



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Virtual Knowledge Exchange on Approaches and Tools for the 2024 Voluntary National Reviews

**Summaries of approaches and tools presented
on 17 January 2024**



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs





Introduction

Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are an essential part of the formal follow-up and review architecture of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Presented every year at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) during its three-day ministerial segment in July, these reviews are voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

In 2024, 42 countries will be presenting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 2023 HLPF. To support those countries, the United Nations Department of the Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized a virtual "Knowledge Exchange" on 17 January 2024. The Knowledge Exchange was an online addition to the first global workshop for 2024 VNR countries, held at Addis Ababa, in December 2023.

The annual Virtual Knowledge Exchange is an opportunity for UN entities and other organizations to engage directly with the 2023 VNR countries to share tools, approaches and methodologies that can support VNR preparations. These entities provided brief presentations of how they can assist those countries. A written background on the various tools is presented in this booklet, together with links and contacts.

The presentations were divided over four sessions, organized by broad topic. This booklet will follow the order of the presentations made at the Virtual Knowledge Exchange. It is hoped that the Knowledge Exchange, and this booklet, will be considered useful to those countries presenting their VNR reports at the 2024 HLPF.

For more details on the HLPF, please visit: hlpf.un.org/2024.

A database of over 340 VNR reports presented at the HLPF since 2016 is available from this link: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries>.



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International Monetary Fund

Approach/tool: IMF SDG FINANCING TOOL

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released an online SDG Financing Tool, SDG-FiT. The tool can be used to evaluate countries' financing needs to achieve the SDGs in a macroeconomically consistent and dynamic way. It helps monitor SDG implementation activities and evaluate additional financing options.

An "interactive scenario builder," the [tool](#) can help stakeholders "advance long-term comprehensive plans, evaluate the impact of policies, and compare financing options."

The tool supports the IMF SDG Financing Framework, "created to assess the macroeconomic coherence of a country's SDG development plans and to ensure proposed financing strategies are consistent with existing constraints and best practices."

The tool focuses on the following five sectors:

- Health: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3);
- Education: ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4);
- Roads: providing access to a safe, affordable, and sustainable transport system (SDG 9);
- Electricity: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (SDG 7); and
- Water and sanitation: ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The tool's capabilities and uses include setting up a baseline scenario, assessing policy scenarios, and trying different assumptions.

An Excel-based precursor version of the tool was used in IMF's 2021 paper titled, '[A Post-Pandemic Assessment of the SDGs.](#)' IMF researchers applied this earlier version of the tool to [five case studies](#) – Rwanda, Nigeria, Cambodia, Pakistan, and Mexico – to gauge the financial resources needed to achieve the SDGs in the five development areas and to assess alternative policy options to meet these needs.

The SDG Financing Tool website includes a [detailed guide](#) to support users in building financing strategies for the SDGs by assessing financing needs for the five sectors and evaluating options to close the financing gap. The tool's creators hope SDG-FiT will facilitate policymakers' work on considering financing options and policy planning in individual country cases.

The online tool was launched in April 2023. [[SDG-FiT](#)]

Link: [SDG Financing Tool \(imf.org\)](#)

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Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Approach/tool: SDG SYNERGIES TOOL

SDG Synergies is a tool and method that gives an integrated and systemic view to SDG implementation and reporting. It has been developed by researchers at SEI, in partnership with governments and others, to support more robust and effective implementation strategies through a better understanding of how the SDGs work together. The tool helps you record, visualize and analyse how progress on the SDGs interacts in a given context. Following a participatory process with key stakeholders and their expert assessments, the SDG Synergies tool uses network analysis to reveal patterns and relationships in clear visual outputs. These outputs give overview of where critical trade-offs and synergies exist; how each target influences and is influenced by all the others; which targets are most catalytic for progress, and which targets will not be supported by progress in other targets. This offers decision- and policy-makers valuable information for working systematically with synergies and trade-offs and identify priorities and action that can drive progress across the whole 2030 Agenda. As a practical decision-support tool, SDG Synergies carefully balances the complexity of interactions with comprehensibility. It is transparent, user-friendly and adaptable to various contexts and level of detail. It is available online, open access and free to use. SDG Synergies has been used by national and regional governments around the world. It supported Sweden's VNR 2021, and Colombia's VNR2021 also references the approach.

