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UCLG ASPAC International Conference 2018
SDGs Implementation through Local Governments
11-13 April 2018 Islamabad, Pakistan



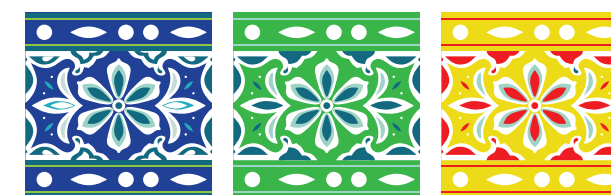
List of Acronyms

CBMS Community-Based Monitoring System	NA National Assembly
CSOs Civil Society Organizations	PPP Public Private Partnership
GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SCD State Citizens Dialogue
GIZ-LoGo Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit- Support to Local Governance Programme	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
KP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	UN United Nations
LGs Local Governments	UNACLA United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
LGA Local Government Act	UNCSD United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
LGAKP Local Councils Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	UNDESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
LGAP Local Councils Association Punjab	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
MDGs Millennium Development Goals	UCLG-ASPAC United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific



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1. Introduction

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, 193 UN member states unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global development agenda that lays out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “guiding principle for long-term global development consisting of three pillars: economic development, social development and environmental protection” (UNCSD 2011). In the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want, it was agreed that sustainable development goals must, inter alia, ‘be global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities’ (UNDESA).

The SDGs build on the Rio+20 outcomes and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. One of the most important lessons learned from experiences from MDGs and elaborating on SDGs, was significance of local contexts. The role of Local Governments and local actors in delivering the development agenda was widely recognized and acknowledged in the international development cooperation.

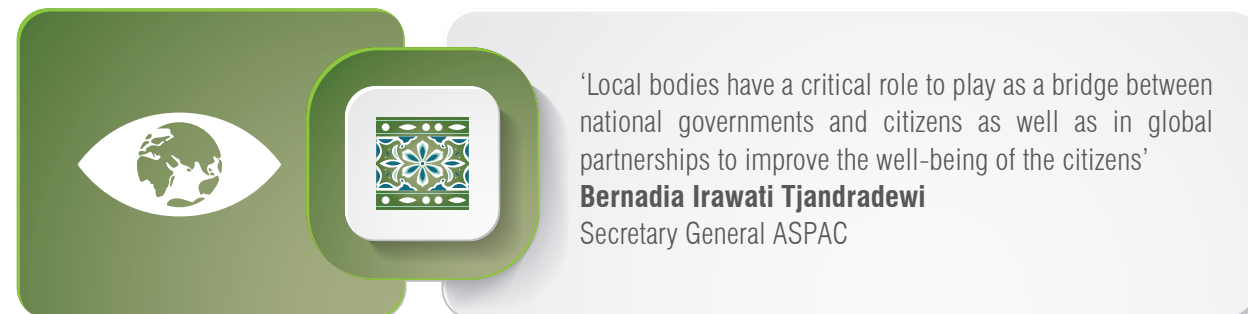
Local governments are in a unique position in terms of closeness and accessibility to the people to identify and respond to development needs and gaps and address development challenges. Thereby making the development more responsive and relevant to local needs, aspiration and people’s lives. Local governments form a bridge between state and citizens. Being closest to the people, local governments play a vital role in educating, mobilising and responding to the public to promote sustainable development.

Localizing the SDGs is a critical condition for a successful implementation of the 2030 development agenda. SDGs will only be implemented effectively if this tier of government and stakeholders are included in the planning, implementation and monitoring. This bottom-up approach will ensure sustainability and local ownership.

According to the UN, localisation denotes the “process of defining; implementing; and monitoring strategies at the local level for achievable global, national and subnational sustainable goals and targets”. There is a firm belief that localisation has to be extended beyond national, provincial/state/regional implementation and that there is an urgent need to focus on how the 2030 agenda will be implemented locally, as well as the implications for the local level governments in this regard.

Localisation refers to the process of adapting, implementing, and monitoring the SDGs at the local level, whilst ensuring we leave no one and no place behind. When we talk about localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it seems to be a simple task: translating the global goals for the local level in order to implement them in the local system. However, in practice, it is not that easy. Local governments face several major challenges that are likely to have an impact on the SDG implementation globally.

