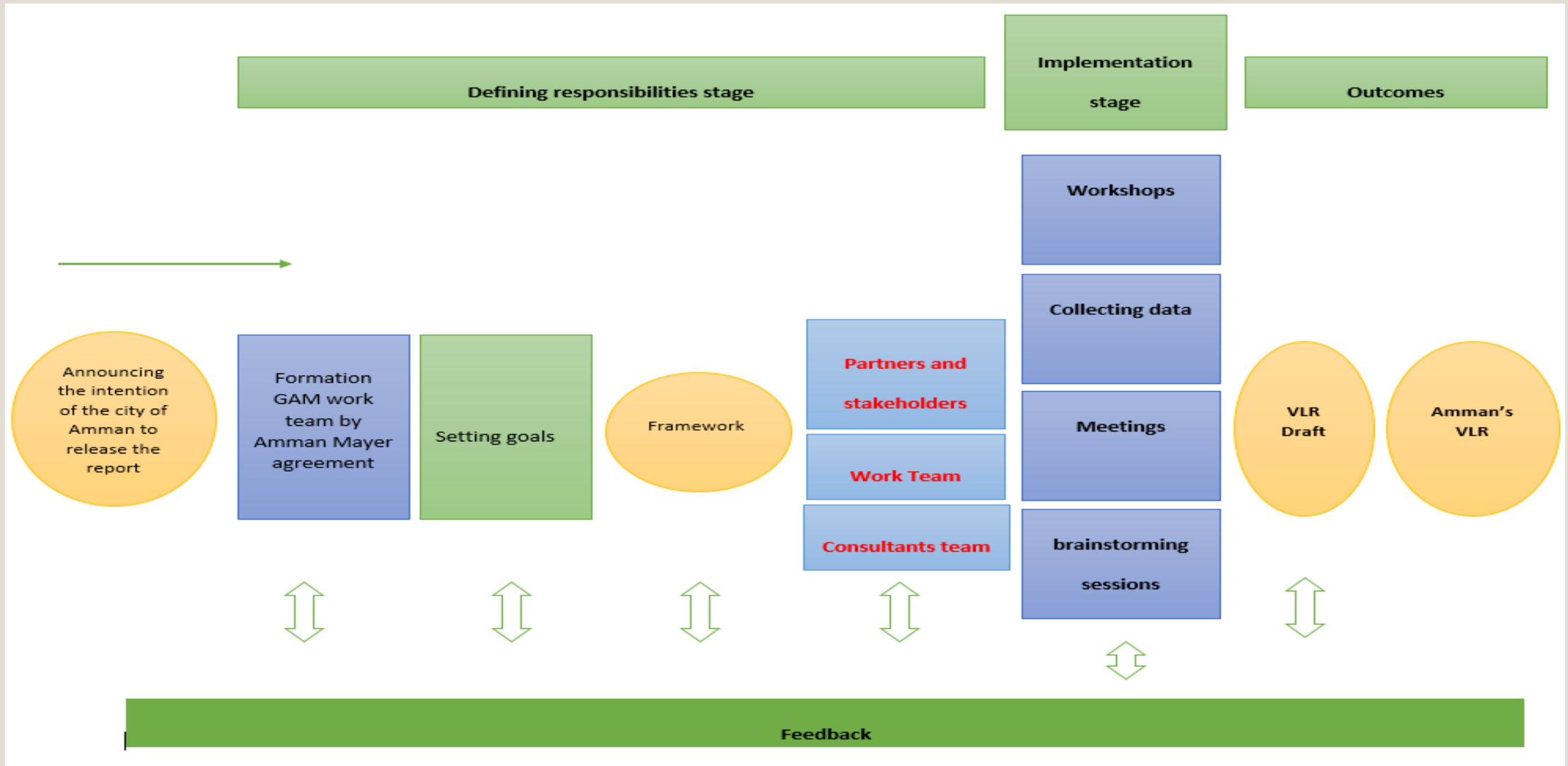# Demographic characteristics of Amman's city

- Amman is the capital of Jordan, which has about 4 million residents. Amman's population represent (42%) of the national population.
- Amman city divided into 22 districts with total area of 800 squared kilometers.
- The city affected through waves of refugees since the beginning of the last century until these days, so it is the city of brotherhood.
- (*according to the Amman Profile 2018 report*), about 36% of Amman's population are refugees.

