SALGA VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL REVIEW (VSR) 2024
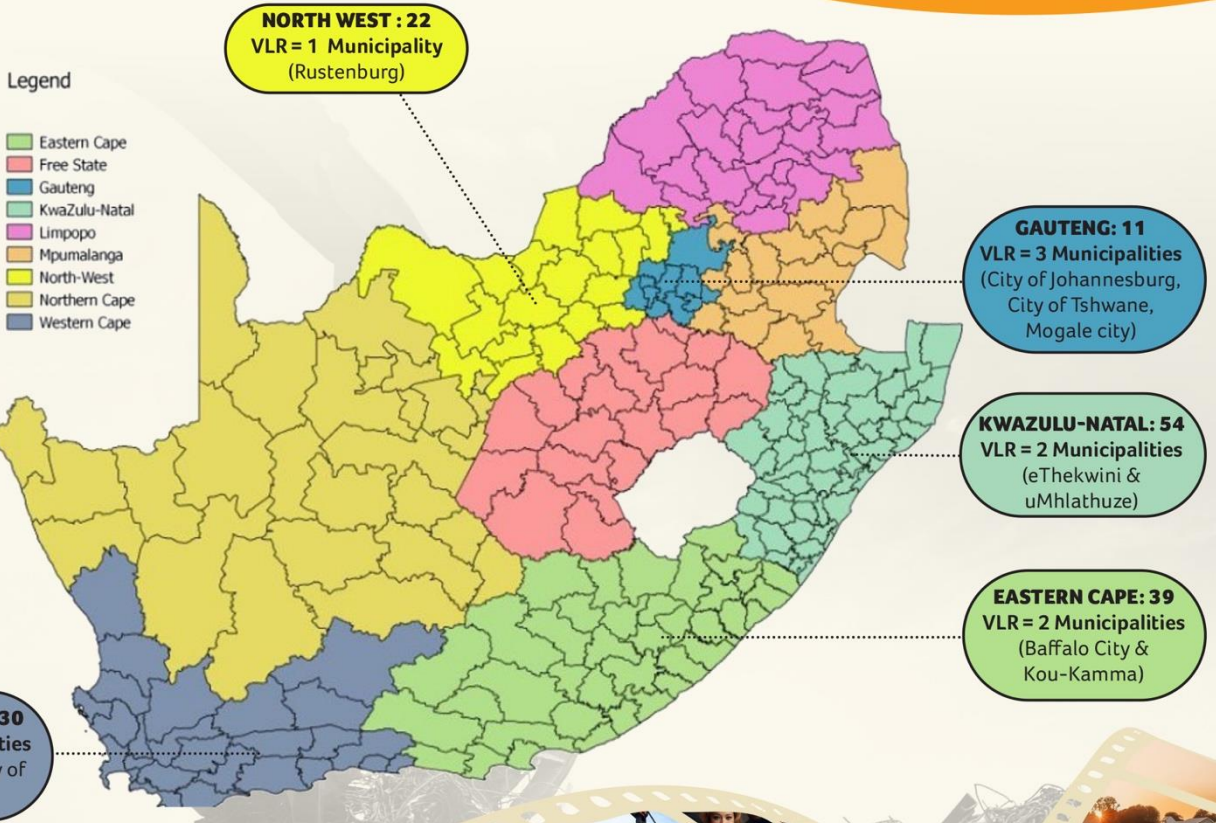
NORTH WEST : 22
VLR = 1 Municipality
(Rustenburg)

GAUTENG: 11
VLR = 3 Municipalities
(City of Johannesburg,
City of Tshwane,
Mogale city)

KWAZULU-NATAL: 54
VLR = 2 Municipalities
(eThekwini &
uMhlathuze)

EASTERN CAPE: 39
VLR = 2 Municipalities
(Baffalo City &
Kou-Kamma)

WESTERN CAPE: 30
VLR = 2 Municipalities
(Mossel Bay & City of
Cape Town)

Legend

- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North-West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape

SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AM	Asset Management
AU	African Union
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South africa
CA	Contribution Agreement
CBPEP	Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COEGA IDZ	Coega Industrial Development Zone
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
CSOs	Civic Society Organisations
CoGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DEDEAT	Dept. of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (Eastern Cape)
DPM&E	Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
DPRT	Department of Public Works Roads and Transport
DDM	District Development Model
DMP	Disaster Management Plan
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
ESKOM	Electricity Supply Commission
EU	European Union
FCM	Federation of Canadian Municipalities
FBS	Free Basic Services
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ICLD	International Centre for Local Democracy
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LED	Local Economic Development
LG	Local Government
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework

M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MISA	Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent
MSA	Municipal Structure Act
MSA	Municipal Systems Act
NCCRP	National Climate Change Response Policy
NEC	National Executive Committee (SALGA)
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSSDAP	National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PEC	Provincial Executive Committee (SALGA)
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SALGAWC	South African Local Government Women Commission
SARO	Southern Africa Regional Office
STATS SA	Statistics South Africa
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TOR	Terms of Reference
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UN	United Nations
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UAE	United Arab Emirates
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VSR	Voluntary Subnational Review
VVSG	Vereniging van Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten
WRC	Water Research Commission

Statement by SALGA President, Cllr Bheke Stofile

SALGA Voluntary Subnational Reviews offer a unique opportunity for cities, intermediate cities and rural municipalities to assess their progress, identify gaps, and showcase innovative solutions. "The NEC approved the participation of SALGA and support provided to municipalities through the "Accelerating the localization of SDG program through Volunteer Local reviews". The SDGs remain a truly inspiring and unifying compass and transformative progress can be made even in the face of adversity. What's more, this generation is equipped with knowledge, technologies, and resources unprecedented in history and can draw on a wide range of normative frameworks. Breaking through to a better future for all demands that we put this advantage to use to lift hundreds of millions out of poverty, advance gender equality, put our world on a low-emissions pathways by 2030, and secure human rights for all. By sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, we can catalyze collective action and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Through these reviews, we can:
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Enhance policy coherence and coordination
- Mobilize resources and investments
- Empower local communities and promote inclusive growth

Let us work together to unleash the potential of subnational governments and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Today, we embark on a journey to share knowledge, inspire action, and shape a more sustainable future for all. Delivering change at the speed and scale required by the SDGs demands from public institutions and political leaders than ever before. It requires bold decisions, the transfer of resources from one sector to another, the creation of a new regulatory environment, the appropriate deployment of new technologies, the advancement of longer-term holistic perspectives, the mobilizing of a wide range of actors and the capacity to advance disruptive change while strengthening trust and social cohesion.

Overview by Lance Joel, Acting CEO of SALGA

I am honored to provide an overview of SALGA's Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) as the Acting CEO.

SALGA's VSRs are a groundbreaking initiative aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level. By voluntarily reviewing our progress, we demonstrate our commitment to transparency, accountability, and collaboration.

Key highlights of our VSRs include:

- Integrated urban planning and development
- Improved access to basic services like water, sanitation, and energy
- Enhanced data-driven decision making and monitoring
- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders
- Increased community engagement and participation

Our VSRs have yielded significant results, including:
- Enhanced capacity building for local government officials.
- Strengthened partnerships with international organizations, national government and stakeholders
- Innovative financing mechanisms mobilized

By accelerating progress towards SDG 11 and related SDGs, SALGA report on Volunteer Subnation Review can contribute to the overall success of the 2030 Agenda.

We recognize challenges persist, but our VSRs have positioned us for accelerated progress. We will continue to drive this agenda, ensuring that our efforts leave no one behind.

Thank you.

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Key Highlights

- SALGA has integrated the SDGs into municipal plans and budgets.
- Municipalities have reported improvements in service delivery, such as increased access to clean water and sanitation.
- Municipalities have developed innovative solutions, like green infrastructure and renewable energy projects.
- SALGA has facilitated community engagement and participation in SDG implementation.
- Established Municipal Public Accounts Committees in all 257 municipalities.
- Developed Community of Practice for Asset Management integrating Climate Change through Building Inclusive Green Municipalities.
- Developed SALGA Waste Management Application with VVSG.

Key Messages

- Subnational governments are crucial for SDG implementation and leveraging SDG11 to accelerate implementation of all SDGs at the local level.
- Adopting integrated urban planning approaches has improved access to basic services and drives sustainable urban development.
- Sustainable Development Goals implementation at Subnational level requires an integrated approach, cutting across national and provincial departments.
- Local governments have established inclusive and participatory governance structures, engaging citizens and stakeholders in decision-making processes.
- Empowering subnational governments to take ownership of SDG implementation
- Access to reliable data and evidence is critical for tracking progress, informing decision-making and identifying areas for improvement.
- Significant progress has been made in increasing access to water, sanitation, and energy, benefiting over 50 million people.

- Effective collaboration among local governments, STATS SA, National government, and civic society organizations and United Nations agencies (UNDP, UN-DESA and UN-Habitat).
- SALGA is collaborating with UCLGA (United Cities and Local Governments of Africa) and UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) on SDGs through Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) to strengthen a coordinated approach.
- Subnational governments require adequate financing to deliver SDG-related services and infrastructure.

Challenges

- Insufficient funding for the implementation of SDG projects and programs.
- Limited technical capacity and skills hinder effective SDG implementation.
- Inadequate data and monitoring systems pose challenges in tracking progress. Insufficient capacity and resources at the local level.
- Limited private sector engagement and investment in SDGs.
- Addressing the unique challenges of urban and rural areas.
- Siloed approaches and lack of coordination among stakeholders hinder effective implementation.

Future Plans

Table 1: Future Plans

VSR	VLR	Common Plan
Increase the number of sector departments participating in VSRs	Encourage more local governments to conduct VLRs.	Strengthen coordination between VSRs and VLRs.
Conduct more in-depth analysis of SDG implementation at the subnational level	Develop a standardized approach to VLRs.	Encourage national governments to support and utilize VSRs and VLRs.
Improve the quality and consistency of VSR reports	Provide training and support for local governments to conduct VLRs.	Utilize technology to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting.
Foster greater engagement with civil society (African Monitor, Sonke Gender Justice, Kagiso Trust etc., private sector, SEZ and other stakeholders (Cities Network, GIZ, UN agencies, Universities, National Business Initiative (NBI)	Encourage collaboration among local governments to share best practices.	Facilitate global knowledge sharing and exchange among subnational and local governments
Consider focusing VSRs on specific SDG themes or goals	Consider innovative reporting formats, such as digital platforms or infographics.	Facilitate city to city cooperations (Twinning Arrangements) Joint development projects and initiatives to achieve SDGs
Establish community of practice platforms within SALGA	Scale up integrated urban planning to all municipalities.	Establish National Urban Forum to accelerate SDGs
Mobilize 200 million in innovative financing for SDG projects.		

