

Glossary

CSO – Civil Society Organization

ECOSOC – United Nations Economic and Social Council

HLPF – UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

LRG – Local and Regional Government

LRGAs – Local and Regional Government Associations

MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UN-Habitat – United Nations Human Settlements Programme

VNR – Voluntary National Reviews

8 goals & 21 targets

Top-down approach: result of an intergovernmental agreement & high level consultations

Tackling poverty

Developing countries

The world's poorest & most vulnerable

Specific challenges

Governmental

Statistical approach to localizing (urban rural disaggregation)

**Measurable through
60 indicators**

**Focus on aid flows
& development cooperation**

17 goals & 169 targets

Bottom-up approach: issued from a unprecedented consultation process (2012-2015)

Sustainable development

Universal

The world's population

Integrated and comprehensive Agenda: covers the 3 dimensions of SD: economic, social & environmental

Inclusive: engagement of stakeholders (LRGs, community based organisations, CSOs, private sector, academia, etc.)

**Comprehensive
approach to localizing**

**Measurable through
232 indicators**

**Focus on domestic
resources to fund sustainable
development strategies**

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION







1

**ERADICATE EXTREME
POVERTY AND HUNGER**



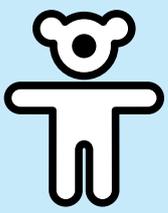
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**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION**



3

**PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN**



4

**REDUCE
CHILD MORTALITY**



5

**IMPROVE MATERNAL
HEALTH**



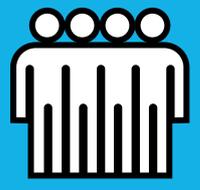
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**COMBAT HIV/AIDS,
MALARIA AND OTHER
DISEASES**



7

**ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**



8

**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

Sample City

Location

Sample City is situated on a river bank and surrounded mainly by agricultural fields. The city covers an area of 45,5 km².

Population

75 000 habitants

Local government

City Council consists of 39 elected councillors. They are elected every 5 years.

Civil society organisations & media

Sample City has one local radio station and 2 weekly newspapers. There are 72 cso's registered (which mainly work in the field of culture, education and health).

Economy

Sample City has a variety of light industry along with traditional agriculture and an increasingly important tourism sector.

Transport

The city is situated at the junction of three numbered routes. It has a comprehensive urban bus service operated by private companies. There are also services to other cities and long distance buses. There is a railway station with national connections available. Private vehicles remain the main mean of transport.

Education

The city is a home of University of Sample City, 25 primary schools and 11 secondary schools.

Additional information

Sample Polis

Location

Sample Polis is situated on the East coast of the country. It covers the area of 942 km².

Population

6 450 000 habitants

Local government

The city is governed by the Mayor and the City Council – both elected every 4 years by popular vote – are responsible for city administration. The city is divided into 20 localities. Each of the 20 localities is governed by an administrative board elected by popular vote. The Mayor designates local mayors from candidates nominated by the respective administrative board.

Civil society organisations & media

Sample Polis is home to the two most important daily newspapers in the country. Also, the top three weekly news magazines of the country are based in the city as well as two of the five major television networks. There is 5 400 cso's registered in the city.

Economy

Sample Polis is considered the “financial capital of the region”, as it is the location for the headquarters of major corporations and of banks and financial institutions. Tourism is on the raise, with large hotel chains whose target audience is the corporate traveller.

Transport

Cars are the main means to get into the city. There is more than 3 million vehicles registered. Heavy traffic is common on the city's main avenues and traffic jams are relatively common on its highways. The city has well developed bus and metro system and it two main airports with regional and international flights.

Education

Sample Polis has 4 public universities (including the country's best university) and 8 private universities. It has a very famous international business school and a well know art academy.

Additional information

Sample Region

Location

Sample Region is a border region of the country with the area of 6, 420 km².

Population

1 230 000 habitants

Local government

Sample Region County Council has responsibility for local administration, and is headquartered at the County House. Elections to the County Council take place every five years. For general elections, the county-wide constituency elects five representatives from the region.

Civil society organisations & media

Sample region is the headquarters of regional television, 4 regional radio stations one regional daily newspaper and 3 weekly magazines. There is 940 cso's registered in the region.

