

Learning Module 1: Localizing the SDGs /Introduction

*“Our struggle for global sustainability
will be won or lost in cities”*

**Ban Ki-moon,
Former UN Secretary General**

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

In spite of an intergovernmental agreement, many local competences and tasks of LRGs **do contribute to the achievement of the Goals**

Waste management, access to basic services, water and sanitation, local provision of health and education services, all depend on LRGs in most regional and national contexts

It is calculated that 65% of the SDGs and their Targets **will inevitably depend on commitment and action by LRGs**

What does localizing the SDGs mean?

Localizing is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.

Localization relates both to:

1. how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs at national level through action from the bottom up
2. how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11

is the lynchpin of the localizing process. Its inclusion in the 2030 Agenda is the fruition of the advocacy work of the broad urban community. Linking SDG 11 up with the urban and territorial dimensions of the other 16 goals will be an essential part of the localization of the SDGs.

Why does localizing matter?

All of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services.

“Many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities.”

**Synthesis Report of the
UN Secretary General**

Why does localizing matter?

Local spaces are ultimately the key site of delivery and development and as such local government is central to the success of sustainable development.

South African Local Government Association – SALGA

Subnational governments should not be seen as mere implementers of the Agenda. Subnational governments are policy makers, catalysts of change and the level of government best-placed to link the global goals with local communities.

What Local Governments need to know, UCLG

10 reasons why SDGs are important for LRGs

1. Shared narrative
2. Integral framework
3. Involvement in the global community
4. Recognition and legitimation of LRGs as key actors of the global sustainable development
5. Enables LRGs to claim for better political and economic frameworks at national level
6. Recognizes LRGs leadership at territorial level
7. Mobilize domestic and international financial resources
8. Access to capacity building initiatives
9. Reinforcement of statistical institutions
10. Roadmap for decentralised cooperation