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as Global Goals are a set of 17 integrated goals to end poverty, protect the planet, reduce inequality, and ensure that humanity enjoys peace and prosperity by 2023. SALGAs reporting on the SDGs through Voluntary Subnational reviewer is important in communicating to member municipalities, stakeholders the organisations commitment to contributing to the Global Goals, asserting accountability and responsibility as the lead Continental Association to take the necessary actions and measuring progress in the next six (6) years of the remaining years of SDG implementation of Agenda 2030.

Localization of Sustainable Development Goals, anchored on the principle of multilevel governance and multistakeholder collaboration, is recognized as a key approach to collectively propel municipalities and governments toward greater inclusion and sustainability. Local and Regional Governments have a key role to play in this process as the 65% of the SDG targets are linked to their work and mandates. Being the sphere of government closest to local communities, they are essential for responding to the erosion of the social contract and protecting our societies amidst intersecting global crises.

This initiative builds on the findings of a concertation with Volunteer Local Reviews program stakeholders exploring pathways in advancing the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals as prioritised in the National Development Plan 2030. The National Development Plan (NDP) offers a long-term perspective. It defines a desired destination and identifies the role different sectors of society need to play in reaching that goal. The project addresses the integration of IDPs and SDGs, mainstreaming, implementation, and monitoring challenges of the Agenda 2030. As such this project aims to improve national technical and institutional capacities for the SDG 11, starting with planning, alignment implementation and monitoring of the SDGs within Government, Provincial and local governments, and Civic Society Organisations.

Project results will drive from the following lines of support:

1. Coordination and advisory support to the National Planning Commission and the National Committee on Sustainable Development and Statistics South Africa on mainstreaming of the SDGs and targets and indicators in the NDP and other national strategic frameworks in line with national priorities.

2. Supporting the government with the localization of the SDGs.

3. Promoting integrated approaches to SDG implementation starting with the mainstreaming gender equality, equity and women' and youth's empowerment, environmental, economic emancipation.

4. Promoting governance, inclusion & peace, justice and building strong local government, infrastructures issues and related SDGs in national planning and monitoring frameworks, building capacities for integrated, inter-sectoral approaches to SDG based planning.

5. Reinforcing SDG data collection, management and dissemination capacities and supporting an integrated monitoring and reporting framework for the SDGs/NDP, including support to the preparation of its national volunteer review report and Volunteer Subnational and Volunteer Local reviews.

SDG delivery must become a central focus for national planning, oversight mechanisms and domestic budgets. Major investment is needed to strengthen public sector capacity and build appropriate digital infrastructure. Local and sub-national governments must be empowered and supported to bring SDG implementation to the ground level. An effective regulatory framework is needed to align private sector governance models with sustainable development objectives. A fresh push is needed to reap the data dividend and SDG monitoring, follow-up and review must be taken to the next level including by strengthening civic space and public engagement in policy and decision-making.

South African Local Government Association promotes a link between Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to strengthen SDG implementation at the local level. The resent ten (10) Voluntary Local Reviews for 2024

and City of Cape Tonw 2019 report have shed light and raised the profile of local action vis-à-vis national action and international processes however South Africa has only City of Cape Town who reported in 2019. In addition, VLRs have contributed to advances in all dimensions of SDG localization from data innovation, to planning and policy coherence, to project development and financing. Nevertheless, the resources of local and regional governments financial, human, and technical across the globe remain limited, hindering their capacities to deliver basic services and drive development at the local level.

The link between VSRs and VLRs:

- VLRs feed into VSRs, providing localized data and insights
- VSRs aggregate and build upon VLRs, providing a broader subnational perspective.
- Both reviews share common goals, indicators, and reporting frameworks
- SALGA facilitates the connection, ensuring coherence and coordination between VSRs and VLRs.

By linking VSRs and VLRs, SALGA enables the alignment of local, subnational, and national SDG efforts, coordinating across sectors and stakeholders including Civic Society Organisations, enhanced local ownership and accountability and Informing policy and decision-making at all levels.

The SDGs must become more than a means to communicate change. They must become a guiding star that shapes national policies, budgets, institutions, and long-term national development planning. SDGs become the core business of President and deputy President, Premiers, Ministers, Parliament, Mayors, and the Private Sector.

2. Methodology for the development of the report

SALGA methodology for developing Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) involves a participatory and inclusive approach, engaging local stakeholders and governments. Africa has responded to the SDGs in a variety of ways. Yet Voluntary Subnational Reviews and research studies demonstrate that SDG nationalization has not yet had the necessary 'normative and institutional impact, from legislative action to changing resource allocation' for local government to accelerate the implementation of SDGs. Since 2018, the Voluntary Local Review global movement has provided an unprecedented push to localization.

2.1. Here's a step-by-step SALGA methodology

South African Local Government Association) has developed a step-by-step methodology for Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) to support local governments in conducting reviews and reporting on their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The methodology includes:

Table 2: Step by Step SALGA Methodology

Steps	Activities
Step 1	Establish a VSR Task Team • Identify stakeholders and establish a task team to coordinate the VSR process
Step 2	Conduct a Self-Assessment • Review existing data and information to assess progress towards achieving the SDGs • Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis)
Step 3	Identify Priority SDGs and Targets • Select SDGs and targets most relevant to the local government's priorities and needs
Step 4	Develop a VSR Framework • Define the scope, objectives, and methodology for the VSR • Identify indicators and data sources for tracking progress
Step 5	Collect and Analyse Data • Gather data from various sources (e.g., surveys, reports, statistics) • Analyse data to assess progress towards achieving the selected SDGs and targets
Step 6	Write the VSR Report • Compile the findings and analysis into a comprehensive report • Include recommendations for improving progress towards achieving the SDGs

Step 7	Validate the VSR Report
	• Share the report with stakeholders for review and feedback
	• Incorporate feedback and finalize the report
Step 8	Submit the VSR Report
	• Submit the report to the relevant national and international authorities
	• Share the report with other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector
Step 9	Implement Recommendations
	• Develop an action plan to implement the recommendations from the VSR report
	• Monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving the SDGs
Step 10	Review and Update the VSR
	• Regularly review and update the VSR to reflect progress and changes
	• Continuously improve the VSR process and reporting

2.2. Specific SDGs and targets to be reviewed.

All 17 SDGs are interconnected and essential for local governments to achieve sustainable development. By prioritizing the SDGs, local governments can create thriving communities, promote economic growth, and protect the environment. Embracing the SDGs is a commitment to a better future for all. As local governments play a vital role in implementing these goals, it is essential to recognize the key Goal for local government as base to report. The methodology applied for the 2024 VSR review ensures a participatory, inclusive, and data-driven approach to developing VSRs, supporting subnational entities in achieving the SDGs and promoting sustainable development by clusters responsible for a particular goal. SALGA goals for review are:

- Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

3. Policies and enabling environment for the localization of the SDGs

3.1. National strategies for the implementation and localization of the SDGs

South Africa has established an enabling institutional environment for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through:

- **Constitutional mandate:** The Constitution mandates the promotion of socio-economic development and environmental protection, aligning with SDG principles.

- **National Planning Commission (NPC)2030:** This plan was adopted in 2012 and is South Africa's long-term development plan. It expresses consensus on societal challenges, focuses on the national planning system, and has the potential to implement development priorities in a more effective way. Provides strategic guidance and recommendations for long-term development, including SDG implementation. South Africa's long-term development plan, which expresses consensus on societal challenges and focuses on the national planning system. It has a 74% convergence with the SDGs.

- **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME):** Coordinates development planning, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring alignment with SDG priorities.

- **Statistics South Africa (Stats SA):** Leads the monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators, ensuring data-driven decision-making.

- **National Treasury:** Ensures alignment of budget processes with SDG priorities and provides financial resources for implementation.

- **Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO):** Coordinates international cooperation and global engagements supporting SDG implementation.

- **South African Revenue Service (SARS):** Ensures effective revenue mobilization to fund SDG related programs and initiatives.

- **Office of the Presidency:** Provides political leadership and oversight for SDG implementation, ensuring coherence across government.

- **Cabinet Committee on SDGs:** Ensures inter-ministerial coordination and decision-making on SDG-related matters.

- **SDG Task Team:** A technical team supporting the Cabinet Committee, comprising representatives from various government departments and entities.
- **Provincial and Local Government:** Coordinates SDG implementation at subnational levels, ensuring alignment with national priorities.
- **Civil Society and Stakeholder Engagement:** Encourages active participation and collaboration with civil society organizations, private sector, academia, and citizens.

Linking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with South African legislative and policy frameworks, and delineating the rationale for alignment, furnishes a solid foundation for localizing SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

3.2. National coordination mechanisms

South Africa has established a national coordinating mechanism to strengthen implementation of development policies and SDGs. The coordination arrangement facilitates national engagements and reporting in a coordinated and integrated manner on the developmental agendas of UN 2030 Agenda. Some of the key national coordination mechanisms included in the table 3 below:

Table 3: National Coordination Mechanism

Department	Role
Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Championing policy coherence between the national development plan and the 2030 Agenda
Department of International Relations and Cooperation	Coordinating South Africa's international obligations
National Planning Commission	Developing long-term plans and monitoring progress
Statistics South Africa	Providing data and statistics for monitoring SDG progress
Subnational-level monitoring	Provincial and local governments are involved in monitoring SDG progress
South African Local Government Association	Coordinating and supporting municipalities to develop Voluntary Local Reviews
Engaging Key Stakeholders	Civil society organizations, private sector, and academia are engaged in SDG implementation and monitoring

3.3.   Enabling institutional environment for SALGA

South Africa has responded to the SDGs in a variety of ways. Yet Voluntary Subnational Reviews and research studies demonstrate that SDG nationalization has not yet had the necessary normative and institutional impact, from legislative action to changing resource allocation for local government to accelerate the implementation of SDGs. Since 2018, the Voluntary Local Review global movement has provided an unprecedented push to localization. More than 200 Voluntary Local Reviews to date have shed light and raised the profile of local action vis-à-vis national action and international processes however City of Cape Town is the only city in Southa Africa who reported in 2019. SALGA coordinating and accelerating the implementation of SDGs through VSRs and VLRs, providing valuable insights and recommendations to inform sustainable development policies and practices at the subnational and local levels.