The 18th Amendment to Pakistan's Constitution in 2010 transferred regulatory powers from the federal level to the provincial level, to be subsequently passed on further to the local levels. The provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab adopted new Local Government Acts (LGAs) in 2013. The Local Government Acts (LGAs) 2013 transferred a broad range of administrative tasks to local authorities. As a result of local elections the number of local authorities and elected councils increased dramatically (from 1,100 to 3,600 with 44,000 elected representatives in KP, of which around 8,000 were women, young people and representatives of minorities). In Punjab the number of local councils is even higher as 58,063 councillors are elected for 4,244 local councils with representation of 9,286 women in total at all tiers of local governments in the province. They have the commitment and people’s mandate to play an active



role in the development of their communities and thereby contributing to development goals set globally, through local actions.

The Local Councils Association KP (LCA-KP) and Punjab (LCAP), are independent elected representative bodies of all local councils in their respective provinces. Established in 2008, both associations are independent bodies, formed under the Societies Act-1860. Their main purpose is to support and strengthen the local governments in their respective provinces. The associations aggregate their voices, lobby for their participation in subnational decision-making processes and policies and represent the LGs in regional and international associations. Both the associations are member of various international local government organizations, institutions and networks, most prominently the United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC).

The UCLG is a worldwide association, and the only local government organization recognized by the United Nations. It nominates 10 out of 20 members of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), the first formal advisory body of local authorities affiliated to the UN. The UCLG-ASPAC is the voice of and an advocate for democratic local self-governance representing cities, regions and local governments, promoting cooperation and knowledge exchange between its members and towards the international community in the Asia-Pacific region. Its scope of work includes decentralized cooperation, advocacy, capacity building and training, research and knowledge management and project development and management.

In the same context, these associations joined together to organize three-day international event in Pakistan from 11-13th April 2018 on the Local Governments and their role in implementation of development agenda 2030. The Government of Pakistan extended full support to the event. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical assistance.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Support to Local Governance (LoGo) Programme aims to improve service delivery by local governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Under one of the result area State Citizens Dialogue (SCD), the programme is supporting the Local Councils Associations in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as institutions representing Local Governments and ensuring demand driven delivery of public services with a focus on citizens' needs. GIZ has remained at the forefront with LCAP and LCAKP to host this international event in Pakistan with the aim to engage Local Governments representatives in constructive dialogues, encourage partnerships and networks to exchange expertise in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and Pacific.

2. International Conference on 'Think Globally Act Locally: SDGs Implementation through Local Governments'

A three-day international event under the title of 'Think Globally, Act Locally – SDGs implementation through Local Governments' was held in Islamabad, capital city of Pakistan from 11-13 April 2018. The event was hosted by the Local Councils Associations of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the UCLG-ASPAC (United Cities and Local Governments - Asia Pacific). The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) extended technical support to the event. The Federal Government of Pakistan, Provincial and Local Governments all extended their full support and participation to the event.

More than 400 participants including Head of Local Governments, Senior Government Officials from central level of governments, Mayors, Diplomats and Development Partners have attended the event from more than 15 countries including China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, UK, USA and Pakistan. UCLG ASPAC members, UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, Local Government Associations Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and representatives from GIZ and UNDP Pakistan actively contributed in the successful organization of the event.

The three-day programme remained instrumental in raising awareness on SDGs among local governments and highlighted the role of local governments in the successful implementation of SDGs at local levels. Prominent national and international experts and government dignitaries discussed policy issues, technical approaches, measures to address the challenges while implementing SDGs locally. Participants presented inspiring and exemplary practices and experiences of the Local Governments in promoting sustainable development. The speakers of the plenaries provided advice and guidance that focused on policy, technical approaches and measures to address the challenges while implementing SDGs locally to promote sustainable development. The event provided a platform for exchanging and sharing experiences for mutual learning and understanding and an opportunity to form partnerships and networks in the Asia-Pacific region.

