

# ***Introduction to SDGs and SDG Localization***

Gonzalo Pizarro

*SDG Integration Advisor*



# AGENDA

## ➤ *Introduction to SDGs*

- ✓ *SDG principles*
- ✓ *SDGs and the 5 Ps*

## ➤ *SDG Localization*

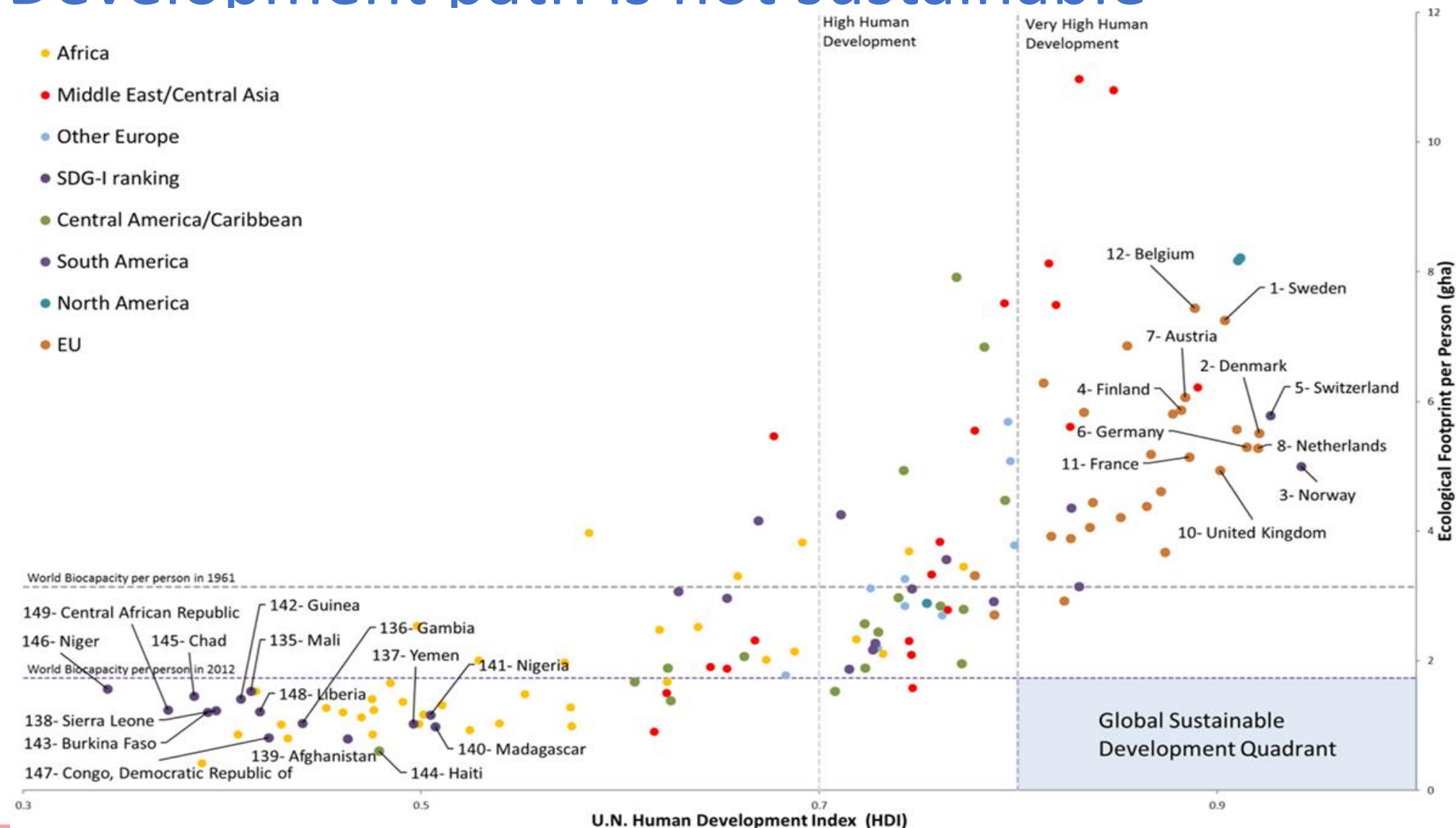
- ✓ *Concept and importance*
- ✓ *Context in Iraq*
- ✓ *Regional Challenges to localizing SDGs*
- ✓ *Role of local governments*