Table 4: SALGA enabling institutional environment

SALGA enabling institutional environment includes		
	Arrangements	**Progress**
1	Clear mandates	Establish a clear mandate for SALGA to coordinate VSRs and VLRs
2	Dedicated unit and team	International Programs and Partnerships Unit was mandated to coordinate and support VSRs and VLRs
	Clear guidelines	Developing and disseminate clear guidelines and templates for VSRs.
3	Capacity building	Providing training and capacity-building programs for SALGA officials and local government staff. Other programs were delivered through UCLG learning hub
4	Stakeholder engagement	Foster strong relationships with stakeholders, including provincial and local governments, civil society, and the private sector (African Monitor, Kagiso Trust, NBI)
5	Data management and support	Establish a robust data management system to ensure access to reliable data and statistics to support evidence-based reporting
6	Technical support	Access technical assistance and expertise from national and international organizations
7	Financial resources	Ensure dedicated funding for VSRs and VLRs, including for data collection, analysis, and reporting.
8	Political support	Secure political buy-in and support from provincial and local government leadership
9	Coordination mechanisms	Established coordination mechanisms with CoGTA, Cities Network, Statistics South Africa and African Monitor
10	Monitoring and evaluation	Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and identify areas for improvement.
11	Reporting and dissemination	Ensure effective reporting and dissemination of VSR and VLR findings to stakeholders through Governance Structures of SALGA (PMAs, WGs)
12	Institutional arrangements:	Establish clear institutional arrangements for VSRs and VLRs, including roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, SALGA is currently:

- Establishing SALGA SDG Hub.
- Developing a VSR manual or guidelines.
- Establishing a VSR technical working group.
- Develop partnerships with international organizations and donors to support VSRs and VLRs.
- Establish a VSR and VLR community of practice.

4. Local and regional action to localize the SDGs

4.1. The VLR and VSR processes

The Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) global community has been growing at an encouraging pace. VSR is a powerful tool to advance the localization of the SDGs. They are not only a monitoring and reporting tool to assess Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advancements at the local level but over the past years have also demonstrated to be stimulating and driving local action to implement the SDGs.

SALGA (South African Local Government Association) has taken the following local actions to localize SDGs through Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs):

- Conducted VSRs to assess SDG progress (Source: SALGA VSR Reports).
- Developed SDG localized indicators (Source: SALGA SDG Indicator Framework).
- Established SDG task teams to coordinate VSRs (Source: SALGA SDG Task Team Guidelines).
- Engaged stakeholders in VSR processes (Source: SALGA SDG Stakeholder Engagement Guide).
- Integrated VSR findings into municipal plans.
- Developed SDG implementation plans and projects (Source: SALGA SDG Project Toolkit).
- Established SDG monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Facilitated five peer learnings and knowledge sharing.

- Established partnerships for SDG implementation.

The relevance of SDGs through VSR is increasingly recognised. SDGs are included and recognized in SALGA National Members Assembly. The SALGA National Members Assembly (NMA) is the highest decision-making body in SALGA between national conferences.

- The 2023 assembly was held on September 5-6, 2023, at the Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni.
- The theme of the 2023 National Members Assembly *"25 Years since the advent of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government: Are we on course and driven in Building a Sustainable, Responsive & People Centred Local Government"*.
- The assembly brought together public representatives from all three spheres of government, including cabinet ministers, municipal leadership, labour unions, dignitaries, and international guests.

Figure 1: SALGA National Members Assembly 2023

Figure 2: National Members Assembly Commission Report and SDGs

The VSR and VLR process

Table 5: VSR and VLR processes

	Processes	Dates
1	Circular 10 was issued, inviting municipalities to a national capacity-building workshop on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in South Africa	August 2023
2	Identification of SDG priorities and goals	February 2024
3	Establishment of a VSR task team	March 2024
4	Development of a review framework and guidelines	April 2024
5	Municipal Capacity Building program	September 2023 to June 2024
6	Data collection and analysis	May 2024
7	Report writing and drafting	May – June 2024
8	Consultation and validation	21 June 2024
9	Finalization and submission to EXCO and NEC	5 July 2024
10	VSR to be launched at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York	8- 17 July 2024
11	VSR & VLR to be launched at the Provincial Members Assembly, Council of Mayors and Speakers	August to November 2024

4.2. Mapping local and regional government efforts to implement SDGs

Table 6: Mapping local and regional efforts to implement SDGs

SDGs	Province and Cities	Projects
SDG 1: No Poverty	City of Johannesburg	Inner City Renewal Project (affordable housing, economic development)
	City of Cape Town	Cape Town Mayor's Fund for poverty alleviation
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Agricultural development programs (farmer support, irrigation schemes)
	City of Tshwane	Urban agriculture initiatives (community gardens, food security)
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Eastern Cape Province	Women's economic empowerment initiatives (entrepreneurship support, skills training)
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	City of Cape Town	Water conservation programs (efficient irrigation, water-saving devices)
	Limpopo Province	Rural water supply development (boreholes, water treatment plants)
	Easten Cape	BIGM project providing rural water supply development (drilling boreholes and water tanks)
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	Eastern Cape DEDEAT	Renewable energy projects (solar, wind power)
	Kouga	Wind farm
	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Energy efficiency programs (building insulation, efficient lighting)
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	City of Johannesburg	Small business development programs (mentorship, funding support)
	Western Cape Province	Tourism development initiatives (job creation, skills training)
	Gauteng Province	Industrial development programs (special economic zones, innovation hubs)
	City of eThekwini	City of eThekwini: Infrastructure upgrades (roads, public transportation)
	uMhlathuze	The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ. (Special economic zones, innovation hubs)
	Nelson Mandela	Coega Development Corporation (CDC) (Industrial development programs (special economic zones, innovation hubs)
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	City of Cape Town	Urban planning initiatives (compact city development, green spaces
	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Rural development programs (housing, community facilities)
	Rustenburg	Yarona Rustenburg
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	City of Tshwane	Waste management programs (recycling, composting)
	Western Cape Province	Sustainable agriculture initiatives (organic farming, agro-processing)
SDG 13: Climate Action	Buffalo City	Climate change mitigation programs (energy efficiency, green infrastructure)
	eThekwini	Climate change mitigation programs (energy efficiency, green infrastructure)
	City of Johannesburg:	Climate change mitigation programs (energy efficiency, green infrastructure)
	City of Tshwane	Climate change mitigation programs (energy efficiency, green infrastructure)
	Eastern Cape Province	Disaster risk reduction initiatives (early warning systems, emergency preparedness)
	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Disaster risk reduction initiatives (early warning systems, emergency preparedness

SDG 14: Life Below Water	City of eThekwini	Marine conservation programs (coastal cleanup, marine protected areas)
	KwaZulu-Natal Province	Fisheries development initiatives (sustainable fishing practices, aquaculture)
SDG 15: Life On Land	City of Cape Town	Biodiversity conservation programs (nature reserves, species protection)
	Limpopo Province	Land restoration initiatives (rehabilitation of degraded land, sustainable land use)
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	City of Johannesburg	Community safety programs (crime prevention, community policing)
	Gauteng Province	Amapanyaza Crime prevention wardens who were trained to restore peace in Gauteng province townships and surrounding areas
	Mossel Bay	Well govern city
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	Kou-Kamma	Multi-stakeholder partnerships (SDG alliances, community engagement)
	Western Cape Province	International cooperation programs (development partnerships, knowledge sharing)

Figure 3: Stats SA Census on access to water   **Figure 4:** Human Rights

4.3.   Progress made in the implementation of the goals and targets

South Africa produced an SDG Baseline report in 2017 and a Country Report in 2019, which contain all available indicators, using official and other statistics. City Of Cape Town was the first and the only City to report Volunteer Local Review in 2019.

4.3.1. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

By achieving SDG 11, cities can reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for all residents by implementing targets in Table 7 below in the following ways:

Table 7: SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**Sustainable Cities and Communities**
Target 11.1	SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
Target 11.2	AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
Target 11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
Target 11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters,
Indicator 11.5.3:(a)	Damage to critical infrastructure and (b) number of disruptions to basic services, attributed
Target 11:6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
Indicator 11.6.1	Number of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities
Indicator 11. a.1	Number of cities with integrated urban planning
Target 11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
Indicator 11.b.2:	Number of local governments that adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Figure 5: City of Johannesburg Mayor handing RDP units

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has made significant progress in implementing Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Here are some key achievements:

<u>Development of Integrated Urban Development Plans (IUDPs)</u>
SALGA has supported local governments in developing integrated urban plans, promoting compact and connected cities. municipalities have developed IUDPs, aligning with SDG 11 targets, to guide urban development and service delivery.

South African towns and cities are of a unique nature characterised by historically distorted settlement patterns. This is largely attributed to the effects of segregation according to race, class and pre 1994 planning policies. Before 1994, more than 80% of South Africans were denied land and housing rights - laws controlled where people could live and resulted in large numbers of people having to live in unacceptable conditions in informal settlements, backyard shacks, and hostels. Mounting poverty, unemployment and income inequality have amplified these problems. Post 1994, a democratic South Africa underwent fundamental provincial and local government

reform – new laws, new configurations of provinces and local governments and many new Acts, policies, and strategies, heralding a complete paradigm shift in government.

Accelerating transformative urban land development for inclusive growth is a priority for South Africa. The objectives of spatial transformation demand the restructuring of our spatial form, which requires not only much faster land release and access, but supportive legislation and appropriate governance and decision-making by intergovernmental role-players and partners. In this respect, the transformative Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) was enacted in 2013. It aims to strengthen how land is managed, governed and allocated by providing for an effective and efficient framework for spatial planning and land use management in both urban and rural contexts, and across each sphere of government. Gradually, spatial planning is becoming more institutionalised, and is now more closely identified with how land is assigned and developed for integrated settlements and a liveable, well-serviced and safe environment.

