

From Global Goals to Local Impact: The Power of SDG Localization



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Photo: UNDP Jamaica

TIMEFRAME

July 2025 - December 2025

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

25 UN Entities led by Resident Coordinators



30

Countries

\$10.5

*Million
Joint SDG Fund Grant*

\$17.8

*Million
Total Budget*

Overview

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global aims to create a more equitable and sustainable future. While these goals are global in scope, their success depends on local action and knowledge. It is estimated that about 65% of SDG targets directly relate to the work of local and regional governments. This means we need to speed up efforts to make the work at the local level and give communities and local authorities the power to drive sustainable development.

To achieve this, the Joint SDG Fund (“the Fund”) and the Local2030 Coalition (“the Local2030”) have come together to identify, support, and scale-up local solutions through a dedicated SDG Localization portfolio. By leveraging the UN system’s expertise and mobilizing a broad ecosystem of partners, these efforts are helping to advance the SDGs from the ground up.

To ensure that local action is a priority across its investments, the Fund and the Local2030 created an innovative SDG Localization marker. This tool helps identify and track projects that focus on making SDGs work locally. The marker has integrated local lens and impact into the design of 123 joint programmes. Beyond the dedicated SDG Localization funding round, the marker has identified 11 more joint programmes with SDG localization as a central objective, resulting in an additional \$23 million dedicated to supporting local solutions that empower local communities and authorities.

The joint programmes under the SDG Localization portfolio aim to translate global goals into tailored local actions. This includes: raising awareness and getting local stakeholders involved; developing integrated local policies; building platforms for different levels of governments to work together; improving local data systems to track SDG progress by identifying local funding for SDG projects; building local skills to increase ownership; and putting gender equality at the heart of all local efforts.

"Use the Local 2030 Coalition to unlock new opportunities for change. Through the UN Joint SDG Fund, supported by the Government of Spain, 30 UN country teams are already integrating SDG transitions."

*Amina J. Mohammed,
UN Deputy Secretary-General. UN Summit of the Future, 2024*

12.4

Million people expected to directly benefit from joint local actions.

177

Local and regional governments engaged in implementation.

54

Policies, plans, or regulatory frameworks being created and implemented.

39

Reports, assessments, or knowledge materials to be developed to inform evidence-based policies and strategies to advance SDG Localization.

24

Business processes and tools enhanced and/or created to foster better planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs at the local level.

14

Digital tools or platforms to be created to enhance SDG-related activities.

The portfolio supports the six key SDG transitions: food systems, energy access and affordability, jobs and social protection, digital connectivity, education, and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These local initiatives contribute to almost all SDGs, underscoring the interconnectedness of sustainable development.

Working together at all levels – central, regional, local – is crucial. This is reflected in the fact that 73% of programmes contribute to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Other SDGs of focus include SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 1 (No Poverty), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 11 (Sustainable Cities), highlighting the importance of social equity, urban development, and environmental stewardship.

By creating and implementing local solutions, developing community-driven approaches, strengthening local institutions, fostering partnerships at every level, and tracking progress through innovative tools, the Fund and the Local2030 are helping to ensure that sustainable development is truly built from the ground up. This work is making a meaningful impact in the lives of communities around the world.

Local SDG Champions

The UN system, through UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, is working hard to speed up efforts to achieve the SDGs at all levels. By focusing on making these goals work locally, the UN is driving real and positive transformation in local communities around the world to achieve global change. This commitment is already demonstrating significant progress across regions, reflecting the power of local action in transforming communities. Let us take a look at what the 30 joint programmes under the SDG Localization portfolio are accomplishing.