4,000,000 population of Amman

Amman

Jordan 11,057,000

42%

40.81% Population Age (0-19)
34.74% Population Age (20-39)
20.25% Population Age (40-64)
4.2% Population Age (65+)

46.3%
53.7%

population Male/Female

Population Density 5000 persons/km^2

Average life expectancy 74 years

11 million .... Jordan's population

42% .... population in Amman in relation to Jordan

200,419 .... Syrian refugees in Amman

675,433 .... Syrian refugees in Jordan

Figure 3. Demography of Amman

The need for VLR

- Believing on the needs of Amman's city for planning based on evidence through accurate data and information.
- Believing on the importance of SDGs for developing and improving the performance of the city in all aspects (social, cultural, environmental, economic, administrative, etc), also improving the quality of life for Amman's residence, since SDGs were formulated through real experiences of cities in the world.
- City needs to harmonize the achievement of national goals, royal initiatives, and SDGs derived from the best practice of cities around the world.
- Amman is a dynamic city that works for continuous improvement, development through utilizing the best practice of cities around the world.
- Strengthen VNR with evidence and accurate data at the cities level in Jordan, also VLR came to measure the city's performance in achieving SDGs to reach an outstanding performance in the year 2030.

Amman's VLR preparation plan

Methodology

- Guided by the UN-Habitat/UCLG Guidelines on the Voluntary Local Reviews, Volume 1 and 2, adapted to the context of Amman
- 4 principles: evidence-based; participatory; meaningful and action-oriented!
- SDGs selection criteria:
    - Relevant to city's development priorities and challenges
    - Reflective towards the city's competencies
    - Reflecting data access and availability
- Reinforced focus on mainstreaming gender across the SDGs reviewed, based on the municipality's request.

The first steps for engaging in a VLR

- Recognizing of the Greater Amman Municipality GAM decision makers of the VLR, a team was formed from GAM sectors working together in preparing the report.
- All GAM partners (government sector, private sector, NGOs, international bodies, academics, Amman residence) were invited to participate in preparing VLR.
- VLR team meetings have been held with GAM partners in order to promote awareness of the importance of SDGs and VLRs.
- VLR Team Leader chosen as a member at VNR Team for continued coordination.
- Reviewed many global cities VLRs to take an idea about VLR.
- "Special Guidelines for VLR" was reviewed.
- Partnership with effective and experienced bodies: ESCWA, Habitat, and UCLG.
- VLR Action plan prepared with a predetermined time.
- City implemented projects and initiatives list prepared which related to SDGs.
- Using the accurate data that validated with ISO37120 which is Amman urban observatory AUO outcomes that computed according (WCCD indicators) which are closely related to SDGs.

Step by step SDG progress review

- Determination which SDGs will be included in VLR (discussed).

- Collection of quantitative and qualitative data to inform SDG targets,
  - with support of GAM, especially Amman Urban Observatory (main data producer)
  - including desk research.

- Data analysis and verification (e.g. verifying data values and sources)

- Attributing data to SDG targets and writing-up 6 SDGs Working Papers (WPs) that review by various groups of stakeholders, through a participatory process (e.g. 2 consultation meetings per each SDG WP, bilateral correspondence).

Amman's VLR Goals

▪ VLR focused on a review of the city's progress towards Six goals.

▪ Selected SDGs are:

o Relevant to city's development priorities and challenges
o Reflective towards the city's competencies
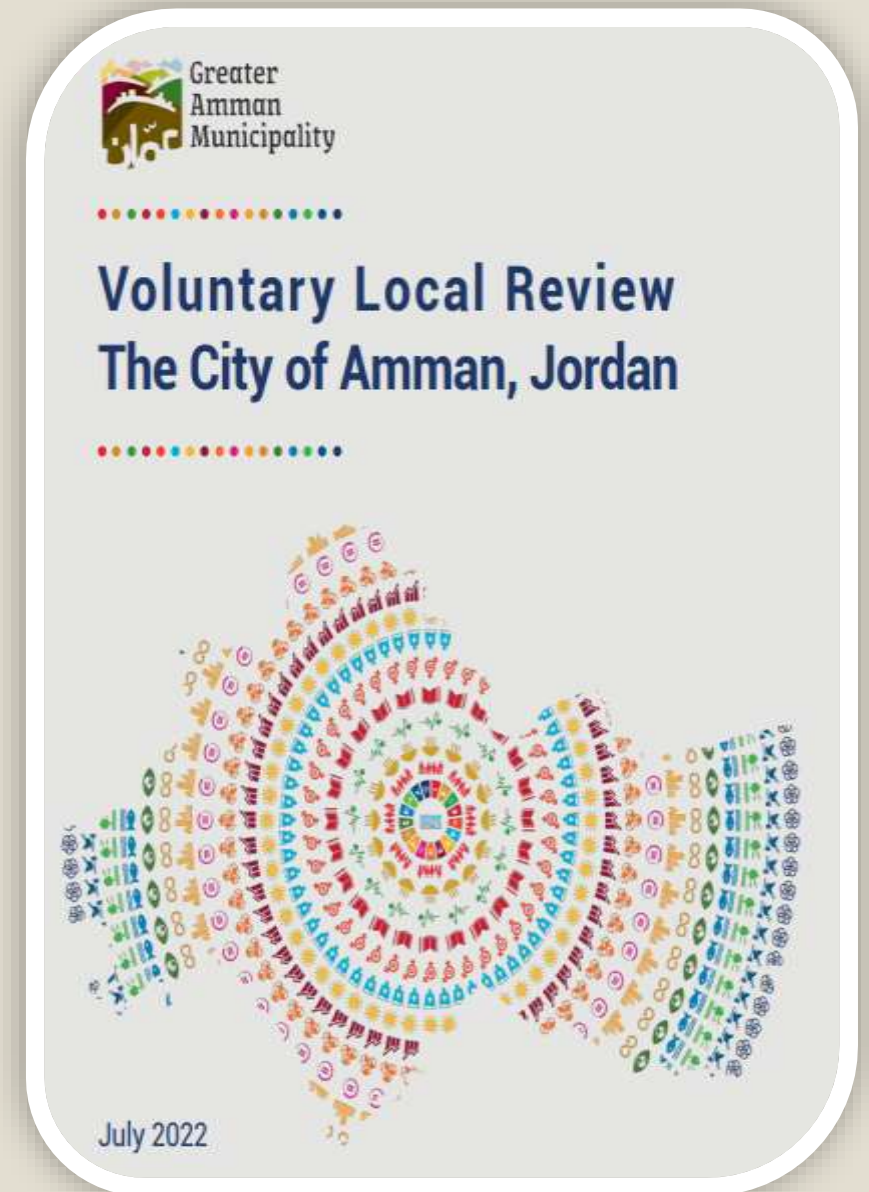o Reflecting data access and availability.

Amman's VLR Structure

- Methodology in a nutshell
- Local Guiding principles for the VLR
  - Evidence-based
  - participatory
  - Full alignment (compatibility) with Jordan VNR
  - Actionable
- VLR Participatory process