Development planning has focused various planning tools and mechanisms for integrated planning aimed at ensuring that intergovernmental priority setting, resource allocation and implementation take place in an integrated, effective, efficient, and sustainable way. Thus, planning systems have become democratised and more inclusive of civil society. Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are the legislated obligatory primary instruments for local development planning. IDPs include a specific focus on the identification of land for housing, and budgets sectorally aligned and costed for service delivery and infrastructure needs. Multi-disciplinary plans are key to achieving integration with budgets and timeframes for the pro-active development of, for example, sustainable human settlements and well-located public transport corridors.

IDPs are required to have various Sector Plans that guide municipalities on different programmes that they implement e.g. Human Settlements Chapter (Plan), Disaster Management Plan, Transport Plan, and Water Services Plan; however, the convergence of spatially informed and intergovernmental development plans of

multiple entities, for a given space, remains a challenge in South Africa. Planning Reforms are currently underway, with a major focus on how spatial plans can become the guiding framework for transformative development. In this regard, the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) also provides for the development of Provincial and National level spatial frameworks. A National Spatial Development Framework has been developed to guide and inform infrastructure investment of all spheres of government and focus spatial integration efforts across the country.

Urbanization is increasingly acknowledged as a mega trend requiring an urgent and cohesive response. In line with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, South Africa's Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) guides transformation of urban space in such a way that it promotes inclusionary social and economic development, whilst protecting the environment.   Coordination and provisioning of infrastructure for urban development within ecological limits is crucial for climate change-proofing and disaster risk reduction. In order to create productive, inclusive, and liveable cities, planning and land-use management practices must actively integrate infrastructure investment, public transport and human settlements.

We are striving for an all-of-government, all-of-society approach to implementing our response to sustainable development. We wish to stress the importance of a participatory approach through multi-stakeholder platforms for joint decision making and joint action at national, provincial, and local level, so that all role-players are empowered to do their part. It is important to mainstream sustainable development into the plans and strategies of local government. The Sustainable Development Goals all require local level action.

Public Transportation Systems

Cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, Tshwane, Nelson Mandela, Polokwane, Rustenburg and Durban have invested in modern public transportation systems, improving mobility and reducing congestion. SALGA has worked with local governments to improve public transportation systems, increasing access to safe and affordable transportation. Buffalo City has a system but not upgraded.
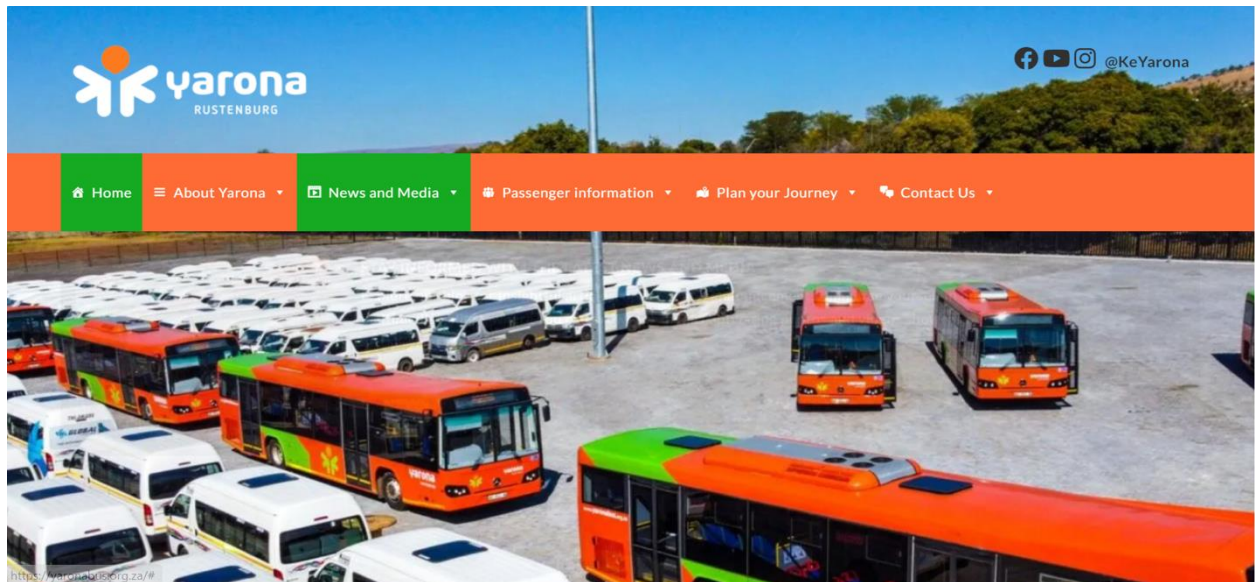
Figure 6: Yarona Buses, Rustenburg Annual Report

Green Infrastructure

SALGA has supported local governments in delivering affordable housing programs, addressing housing backlogs and promoting inclusive urban development.

Municipalities have implemented green infrastructure projects, such as green roofs, urban forests, and green spaces, to mitigate environmental impacts.

- **EThekwini Municipality Example**:
  - **Green Corridor Project**: EThekwini Municipality's "Green Corridor" initiative promotes biodiversity conservation and renewable energy, aligning with SDG 6 goals.

Waste Management Project

SALGA has supported local governments in implementing effective waste management systems, reducing waste and promoting recycling. SALGA developed the Waste Management APP. 30 Municipalities were trained in how to use the app.

Figure 7: SALGA Waste Management APP

Figure 8: SALGA Waste Management tool and SDGs

Figure 9: Access to Basic Services. Source: Stats SA Census 2023

Progress Made

- 60% of municipalities in South Africa have developed integrated urban development plans that prioritize sustainable development.

- 40% of municipalities have implemented urban regeneration projects, revitalized urban spaces and promoting inclusive growth.

- 30% of municipalities have established public transport systems, reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.

Challenges

- Rapid urbanization and population growth put pressure on municipal resources and infrastructure.

- Limited financial resources and capacity constraints hinder municipalities' ability to implement sustainable development projects.

- Inadequate access to reliable and affordable energy, water, and sanitation services in informal settlements.

4.3.2. SDG 5: Gender Equality

Gender Equality is a critical component of sustainable development goals. SALGA recognized the importance of promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in our sector.

Table 8: SDG 5 Gender Equality and Indicators

5 GENDER EQUALITY	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
Indicator 5.5.1	Number of women in political positions (Mayors, Speaker & Chief Whips)
Indicator 5.5.2	Number of women in leadership positions
	Number of employees in Local Government

SALGA Women's Commission (SWC)

The SALGA Women's Commission (SWC) is a body that advocates for the empowerment of women in local government. SWC has nine provincial chairpersons and Commissioner who serves as NEC member of SALGA. Some of the SWC's initiatives include:

- Promoting gender equality and equity in local government.

- Creating a mutual understanding of the roles of women in local government.

- Holding conferences to elect female representatives to local government positions.

- Debating issues affecting women in local government.

- Creating programs for women's socio-economic empowerment.

- Promoting women's access to procurement, business, and funding opportunities.

- Encouraging local governments to adopt gender-sensitive budgeting and record management practices.

In South Africa, Women constitutes 37% of elected members as Executive Mayors, Speakers and Chief Whips in Local Government. Some provinces have Deputy

Mayors and others do not. Female Mayors Constitute 36%, while Male Mayors is 64%. Figure 10: Women Mayors below is percentages.
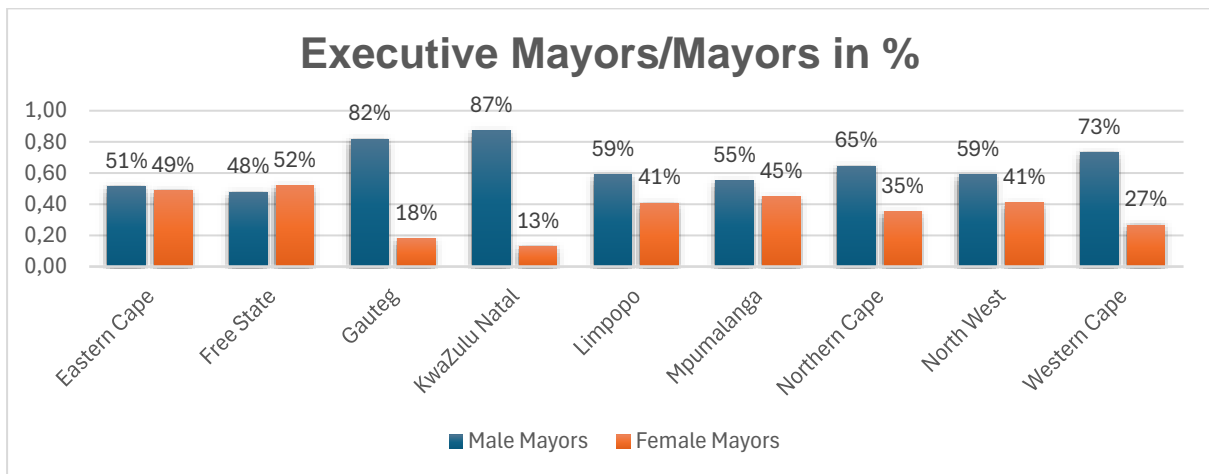
Figure 10: Women Mayors and source: Http://Municipalities.co.za