# *1. Introduction to the SDGs*



# Development path is not sustainable



# SDG Principles



## UNIVERSALITY

- **Implies that goals and targets are relevant to all governments and actors:**
- Universality does not mean uniformity. It implies differentiation (What can each country contribute?)



## INTEGRATION

- **Policy integration means balancing all three SD dimensions: social, economic growth and environmental protection**
- An integrated approach implies managing trade-offs and maximizing synergies across targets



## NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

- **The principle of 'no one left behind' advocates countries to go beyond averages.**
- The SDGs should benefit all – eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities.
- Promotion and use of disaggregated data is key





# Universality



- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are relevant to all countries, governments and actors. This implies:
  - Countries share the responsibility for the implementation of the agenda globally (*according to their capacities and resources*)
  - Developing countries will require additional resources and strengthened international cooperation
  - Addressing cross-border challenges that require a collective response (climate change, immunization)
  - International enabling environment

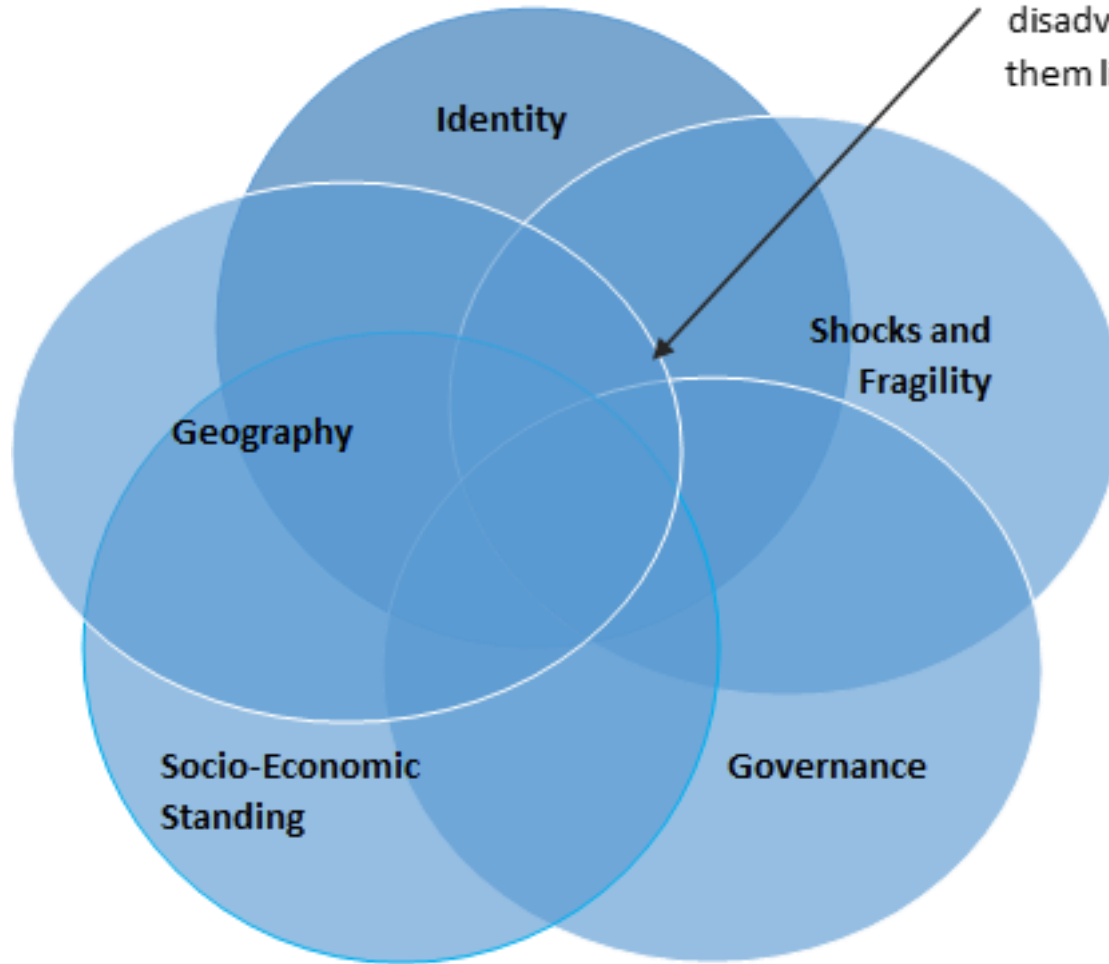


# SDGs and the 5 dimensions of sustainable development



# Key Drivers of Being Left Behind

Those affected by intersecting drivers endure reinforcing sources of disadvantage and deprivation, making them likely among the furthest behind



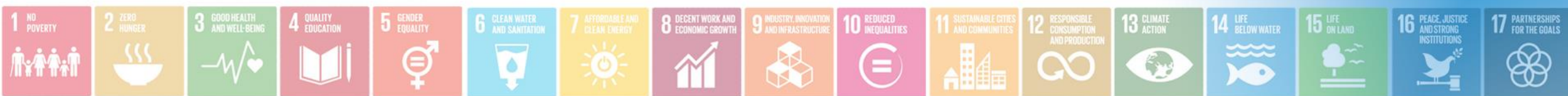


# SDGs as an integrated system

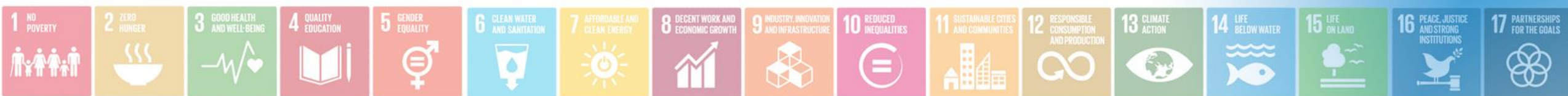
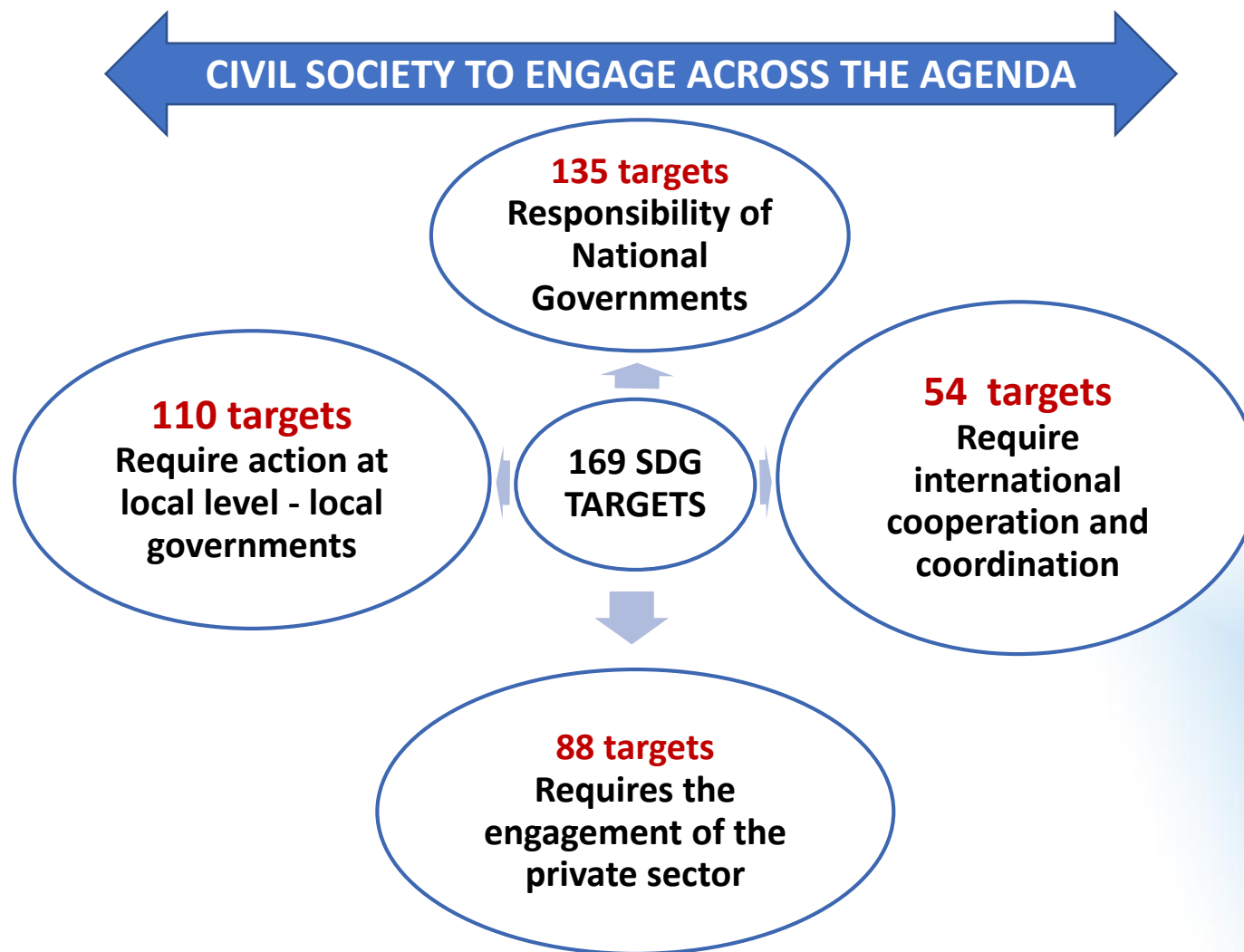