https://www.ammancity.gov.jo/site_doc/AmmanVLRreport.pdf

Greater Amman Municipality

Voluntary Local Review
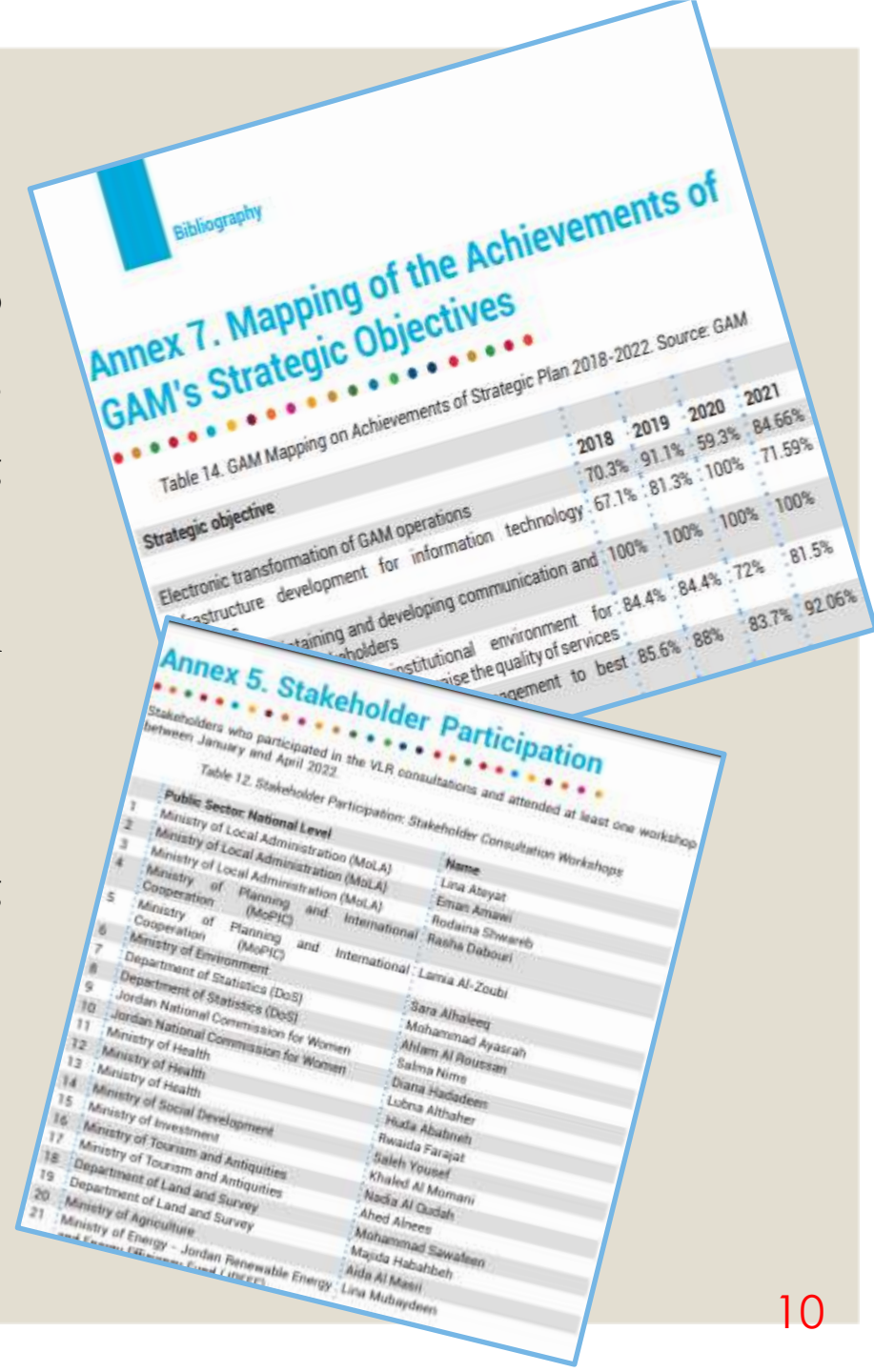**The City of Amman, Jordan**