Asia-Pacific	
Bangladesh	Bangladesh is testing SDG Action Plans in two sub-districts. By training over 2,600 local stakeholders to use digital tools for decision-making and understand the SDGs, it helps local and national efforts work better together.
Fiji	Fiji is creating a 10-year plan for its capital city, Suva, that aligns with the SDGs. This plan will be a model for other Fijian cities.
Indonesia	Indonesia is helping local governments use digital tools to track SDG progress. This makes it easier for local and national governments to make good decisions tailored to local needs based on accurate and real time data.
Micronesia	Micronesia is bringing together different data sources and improving data analysis' capacities of local governments to make better policies that improve people's daily lives.
Nepal	Nepal is encouraging local leaders to create climate action plans that considers gender issues and are aligned with national climate targets. They are also helping local actors get funding for climate projects.
Philippines	Philippines is enhancing community-driven and gender-responsive policies and systems in Surigao City to improve access to jobs, social protection, and basic services.
Thailand	Thailand is expanding waste management efforts to all 77 provinces and promoting climate-friendly projects in two cities. It is also strengthening local capacities to carry out Voluntary Local Reviews on their SDG progress.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Barbados	Barbados is working on making urban spaces safer and more resilient to climate change. This will benefit 3,500 people in Speightstown.
Belize	Belize is partnering with local authorities to make urban planning more inclusive and resilient to climate challenges.
Chile	Chile is improving internet access for over 8,500 people in 50 underserved rural communities. They're also training 4,000 small farmers in digital skills.
Colombia	Colombia is testing sustainable living models in indigenous communities, addressing needs like energy, water, and food security for 1,600 people.
Costa Rica	Costa Rica is using AI and e-governance tools to help municipalities plan better for the SDGs. They're also setting up digital labs to empower communities and expand digital literacy, especially among women.
Honduras	Honduras is improving education in 30 municipalities, benefiting over 125,000 children by encouraging municipal investment in inclusive education.



Photo: UN Colombia

Europe and Central Asia

Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina is promoting healthy lifestyles and improving food systems in four municipalities.
Georgia	Georgia is helping local stakeholders understand the SDGs by improving food waste management and social services through digital inclusion.
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan is developing a plan for Bishkek to become a smarter, more sustainable city.
Serbia	Serbia is helping 20 municipalities include climate change and children's rights in their action plans.
Tajikistan	Tajikistan is improving local-level financing, especially in education, to better meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

Middle East and North Africa

Egypt	Egypt is enhancing community engagement in local-level planning and budgeting, focusing on youth and social protection.
Jordan	Jordan is building local capacities for SDG monitoring and reporting while fostering community engagements through digital platforms.
State of Palestine	Palestine is improving public understanding of SDG-aligned urban planning, with a focus on children and youth.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Cameroon	Cameroon is involving local communities in land use planning and improving municipal services in two cities.
Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde is getting local businesses involved in sustainable development in four municipalities.
Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea is creating plans to manage local biodiversity in three communities, with a focus on gender issues and preserving critical ecosystems.
The Gambia	The Gambia is educating 70,000 young people about important health and social issues through a digital platform.
Ghana	Ghana is improving digital platforms for public participation in local governance.
Kenya	Kenya is supporting public participation in SDG implementation in eight local governments through digital tools and community engagements.
Liberia	Liberia is developing national and county-level development plans to benefit 5.4 million people.
Uganda	Uganda is improving service delivery and local government planning in areas like agriculture, social services and access to finance.
Zambia	Zambia is building local capacities for SDG implementation through cutting-edge data tools, district-level financing strategies, and improved budgeting.

"In this localization process, the Local 2030 coalition and its secretariat in Bilbao, as well as the support of the United Nations through the Joint SDG Fund, are key to the achievement and acceleration of these goals on a global scale."

*H.E. Maria Rosa
Martinez Rodriguez,
State Secretary for Social
Rights, Spain
UN High-level Political
Forum, 2024*

All joint programmes of the Joint SDG Fund are led by UN Resident Coordinators and implemented by the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system. With sincere appreciation for the contributions from the European Union and Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and our private sector funding partners, for a transformative movement towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

The Local2030 Coalition is the UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Coalition brings together the UN, local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations, and other local actors to mobilize, empower and support local stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the Local2030 Coalition, 14 UN entities (FAO, ILO, IOM, UN DESA, UN WOMEN, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Regional Commissions, WHO, DCO) are unified around the need to scale up localization action and leverage financing to local action.



Photo: UNDP Colombia

"I would like to encourage more countries to be part of the Joint SDG Fund. It serves as a bridge between global and local action while elevating local successes to inspire global progress."

*H.E. Eva Granados Galiano,
State Secretary for
International Cooperation
at the Council of Ministers,
Spain
Future Action Days, UN
General Assembly, 2024*

"The Local2030 Coalition exemplifies the United Nations' commitment to uniting diverse stakeholders in addressing global challenges, beginning with the local communities and cities where transformative change occurs."

*Anacláudia Rossbach,
Under-Secretary-
General and Executive
Director of the United
Nations Human
Settlements Programme,
UN Habitat
UN Summit of the Future, 2024*