OBJECTIVES

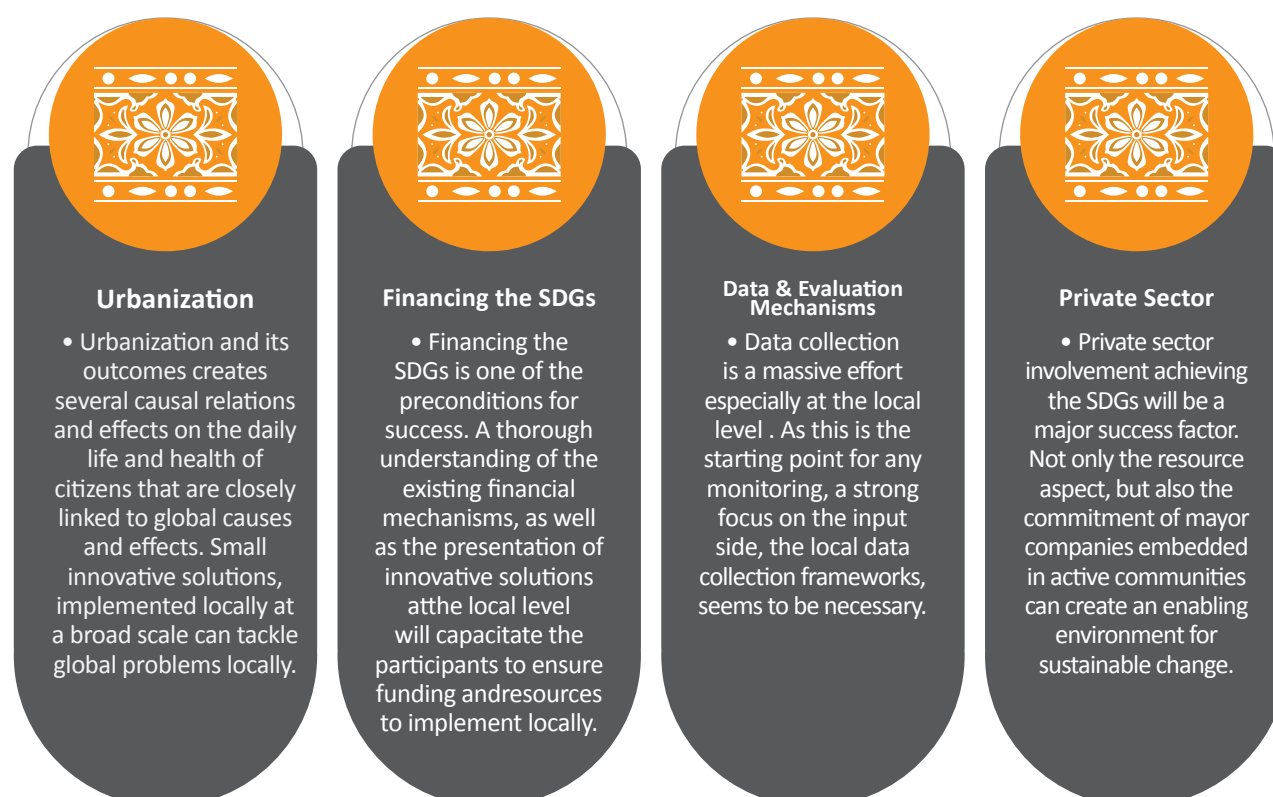
- To highlight the crucial role local governments play in the implementation of the SDGs in Asia and Pacific
- To engage in constructive dialogues and provide a forum to discuss challenges and opportunities in localisation and implementation of SDGs
- To serve as a platform to share technical expertise and know how, as well as best practices
- To form partnerships on shared problems and create networks to exchange expertise to achieve the global goals through sustainable action

Mr. Zeeshan Naqvi, Deputy Mayor, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad Pakistan, Mr. Syed Mohamad Asghar Gillani President LCA Punjab Pakistan and Co President of UCLG ASPAC and Mr. Won Hee Ryong Governor Jeju Special Self-Governing province South Korea and President of UCLG ASPAC delivered their remarks via video messages during the opening and inaugural session on the first day.

First day of the three-day event included UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting, UCLG ASPAC standing committees meetings on Road and Belt Cooperation and 21st Century Maritime Cooperation and in parallel a symposium of the LCA's KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan on 'Localising SDGs in Pakistan – Where do we stand?' with the aim to develop concrete and coherent messages to share on the next day with full quorum of international and local delegates and International Conference on role of local

governments in the localisation and implementation of SDGs. One of the important milestone achieved during the session was a Joint Declaration by heads of local governments from all four provinces of Pakistan expressing commitment to playing an active role in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals locally.