July 2022

Developing VLR in a nutshell

- Setting the stage (e.g. discussing expectations and objectives)
- Data collection (e.g. formulation of the GAM VLR committee; Weekly meetings with GAM; desk research, SDG 17 survey launch)
- Development and review of VLR Working Papers (WP) corresponding to each SDG (6 WPs in total)
- Development of key messages
- Review by selected organizations
- Editing, formatting, graphic design
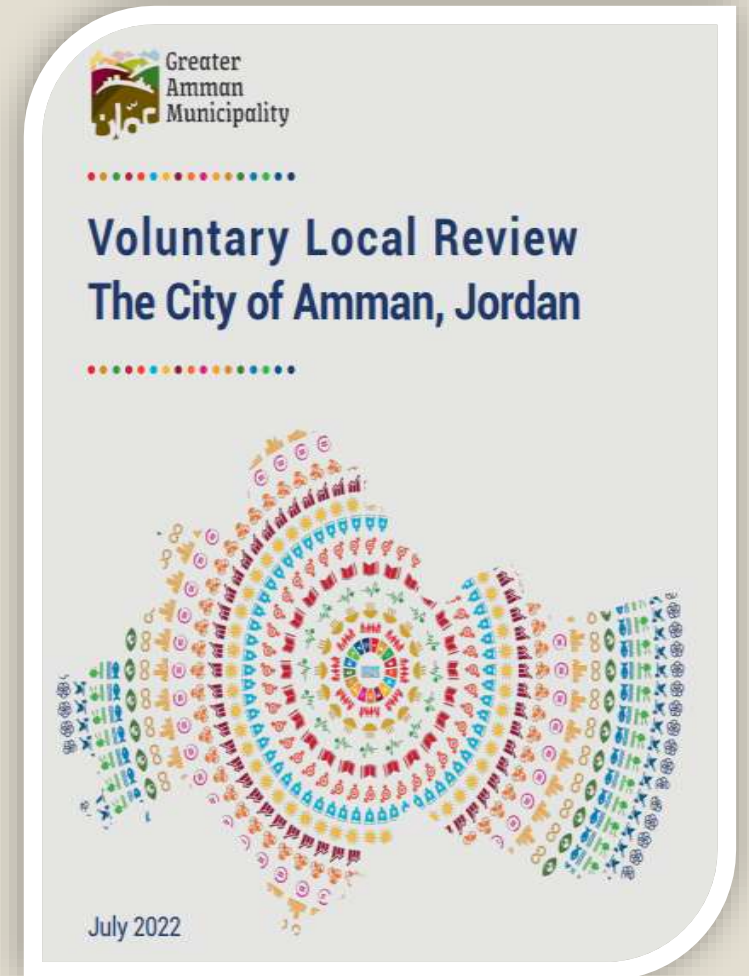- VLR launch!

Local Guiding principles for Amman's VLR

- **Evidence-Based :** Data and information were collected in order to produce indicators for measuring the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and in the implementation of initiatives and projects reporting the progress towards the SDGs

- **Participatory :** all stakeholders from all sectors of the Greater Amman Municipality, ministries, government departments, civil society, international bodies and academics were involved in Amman city, following the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for SDG's of "leaving no one behind."

  * More than 80 entities and individuals were contacted, including public sector (national and local levels), academia, international entities and civic society.
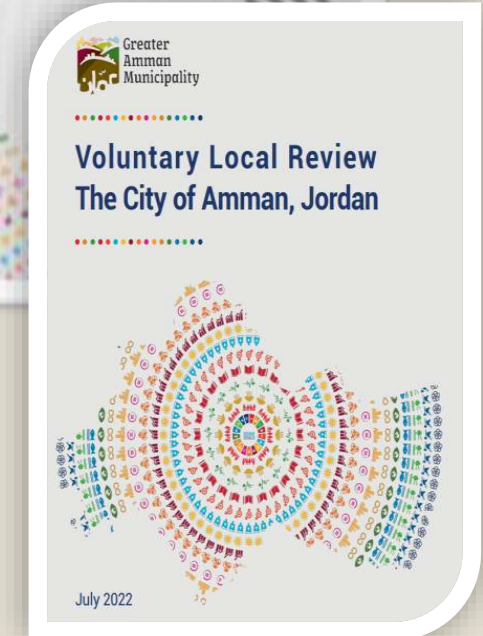

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Local Guiding principles for Amman's VLR

- **Full alignment (compatibility) with Jordan VNR :** Amman gathers 42% of the total population of Jordan. Report complementarity entails presenting similar challenges and opportunities in two different but complementary levels.

- **Actionable:** It highlights the projects, initiatives policies and strategies implemented by various groups of stakeholders in Amman city to strengthen current efforts to support progress towards the SDGs.

Greater Amman Municipality

Voluntary Local Review The City of Amman, Jordan

July 2022

VLR and VNR complementarity

- Both VNR and VLR discuss the progress towards SDGs and government initiatives but at different scales.
- With 42% of inhabitants in Jordan living in Amman, VNR describes development dynamics particularly relevant to Amman
- VNR is a data source for VLR which also focuses on national-level dynamics and policy initiatives
- VNR include insights into development challenges facing Amman
- Key messages in both VNR and VLR recognize the need to
  - further mainstream SDGs into policy context,
  - reinforce data collection, processing and use in evidence-based policy process and
  - reinforce the role of Amman as an international center of good practices and knowledge exchange.