Link: <https://www.sdg synergies.org>

Approach/tool: SAPIENT – SUSTAINABILITY MAPPER FOR PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

We have developed a cutting-edge tool that allows large sets of project and policy documents to be automatically analyzed and mapped for their impact on the SDGs. Well-allocated finance and strategic decision-making efforts are crucial to achieving the SDGs. However, without either of these, there is a real danger that the SDGs will not be achieved, especially in developing nations, where some of the most vulnerable populations reside. The increased complexity of analyzing large volumes of projects and documents makes it challenging for governments, investors, and international development organizations to choose which projects should be prioritized and funded based on their contributions to the SDGs. SAPIENT – Sustainability Mapper for Planning and Investment – is a key tool using AI and emerging technologies. SAPIENT positively impacts access and use of data for near-automated decision-making, limits biases in information analysis, and is pivotal for development research and financing for sustainability.

Link: <https://github.com/SEI-LA-SDGs/SAPIENT>

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German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Approach/tool: APPLYING THE SIX AREAS OF TRANSFORMATION – AN EXAMPLE FROM GERMANY

The German Council for Sustainable Development has been invited to get engaged in six transformation teams of the German government to develop pathways for integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Germany. The global entry-points from the GSDR 2019 have been adjusted to the German context (see page 13 of [German Voluntary National Review, VNR 2021](#)) and the transformation teams work on the following six themes: (1) Food systems, (2) Pollution free environment (3) Human well-being (4) energy transition and climate change, (5) circular economy and (6) sustainable building and mobility. International action and engagement is a cross-cutting lever and a seventh transformation team.

Multi-stakeholder bodies such as the long-term institution [German Council for Sustainable Development](#) or the ad-hoc and temporal commissions ([the Commission on the Future of Agriculture](#) or [the Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment](#) to phase out coal in Germany) are mechanisms and instruments to negotiate conflicting interests towards a societal acceptable transformation pathway.

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UN Women

APPROACH/TOOL: PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2023

This publication is the latest instalment in the annual series jointly produced by UN Women and UN DESA. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of gender equality progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Halfway to the end point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world is failing to achieve gender equality, making it an increasingly distant goal. If current trends continue, more than 340 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030, and close to one in four will experience moderate or severe food insecurity. Growing vulnerability brought on by human-induced climate change is likely to worsen this outlook, as many as 236 million more women and girls will be food-insecure under a worst-case climate scenario.

The gender gap in power and leadership positions remains entrenched, and, at the current rate of progress, the next generation of women will still spend on average 2.3 more hours per day on unpaid care and domestic work than men. No country is within reach of eradicating intimate partner violence, and women's share of workplace management positions will remain below parity even by 2050. Fair progress has been made in girls' education, but completion rates remain below the universal mark.

With the clock ticking, urgency mounts.

This report advocates for an integrated, holistic approach to advancing gender equality, involving multistakeholder collaboration and sustained financial backing. Neglecting to amplify efforts and invest in gender parity jeopardizes the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Link: [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023 | Publications | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

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Save the Children

Approach/tool: NEW DATA PLATFORM, THE CHILD ATLAS

The pledge to Leave No One Behind is crucial to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realisation of human rights everywhere. However, a key stumbling block to turning this transformative principle into concrete policy measures has been the limited availability of integrated and granular data at the global, regional, national and local levels. Empowering evidence-based decision-making requires data which brings together insights on SDG progress and outcomes, as well as highlights inequalities and shocks caused by crises.

Save the Children has developed the Child Atlas, our new data platform to visualise, compare, analyse and understand child outcomes globally. The tool allows users to explore the different ways inequality affects children's lives; understand the relationships between different sectors and its interplay with risks and crises; and hear how children themselves describe the problems they are facing. The Child Atlas brings together a wide range of high-quality, publicly available data in one place, and uses expert blogs and artificial intelligence to explain the data it shows and the impact of children's lives.

Bridging different sectors and combining data on outcomes with those on risks to progress is essential to deliver on the intersectionality of the SDGs – and to allow decision-makers to explore those interlinkages for themselves. The Child Atlas helps to build understanding of such data can be used to make better decisions on policy interventions and programmes and allow for more insightful reporting and accountability on countries' progress towards the SDG.

Link: [Child Atlas Home](#)

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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

ESCAP provides support to VNR-presenting countries both in **VNR formulation** (e.g., assessing data on [SDG progress](#) and investment needs, [inequality](#), social protection, [energy](#) planning and sustainable development) and **VNR preparation** (developing VNR roadmaps, inception workshops, mapping out stakeholder engagement, and reviewing drafts). Read more about ESCAP's support to the VNRs [here](#).