Economy

Historically Sample Region has been disadvantaged economically compared to other parts of the country owing to the decline of a number of core industries, mainly fishing and farming. Agriculture has been an important industry in since the 19th century. Last crisis harmed the farming community severely. Since then some parts of the agricultural industry have begun to diversify and recover, with a strong local food sector and many artisan producers.

Transport

The region has well developed railway network that connects it with the rest of the country as well as local bus system between towns and villages in the region.

Education

There are 37 state and 23 independent secondary schools. There are 3 colleges and an agricultural college. The region also plays host to two major universities.

Additional information

Your Sample

Location

Population

Local government

**Civil society
organisations
& media**

Economy

Transport

Education

Additional information

Enabling Environment

An enabling environment for the localization of SDGs includes¹:

- A legal and political framework that guarantees democracy and respect for human rights
- A legislative body and level of decentralization that recognizes local and regional governments as an autonomous level of government with legal powers, financial autonomy, clearly defined roles and responsibilities and the capacity to defend the voice of citizens before national authorities
- Multi-level governance mechanisms and multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Recognition of the need to make financial transfers from the central government to local and regional governments in order to correct imbalances between the tasks assigned to them and their limited resources. Local and regional governments should also have the legal power to set their own taxes, with the aim of effectively implementing their locally defined development pathways and ensuring accountability to local communities
- Capacity building of local and regional governments in relation to the SDGs, empowering them to maximize their contributions, even in the face of limited competencies
- Measures to monitor and assess the performance of local and regional governments, as well as to support them to improve over time
- A national urban strategy that takes the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III into account, along with the financial and technical arrangements and capacities necessary to implement it

Local and regional governments should call for their central governments to implement the “international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all” adopted by the Governing Council of UN Habitat in 2007/2009. The Guidelines lay out the principles for the effective decentralization of responsibilities, policy management, decision making authority and sufficient resources, including revenue collection authority.

¹ Stephenson 2013. Twenty years of multi-level governance: Where Does It Come From? What Is It? Where Is It Going? [[Go to the source](#)]
Source: International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for all, UN-Habitat [[Go to the source](#)]

Projects

1. Tax reduction for the installation of solar panels (40% on the property tax-IBI-)
2. Extension of the deterrent car park network aimed at reducing vehicle entry into the city and promoting public transport, thus improving the city's environmental quality
3. Accession to the Covenant of Mayors and the Declaration of Cities (COP21) with the commitment to reduce the emissions of the city by 35% (period 2005-2020)
4. Re-use of heat energy from the sewage system to heat the swimming pool of Moratalaz Sports Center
5. Renewal of the public fleet of the Municipal Transport Company: 100% electric vehicles and vehicles with natural gas or hybrid Euro IV
6. Future project to promote greater efficiency in the selective collection of domestic waste, implementing the container of exclusively organic waste
7. Program Madrid + Nature. Adaptation to climate change based on nature (more parks in the city, plantation of trees), creation of 22 urban gardens

Targets

10.2: Social, economic and political inclusion

11.3: Sustainable urbanization and human settlement planning

11.4: Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.7: Safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces

6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution, recycling and safe reuse

7.3: Energy efficiency

12.5: Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

13.2: Integrate climate change measures

15.5: Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems

6.4: Water-use efficiency

Different targets, specially **10.2:** Social, economic and political inclusion

1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty

11.1: Access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women

6a.: International cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water, and sanitation-related activities

8.6: Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

7a.: Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy

12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices

16.7: Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making

7.2: Renewable energy

11.6: Reduce environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

SDG Indicators

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage

6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated

11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected

12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in cities

6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management

13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan on climate change

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions

11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use

11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment

6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance

7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line

7.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

15.5.1 Red List Index

12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports

Mobilizing Local Resources

1. Mobilizing Local Resources

In a context of scarce resources, local budgets should be efficiently aligned with the priorities identified and established in the local or regional development plans. This implies allocating or reallocating available resources to satisfy priorities aligned with the SDGs.

It is also important to **improve management skills** and capacities within institutions to ensure a more effective use of available resources. This includes:

- Improving organization schemes
- Tax management
- Budgeting (including participatory budgeting)
- Public procurement
- Transparency and fight against fraud and corruption
- Providing new and enhanced skills in local and regional government staff through capacity building initiatives in fields as diverse as public debt management and access to private loans

New partnerships are also needed to mobilize resources and expertise by partnering with the private sector (through public-private partnerships), communities (through public private-people-partnerships) and universities and research centers.

