



Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación
Internacional para el Desarrollo
Consejería de la Presidencia, Interior,
Diálogo Social y Simplificación Administrativa



Localization of the
Sustainable Development
Goals and Effective
Local Governance:

**A Strategy for Acceleration
in Latin America and
the Caribbean**

Executive Summary

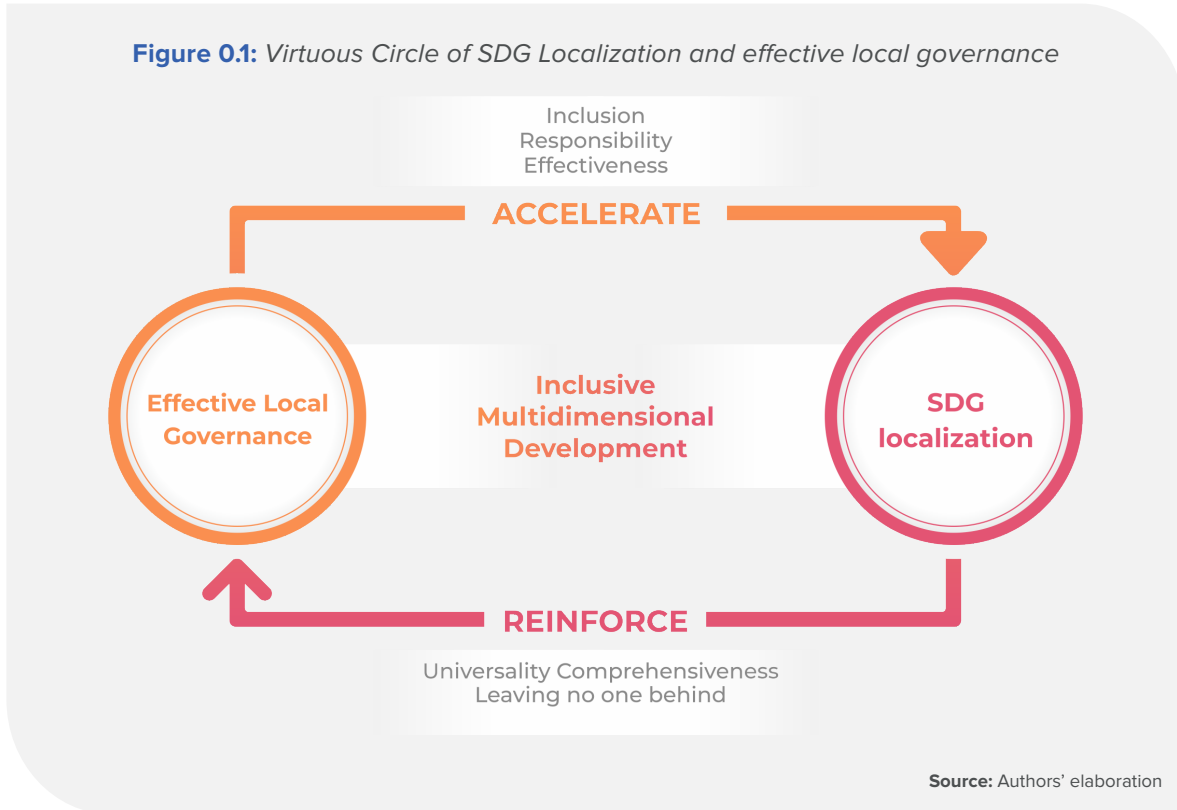
Seven years before the deadline of the 2030 Agenda, the territories of Latin America and the Caribbean are at varying stages of progress in the implementation and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The diversity characterizing this region, not only among countries but also within territories, hinders a uniform advancement towards SDG localization. Progress towards these goals is hampered by structural deficits within the Latin American context, which, though they impact the national level, are magnified at the subnational or territorial level, acting as decelerators for the achievement of the Agenda.

From a more favorable perspective, the existing diversity and persistent regional challenges (now amplified by the pandemic) also present an opportunity for local-level collaboration and the strengthening of multilateral mechanisms that promote a territorial perspective. Through SDG localization, the aim is for local and territorial actions to have a direct impact on subnational spaces where they exist, then on the national level, and ultimately on the global multilateral sphere. The processes of SDG localization are pivotal for establishing a new social contract, demanding the participation of multiple actors at different levels capable of articulating collaborative actions.

To effectively accelerate the 2030 Agenda at territories, it is necessary to establish coordinated dialogues among all stakeholders. The SDGs emphasize the need for effective governance as the backbone of sustainable development. In this regard, the implementation of an effective local governance becomes relevant, encompassing interactions among actors at the local level, such as local governments, private sector, academia, and civil society, as well as interactions between the local, subnational, and national levels. Effective local governance is crucial for multidimensional development, enabling local authorities to collaborate with communities to identify local needs and priorities, and to find sustainable solutions to contextual challenges.