Approach/Tool: ESCAP TWINNING PROGRAMME

ESCAP's flagship [Twinning Programme](#) also connects two or more VNR countries in the region that are presenting their VNR in the same year. The aim of the Twinning Programme is to provide an opportunity for 'live-learning' among VNR countries in the Asia-Pacific region, build practical and technical knowledge on SDG acceleration, and enhance partnerships and SDG leadership through South-South cooperation. The programme provides a unique opportunity for countries to exchange good practices, lessons learned, and offer peer support.

The Twinning Programme involves connecting VNR coordinating bodies, national statistics offices and stakeholders, and can take the form of study tours, virtual meetings, and peer reviews of VNR drafts and plans.

Approach/Tool: ESCAP RAPID RESPONSE FACILITY

ESCAP's [Rapid Response Facility \(RRF\)](#) seeks to support member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In recent years, the RRF has provided financial support to member States in their Voluntary National Review process.

Approach/Tool: E-TUTORIALS ON 2ND GENERATION VNRs

This is the course in the Follow-up and Review series, building on "Follow-up and Review and the Voluntary National Review (VNR)." The purpose is to help countries develop their 2nd or 3rd generation VNR. This tool aims to complement the VNR handbook and the common reporting guidelines developed by UNDESA by providing practical advice and concrete tips.

Link: <https://www.unescap.org/2030-agenda/voluntary-national-reviews>

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United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Approach/tool: THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Since 2017, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is convened annually under the auspices of ECLAC as a multi-stakeholder platform for debate, peer learning and multisectoral analysis that reviews progress made towards the SDGs and discusses priority topics for sustainable development. The Forum is led by the States of Latin America and the Caribbean and open to representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector as well as other stakeholders from the region. It further involves the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks, other UN agencies and regional actors. The Forum provides peer learning opportunities, the exchange of good practices and the discussion of common goals and seeks to encourage cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to guide an inclusive regional process towards sustainable development. The seventh meeting of the Forum will take place from 15 to 18 April 2024 at ECLAC's Headquarters in Santiago de Chile. Among many highlights, the Forum will feature the annual report on regional SDG progress and challenges, a consultation in preparation of the Summit of the Future and a technical capacity workshop geared towards the nine countries from the region presenting their Voluntary National Reviews in 2024.

Link:

<https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2023/en>

<https://www.cepal.org/en/events/regional-voluntary-national-review-and-voluntary-local-review-workshop-latin-american-and>

<https://www.cepal.org/en/events/side-event-localization-sustainable-development-goals-and-role-voluntary-local-reviews-latin>

<https://repositorio.cepal.org/items/aebd6e58-0ad7-4f4a-b545-95f93047aa04>

Approach/tool: THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

The Community of Practice on the Latin American and Caribbean Voluntary National Reviews was established by ECLAC in 2019 and has become an important regional platform for monthly peer-to-peer learning, collaboration and exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the elaboration of the VNR process. It includes government officials, professionals, researchers and technical experts as well as representatives of ECLAC and the rest of the UN system, including RCOs, and occasionally invites representatives of youth, civil society, the private sector, academia, local authorities, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders. Since December 2019, 56 meetings were held at the technical level, in English, Spanish, French and/or Portuguese, tailored to the demands from member States, addressing diverse topics, including the impacts of COVID-19, climate change, data and statistics, meaningful stakeholder engagement, SDG integration, financing for development, localization of the SDGs, among others.

Link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/2030-agenda-sustainable-development/eclaccommunity-practice-voluntary-national-reviews>

Approach/tool: THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - THE REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

The Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, also known as the SDG Gateway, was developed by the ECLAC and the regional office of UNDP, in conjunction with the funds, programs and specialized agencies of the UN system in the region. The online hub serves as a meeting and reference point for all information related to the SDGs at the regional level and has two complementary components: One space for general information and content on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean that gathers information on activities, news, publications and information resources, VNRs and institutional arrangements, and another space dedicated to statistical follow-up and monitoring of the progress made with regard to the SDG indicators, which contains information on institutional aspects of national statistical systems, indicator frameworks, databases, statistical profiles and links to third party entities related to the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels.