Alternative finance channels should not be neglected: crowdfunding, for instance, raises funds through small contributions from diverse individuals and organizations.

Local and regional governments may also need to consider working together to pool their services. Whether through informal mechanisms (such as a joint strategy by municipalities or regions to attract new businesses) or through more complex institutional forms of collaboration (ad-hoc associations, consortia etc.), such intermunicipal cooperation can free up extra resources by harnessing the cost advantages of economies of scale.

A lack of resources and capacities is particularly critical for many intermediary and small cities and rural municipalities and regions. For this reason, regions and intermediate governments play an important role in scaling up high value services and providing technical and financial support in the framework of territorial cooperation mechanisms.

2. Building capacities for effective and responsive leadership

The implementation of strategic projects and the achievement of the SDGs at local level require adequate infrastructures and equipment, access to technology and innovation as well as qualified human resources.

Capacity building is crucial for the transformation of a territory's human, scientific, technological, organizational and institutional capabilities. The achievement of the SDGs requires the empowerment of individuals, leaders, organizations and societies.

Building endogenous capacities within local and regional governments is necessary for institution-building, policy analysis and development management, including the assessment of alternative options. Such actions will enhance the actors' ability to respond to long term challenges rather than concentrating only on immediate problems. In order to achieve this, specific knowledge and skills are needed to perform tasks more efficiently, as well as a change of mind-sets and attitudes.

Peer-to-peer learning and capacity building to support local leadership and team-work can be an effective way to improve service delivery, change work streams, address needs, shortfalls and promote problem-based learning. Ideally, peer learning involves local and regional authorities of similar backgrounds, which maximizes management, political and territorial impact

3. Promoting ownership and co-responsibility for the implementation of strategic projects

The implementation of the strategic projects included in SDG-based plans (or aligned plans) needs the full involvement and participation of local stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, community-based organizations, research organizations, academia and individual citizens). This multi-stakeholder approach will create ownership and co-responsibility among all actors and serve to mobilize and reallocate resources effectively.

Over the last decade domestic resources have been the largest source of financing for development, and CSOs, the private sector and academia have a significant capacity to mobilize, not only financing, but also technology, innovation and talent for sustainable development. While the stakeholders have different interests, expectations and agendas and play different roles, they have a common goal in the sustainable and inclusive development of their territories. Their contribution through different phases (definition, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) can be defined according to their capacities and resources (technical, technological and financial resources, knowledge-based skills, and innovation).

So that local and regional plans accurately reflect local needs, it is crucial that public institutions promote the involvement of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable groups, through mechanisms that facilitate their participation. When citizens are involved in the planning stage of a plan or project, they are usually keener to participate in the implementing and monitoring stages too.

The diaspora can play a crucial role in development, with remittances serving as a powerful financial instrument to achieve SDG related projects at local level, especially in the fields of housing, health or education. In addition, diaspora may contribute with trade, technology and knowledge, also essential for the development of local projects. Harnessing remittances requires local understanding and commitment to action.

4. Development cooperation

Development cooperation partners can play a role in the implementation of the SDGs by supporting national reforms towards political and fiscal decentralization, and by providing resources, knowledge, experience, technology and innovation to reinforce the institutional and operational capacities of local and regional governments.

Local and regional governments can build direct partnerships with international and national agencies as well as other partners, such as philanthropic organizations, NGOs and the private sector, to access additional funds.

The international community is fostering changes in the way development cooperation is delivered. In order to align their vision and plan for resource allocation with the priorities of the SDGs, development cooperation partners are encouraged to move beyond country eligibility criteria and to work hand in hand with local and regional governments where needs are greatest, thus enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development.

A special effort is needed to align local and regional plans with development cooperation effectiveness principles. This implies going beyond an “aid” approach and building new partnerships for development. Official development cooperation counts now on decentralized cooperation, NGOs, and philanthropic institutions through a wide range of intervention schemes, including north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation.

5 .Decentralised cooperation

Decentralized cooperation partnerships are an optimal way to build platforms for local and regional governments to exchange knowledge and experiences, provide technical assistance, link societies together and generate exchanges among citizens, CSOs, the private sector and universities.