Women Speakers in Municipalities

Women Leaders constitutes 46% of elected members as Speakers and Males 54% as per figure 11.
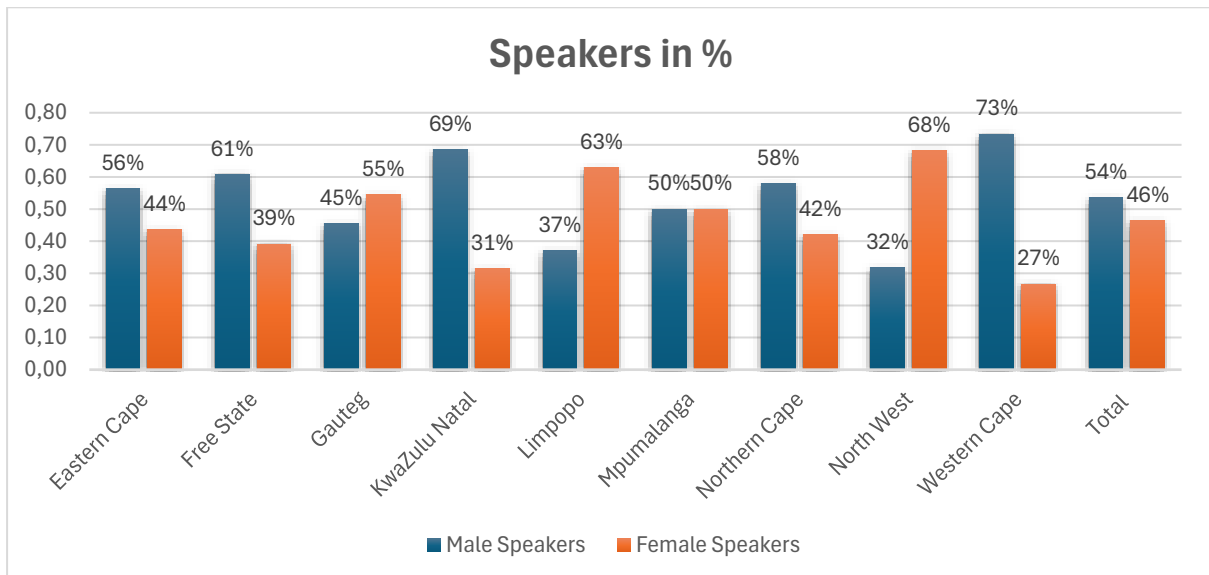
Figure 11: Women Speakers and source: Http://Municipalities.co.za

In terms of race and gender distribution, most employees in the sector are African (79.1%), with African males making up 45.3% of total employees with a further 33.8% of total employees being African females. The next most-represented racial group is Coloured, who represent 14.2% of total employment, largely due to the high proportion of Coloured employees in the Western Cape municipalities (56.3%) of which 63.6% are male. Whites and Indians collectively make up the remaining balance of total employment (6.8%), with Whites accounting for 4.8% and Indians constituting 2.0%.

Table 9: Race and gender distribution in local government sector

Province	African		Coloured		Indian		White		Grand Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Western Cape	11565	8214	21071	11463	277	190	3071	1987	57838
Eastern Cape	16462	12671	1849	959	78	54	787	543	33403
Northern Cape	3162	1793	2543	1480	13	3	170	142	9306
Free State	10249	6307	243	158	6	2	412	276	17653
KwaZulu Natal	28173	22679	579	502	3165	1623	622	387	57730
Northwest	8024	5154	131	84	20	10	214	147	13784
Gauteng	43553	34644	1334	1185	371	338	3057	2132	86614
Mpumalanga	9404	6279	66	93	12	27	239	174	16294
Limpopo	9452	6677	32	21	9	8	201	129	16529
Total	140044	104418	27848	15945	3951	2255	8773	5917	309151
Grand Total	244462		43793		6206		14690		

Source: LG SETA Workplace Skills Place

There is a higher number of males than females employed in the local government sector, with almost two thirds (58.4%) of posts being held by males nationally, and 41.6% held by females. There is a similar distribution provincially, with Gauteng being slightly more equal (55.8% male, 44.2% female). Northern Cape has the least equal male to female proportion of employees, with an employee profile that is 63.3% male (5 888) and only 36.7% female (3 418).

DISABILITY STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SECTOR

Table 10: Provincial distribution of PWD within each of the demographic groups.

Province	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Grand Total
	Number	Number	Number	Number	
Western Cape	395	1067	7	175	1644
Eastern Cape	1457	21	2	15	1495
Northern Cape	38	32	0	12	82
Free State	75	2	0	8	85
KwaZulu Natal	452	13	78	35	578
North West	69	3	0	5	77
Gauteng	407	18	7	109	541
Mpumalanga	117	2	1	10	130
Limpopo	114	0	0	6	120
Grand Total	3124	1158	95	375	4752

Municipalities employ about 4 752 People with Disabilities (PWD). This is 1.5% of the total number of employees in the sector. Table 10 illustrates the provincial distribution of PWD within each of the demographic groups. The majority of the PWD are African (3 124) and living in the Eastern Cape (1 457). It should be noted that the Eastern Cape province accounts for a large proportion of African PWD – 1 457 or 46.6%. That province alone accounts for about half of the African PWD.

TOTAL PROVINCIAL GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES, 2023
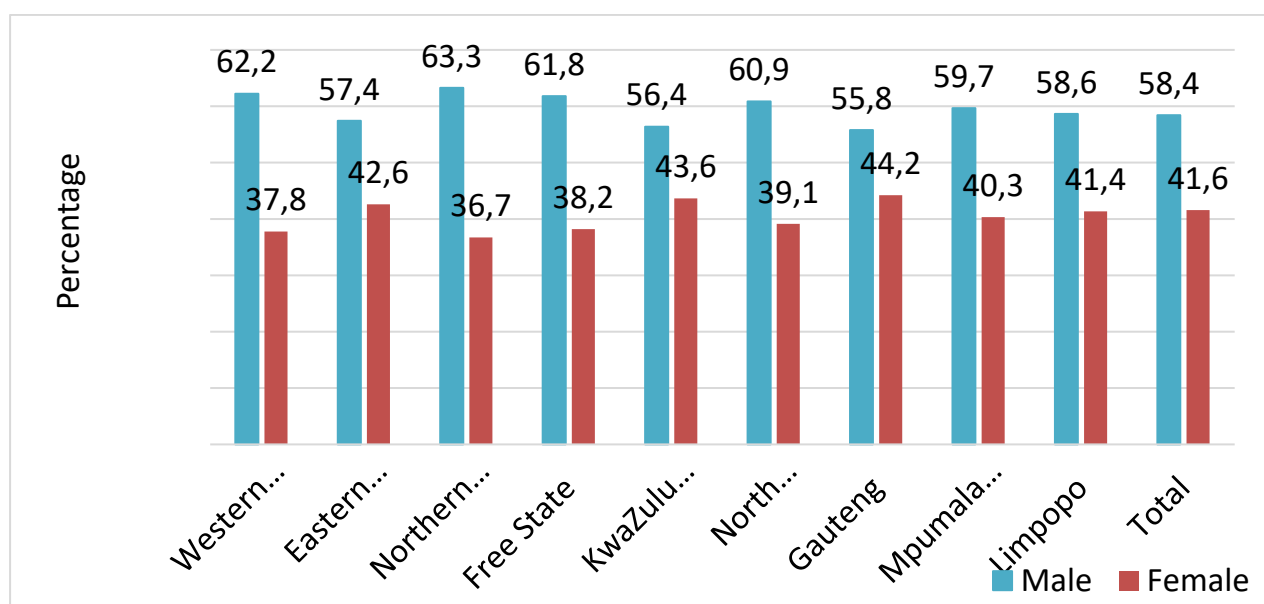
Figure 12: Provincial gender distribution of employees in the sector. Sources LGSETA WSP, 2023

There is a substantially higher number of males than females employed in the local government sector, with almost two thirds (58.4%) of posts being held by males nationally, and 41.6% held by females (figure 12 above). There is a similar distribution provincially, with Gauteng being slightly more equal (55.8% male, 44.2% female). Northern Cape has the least equal male to female proportion of employees, with an employee profile that is 63.3% male (5 888) and only 36.7% female (3 418).

PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISABLED EMPLOYEES BY RACE, 2023
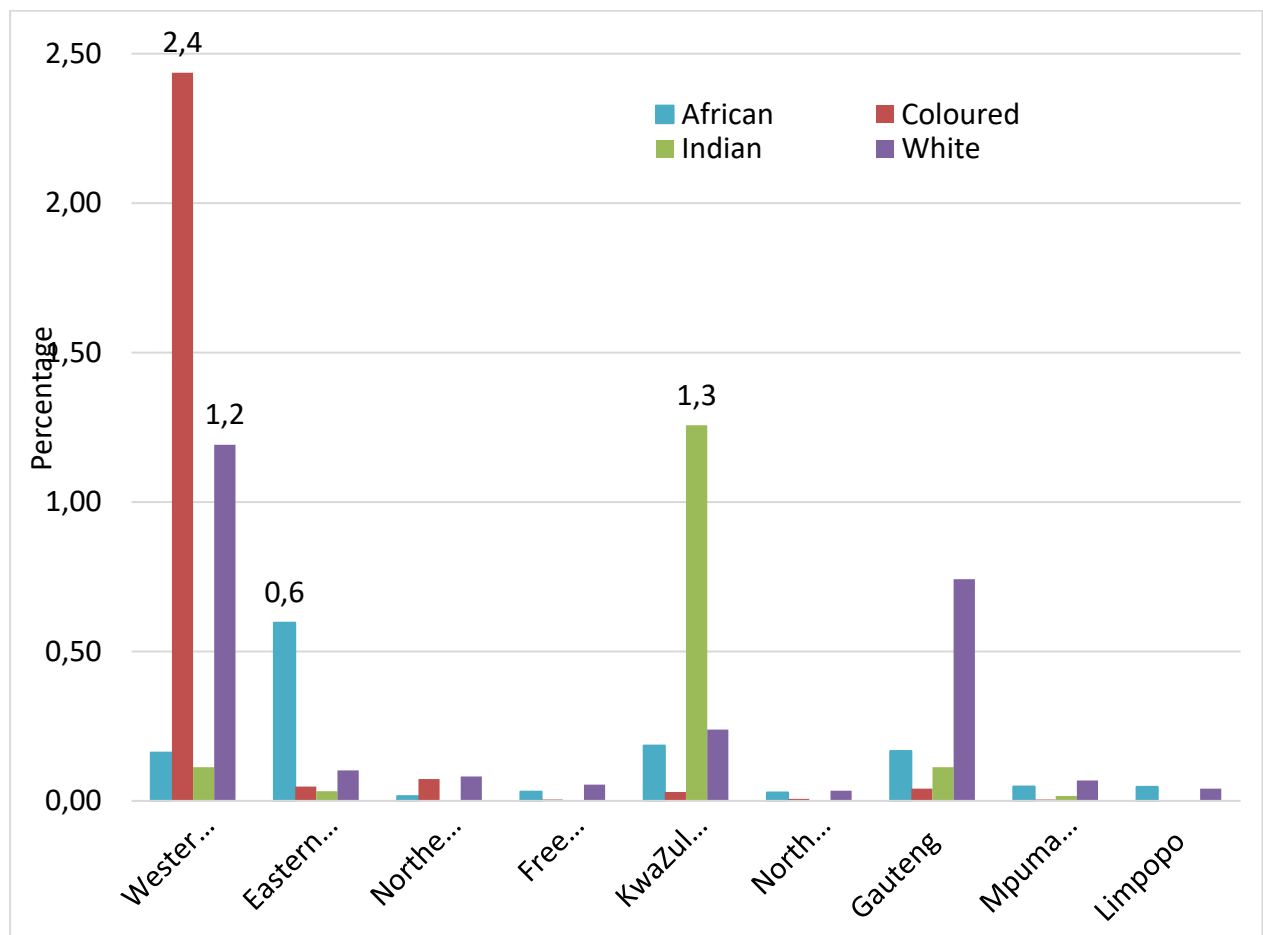
Figure 13: Provincial Distribution of people with disabilities by race

The above figure depicts the provincial distribution of disabled employees by race. The Western Cape employs the largest disabled Coloured population (2.4% of the total Coloured population) and the largest disabled White population (1.2% of the total White population). There are 0.6% of the total African employees employed in the

Eastern Cape province that are PWD. KwaZulu Natal is home to the largest disabled Indian population (1.3% of the total Indian population).