Within the broad framework of localization of the Sustainable Development goals, four major topics were selected for the International Conference Day on April 11, 2018 to focus on flagship projects, as well as to provide an insight in most recent best practices and key challenges.



His Excellency Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi honoured the event for formal closing. He welcomed international guests and appreciated their participation. He also appreciated efforts of the organizers and host for job very well done. Prime Minister of Pakistan reaffirmed government's commitment to SDGs. He acknowledged and emphasized the role of local governments in realization of SDGs and highly appreciated participation of district council leaders from all four provinces. He underlined the need for enhanced cooperation among the MNAs, MPAs and councillors of the local governments to work together for sustainable development.

On the third day, field visits were organized for the international participants to explore the local governance system and to get an insight on the culture, the economy and the people of Pakistan. Visits were arranged to the National Assembly of Pakistan Islamabad, archaeological site of an ancient Buddhist Monastery in Takht Bhai and district council Mardan Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On the visit to the National Assembly of Pakistan Islamabad, participants were provided an orientation by the Joint Secretary at National Assembly Mr. Syed Shamoon Hashmi on the structure of Federal Government of Pakistan, composition and its role. The participants keenly observed proceedings of the assembly followed by a meeting with speaker National Assembly Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

On the third day in parallel, a symposium of elected representatives of Local Governments from all four

'It's a very important forum where we are able to share experiences, share our commitments, and create a dialogue and hopefully it will result in cooperation and commitment. I am heartened to see that district council leaders from all four provinces are here. They are the people who will deliver on the SDGs locally'

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi
Prime Minister of Pakistan



provinces of Pakistan and development partners working in the field of local governance was organized to discuss the opportunities and challenges of Participatory Development Planning Processes and their contribution to localizing SDGs. The day also provided an opportunity to discuss lessons learnt and take-home ideas from the international conference and peer discussions.

Distinguished guests from across the Asia were introduced to Pakistan's rich culture and hospitality through a series of receptions and cultural events. Chambers of Commerce Pakistan invited guests to a dinner reception opening any opportunity to meet Local business leaders besides government officials and diplomats, to explore their role in partnering for development Agenda.



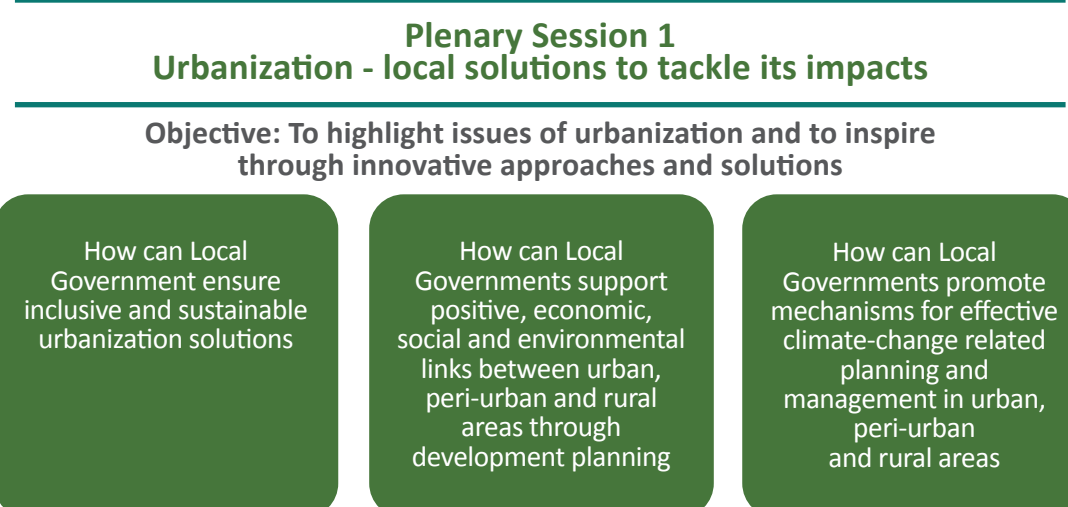
3. Plenary Sessions – Thematic Areas: Challenges and Opportunities

As mentioned earlier, during the conference four plenary sessions were organized to conduct focused discussions on specific selected topics under four thematic areas; Urbanisation and Local Solutions, Financing the SDGs, Role of Private sector and data collection for successful planning and implementation of sustainable development goals at the local level. A few key topics were discussed under each thematic areas.

