



## Data and indicators in VLR and VSR processes

Friday, July 16, 09:00 – 10:30 GTM / 11:00 -12.30 CEST / 05:00 – 06:30 EDT

Online event

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### Background

Since its adoption in 2015, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs came with a formal mechanism of quantitative monitoring that built on a complex system of indicators, developed by the IAEG-SDGs. The system includes 232 statistical indicators. The Expert Group took on the challenge of providing each one of them with adequate methodological rigor and detail to be universally available — a must-do for an agenda which is naturally transversal and all-encompassing.

Since the earliest moment, however, the system has posed several challenges in terms of data accessibility for other tiers of governance and subnational authorities. Disaggregation of most indicators at the local level is either incomplete or unavailable in many local contexts across most regions of the world.

This mismatch — the fact that some 65% of the actual Goals and targets cannot possibly be achieved without the contribution of local and regional governments, and that the very system created to monitor this achievement cannot be fully accessed and adopted by local governments because it lacks actual data, disaggregation and technical knowhow — has been at the core of the debate on indicators and the implementation of the Agenda since its inception, and it substantially affects localization too.

This debate has become even more central with the growing application of voluntary local reviews. Though VLRs cities and local governments have advanced reflections around data environments at local level, not only in terms of defining appropriate indicators to measure SDG progresses, but through the increased coordination with national counterparts – and specifically national statistical offices. VLRs allowed to complement existing information at national level with city level data. Though the participatory process involving local communities and stakeholders, cities were also able to collect non-traditional and qualitative data, often filling the gaps left by national datasets.

With this in mind, UN-Habitat has been traditionally engaged in supporting data environments at local level – with initiatives such as the City Prosperity Index. More recently, UN-Habitat has been tasked by



the UN General Assembly to lead the development of a harmonized set of indicators to track the progress of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda at the local level - **the *Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)***. Developed in consultation with a wide range of partners, the UMF harmonizes existing indexes, while incorporating rural-urban linkages and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The UMF is at the basis of UN-Habitat's approach to data and indicators for SDG localization, and specifically of the Agency's work on **Voluntary Local Reviews and SDG Cities flagship initiative**. In addition, the UMF is being digitized through a partnership with the Global CEO Alliance into a data entry and indexing system that allows cities to measure development performance. This is piloted through the SDG Cities Initiative and will be rolled out worldwide once the UMF is formally endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in the first half of 2022.

As a core set of urban indicators, the UMF is envisaged to be efficient – not be a burden on cities; effective – able to assist cities to track how they are progressing in their efforts to meet the SDGs and New Urban Agenda commitments and inform action; and, harmonised – data should be comparable. It can be complemented with additional sets of indicators allowing deeper thematic analysis, and with geo-spatial and local perception indicators to understand differences experienced at district and sub-district levels of cities.

In complementarity with the UMF, and in support of VLR and SDG Cities, UN-Habitat developed the ***Waste Wise City Tool: Step by Step Guide to Assess City Municipal Solid Waste Management Performance*** through SDG 11.6.1 indicator monitoring. It consists of a rapid city waste assessment tool that can help cities to track progress against the Waste Management related SDGs (SDG 11.6.1, 12.3.1.b, 12.5.1). The tool quantifies Municipal Solid Waste generated, collected and managed in controlled facilities by the city together with waste composition. The tool allows cities not only to monitor and report on SDG 11.6, but on 12.3.1.b food waste loss and 12.5.1 recycling rate. A strong linkage was made with another tool called Waste Flow Diagram developed by GIZ, that estimates the plastic leakage from municipal solid waste management systems. With application so far in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya, UN-Habitat now aims to scale up its approach to help 50 other cities—including Lagos, Karachi, Manila, Jakarta, Dar es Salaam, Santo Domingo, and Lima—as they develop plans for improved municipal solid waste collection. Using the concept of SDG 11.6.1, UN-Habitat and UNEP will also soon publish a global modelling of marine litter hotspot cities that require urgent waste management intervention.

To contribute to the debate on the state of art of the localization of the indicators, a ***Comparative study on SDG monitoring systems at local and regional level*** developed jointly by different partners (Andalusian Agency of International Development Cooperation, the Provincial Government of Barcelona, UNDP and UCLG), will make the point of the progress made by different initiatives in different countries.



**VLR/VSR**  
**DAYS** JULY 14-16  
2021  
1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION - HLPF

## Agenda

Time CEST	Session
11.00 – 11.15am	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shipra Narang</b>, Chief Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat</li><li>• <b>Edgardo Bilsky</b>, Research Unit Coordinator, UCLG</li></ul>
11.15 – 11.40am	<b>Presentation of UN-Habitat approach to data and indicators for SDG localization and VLRs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dyfed Aubrey, SDGs Cities flagship coordinator:</b> UN-Habitat approach to data and indicators for SDG localizations – SDG Cities-UMF-VLRs (10min)</li><li>• <b>Nao Takeuchi, Waste Management Expert:</b> Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT): localizing waste SDG (10min)</li><li>• <b>María Luz Ortega Carpio, Director, Andalusian Agency of International Development Cooperation (AACID):</b> Report presentation on Comparative Study on SDGs monitoring systems at local and regional level</li></ul>
11.40am – 12.30pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <p><b>Moderator: Ainara Fernandez</b>, Research Officer at UCLG</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bruna Starling</b>, Advisor of Multilateral International Affairs and City Networks, Municipal Government of Sao Paulo, Brazil</li><li>• <b>Frida Leander</b>, Agenda 2030 Sustainability Strategist, Agenda 2030 Sustainability Strategist, City of Malmo, Sweden</li><li>• <b>Angela Kim</b>, SDG Program and Data Manager at Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, USA</li><li>• <b>Norliza Hashim</b>, Chief Executive, Urbanice Malaysia</li></ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>