Progress Made

- Forty percent of councillors are women, exceeding the national target of 30%.
- Thirty-six percent of mayors and 46% of speakers are women, a significant increase from 2016.
- Gender-sensitive budgeting has been implemented in 60% of municipalities, prioritizing gender equality initiatives.
- Eighty percent of municipalities have established gender-based violence programs and services.

Challenges

- Gender stereotypes and social norms persist, hindering gender equality efforts.
- Limited resources and funding constrain gender equality initiatives.
- Gender-based violence and discrimination remain pervasive.

4.3.3. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right, essential for human dignity, health, and well-being. As a local government, we recognize the critical role we play in ensuring the provision of these basic services to our communities. Localized initiatives: Water infrastructure development, sanitation services, and hygiene education.

Table 11: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG

	Clean water and sanitation
Target 6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
Indicator 6.1.1	Proportion/ Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services
Indicator 6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
Target 6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

The majority of South African households enjoy access to tap water, but some people are still forced to fetch their water from rivers, streams, dams, wells or springs National government has stipulated that the minimum quantity of potable water is 25 litres per person per day or 6 000 kilolitres per household per month. Just over a third of consumers benefit from their municipality's free basic water services (Stats SA, 2017). According to Stats SA (2018), access to sanitation has seen a stark improvement. In 2002, less than two thirds of South African households benefitted from access to improved sanitation facilities defined as flush toilets connected to a public sewerage system or a septic tank, or a pit toilet with a ventilation pipe. In 2017, access has

increased to 82%. But 62 042 units provided by municipalities in 2017 were still provided using the bucket toilet system (Stats SA, 2018).

Despite the improvement in providing access to water and sanitation facilities, there has been a steady decrease in the number of households that are satisfied with the water services they receive.

Figure 14: City of Ekurhuleni 30 Mega Litres reservoir

Figure 15: Blue Drop Best Performing Municipality. Source: Department of Water & Sanitation

Figure 16: National Blue Drop Certification, Gauteng Municipalities

Figure 17: National Blue Drop Certification, KwaZulu Natal Municipalities

Progress Made

- Eighty percent of municipalities in South Africa have achieved universal access to clean water.
- Sixty percent of municipalities have implemented water conservation programs, resulting in significant water savings.
- Forty percent of municipalities have implemented sanitation programs, improving access to safe and dignified sanitation services.

Successful Projects implemented during Covid-19

Increased access to potable water: boreholes and on-site water storage

With no immediate access to clean drinkable water, creating easy access to clean water is vital to health, sustainable communities, and the economy over the long-term. In the short term to mitigate against the spread of covid-19 pandemic. Women especially are affected by a lack of easy access to potable water since they are usually in charge of cooking, washing, bathing of children and the general health of the family. As well, clean water is a basic service of municipal government and a necessity for public markets and local businesses. In the affected BIGM project municipalities, the most feasible way to facilitate easy access was drilling water boreholes that granted immediate access for at least 10 to 15 years with proper maintenance and minimal running costs. A total of 6 boreholes were completed:

1. **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality**: Three (3) boreholes to benefit the community in three separate villages, which also is home to three separate community-based cooperatives focusing on small scale farming and bricklaying mostly owned by women.
2. **Port St John's Local Municipality**: One (1) borehole drilled to benefit a community with limited access to clean drinkable water.
3. **Ngqushwa Local Municipality**: Two (2) boreholes drilled to benefit the community of Kwa Dlova and Baltein respectively. These communities did not have water for close to eight (8) years and seven (7) years respectively.
4. **Kouga Local Municipality**: The electrification of four (4) boreholes so that communities can have access to clean water.

Improved and increased access to potable water: water tanks

Similar to the provision of boreholes, with limited access to clean drinkable water, water storage facilities are important to a continuous water supply that provides sufficient safe water to meet community needs. To secure potable water storage at high density areas and public spaces, without access to running water for hygiene purposes, 201 water tanks were delivered and installed as follows:

1. **Port St John's Local Municipality**: delivery and installation of ten 5000 litre and ten 3000 litre water tanks to benefit a community with limited access to clean drinkable water.

2. **King Sabata Dalinyebo Local Municipality**: delivery and installation of 75 water tanks (50 x 5000 Litres and 25 x 3000 Litres).

3. **Ndlambe Local Municipality**: delivery and installation of 106 water tanks (72 x 5000 Litres and 34 x 2450 Litres).

Figure 18: Drilling of Boreholes in Nqgushwa

Through the implementation of this COVID-19 response project, the following benefits accrued:

- Provided communities with water storage - 2,646 households (15,561 inhabitants)
- Access to clean water; community enjoys easy and uninterrupted water supply
- More health benefits for the community; borehole water is rich in naturally occurring minerals and not exposed to chemical additives
- Less strain on limited Municipal resources to cart water at a huge cost, therefore reducing the tax burden on the community
- Access to water assist business to continue with their activities, pursue opportunities and if possible, with the creation of new jobs
- Allows agro-SMMEs to have to water and thus able to contribute to local sustainable food supply, agricultural growth contributes to wider growth and poverty reduction
- Easy access to a water source supports women headed households in rural communities

Challenges

- Aging infrastructure and limited resources hinder municipalities' ability to maintain and expand water and sanitation services.
- Water scarcity and droughts pose significant challenges to water security.
- Inadequate sanitation infrastructure and lack of access to safe and dignified sanitation services in rural areas.

Figure 19: Winnie Madikizela Mandela Mayor distributing Covid-19 relief products to communities

4.3.4. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SALGA recognizes the critical role that local government plays in promoting access to affordable and clean energy, which is essential for sustainable development. Localized initiatives: Renewable energy projects, energy efficiency programs, and electrification initiatives.

Table 12: Affordable and Clean Energy

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	**Affordable and Clean Energy**
Target 7	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
Indicator 7.1.1	Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population or Number of people with access to electricity

Successful Projects or Initiatives

- Establishment of embedded generation process in 71 municipalities by 2022 (GIZ funded initiative).
- Development of the energy plan and strategy for Namakwa district municipality and Emalahleni local municipality (USAID-SAEP funded initiative)

Figure 20: City of Johannesburg milestones

Progress Made

- Number of people with access to electricity is at 94,7% as of 2022.
- Fifty percent of municipalities in South Africa have implemented renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind power.
- Thirty percent of municipal buildings have been retrofitted with energy-efficient technologies, resulting in significant energy savings.
- Twenty percent of households in rural areas have access to off-grid energy solutions, such as solar home systems.

Challenges

- Limited financial resources and capacity constraints hinder municipalities' ability to implement sustainable energy projects.
- The excessive cost of renewable energy technologies and lack of access to financing mechanisms.
- Inadequate energy infrastructure and lack of energy storage solutions.

4.3.5. SDG 13: Climate Action

Local government is responsible for providing basic services such as water, energy, and transport, which are all impacted by climate change. Localized initiatives: Climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, renewable energy initiatives, and disaster risk reduction programs.

Table 13: Climate Action

13 CLIMATE ACTION	**Climate Action**
Target 13:1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
Indicator 13.1.3:	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk
	Climate change adaptation and resilience measures implemented
	Disaster risk reduction and management plans in place
	International cooperation and support for climate change mitigation and adaptation
	Climate change policy and regulatory framework
	Climate change adaptation and resilience measures implemented
Indicator 13.10	Climate change policy and regulatory framework

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has made significant progress in implementing Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) on SDG 13 (Climate Action). Here are some key achievements:

Climate change adaptation and resilience measures implemented

Supported 44 districts to develop climate change response plans through the Let's Respond Toolkit

- Reviewed 44 district development plans to inclusion of climate change adaptation
- Review infrastructure development plans of 44 districts and 8 metros for climate change
- Reviewed 20 district disaster management plans for climate change adaptation and resilience

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- Support 9 districts to review/update climate change response plans and develop climate action plans.

Climate change adaptation and resilience measures implemented

SALGA has worked with local governments to enhance their adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, including implementing early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Disaster Risk Reduction

All 44 districts and metropolitan municipalities have disaster management plans with provision for disaster risk reduction in line with the Disaster Management Act. Reviewed 20 district disaster Management for climate change resilience and provided advisories.

Climate change adaptation and resilience measures implemented
- Supported 44 districts to develop climate change response plans through the Let's Respond Toolkit.
- Reviewed 44 district development plans to inclusion of climate change adaptation
- Currently reviewing infrastructure development plans of 44 districts and 8 metros for climate change.
- Reviewed 20 district disaster management plans for climate change adaptation and resilience.
- Support 9 districts to review/update climate change response plans and develop climate action plans

Climate change policy and regulatory framework

The report assesses the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework in addressing climate change in South Africa.

- District Climate Change Response Plans
- Climate Action Plans (for cities)
- Climate Change Bill
- National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Just Transition Framework

Regulatory Gaps

- The report highlights the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to climate change regulation in South Africa.
- It identifies the lack of a unified national climate change policy as a major gap in the regulatory framework.

