



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SALGA

**Series on Effective Governance and the Quintet of Change
for the Implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals**

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- Strategies and policies required to effectively localize the SDGs.
- Resources be allocated to support local governments and stakeholders in implementing SDG targets and initiatives
- Alignment between national development plans and localized SDG strategies to maximise effectiveness and coherence
- Mechanisms established to ensure active participation and representation of local communities in the localization process?
- Challenges related to capacity building, data availability and monitoring mechanisms at the local level be addressed
- Marginalized groups not left behind in localizing the SDGs
- Examples of effective national to local coordination for SDGs localization
- Role of SDG Champions



Strategies	Policies	Municipal-Level Initiatives
Develop a National and SALGA's SDG Localization Framework	Municipal Systems Act (2000) amendments to incorporate SDGs.	1 Develop municipal SDG plans and strategies.
Conduct SDG needs assessments and baseline studies.	SDG-aligned budgeting and resource allocation.	Establish SDG coordination units.
Integrate SDGs into municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).	Local Economic Development (LED) policies.	Conduct regular progress reports.
Establish SDG-focused ward committees.	Community-based planning and participatory budgeting.	Engage with local communities through public hearings.
Foster partnerships with civil society, private sector, and academia.	SDG-focused human settlements and infrastructure development.	Foster inter-municipal cooperation.



National Budget Allocation	Municipal Budget Allocation
Designate SDG-specific funding within national budgets.	Prioritize SDG-related initiatives in municipal budgets.
Allocate resources to municipalities for SDG implementation.	Ensure budget alignment with national SDG priorities.
International Funding	Private Sector Engagement
Access international funding opportunities (e.g., UN, EU, World Bank).	Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for SDG-related projects.
Leverage South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
Civil Society and Community Funding	Innovative Financing Mechanisms
Grants for community-led SDG initiatives.	Social Impact Bonds.
Capacity-building programs for civil society organizations.	Green Bonds. ³ SDG-themed bonds.
Resource Mobilization Frameworks	Stakeholder Engagement
Develop national SDG resource mobilization strategies.	Multi-stakeholder forums for resource mobilization.
2. Establish municipal SDG funding frameworks.	SDG-focused dialogues with private sector, civil society, and academia

- Ensuring alignment between national development plans and localized SDG strategies in South Africa requires a multi-faceted approach. To start, Institutional Alignment is crucial, which involves mapping the National Development Plan to the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. This exercise helps identify areas of overlap and ensures coherence between national and local development plans.
- Integrated Planning is also essential, where local governments integrate SDGs into their development plans and strategies. This can be achieved through participatory budgeting, community engagement, and capacity building for local government officials.
- Policy Frameworks play a vital role in supporting alignment. South Africa's National Development Plan and the Municipal Systems Act provide a foundation for localized SDG implementation. Additionally, the African Union's Agenda 2063 provides a continental framework for development.
- Stakeholder Engagement is critical, involving government departments, civil society, private sector, and local communities in the planning and implementation process. Regular progress reviews and assessments ensure that localized SDG strategies remain aligned with national development plans.
- Capacity Building and Technology-enabled Participation can also enhance alignment. Training programs for local government officials and community leaders, combined with innovative technologies, can facilitate community engagement and participation.
- Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks should be established to track progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies accordingly. By adopting these strategies, South Africa can ensure effective alignment between national development plans and localized SDG strategies, maximizing coherence and impact.



Institutional Mechanisms	Community Engagement
Ward Committees: Established by the Municipal Systems Act (2000) to facilitate community participation	Public hearings: Regular meetings for community input
Community Development Forums: Platforms for community engagement and planning	Community outreach programs: Educate communities on localization.
Local Economic Development (LED) Forums: Foster community involvement in economic development	Feedback mechanisms: Ensure community concerns are addressed.
Participatory Budgeting	Representative Structures
Participatory Budgeting (PB) processes: Allow communities to influence budget allocation.	Community Representative Councils (CRCs): Represent community interests.
Community-based planning: Involves communities in identifying priorities.	Local Community Organizations (LCOs): Foster community participation.
Capacity Building	Technology-enabled Participation
Training for community leaders: Enhance capacity for effective participation.	Online platforms: Facilitate community engagement and feedback.
Community education: Raise awareness on localization.	Mobile applications: Enhance participation and access to information

Capacity Building	Data Availability	Monitoring Mechanisms
Develop training programs for local government officials	Establish a national data repository.	Develop robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
Collaborate with universities and research institutions	Develop data collection guidelines and standards.	Establish local-level data collection systems.
Mentorship programs for local government officials	Conduct regular data collection and analysis	Conduct regular progress assessments.
Peer-to-peer learning exchanges.	Use technology (e.g., mobile apps) for data collection.	Use data to inform decision-making.
Online training platforms (UCLG & UN)	Partner with private sector for data sharing	Establish accountability mechanisms.