Jordan
Voluntary National Review 2022

Greater Amman Municipality
Voluntary Local Review
The City of Amman, Jordan
July 2022

An integrated approach, Inclusive, Participatory, and leaving no one behind was followed in preparing Amman's VLR based on involving everyone in the city of Amman.
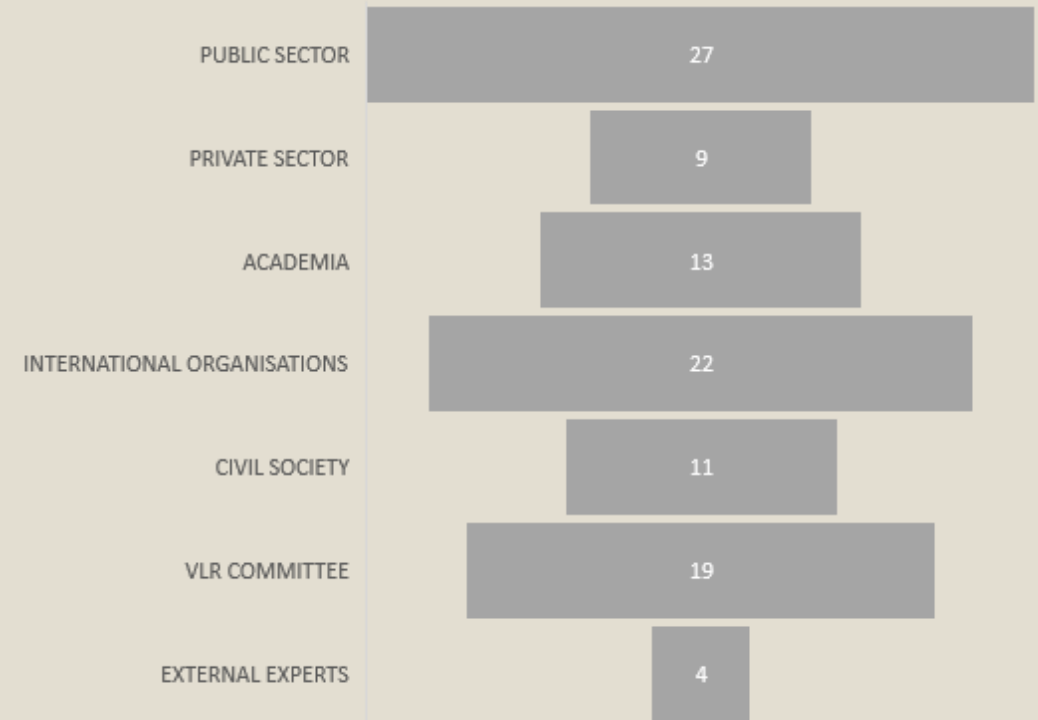
Objective	Details	Target group
Awareness	• Webinar to share information about the VLR process, objectives; time frame, activities • Follow up by email for data collection; questionnaire 0,…	All
Focus discussion groups	3 meetings, identify priority targets for SDG's, discuss progress and vision, and updates on ongoing activities or projects	• Government • Private sector • NGOs • Academia, civil society
Expert group validation	Discuss main findings and directions	Expert group

Partners:

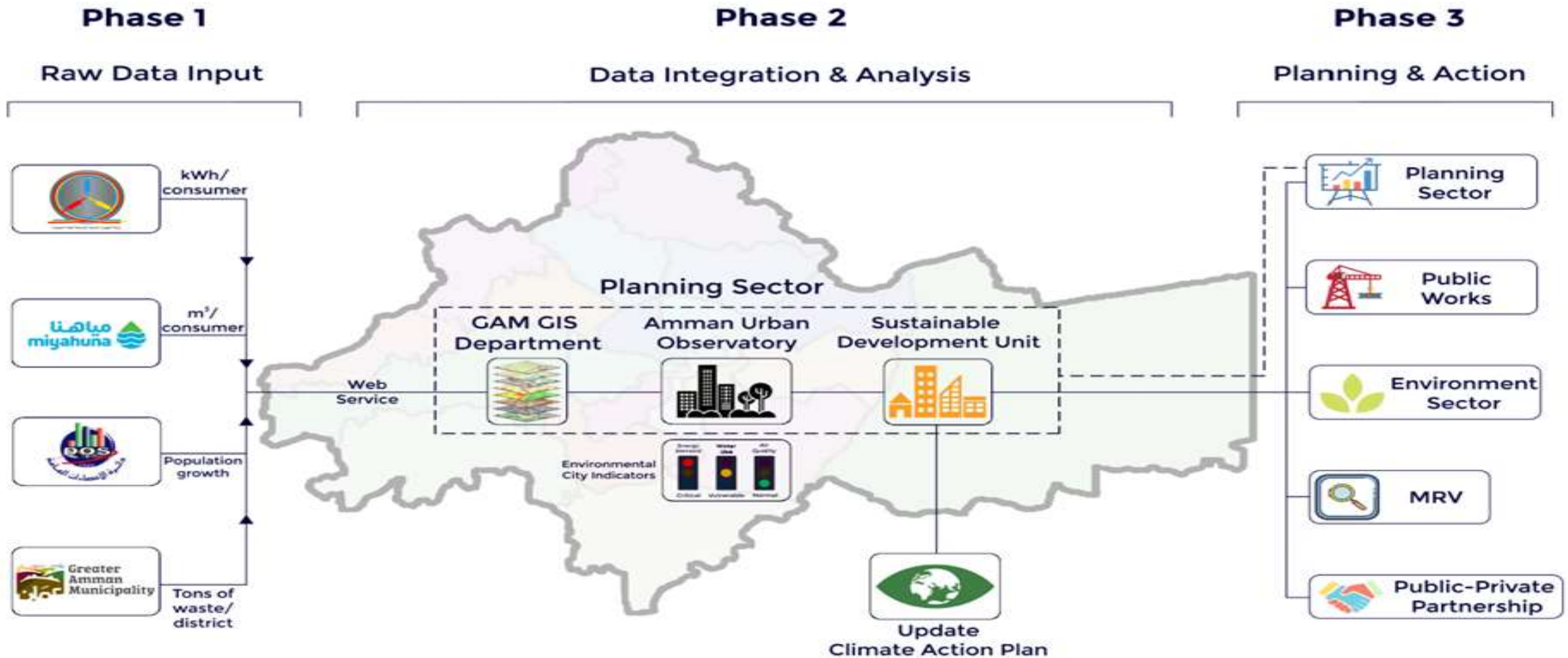The preparation of the VLR is led by GAM along with UN-Habitat and ESCWA and UCLG

Greater Amman Municipality

ESCWA

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder	Participation
PUBLIC SECTOR	27
PRIVATE SECTOR	9
ACADEMIA	13
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	22
CIVIL SOCIETY	11
VLR COMMITTEE	19
EXTERNAL EXPERTS	4

Amman's (Projects, Strategies, Initiatives) show progress towards localizing SDGs

○ Amman city is implementing many strategies, from which projects have emerged on the ground straight forward to achieving SDGs, like: Amman green city action plan , Smart city, Resilience city , Adult-friendly city , Sustainable electronic transformation….

○ Bus Rapid Transit BRT : A flexible and fully-integrated public transportation system that provides rapid, safe, and highly reliable service for city population.

○ Sanitary landfill project for solid waste.

○ SURE project: Through the Sustainable Urban Development (SURE) project with collaborating with UNDP, a sustainable map for the city of Amman is being prepared, which is based on the preparation of an integrated and automated database to implementing urban sustainability standards for the city.

○ Climate change Adaptation projects: under ground tanks, rainfall harvesting (Al Zohuhor Green triangle)

○ The projects mentioned are included in the Greater Amman Municipality Strategic Plan 2022-2026 which related to SDGs and measured through KPIs.

Mapping GAM Data Flows and Integration
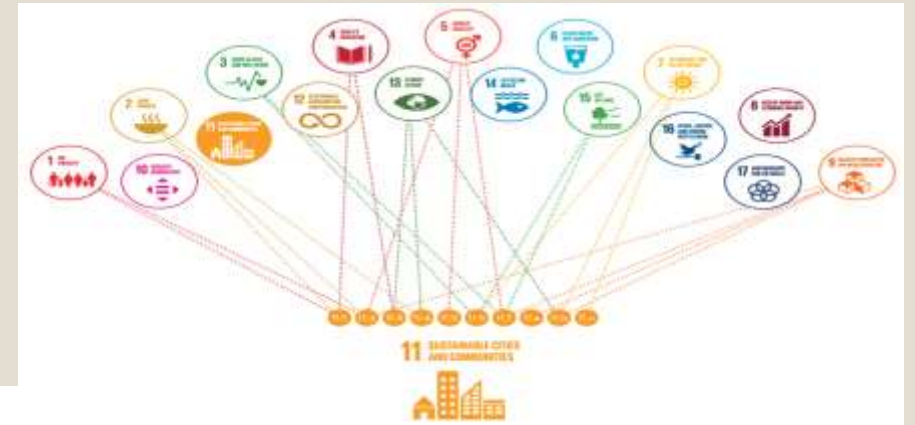
VLR main outcomes:

- VLR mainstreamed the SDGs into policies and strategies, programs and partnerships, and municipal operations, covering energy, building, housing and transport. VLR developed new approaches to participatory planning and deliver innovative, climate resilient urban infrastructure to achieve the SDGs.
- Applying the guidelines of the New Urban Agenda 2030, promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at local level especially SDG11. Municipal policies, strategies, programs, plans working towards for inclusive city, leaving no one behind and ensuring that all partners and communities in Amman are considered in the planning process.
- Promoting evidence-based policy, Developing and building capabilities in information technology, Adopting SDGs within the national strategies and GAM strategic plan 2022 -2026.

VLR main outcomes:

- Develop multiple partnerships with the private and public sector institutions, investors, financial institutions, businesses, international organizations, and local NGOs to gather efforts towards localizing SDG's and to Develop government services.

- Promoting resilient and climate-resilient urban infrastructure, particularly in the water, waste, transportation and energy sectors, and by providing accessible and open green public spaces for all as well as the complete electronic transformation of city services.

VLR outcomes (<u>SDG 11:</u> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES)

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- **HOUSING**
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES AND AIR QUALITY**
- **GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACES**

Importance: GAM plays a critical role in providing urban infrastructure and services which drive city's development. It includes roads, bridges, and underpasses; street lighting and traffic management; refuse removal and disposal; public transport; agriculture; public markets; social and cultural services; spatial planning; economic development; and business licensing
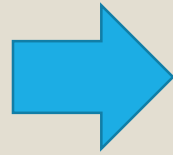
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Challenges

- **Challenges related to policies** : There were challenges to align national efforts and SDGs, also a frequent changes in policies and responsible leadership.
- **Challenges related to funding**: Limited funding and allocations within the general budget, and lack of interest by donors and international partners in providing financial support.
- **Challenges related to technical issues**: Overlaps in the tasks of the different sectors, and the need to update laws and instructions.
- **Institutional and human capabilities** : Lacking in capabilities and competencies, also lacking in a comprehensive and documented database.
- **Covid 19 Pandemic**: Impact on all sectors due to the closures and the suspension of some aspects of life.
- **Refugees** : Regional crises led to waves of immigrants that affected the country infrastructure, so we took the refugees in all goals that were reviewed.

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Challenges related to data collection and lessons learnt

Challenges

- Limited data access
- Limited data availability
- Outdated statistics
- Data not produced at regular intervals
- Data not corresponding to the administrative boundaries of the city
- Limited access to disaggregated data
- Data not sourced/referenced

Lessons learnt and opportunities

- Data production/collection centralized at the municipal level
- Using official statistics disaggregated at the city level (produced by the National Statistics Offices)
- Reinforced production of a high-qualiy urban data
  - Using international standards for data production/management
  - Reinforced data production as a development priority
  - Reinforced relationships between various data producers towards the development of urban data eco-systems.

COVID-19 recovery at Amman's city

▪ Amman's city faced a challenge -like other cities in the world- at the beginning of the year 2020 represented by a global Pandemic that threatened the lives of millions. Amman responded to it early from its belief in the right to life and in line with the royal vision to take all precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the Pandemic.

▪ Amman city lunched *"Institutional performance report and the resilience of Amman's city in the face of the COVID-19 **"* which shows the need to document and present the state of the city and its resilience during the pandemic and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the institutional performance to establish a model for managing crises and natural disasters on a scientific basis based on accurate urban indicators consideration SDGs.

▪ Amman is a resilient city, has a resilience plan, this stimulated the acceleration towards E-services.

Thank you