UNDP promotes and supports processes of effective local governance through comprehensive approaches, fostering multi-actor and multi-level engagement in relation to and interaction with local, subnational, and national governments. To achieve this, UNDP works on coordination with subnational governments and actors within the territory, enhancing their leadership and management capacity, improving resource planning and management, and encouraging citizen participation in decision-making.

This strategy proposes that effective local governance and SDG localization form a virtuous circle, mutually accelerating and reinforcing each other. Effective local governance has the potential to expedite SDG localization processes and ensure their effective adaptation and implementation in the territory. Concurrently, plans, programs, and actions geared towards achieving SDGs at the territorial level propel and reinforce the practice of effective local governance, involving all actors present in the territory.



Furthermore, the Strategy acknowledges that the decelerators of development, given their complexity, cannot be addressed by a single actor or through conventional project-based approaches. It is necessary to establish multi-actor collaborations that combine the resources, skills, and capacities of different actors from the public, private, and civil society sectors to jointly develop more innovative solutions. Working in partnerships is positioned as an essential element for achieving the SDGs, as different forms of multi-actor collaboration provide the institutional and organizational structures needed to foster the systemic transformation at the core of the SDGs.

To ensure the success of these partnerships, attention must be paid to practical gender needs and strategic interests, as well as the cultural diversity of the context in which they operate, so that the exchange of strategic issues, competencies, and skills can reach its full potential. In this regard, UNDP, with its multilateral character, has the opportunity to adopt a role of promotion and facilitation in the establishment and management of multi-level and multi-actor partnerships, aimed at ensuring effective governance for the localization process of the 2030 Agenda.

Expanding the work of UNDP will be urgent, requiring new forms of participation. To achieve this, citizens and civil society must have access to quality information and new spaces for participation. Trainings should be promoted, work processes should be innovated, the limited project-oriented view should be overcome, siloed work should be avoided, and a rethinking of how problems are interpreted, and interventions are made at each level is needed.

Participation must ensure that the voices of women are articulated in the local agenda, not only as a fulfillment of the targets set in SDG 5 but also as a means to accelerate the fulfillment of the 2030 agenda in the territories where life unfolds.

This strategy does not intend to propose a normative “how-to” guide, but rather encompasses a series of interconnected and adaptable acceleration axes tailored to the specific contexts and needs of different territories, as well as the strategic interests of the diverse cultural and sexual backgrounds of their inhabitants.

The proposed strategy is organized as follows:

Table 0.1: Summary of the Integrated Framework proposed in this Strategy

<p>Concepts (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localization of Sustainable Development Goals • Effective Local Governance 	
<p>Premises (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiation • Internal expectations and capacities • Recognition and adaptation to local processes 	<p>Acceleration Axes (6)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting institutional strengthening practices and building technical and strategic capacities for SDG localization as a catalyst for multidimensional development. 2. Supporting the design and implementation of policies and mechanisms for territorial decentralization and deconcentration, including financial, technical, and competency aspects. 3. Promoting the enhancement of systems and procedures for the generation, analysis, and use of local and subnational data to monitor SDG localization at the local level. 4. Promoting innovation, digitization, research, and knowledge management to accelerate SDG localization processes. 5. Promoting the development and strengthening of strategic partnerships and enhancing local, subnational, national, and multi-level multi-actor platforms for SDG localization. 6. Driving strategic and transformative initiatives that accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda.
<p>Approaches (4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial • Multidimensional • Multi-actor and Multi-level • Policy Coherence for Development 	
<p>Key Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Governments • Subnational Governments • Territorial and Subnational Governments and Regional Associations (both national and international) • Academic Institutions / Research Centers • Citizens and Civil Society Organizations • Private Sector 	

Lastly, the aim is to present a Strategy based on the principles of universality, comprehensiveness, and “leave no one behind” of the 2030 Agenda. It is grounded in the idea that localization processes in subnational contexts of Latin America and the Caribbean will succeed to the extent that they can be framed within effective local governance systems¹. Thus, the goal is to contribute to multidimensional and inclusive development, with a territorial and subnational focus, by promoting SDG localization processes and effective local governance.

¹ In Spanish, the concepts of “governability” and “governance” have been widely debated in Latin American academic circles, with different viewpoints on their meanings and scope. However, in terms of communication, the stakeholders addressed by this strategy are familiar with the use of the term “governance” to refer to the multiple interactions that occur among different actors and levels for the formulation and implementation of public policies. To facilitate understanding and application, this strategy will use the term “governance.” For more information on the concepts of “governability” and “governance,” please refer to the document: “Gobernanza, democracia y desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe”

<https://www.undp.org/es/latin-america/publications/gobernanza-democracia-y-desarrollo-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>



Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación
Internacional para el Desarrollo
Consejería de la Presidencia, Interior,
Diálogo Social y Simplificación Administrativa

