Localizing the SDGs in Malaysia

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Unpacking **Localization** in Malaysia
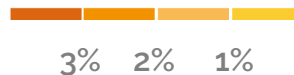
HDI Rank

1 st

59th

188 th

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Kuala Lumpur

Poverty Rate by States

3%   2%   1%

10% of the population

have

34.6% of the income

0.6% (by national poverty line)

ARE POOR

2.7% (by international poverty line)

5 Pillars of New Urban Agenda Implementation

1. **National Urban Policies**
2. **Urban governance, legislation and regulations**
3. **Urban planning and design**
4. **Local economy and municipal finance**
5. **Local implementation**

Governance a key priority in the **reform agenda**

Governance reform placed as Pillar 1 in the Mid-Term Review of the 11th Malaysia Plan.

Governance continues to be a key development priority in upcoming 12th Malaysia Plan.

21 of 60 commitments in Pakatan Harapan Manifesto related to good governance.

Local Government at the heart of the SDGs

- **Governance reform thus far focused mainly at the national/federal level, and there is increasing recognition of the crucial role that state and local governments play in achieving and sustaining Malaysia's reform agenda.**

- **SDGs are not only about achieving the national averages but about ensuring that everybody enjoys the development gains.**

- **This makes state and local governments an *indispensable partner* – full and active engagement is needed to accelerate progress on the SDGs, including SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.**

What are the incentives for 'localization'?

- **Leave no one behind and Leave no place behind**
- **Strengthened awareness and capacity development** of citizens, organizations and institutions for sustainable development
- **Access to development resources**
- **Involvement in the global community**
- **Aligned global, national and local political and economic frameworks**
- **'Sustainable Development Roadmap'** for mayors and local leaders for decentralized cooperation

How can the SDGs be localized **in cities**?

- **Initiate an inclusive and participatory process**: Raising awareness of the SDGs and engaging stakeholder collaboration to achieve the goals and targets.

- **Set the local SDG agenda:** Translating the global SDGs into an ambitious yet realistic agenda that is tailored to the local development context.

- **Plan for SDG implementation**: Pursuing goal-based planning principles and mechanisms for more sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes.

- **Support capacity development and mobilize funding/resources**: Assessing institutional and organizational capacity and funding gaps

- **Monitor and evaluate:** Ensuring that SDG implementation remains on track, and developing local capacity for more responsive and accountable governance.

UNDP's work: SDGs localization + Subnational engagement

Governance

- Strengthening **local governance** through vertical assessments of planning and budgeting at subnational level.

- "All About SDGs" Campaign" partnering with **city councils across Malaysia** to promote awareness and implementation of SDGS among local communities in urban centres.

UNDP's work: SDGs localization + Subnational engagement

Inclusive Development and Growth

- Collaborating with Iskandar Regional Development Authority to set up a centralized data analytics centre (Iskandar Malaysia Urban Observatory) to provide evidence-based policies for regional development. The project will engage with 5 local councils as well as state level agencies on data management & coordination for improved urban service delivery in line with the SDGs.

UNDP's work: SDGs localization + Subnational engagement

Sustainable and Resilient Development

- Green Technology Application for the Development of Low Carbon Cites (GTALCC) project works with **9 local authorities in 5 urban centers (Putrajaya, Iskandar Malaysia, Cyberjaya, Petaling Jaya and Hang Tuah Jaya)** to implement sustainable city solutions, strengthen institutions and to improve policies and processes in city planning to urgently address the climate crisis.

UN-Habitat: SDGs localization + Tools and resources

City Prosperity Initiative

- A platform for urban data collection, developed to formulate evidence based decision making and monitoring for cities, as a response to the demand of local authorities in need of a tool which measures the **prosperity and sustainability** of cities

- Successfully utilized by **over 400 cities** around the world.

- **6 dimensions** of CPI including urban governance; productivity; infrastructure development; quality of life; equality and social inclusion; and environmental sustainability.

UN-Habitat: SDGs localization + Tools and resources

Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme

- Generation of a **city-wide profile of informal settlements** which is community-led, participatory, coordinated by local or city government and helps mobilize citywide pooling of funds.

- Applying the **Social Tenure Domain Model** software and other related land tools to establish a learning hub and provide more accurate and better management of data.

- **Transferring expertise** to the communities themselves.

UN-Habitat: SDGs localization + Tools and resources

Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urbanization

- **Provide capacity development programmes to local authorities' leaders to implement sustainable urban development and increase their leadership and technical capacities.**

- **Assist newly-elected mayors to become knowledgeable and committed to the global development agendas and the contributions of cities.**

- **Increase the use of sustainable urban development tools, resources and technical solutions by newly-elected mayors in the region; as well as city-to-city cooperation opportunities.**

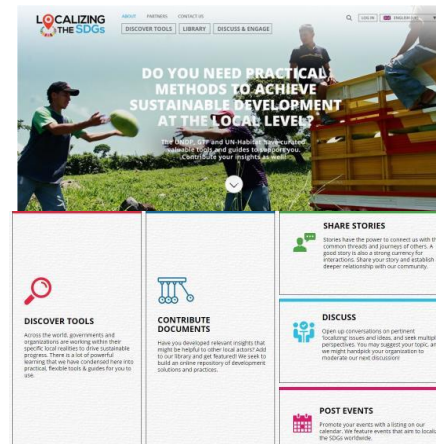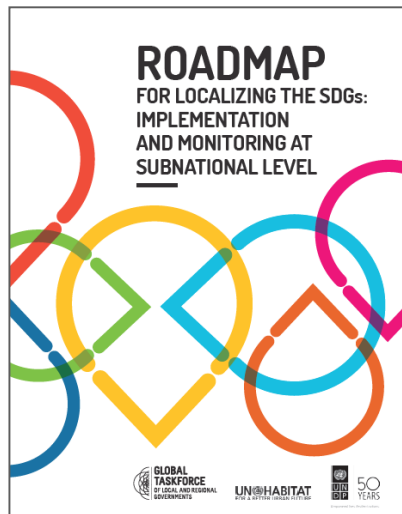- **Establish a regional network of informed mayors and local leaders.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen local budgeting through fiscal decentralization: reassign certain expenditure responsibilities from federal to state and local governments such as selected aspects of education, transport and enforcement.**
- **Enhance transparency and introduce participatory budgeting at state and local government levels.**
- **Strengthen local planning through increased public engagement and community participation in planning and decision-making processes**
- **Improve horizontal (between government agencies dealing with development planning and spatial planning) and vertical interaction (between state/local authorities on development issues).**
- **Encourage cities to undertake Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of the SDGs.**
- **Develop a set of localized indicators, specific to the state or territory.**

www.local2030.org

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SDGs