Recommendations

- Enhance climate risk management and disclosure practices in local government.
- Develop and implement climate-resilient infrastructure and urban planning strategies.
- Promote the use of scenario analysis and stress testing in local government risk assessments.
- Encourage international cooperation and knowledge sharing on climate risk management.
- Support the development of climate risk insurance products for local governments.

Partnerships and Collaboration

SALGA has fostered partnerships and collaboration among local governments, national government, and other stakeholders to address climate change. Partnering with the following international organisations:

- ICLEI

- C40 Cities

- UK PACT

- GIZ

- FCDO

- UNFCCC LGMA

- Engagement Global GmbH

Successful Projects or Initiatives

The Local Government Climate Change Support Program

Local Government Climate Change Support Program (LGCCSP), a multi-level governance initiative between DFFE, COGTA and SALGA. This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It helped to clarify the climate response mandate of local government, guided the integration of climate planning into statutory planning processes, provided technical assistance to municipalities to build institutional capacity to develop their climate response plans. It offered training on packaging climate actions into bankable. A number of tools were developed through the LGCCSP to assist municipalities to respond to climate change. The LGCCSP has identified priority climate change indicators for District Municipalities across the country.

The program aims to assist district and local governments better respond to climate change. The objectives of the LGCCSP therefore are to help municipal officials identify and respond to specific climate change risks and opportunities that are relevant at the local level. This was done by building on existing climate change capacity building

programs and interventions being implemented by the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The LGCCSP will however move beyond capacity building to the development of municipal climate change response plans that can ultimately be integrated into IDPs.

The three primary objectives of the LGGCSP are to:

- **Assess the municipal landscape that provides the basis for responses.**

The first objective, the Assessment of the Municipal Landscape, will include engaging municipalities to understand the status of relevant structures, capacity, and general climate change status quo in order to begin developing response plans. A key component of this initial assessment is an understanding of who the relevant stakeholders are and what the status of climate change champions are.

- **Undertake district municipal specific engagements.**

The second broad objective, to Undertake District Municipal Engagements, is the core component of the program. This will require an initial round of engagements with municipalities to determine their climate change vulnerabilities. This will be done through existing tools developed by the DEA and will see municipal level Vulnerability Assessments taking place. Once the draft vulnerability assessments are in place, the LGCCS will then aim to assess the status of sector plans within municipalities that have potential climate change implications. These sector specific inputs will help in developing the draft climate change response plans. Once draft climate change plans are in place, the LGCCS will then aim to assist municipal officials in integrating climate change into their IDPs.

- **Facilitate capacity building and knowledge-transfer throughout the process to enhance implementation of the prioritised adaptation options.**

The third broad objective, to Facilitate Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer, will run throughout the program. This is a core component of the LGGCSP design as municipal officials need to take ownership of their climate change plans to ensure long term implementation. For this to take place, the necessary skills and capacity need to be in place. A key objective of the LGCCSP therefore is to ensure there is adequate

capacity building at the Local and District Municipal level to drive climate change response.

Innovative solutions or approaches

- Using Green Book developed by CSIR (https://greenbook.co.za/)
- Let's Respond Toolkit (letsrespondtoolkit.org)
- The Cities Lunchtime Chats

The South African Cities Network (SACN) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has been hosting a series of online lunchtime conversations to explore solutions that can address some of the different challenges our cities face as a result of climate change. These Chats are designed to stimulate, inspire, and connect city officials across different municipalities in the country, the "Cities' Lunchtime Chats" brings together city practitioners, invited experts and knowledge brokers to discuss solutions, potential opportunities, and innovative strategies for delivering municipal services.

Good practices and lessons Leaned.

- There is a shift towards full integration evidenced by the move of metropolitan municipalities to producing long-term climate change response action plans.
- While it is important to integrate climate change into municipal IDPs, it is even more important to ensure that spatial planning, land use management and land development takes into consideration climate change and the causal factors thereof.
- It is important to adopt a needs-based Approach and Collaborative Design for local climate action planning. This process should use adaptable, highly participatory processes that will ensure that capacity development for each municipality is customized.
- Local Government should be at the Driving Seat during climate change action planning and implementation. Municipalities must take the leadership, setting

agenda and following up on multi-stakeholder processes to strengthen institutional capacity, advocacy, and climate technical skills.

- Local climate action intervention must build Bridges to other Projects and Initiatives to ensure partnership and coordination with other projects and initiatives within the municipality to increase the overall impact and support alignment.

- Climate action project preparation interventions in local government must have linkages with Climate Finance. Improved access enables local governments to implement local climate action and achieve emission reductions.

Figure 21: International Day for Biological Diversity

4.3.6. SDG 11: Global Partnership for the Goals

Successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals depends on a comprehensive funding framework that goes beyond official development assistance commitments. Alongside public and private funding, the political sphere will also be expected to make a greater contribution to achieving the goals

Table 14: Partnership for the Goals

	Partnerships for the Goals
Target 17:3	Mobilize additional financial resources for sustainable development
Indicator 17.3.1	Amount of financial resources mobilized from multiple donors
Indicator 17.16.1: 2.	Number of effective partnerships established for sustainable development goals

SALGA has mobilized resources, including financial and technical assistance, to support local government implementation of SDG 17. These progress reports highlight the progress made by local governments in South Africa in mobilizing financial resources from multiple donors and establishing effective partnerships to achieve the targets and indicators of SDG 17.

Here are some key achievements:
Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for sustainable development.

4.3.6.1. Amount of financial resources mobilised from multiple donors

- Strengthening Governance and Capacity in Local Government (SGCLG). The budget amounts to € 555 555.00.

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- The European Union provided for €840 000.00 to fund "Enhancing Municipalities' Capacity for Development (EMCD)".

- SALGA in partnership with PARI and Integrity Action, international civil society organisation (CSO), Supporting Public Participation and Planning in Local Government: Towards Local Government Service Delivery and Accountability' project received €1 898 662.00.

- Global Affairs Canada (Global Affairs) initiated project, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), received a contribution of $4,900,000 dollars from Global Affairs to implement a 5,8 million dollars.

- Strengthening municipal policy making Multi Year Program. The Project is funded by Government of Belgium and Vereniging van Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten (VVSG). The budget amount €780 000. The VVSG-program in South-Africa addresses the waste and environmental challenges of municipalities involved in the City-to-City Cooperation partnerships with Flemish municipalities as well as enhancing the digital knowledge through the development of Waste Management APP.

- Belgium government provided for €60 000 to fund a follow-up project called "Goed Lokaal Bestuur (GLoBe)". The VVSG will work with an exit programme in South Africa focusing on consolidating the results and strengthening the capacity of local partners so that they can optimally implement the waste policy.

- UNDP contributed R8 000,000.00 towards Covid-19 relief to Informal and formal traders across the country looking to recover from the impact of COVID-19. The support is led by SALGA and will be provided to more than 500 informal and formal business.

- The British High Commission (BHC) has been working with CoGTA and South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to support intermediate cities on the Urban Resilience Programme, which provides technical assistance to enable inclusive and climate-resilience economic growth in cities. The budget for the project is R170 million.

- Acceleration of SDG localization through Voluntary Local and Subnational reviews program funded by the following partners:
  - ❖ UNDP contribution = R824 000.00.
  - ❖ UN-DESA = US $ 49,950 (R950 000)
  - ❖ African Monitor = R770 540
  - ❖ UCLGA =10 000 EUR

4.3.6.2. Number of effective partnerships established for SDGs

- Belgium government: funded three South African municipalities involved in City-to-City Cooperation partnerships with Flemish municipalities and strengthening the national association of local governments (SALGA) in its digital capacities and competencies (Waste Management APP).
- Belgium and VVSG: Funded a follow-up project called "Goed Lokaal Bestuur (GLoBe)".
- EU: funded "Strengthening Governance and Capacity in Local Government " program
- EU: funded "Enhancing Municipalities' Capacity for Development (EMCD)."
- EU: COMPACT
- Global Affairs Canada and FCM: Funded Building Inclusive Green Municipalities
- GIZ: funded "Good Financial Governance" program
- UNDP: funded Informal Traders and SMME Covid-19 Relief Programme
- UNDP: funded "Sustainable Development Goals" program
- UNDESA: funded "Sustainable Development Goals" program
- African Monitor: Funded municipal stakeholder engagement for Sustainable Development Goals program.
- UCLGA: funded Sustainable Development Goals" though Volunteer Subnational Review project.
- UK: funding Urban Resilience Support to Intermediate/Secondary Cities (ICM) program
- UK: funding Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (PACT) program

- Municipal Partnership programs funded by ICLD.
- Belgium and VVSG: funded Goad Lokaal Bestuur (GLoBe)."
- ICLD funding Women in Political Leadership program

These partnerships have enabled local governments to access additional financial resources, build capacity, and improve service delivery to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

4.3.6.3. Successful International Funded Project: Building Inclusive Green Municipality

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has implemented the Building Inclusive Green Municipalities Programme, in partnership with Federation of Canadian Municipalities funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

BIGM project at a glance

The purpose of the BIGM project was to strengthen the capacity of the South African municipal sector and specific municipalities in Eastern Cape Province to contribute to South Africa's priorities for reducing poverty, supporting economic growth, and responding to climate change by transitioning to a low carbon economy. Supporting primarily six coastal municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province and institutional strengthening of SALGA, the BIGM project consists of three main components.

One cluster of four municipalities, supported by 1 Anchor municipality, worked on inclusive local economic development services (Component 1000). These municipalities developed, reviewed, and revised existing policies and tools with the aim to be more inclusive of women, youth, and vulnerable groups within the community. Initiatives piloted under the BIGM project aimed to create a more conducive environment for local economic development, with the aim of poverty reduction, and improving the quality of life of citizens (Figure19 below).