*More than half of the SDG targets make an explicit reference to at least another goal*

- ***“Everything depends on everything else”***: it is all about systems thinking and approach
- This may facilitate cross-sector integration of policy thinking and implementation
- Positive/Negative trade-offs



# SDGs require multi-stakeholders partnerships



## 2. *SDG Localization*



# Concept of SDG Localization

- Evolving definitions – paradigm shift with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and creation of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments co-led by UCLG
  - *“Localizing [the SDGS] is not the parachuting of global goals into local contexts. It means implementing global agendas in cities and territories to achieve local and global goals. It is a process of harnessing local opportunities, priorities and ideas”*





# Why is SDG Localization central to achieving the 2030 Agenda ?



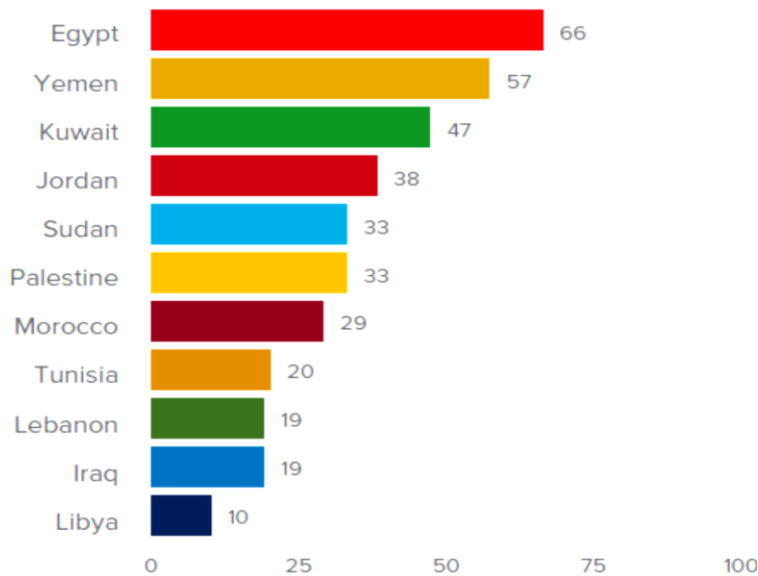
- Two thirds of the targets call for actions at the local level
- Delivery of the SDGs take place at local spaces
- Bringing the SDGs to the local level ensures that those at risk of being left behind are fully considered
- Allows considering the different development contexts within a country
- COVID-19 has left a lasting impact on global economic, political and social stability
  - Exacerbated existing inequalities, particularly for the most vulnerable populations
  - Pressure on local and regional governments
    - *Oil-rich countries* - decrease in the demand limited their ability to provide adequate stimulus recovery package
    - *Middle income countries* – decline in economic activities constrained their delivery of services and stimulus recovery package
    - *Crisis affected countries* - the pandemic has added another layer to the already existing crisis complicating humanitarian actions as well as efforts to forge peace