Each plenary brought together experts, civil society representative, Heads of Local Governments and development partners to discuss flagship projects, best practices and challenges. After the panel discussions the audience was provided an opportunity for questions and remarks.

3.1 Local solutions to urbanisation¹

Urbanization and its outcomes creates several causal relations and effects on the daily life and health of citizens that are closely linked to global causes and effects. Small innovative solutions, implemented locally at a broad scale can tackle global problems locally. Exceptional, but simple solutions are needed that can serve as an inspiration for other communities.



With the objective to highlight issues of urbanization and to address the impact through innovative approaches and solutions, the plenary session brainstormed on the following aspects inspiring the participants to replicate those innovations within their own communities;

i. How can Local Government ensure inclusive and sustainable urbanization solutions?

- Inclusive urbanization provides equal dividends of economic and social prosperity to all citizens. Urbanization that does not negatively impact environment (water and air specially) and promote judicious use of land and natural resources is termed as sustainable urbanization. Inclusive and

¹ References:

System of Cities, Harnessing Urbanization for growth and poverty alleviation, The World Bank,
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/877591468163481401/pdf/518600WPOUrban10Box342051B01PUBLIC1.pdf>
Urban China, Towards efficient, inclusive and sustainable urbanization, The World Bank, Development Research Centre for State Council, The People's Republic of China.
https://books.google.com.pk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=nlcLBAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=inclusive+and+sustainable+urbanization&ots=qX2bp3g5EI&sig=7c7s4mRIgmTL3bhFkOz349A_AcQ#v=onepage&q=climate%20change&f=false
Challenges and way forward in the Urban Sector, Sustainable Development in the 21 Century (SD21),
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/challenges_and_way_forward_in_the_urban_sector_web.pdf
Managing the impact of Climate Change, The World Bank

sustainable urbanization can only be achieved when it is planned and implemented in an orderly manner. LGs have to be cognizant not to fall into trap of ills of urbanization especially urban poverty, urban sprawls, congestion, pollution and unemployment. Density is key for sustainable urbanization and hence LGs should plan to achieve density rather than spreading the city boundaries which will eat up more resources for provision of services.

- Fiscal transfers by upper tiers of government to LG and prudent financial management by LGs is pre-requisite for inclusive and sustainable urbanization. Upper tiers of governments have to allocate finances for (infrastructure and non-infrastructure) investment in cities to meet the growing public services demands of new residents and LGs have to apply financial disciplines to productively manage financial resources. Financial regime for inclusive and sustainable urbanization demands:

- Consolidated and predictable intergovernmental grants to LGs based on need, demand and having an element of performance incentives;
- Improved revenue base of LGs for levying and collection of tax and fee against services;
- Framework for commercial borrowing of LGs from public and private sector with strict regulation and oversight mechanism to avoid financial pitfalls: and
- Strict financial discipline for LGs in revenue and expenditure assignments.

ii. How can Local Governments support positive, economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas through development planning

- Cities being the engines of economic growth, the LGs need to outlines a range of strategies to pursue the drive for growth. This include improving the investment climate, increasing competitiveness, and partnering with the private sector. To tap the economic potential LGs can also develop cultural heritage assets linked to sustainable tourism development and redevelopment and urban revitalization to transform idle land and property into productive re-uses. LGs need to acquire new time-tested tools to develop market intelligence to attract new retail investment, financial services, and real estate developers to invest in underserved city areas.

- At the national and sub-national level (urban; peri-urban and rural LGs) policies will need to enable cities to function as gateways to international markets – connecting and linking three sub-national LGs based on their potential - and also as facilitating agents for domestic production and consumption markets. This cannot be achieved by cities (urban LGs) alone and require comprehensive planning at all three levels of LGs. The first place to start for attracting investment to cities is improving the sub - national investment climate, with a focus on reducing red tape culture and liberal economic policies.