Technology and Innovation	Institutional Strengthening	Partnerships and Collaboration
Leverage geographic information systems (GIS) for data analysis.	Strengthen local government institutions.	Collaborate with international organizations (e.g., UNDP, UN-DESA, UN Habitat, EU, World Bank).
Utilize mobile technology for data collection.	Enhance coordination between national and local governments.	Partner with private sector companies
Develop data visualization tools.	Establish clear roles and responsibilities.	Engage with civil society organizations.
Implement electronic data management systems.	Foster partnerships with civil society organizations.	Foster inter-governmental partnerships.
Financial Resources		
Allocate budget for capacity building and data collection	Access international funding opportunities.	Leverage private sector funding.



Inclusive Planning and Decision-Making	Targeted Interventions	Data Collection and Analysis
Conduct participatory budgeting and planning processes.	Develop targeted programs for vulnerable populations (e.g., youth, women, people with disabilities).	Conduct regular disaggregated data collection.
Establish community-led development forums.	Implement affirmative action policies.	Monitor progress through SDG indicators.
Ensure representation of marginalized groups in decision-making bodies.	Provide access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.	Use data to identify and address disparities.
Capacity Building and Empowerment	Policy and Legislative Frameworks	
Provide training and capacity-building programs for marginalized groups.	Strengthen laws and policies protecting marginalized groups.	
Support community-led initiatives.	Ensure alignment with international human rights standards.	
Foster partnerships with civil society organizations.	Establish accountability mechanisms.	

1. Youth: Implement youth-focused education and employment programs.
2. Women: Promote gender equality through economic empowerment and decision-making opportunities.
3. People with Disabilities: Ensure accessibility and inclusive infrastructure.
4. Indigenous Communities: Recognize and protect indigenous rights.
5. LGBTQI+: Promote inclusivity and address discrimination.



National Initiatives

1. Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA): Developed Intermediate Cities Program focusing on local government's role in SDG implementation.
2. South African Local Government Association (SALGA): Established the "SDG Localization Program" to support municipalities in integrating SDGs into development plans.

Provincial Initiatives

1. Gauteng Province: Launched the "Gauteng SDG Framework" to guide provincial and local implementation.
2. Western Cape Province: Developed the "Western Cape SDG Implementation Plan" focusing on economic growth, education, and healthcare.

Local Government Initiatives

1. City of Johannesburg: Established the "Joburg 2040" strategy, aligning with SDGs and focusing on urban development, economic growth, and social inclusion.
2. eThekweni Municipality (Durban): Developed the "eThekweni SDG Implementation Plan" prioritizing climate change, poverty reduction, and infrastructure development.

Partnerships and Collaborations

1. South African SDG Partnership Platform: A multi-stakeholder platform connecting government, civil society, and private sector to support SDG localization (African Monitor and Kagiso Trust)
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Africa Supports national and local governments in SDG implementation through technical assistance and capacity building.



Appoint SDG Champions and follow these steps to develop strategies for implementing SDG projects:

- **Define the project's SDG alignment:** Clearly identify which SDG(s) the project addresses and how it contributes to achieving the goal(s).
- **Conduct a needs assessment:** Understand the context, identify stakeholders, and determine the project's scope.
- **Set clear objectives:** Establish specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives.
- **Identify target audiences:** Determine who the project will benefit and engage with.
- **Develop an implementation plan:** Outline activities, timelines, resources, and responsible personnel.
- **Establish partnerships:** Collaborate with stakeholders, organizations, and communities to leverage resources and expertise.
- **Secure funding:** Explore funding opportunities, develop a budget, and ensure financial sustainability.
- **Monitor and evaluate:** Track progress, assess impact, and make adjustments as needed.
- **Ensure inclusivity and equity:** Mainstream gender, accessibility, and cultural sensitivity throughout the project.
- **Communicate effectively:** Share project information, progress, and outcomes with stakeholders and the wider public.

Additionally, consider the following:

- Use a Theory of Change (ToC) framework to map out the project's logic and intended impact.
- Incorporate risk management and mitigation strategies.
- Ensure project sustainability and scalability.
- Foster a culture of innovation and learning.
- Embed SDG project implementation within existing organizational structures and processes.





"No one knows everything,
everyone knows something,
all knowledge resides in **networks.**"

Source : Pierre Lévy, *Collective Intelligence: Mankind's Emerging World in Cyberspace*, 1997

Lévy 1997

THANK YOU