<https://agenda2030lac.org/en>

For further information, please contact Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC – mareike.eberz@cepal.org

United Cities and Local Government

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Approach/tool: GUIDANCE NOTE: INTEGRATING MIGRATION IN VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

In close collaboration with the United Nations country team, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) supports member States by delivering technical advice on their voluntary national reviews (VNRs). The present document provides guidance to member States on integrating migration in their VNRs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to ensure that migrants are not left behind.

Integrating migration issues in countries' sustainable development policies is essential for maximizing the positive benefits of migration and reducing its negative aspects. The present guidance note provides an overview of key migration terms and trends in the Arab region, examines the connections between migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), offers step-by-step instructions on how to report on the SDGs through a migration-sensitive lens, lists best practices, and suggests additional resources for improving migration policymaking post-VNRs.

Link: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/integrating-migration-voluntary-national-reviews>

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UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Approach/tool: HANDBOOK ON INTEGRATING SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN VNRs

Member States, in the BAPA+40 Outcome Document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, recognize the importance of leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and toward achieving the overarching goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. South-South and triangular cooperation – among countries facing similar challenges – can be a valuable catalyst in igniting political will and enhancing know-how to implement much-needed economic and social reforms needed to rescue the SDGs.

The integration of South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives in the VNRs helps to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda more comprehensively and inclusively. At the same time, it also helps to generate evidence of South-South and triangular cooperation contributions toward achieving the SDGs.

Responding to the requests of Member States in the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Ministerial Declaration and the 2022 UNGA Resolution on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC together with the Co-chairs of the Group of Friends of VNRs, Member States, UN entities, and relevant partners has developed a handbook to support the Member States and partners in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation in VNRs. The [Handbook on Integrating South and Triangular Cooperation in VNRs](#) provides step-by-step guidance, drawing good practices, and examples, on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into the preparation and presentation of VNRs. The handbook was launched in the margin of the HLPF 2023.

My presentation will cover key elements of the [Handbook on Integrating South and Triangular Cooperation in VNRs](#), and its use during the preparation and presentation of the VNRs.

Link: <https://unsouthsouth.org/2023/07/14/handbook-on-integrating-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-in-the-voluntary-national-reviews-2023/>

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Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)

The Major Groups & Other Stakeholders VNR Task Group provides support to national stakeholder groups to participate in the VNR process. We aim to strengthen the capacity of stakeholder groups through a series of webinars and online tools for stakeholders. We aim to link together national groups with an interest to engage in the official VNR process in each country. We will shortly send out a survey to all stakeholder constituencies and we will be happy to share opportunities for dialogue and VNR consultations.

Links:

MGoS webpage - <https://www.mgos.org/>

Previous VNR MGoS statements - <https://www.mgos.org/vnr-questions-interventions/>

Parallel Reports - <https://www.mgos.org/parallel-reports/>

Contacts: Oli Henman - oli.henman@action4sd.org

Wardarina - rina@apwld.org

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Approach/tool: HUMAN RIGHTS AND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS: OPERATIONAL COMMON APPROACH GUIDANCE NOTE

The note, developed by OHCHR and UNDP on behalf of the Task Team under the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, aims to help Member States maximize synergies between human rights and 2030 Agenda follow-up and review processes.

The guidance note elaborates a practical 8-step approach with editable checklists for each step outlining suggested actions to assist Member States in developing their VNRs in a way that integrates human rights throughout the process, while also ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation.

Taking the 2030 Agenda article 74(e) as a starting point – follow up and review processes “will be people-centered, gender sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind”, the guidance note demonstrates ways to use human rights-based approaches to strengthen VNRs and help accelerate SDG implementation in a manner that leaves no one behind. It provides links to numerous useful tools, further reference materials, and highlights several specific country examples and good practices from previous VNRs.

The [guidance note](#) is available in English, Spanish, and French.

Contact information:

Maria Soledad Pazo, Senior Human Rights Officer, OHCHR - maria.pazo1@un.org

Chelsea Shelton, Human Rights Programme Specialist, UNDP - chelsea.shelton@undp.org

Link: <https://www.undp.org/publications/human-rights-and-voluntary-national-reviews-operational-common-approach-guidance-note>

12

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Approach/tool: INVESTING IN CHILDREN AS SDGs ACCELERATOR

The close interconnection between the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and children's wellbeing needs to be made explicit – that realizing children's rights, including their right to protection from violence will help accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

Links:

- [Decade of action to end violence against children | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#) – Of note-- this is the 2022 brief – the 2023 brief is being finalized. Content of the presentation will be based on the 2023 brief.
- [The Violence Prevention Dividend - Why Preventing Violence Against Children Makes Economic Sense](#)
- [Protecting the Rights of Children on the Move in Times of Crisis](#)
- [The climate crisis and violence against children](#)
- [Child Participation](#)



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UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance

Approach/tool: **THE SDG16 SURVEY INITIATIVE**

The SDG16 Survey Initiative jointly developed by UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR provides a high quality, well tested tool that countries can use to measure progress on many of the survey-based indicators under SDG16. It can support data production on peace, justice, and inclusion (SDG 16) which can help to better understand complex realities that exist at national and local levels. It can help unveil some of the hidden truths of how violence, discrimination, inequality, and injustice manifest itself in the community and identify entry points to begin to address some of these persistent challenges.

Link: <https://www.undp.org/publications/sdg16-survey-initiative>



United Nations Volunteers

Reflecting volunteer contributions to the SDGs in Voluntary National Reviews

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme works with UN Member States and other stakeholders to support evidence on whole-of-society approaches in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Globally, millions of active volunteers make economic and social contributions to development processes at scale. From 2016 to 2023, 136 VNRs highlighted the role of volunteers in achieving national priorities and the positive contributions they make to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Countries have highlighted the diversity of volunteer efforts – from extending services to those often left behind, to designing and testing innovations to local problems, to gathering data and providing feedback on SDGs progress.

UNV continues to support countries preparing VNRs in several ways:

Data and evidence can be collected and analysed on volunteering's contribution to SDGs in the national context. In 2024, UNV will be supporting 15 member states through UNRCOs to provide data and evidence on volunteering contributions to SDGs through country level surveys and data analysis.

Data and evidence on volunteering in the national context is provided via our [Knowledge Portal](#), especially the [Volunteering Database](#), which provides information on [volunteering laws, policies and schemes](#), [measurement work](#), [VNR reporting](#) and [UNSDCF integration](#); the [Evidence Library](#), which provides information on volunteerism and the SDGs.

Additional information on national statistical data of volunteer work is provided at ILOSTAT: [statistics on volunteer work](#)

Stakeholders in volunteerism at a national level can be convened to collate and validate data and inputs for specific themes or goals. For example, in Cameroon, UNV partnered with the Ministry of Youth, and Platform of Actor Working in Volunteering Cameroon to prepare a situation analysis on volunteerism's contribution to achieving SDGs 4, 5, 14, 16 and 17. The collated information helped inform the parts of Cameroon's 2022 VNR report that relate to volunteering.

Good practices on volunteering for the SDGs can be collated from governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, United Nations entities and volunteers at the UNV Knowledge Portal. In Tuvalu, for example, UNV drafted two case studies from partner volunteer-involving organizations and verified them with the Tuvalu Red Cross and Tuvalu Women for Change; then, they submitted those case studies to the VNR Report writing team

Approaches/tools:

1. **UNV Guidance Note for Member States on Reflecting volunteer contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in Voluntary National Reviews:** The guidance note provides key information to Member States about how to include volunteerism's contributions in Voluntary National Reviews and recognizes the importance of integrating volunteering into national development plans: <https://knowledge.unv.org/index.php/evidence-library/reflecting-volunteer-contributions-to-the-sustainable-development-goals-in-voluntary-national-reviews-guidance-note-for-member-states>

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2. **UNV knowledge portal Database on Reflecting volunteer contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in Voluntary National Reviews by Member states:** The database on online knowledge portal provides analysis of VNRs reflecting volunteers contribution to SDGs segregated for mentions of volunteering related to specific SDGs, integration of volunteering in national plans or policies and mention of volunteering related to matters around gender equality and women empowerment: <https://knowledge.unv.org/index.php/vnr-reporting>
 3. **UNV Video on The importance of integrating volunteerism in National Plans and Voluntary National Reviews:** The YouTube video was presented at HLPF 2023 VNR Lab “Recovery, Transformation, Acceleration and Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Why and how to integrate volunteers into national plans and policy responses?” held by UNV in collaboration with UNDESA and provides information to member states on integrating volunteering in national plans and VNRs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNzxhIMALPM>

UNV knowledge portal website: <https://knowledge.unv.org/>

UNV website: <https://www.unv.org/>



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Food and Agriculture Organization

Approach/tool: FAO GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

FAO and the 2030 Agenda Follow-Up and Review Guidance Note” aims to support the process of repositioning FAO as a vital member of the UN family, supporting its Member Nations in the process of transforming agrifood systems as an SDG accelerator to ensure better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life for all, leaving no one behind. It aims to provide a framework to support national authorities and other partners with VNR preparation.