- Competitiveness is key that attract (public and private) investment. LGs have to make themselves competitive by developing and adopting city development strategies around natural endowment. LGs have to carry out competitiveness analysis, with a local economic development focus, to identify promising manufacturing, service or other potential endowment for economic boost. It also merits that LGs (urban; peri-urban and rural) come together to develop and adopt regional development strategies based on competitive advantage each will offer – e.g. cheap but vast land for light manufacturing industry in peri-urban areas, tourism and culture in rural and fisheries and port activities in urban areas- to boost the region as whole. Comprehensiveness development planning is required to develop inclusive strategy to maximize the combined potential of all stakeholders.

- Land becomes most contested commodity in the urbanization process. A balanced used of high valued urban land in cities and relatively cheap and vast land in peri-urban and rural settlements require effective planning and land use regulation. LGs need to develop long term land use plans aiming urban

agglomeration to ease off urbanization pressure on city infrastructure. Positive effects of agglomeration can also benefit peri urban areas by connecting them with urban centers. Enhanced agglomeration ensures better management of congestion, distributes urbanization benefits to peri-urban and rural LGs and substantially address environmental issues of pollution control.

iii. How can Local Governments promote mechanisms for effective climate-change related planning and management in urban, peri-urban and rural areas

- The cost of inaction on climate mitigation and adaptation is far greater than the cost of early action. Emissions are most harmful by-product of urbanization. In order to offset the climate related negative impacts of urbanization the concerned LGs need continuous research and pursuit for environment friendly (industrial, construction, and fuel) technologies.
- The LGs need to work on three streams to mitigate climate impact, namely: strategy and policy; technology and measures; people and lifestyle. LGs need to introduce climate resilient policies, local action climate adaptation plans and enforce laws with strict punitive action against polluters, invest in promoting environment friendly technologies and establish regime for monitoring and measuring environment (air, noise, water quality and pollution) and massively invest in raising awareness among citizens to adopt healthy life style. LGs can't do everything alone as climate change mitigation is massive and cost intensive subject hence they (LGs) need to forge partnership with private sector (for technology and investment), academia (for research and development) and with CSOs (for awareness raising on of adaptation to climate change).
- LGs are in a unique position to tackle the cause and effects of climate change. Being closest to the action LGs can provide effective leadership for their citizens because they have the opportunity to catalyze and sustain the behavioural change at individual and community levels necessary for building a more resilient community. Capacity-building (investing in social capital) and planning (investing in process) for climate change are the two priority mechanisms to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

3.2 Financing the SDGs²

There is general consensus that LGs are best placed institutions for operationalization and turning many of SDGs into reality. But for effective implementation of SDGs finances is one among many challenges the LGs are confronted with. The national and sub-national governments must commit to increasing public investment for infrastructure, enhanced service delivery and research. Another LG challenge – a lesson from MDGs – is their poor capacities to plan and implement development initiatives even if they have funds. In many cases the inter-governmental funds released to LGs are tied transfers which does not leave much space for LGs to spend funds as per local priorities. There is need for introducing specific financial reforms – as per commitment made under Addis Ababa Action Agenda³ - for financing of

² References:

Creating Vertical Policy Coherence; UNDG

<https://undg.org/2030-agenda/mainstreaming-2030-agenda/vertical-policy-coherence/>

Building policy coherence for sustainable development, OECD

https://www.oecd.org/pcd/Meeting%20Summary_28%20October.pdf

National and sub national governments on the way towards the localization of SDGs, Local and Regional Government Report to the 2017 HLPF. https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/UCLG_GTF_LocalizationSDG.pdf

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing For Development, (Addis Ababa Action Agenda – AAAA), http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

³ **Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing For Development, (Addis Ababa Action Agenda – AAAA, 2015**



development through robust inter-governmental frameworks to adequately empower LGs with more financial autonomy, local revenue generation, fiscal transfers, access to long-term finance and localized development assistance for effective implementation of SDGs. Framework should aim reforming sub-national financing systems and increasing the ability of LGs to invest in SDGs. National governments and LGs need to made investment capitalizing and enhancing local revenues generation potential.