The universal nature of the Agenda is what allows decentralized cooperation to come into play and, what is more, to become an essential tool for the achievement of the SDGs. Indeed, local and regional governments usually face problems that other governments from around the world have already addressed before: the provision of good quality water (SDG 8), the extension of the bus line to enable slum children to attend school (SDGs 10, 11), capacity-building activities for local civil servants in the field of good governance (SDG 16)... It is clear that local and regional governments benefit from partnerships and platforms that foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences and the provision of technical assistance. The universality of the Agenda and the sharing of similar problems give a sense of horizontality,

mutual interest and bidirectionality to decentralized cooperation partners, thus breaking with the vertical, aid-centered approach.

Example: Decentralized cooperation to achieve SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth

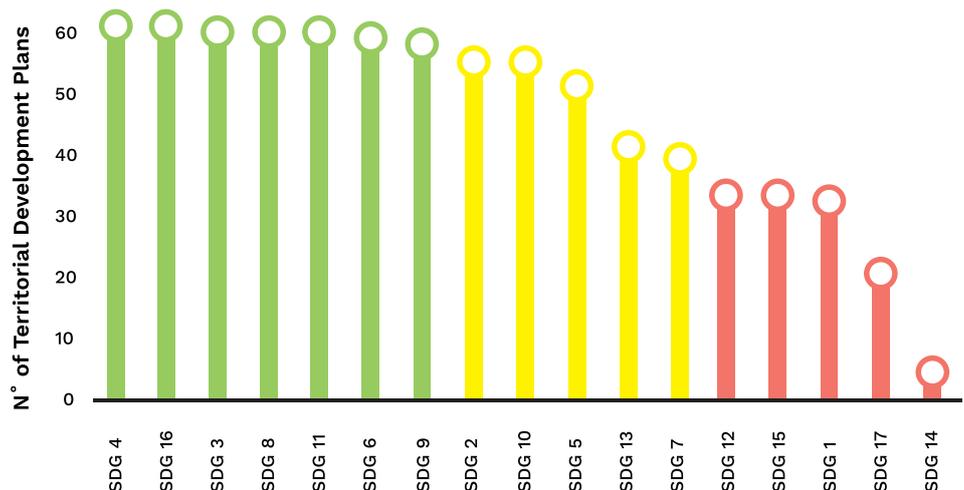
In 2012, in the framework of the localization of the decent work agenda, the ILO, UCLG and the city of Maputo organized a learning exchange in the Mozambican capital about the informal economy, particularly the conditions of informal vendors. The main guests were the cities of Durban, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre, who had the opportunity to share their extensive experience in the field. Other Mozambican cities, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector were also invited. The learning exchange resulted in the adoption of a roadmap on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for local governments and was followed by a series of technical visits and training sessions in 2013. Durban transferred its experience to informal vendors and municipal officers, while Belo Horizonte shared its expertise on the support of local economy and urbanization. The exchange demonstrated the strategic importance of food markets for local economic development, poverty reduction and cultural diversity, as well as the need for a local government South-South cooperation program. Since then, further peer-learning projects have been held in Barcelona, Lleida, Chefchaouen, Pasto and Borgou.

Colombia

Colombia was part of the 2016 voluntary national reviews. The voluntary report (in Spanish) presented to the HLPF2016 includes some interesting points for discussion:

- The SDGs conceived as a tool to build on the peace process
- Alignment of the National Development Plan with the SDGs
- Governance of the Agenda at national level: establishment of a High Level Commission on SDGs with the participation of representatives of the national government, local authorities and national stakeholders (CSOs, private sector, academia)
- Focus on the implementation at sub-national level. Alignment of sub-national plans with the SDGs (pages 10 to 14 of the full report), with detailed information on departments and cities that have already aligned their development plans and data on the top SDGs (SDG 4 and 16 are included in the 100% of the plans, and SDGs 3, 8 and 11 in the 98%).

Inclusion of SDGs in Territorial Development Plans



The report also shows which targets respond to sub-national competences (at department and city level). Sub-national governments are co-responsible in 30% of the 169 targets. The following are the targets most frequently included in city or department development plans:

- § 9.1 quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure
- § 10.2 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all
- § 4.1 ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- § 16.7 responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Source: Voluntary national reviews [<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>]