Link: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8734en/cc8734en.pdf>



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World Health Organization/ Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

Approach/tool: ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING INVESTMENT CASE

Over 1.5 million adolescents aged 10-24 years died in 2020, nearly 5000 every day, mostly from preventable or treatable causes.¹ Globally, one in seven 10- to 19-year-olds experiences problems with mental health, accounting for 13% of the global burden of disease in this age group.² Every year at least 12 million girls are married before the age of 18, inhibiting their access to education.³ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its pledge to “leave no one behind” will not be achieved if urgent attention is not paid to adolescents and their wellbeing.

The [adolescent well-being investment case](#) developed by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) under the oversight by an Expert Consultative Group comprised of 32 partner organizations working across different sectors contributing to adolescents’ well-being. The Investment case, synthesizes current knowledge on the case for investing in adolescent well-being (e.g. the economic case, human rights imperative, the demographic and epidemiological transition) and revises, updates and expands previous models of investment (e.g. health, nutrition, education, road traffic injury, child marriage, etc.) as well as presents the cost of insufficient action.

To foster and support accountability for pledges made for adolescents, [monitoring approaches](#) for measuring adolescent well-being have been developed by the [Adolescent Well-being Measurement Expert Consultative Group](#). The goal of this work is a measurement approach for adolescent well-being for use at global, regional, and country levels, including SDG reporting.

Organization link: <https://pmnch.who.int/>

Links:

- Adolescent Well-being Investment case: <https://pmnch.who.int/resources/publications/m/item/adolescents-in-a-changing-world-the-case-for-urgent-investment>
- Adolescent well-being measurement resources: <https://www.who.int/groups/adolescent-well-being-measurement-expert-consultative-group> and monitoring approaches: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37815774/>
- Adolescent well-being conceptual framework and evidence for policy and programming: <https://pmnch.who.int/resources/tools-and-toolkits/adolescent-papers>
- Agenda for Action for Adolescents: <https://pmnch.who.int/news-and-events/campaigns/agenda-for-action-for-adolescents>
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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO SURVEY ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION (INSTRUCTION MANUAL)

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 16.10.2 looks at “the number of countries that have adopted and implemented constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to Information.” In line with its role as the UN custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator 16.10.2, UNESCO has been mandated by its Member States to monitor and report progress on this indicator worldwide. Within this context, UNESCO conducts annually the Survey on Public Access to Information (SDG Indicator 16.10.2). The manual instructs central oversight institution/s that is/are responsible for Access to Information how to fill out the survey.

Links:

<https://www.unesco.org/reports/access-to-information/2021/sites/default/files/medias/files/2022/02/EN%20-%20Instruction%20Manual%20SDG%2016.10.2%20FINAL.pdf>

THE TASHKENT DECLARATION ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Declaration was adopted by the participants of the Global Conference aimed to commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) hosted by UNESCO and the Government of Uzbekistan on 28 September 2022. This Declaration outlines the best practices for accessing information in the digital age to advance human rights and sustainable development. The Declaration was welcomed and noted at the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference. It is a collection of knowledge expressed by the attendees of the IDUAI 2022 Conference. Its purpose is to guide Member States and other stakeholders in legislating access to information guarantees and implementing legal frameworks incorporating the latest developments and best practices.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383211>

UNESCO MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE: ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS AND POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

The self-paced course is developed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the Centre for Law and Democracy and serves as an introduction to the right to access information held by public authorities.

Links:

<https://unesco-ati-mooc.thinkific.com/courses/unesco-massive-open-online-course-access-to-information-laws-and-policies-and-their-implementation>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS: A GUARANTEE OF INCLUSION AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

This UNESCO report provides an analysis of the inclusion of persons with disabilities or lack thereof in ATI legislations across the globe, based on the existing ATI laws in 132 countries. The report further presents a series of recommendations to advance the rights of persons with disabilities within the scope of the right to information. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380470>



United Cities and Local Governments

Approach/tool: ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE AROUND LOCAL SDG ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE GTF'S "[Towards the localization of the SDGs](#)" yearly report