# Regional Context

- Diverse picture of development outcomes across the Arab States.
  - The region scores low on SDG achievement with an average score of 58 out of 100
  - Countries suffering from conflict and poverty remain the furthest away from achieving the SDGs

**Institutional Trust: Government**  
% saying they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust



- Weak state systems and fragility compounded by detrimental characteristics (excessive centralization, concentration of economic and political power with elite groups, high levels of inequality, and limitations of economic opportunities)
- Lack of political stability
- Absence of meaningful social contracts between governments and populations across the region

	COUNTRY NAME	INDEX SCORE (0-100)	
	Jordan	67.4	
	Tunisia	67.3	
	United Arab Emirates	67.0	
	Algeria	67.0	
	Morocco	66.7	
	Oman	66.2	
	Lebanon	63.6	
	Egypt	63.6	
	Qatar	61.5	
	Saudi Arabia	60.9	
	Kuwait	59.8	
	Iraq	59.3	
	Bahrain	57.6	
	Libya	57.1	
	Mauritania	52.2	
	Djibouti	50.8	
	Syrian Arab Republic	50.8	
	Sudan	50.2	
	Yemen	46.6	
	Comoros	44.5	
	Somalia	42.3	



# Iraq Context



## CURRENT ASSESSMENT – SDG DASHBOARD



■ SDG achieved 
 ■ Challenges remain 
 ■ Significant challenges remain 
 ■ Major challenges remain 
 ■ Data unavailable

## SDG TRENDS



↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement 
 ↗ Moderately improving 
 → Stagnating 
 ↓ Decreasing 
 ●● Data unavailable

- Iraq's SDG Ranking in the region is of 12 out of 21
- Significant and major challenges remain with moderate improvement
- Still excessive centralization, high levels of inequality, and limitations of economic opportunities



# Overview of the identified challenges to localizing the SDGs in the region



## Conceptual clarity on what SDG Localization means

- Not yet a complete clarity on SDG Localization at the global level - often seen as adaptation of the 2030 Agenda in the national context
- Frequently confused with SDG implementation, data and M&E and used interchangeably

## SDG Localization is perceived as a luxury problem among government counterparts in conflict-affected settings

- Lack of political and administrative prioritization
- Lack of financial and technical capacity and coordination in public sector
- Absence of quality data to set baselines and monitor progress

## Uneven level, quality and coherence of programming and partnerships rooted in SDG Localization

- No coherent baseline or clear standards for UNDP programming on SDG Localization that UNDP COs are committed to
- Few full-fledged comprehensive Localization initiatives





# Role of local governments in increasing citizen understanding of localizing SDGs



- Well placed to raise awareness about the importance of the SDGs and their relevance to local communities
- Strong role in fostering the involvement of civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and other community-based organizations
- Locally elected leaders have a democratic accountability which constitutes a powerful tool to drive the achievement of the SDGs at local level



# Enablers for SDG Localization

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Strengthening Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms that link ministries, different levels of governments and non-state actors

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Data generation and management for SDG Localization

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Strengthening participatory approaches to Localization in the region

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Harnessing social and digital innovation to unleash the SDG Localization potential

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Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

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Financing for SDG Localization

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# Q&A