The second cluster of two municipalities, also supported by 1 Anchor municipality, focused on developing capacity on Asset Management policies and innovative

practices that helped mitigate and/or adapt to climate change (Component 2000) *Figure 19 below*. This cluster of municipalities undertook the mapping existing physical and ecological assets, and planning for development of climate change responsive infrastructure and responses to fixing aging infrastructure to improve service delivery. Initiatives such as green economic opportunities, mapping existing physical and ecological assets, and planning for development of green infrastructure and/or green responses to fixing aging infrastructure were privileged for consideration.
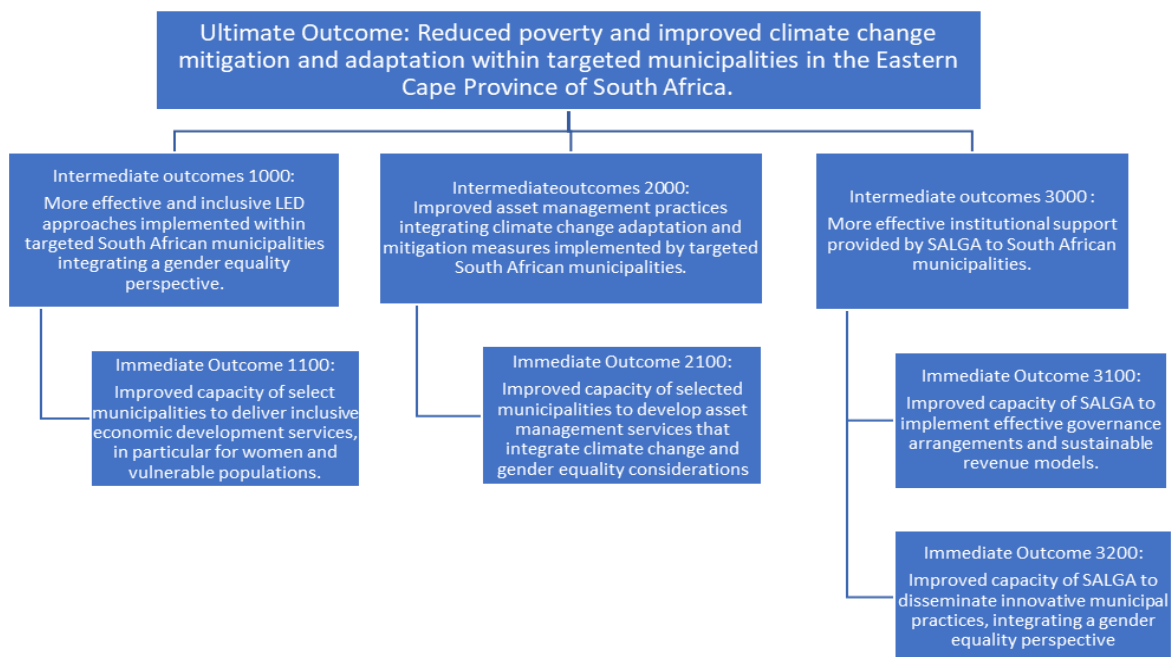

Figure 22: BIGM project at a glance

Project Reach

Project Reach involved Canadian municipal experts, both elected officials and staff, who volunteered their time and brought their expertise to the project. The six municipalities, their businesses and communities benefited through increased institutional and municipality-to-municipality linkages including when the South African's participated in study exchanges to their Canadian counterparts. A total of 873 beneficiaries participated in the BIGM programming. The project activities reached a nearly equitable participation of women with 426 females (48.8%) benefitting from the various BIGM knowledge-sharing events.

The project has achieved success in asset management and integrating climate change. Some highlights include:

- Developed a Climate Change Framework for Municipalities, providing guidance on climate resilience and adaptation.
- Established the Green Municipalities Programme, supporting municipalities in implementing sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Introduced the Asset Management Framework, integrating climate change considerations into municipal asset management practices.
- Provided training and capacity building for municipal officials on climate change, sustainability, and asset management.
- Facilitated partnerships between municipalities, private sector, and civil society to leverage resources and expertise.

BIGM introduced new approached and methodologies for:

- Asset Management (Holistic Approach, Readiness Matrix, Life Cycle Costing, Financial and GIS information integration),
- Climate Change (Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Green Book)
- LED (District Integration, Ecosystem Development and Business Retention &Expansion [BR&E]).

Figure 23: BIGM workshop with municipal project coordinators

BIGM contributed to a greater social consultation and inclusion, all municipal partners have been more inclusive in their approach to planning and development, particularly integrating a gender equity lens. Additionally, BIGM has included a strategy to engage Traditional Leadership and Youth.

Figure 24: Pledge was made towards financing a projects "Project Pickle" investments in the NMBM and SBDM. This has been secured in partnership with the Coega Development Corporation and Cacadu Development Agency and Forus Global Exchange. COEGA collaborated with SALGA to host an LED 2/3 day Master Class for Eastern Cape and Karoo municipalities, in where practical tools and expertise were shared in order to continue building capacity to raise additional funds and package projects for implementation.

The programme benefited multiple municipalities supported by municipalities in Canada, including:

- Buffalo City, Port St Johns Supported by City of Fredericton.
- Ndlambe supported by City of Ottawa.
- Winnie Madikizela Mandela supported by Strathroy Caradoc.
- Kouga Local Municipality supported by Prince Edward County (PEC).
- King Sabata Dalindyebo supported by City of Surrey.
- Ngqushwa supported by Town of Innisfill.

Lessons Learned

A strong partnership between SALGA and FCM. The importance of partnering with SALGA to design, implement and manage the BIGM project cannot be underestimated. SALGA's role in the overall long-term sustainability, dissemination of new practices and replication of new methods rests fully with SALGA and their leadership in the BIGM project was paramount. This meant the strong buy-in from senior leadership, including national Board members and provincial Board members was critical.

> SALGA's Chief Operations Officer (COO), Lance Joel, reflected that: *"... when unpacking the intended and expected lobbying and advocacy role of the organisation [SALGA], it required a corresponding administrative organizational design (Organogram) and purpose that would support the Board (National Executive Committee) in executing their lobbying and advocacy role. At SALGA, whilst we had the coordination capacity, we, unlike FCM, did not have the research and policy analysis and development capacity. This was duly corrected during the organisational re-design in 2018 – 2019."*
>
> He further stated: *"the re-design has enabled SALGA to improve its lobby and advocacy role through much more researched positions and improved policy analysis".*

Breaking down silos within the municipalities. Once the Canadian municipal experts started to gather data that would inform capacity-building activities, it became apparent that the South African municipalities operated in a very compartmentalized or siloed approach. This silo approach often leaves municipalities with a limited, narrow view of their local context and leads to planning, decision-making and service delivery that does not address municipal needs in a comprehensive manner often resulting too in duplication of efforts

SALGA's efforts through BIGM contributed to South Africa's progress towards achieving SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

5. Means of Implementation

To create local implementation of SDGs in South Africa, the following actions can be taken:

- **Develop Provincial and Municipal SDG Plans:** Align with national priorities and adapt SDGs to local contexts.
- **Establish SDG Task Teams:** Coordinate efforts across government departments, civil society, and private sector stakeholders.
- **Conduct Local SDG Needs Assessments**: Identify specific challenges and opportunities in each province and municipality.
- **Develop Local SDG Indicators and Monitoring Systems:** Track progress and adapt national indicators to local contexts.
- **Mobilize Resources and Funding:** Allocate budget and resources to support localized SDG initiatives.
- **Build Capacity and Skills:** Train local government officials, civil society, and private sector stakeholders on SDG implementation.
- **Engage Communities and Stakeholders:** Raise awareness and encourage active participation in SDG implementation.
- **Foster Partnerships and Collaborations:** Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships to support SDG implementation.
- **Support Local Innovation and digital:** Encourage innovative solutions and entrepreneurship to address local SDG challenges.
- **Establish Local SDG Reporting and Accountability Mechanisms:** Ensure transparency and accountability in SDG implementation.
- **Integrate SDGs into Local Development Plans:** Ensure alignment with existing development plans and strategies.
- **Support Capacity Development for Local Governments:** Strengthen the capacity of local governments to lead and coordinate SDG implementation.

6. Challenges

Despite progress, challenges persist, including:

- Ensuring comprehensive data collection, analysis, and validation, reliability of data from various sources, especially if there are gaps or inconsistencies in available information.
- Managing potential conflicts between different stakeholders' interests and priorities.
- Ensuring buy-in and commitment from multiple stakeholders, including local governments, civil society, and private sector entities to implement recommended actions.
- Limited human, financial, and technical resources.
- Overcoming resistance to change, lack of political will,
- Ensuring continued support and action on Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews recommendations beyond the initial process.
- Overcoming limitations in data analysis, methodology, and reporting.
- Inadequate institutional capacity and support.
- Limited private sector investment
- Climate change impacts on local government resources and infrastructure

7. Conclusion

The VSR emphasise the importance of SALGA in achieving SDG's and highlights the need for enhanced support and collaboration to overcome challenges and accelerate progress.

Main findings and recommendations of SALGAs VSR.

7.1. Findings

- Subnational governments are critical for SDG coordination of local government and implementation.
- A need to conduct a thorough assessments of local governance structures, service delivery effectiveness, financial management, community engagement, and sustainability practices.
- SALGAs combination of Volunteer Local Reviews and Volunteer Subnational Review process has increased the demand for institutional interaction between the local and national level.
- Work together with Statistics South Africa as part of inter-institutional and cross-level mechanisms for distinct levels of government to exchange data, practices, and techniques on the implementation of the SDGs.
- Share the experiences of municipalities from 4 Metros, 5 Intermediate Cities and two rural municipalities in implementing the SDGs on the ground and City of Cape Town submitting their second VLR report.
- Working with the civic society organisations for community engagements is a developmental process.

8. Recommendations

- Expand joint mechanisms for VLR-VSR and VNR synchronization, and consolidate partnerships among local, regional, national stakeholders to propel subnational reporting.
- Enhance subnational government capacities to accelerate the implementation.
- Each local and stakeholders adapt the guidelines to its own needs, objectives, resources, and capabilities.
- SALGA, municipalities, and departments responsible for chosen SDGs should embark on the project of developing VSRs and VLRs in a way that serves as input for their national VNRs, with the aim of helping to strengthen the localization of the SDGs and support with sector data.
- Focusing on areas needing improvement, such as enhancing transparency and accountability, strengthening institutional capacity, promoting inclusive decision-making processes, improving service delivery efficiency, and fostering sustainable development.
- Promote citizen engagement and participation.
- Leverage financial resources for development, addressing infrastructures, climate resilience and adaptation.

9. **Annexures**

- Circular on Municipal Voluntary Local Reviews

- Municipal Voluntary Local Reviews

- UCLGA Convention Agreement

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Figures

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