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, local and regional governments (LRGs) have manifested an unwavering commitment to achieving its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The organized constituency of LRGs, articulated in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), has presented seven editions of the "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" annual report since 2017, which monitors the state of SDG implementation at the local level around the world. The seven reports offer annually updated, bottom-up evidence around two main questions: How enabling are the institutional environments for SDG localization around the world? In the face of the arising challenges and opportunities, how have LRGs advanced SDG localization? Taken together, the seven reports provide the most thorough and comprehensive analysis available of the state of SDG localization worldwide: they showcase 3,452 bold actions of 1,339 LRGs and their associations from over 145 countries. In addition, they include key conclusions and recommendations to steer the SDG localization process towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Through this report, national governments and other stakeholders can learn from these local efforts and institutional contexts from a research and advocacy perspective.

Approach/tool: ENSURING THE LOCAL PERSPECTIVE IN YOUR VNRs THROUGH THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ELABORATION OF VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL REVIEWS (available in [EN/FR/ES](#))

In our collective pursuit of a just, inclusive and sustainable world by 2030, the Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs), led by local government associations (LGAs) from around the world, have significantly transformed reporting practices around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all levels. They have sparked and contributed to consolidating whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to sustainability, understanding their critical role in effectively surmounting the current crises and complex emergencies the world is facing. Furthermore, the impacts of VSR processes go beyond the immediate reporting phase. Unlike one-off endeavors, VSRs possess the unique ability to ignite enthusiasm and foster the commitment needed to implement a comprehensive strategy aligned with the SDGs. In certain instances, VSRs not only strengthen but also extend the ongoing trajectory towards SDG attainment, emerging as pivotal tools and processes for research, learning and advocacy. The VSRs have been recognized by the United Nations, together with Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), as "an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation" on SDGs. They have contributed to escalating the critical role of SDG localization in regional and international processes. UCLG has produced the Guidelines for the elaboration of VSRs, which can serve as an inspiring tool for national governments to secure a local, bottom-up perspective to their VNR and improve multilevel coordination by supporting the national local government associations in the production of a VSR.

Links:

- UCLG's Research webpage: <https://www.gold.uclg.org>
- Check UCLG's repository of Voluntary Subnational Reviews: <https://gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting#field-sub-report-tab-1>

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- Get in touch with your local government associations! UCLG's Guidelines for the elaboration of VSRs: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/guidelines_en.pdf
 - To approach your cities and regions having produced a VLR, UCLG's repository of Voluntary Local Reviews: <https://gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting#field-sub-report-tab-3>
 - Find free courses on SDG localization here: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/en>
 - For a global overview, the last "Towards the localization of the SDGs" report: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/hlpf_2023.pdf
 - What is happening in your country? Check the SDG localization Country Profiles: <https://gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting#field-sub-report-tab-5>

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World Vision

Approach/tool: GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CHILD-SENSITIVE VNRS

Children are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the key to sustaining progress beyond 2030. Close to 50% of the 17 SDGs relate DIRECTLY to children and all others have an indirect impact. When it comes to the SDGs. Targets and Indicators, 62 Targets and 41 Indicators are of direct concern for children. Consequently, when it comes to tracking progress on SDGs through the VNRS processes, the report needs to include and feature children very clearly.

World Vision has developed two Guidance Notes with technical recommendations on how to mainstream children in the VNRS to enable visibility of one of the most vulnerable children and often left behind group addressed in the 2030 Agenda as part of the Leave No One Behind principle.

Food, health, and education are one of the areas where reporting on positive impact for children may be more evident. However, across other SDGs is important to do so as well both because of the centrality of children in the 2030 Agenda and because Governments are carrying out different actions to address the situation of children.

The Guidance Notes follow the general structure of the Secretary General's updated voluntary common reporting guidelines. They also provide examples of good practices from other VNRS. Some of those good practices are from some of your countries from previous VNR reports.

In addition to the Guidance Notes, World Vision has reviewed VNR reports presented from 2017 to 2023. We can share the country review done on some of you who are second and/or third time presenters, which can support your analysis when developing your 2024 VNR. Our review is from the child rights lens, which synergizes well with the Child Rights Convention which the vast majority of countries have signed and ratified. To give you a brief view of the technical recommendations in the Guidance Note, we suggest:

Voluntary National Reviews: Guidance Note on Violence Against Children.

Link:

<https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/World%20Vision%20Guidance%20Note%20for%20countries%20preparing%20VNRS%20in%202021%20%28%29.pdf>

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