Plenary Session 2 Financing the SDGs – how to secure funding and resources

Objective: To ensure sustainability and predictability for the implementation of SDGs

Promoting vertical and horizontal coordination and policy coherence for SDGs financing

Linking planning and budgeting- challenges in the context of decentralization at the local level

How to incentivize resource allocation for priority SDGs at the local level

Sustainable financial frameworks are a precondition to ensure predictable and sustainable implementation of the SDGs at all levels, globally, within countries, as well as locally. Financing the SDGs is one of the preconditions for success. A thorough understanding of the existing financial mechanisms, as well as the presentation of innovative solutions at the local level will capacitate the participants to ensure funding and resources to implement locally.

i. Promoting vertical and horizontal coordination and policy coherence for SDGs financing (National & Sub-National)

• Policy coherence, integration (of resources, knowledge and skills), inter and intra-partnerships (in the vertical and horizontal directions) among governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders are essential for maximizing the SDG implementation agenda in the context of national and sub-national governments. Vertical coherence and integration may also create explicit institutional links between national and sub-national governments to complement the sustainable development agenda. Coherence and integration should aim to achieve the objectives of:

- Scaling-up: Coherence and integration should significantly increase funding in order to bridge the financing gap necessary to scale up the SDGs so “no one is left behind”;
- Additionality: Integration of financial resources should aim to generate additional funds, on top of regular inter-governmental transfers to fill this financing gap (partially or completely) to finance SDGs;
- Complementarity: The coherence and integration will open new avenue of complementarities for stakeholders to finance SDGs based on their strength and mandate.

- Experience from a range of countries highlights the critical role that strong institutional and coordination frameworks have played in supporting the achievement of the MDGs. Many countries are adapting their existing institutional frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs. Countries have also started work on preparation of horizontal and vertical coherence, integration and partnership mechanisms between national and sub-national governments with the desire ‘to combine the strengths of the state and federal levels in a common strategic and organizational framework’.

ii. Linking planning and budgeting- challenges in the context of decentralization at the local level

- Hard budget constraint is not the only reasons for failure of LGs to achieve the development targets. It takes much more, especially in developing countries, than budget only e.g. enabling environment; capacity, availability and robustness of plan, to ensure a successful implementation of development plan. There are examples that best (development, implementation) plans risk ending up unused or partially implemented if they are not accompanied by robust financial, governance and regulatory systems. Integrated planning must go hand in hand with strategic funding mechanisms and supporting governance systems. Currently, many LGs in developing countries face the near-impossible task of funding the infrastructure and services required to meet the basic needs of, its indigenous and growing urban, populations as they don’t have the blue prints of strategic, multi-year and integrated rolling plans.

- Multi-year integrated rolling plans are being introduced as an instrument of paradigm shift from traditional annual planning to city wide medium term – encompassing all infrastructure needs – plans. The objective is to have sequential long-term plan with focus on effective management, prioritization of infrastructure as per demand and staggered financial resources over years.



iii. How to incentivize resource allocation for priority SDGs at the local level

- Local problems need local solutions and for that the national and sub-national governments need to play their role. Any document framed at national level identifying priority SDGs for sub-national governments will not get much traction and may not see the implementation. Sub-national governments need to adopt process to prioritize the SDGs within the framework of local needs. The process must be inclusive i.e. getting the buy in of all (citizens, CSOs and private sector). Once the prioritization has been set then the focus should be turned on financing and implementation. In order to improve the financial status quo - where sub-national governments are completely dependent on national government – following steps are needed:

- Enhance opportunities for sub-national governments to raise their own revenues. To overcome the hard budget constraints sub-national government to be allowed additional autonomy over sources that they are already allowed to collect and facilitating better management of them, as well as assessing the need for and developing additional sources as required.

- Improve the level, quality and aim of inter-governmental fiscal transfers. A fairer distribution of domestic resources among different levels of government has become a strategic need to achieve the SDGs. Financial transfers to sub-national governments, for example, should be proportional to new transferred competences, predictable, transparent and regular, and include equalization mechanisms to reduce inequalities between territories. Transfers can also be used to create incentives for adopting needed reforms and improving service delivery, a potentially productive approach that many countries have experimented with in the form of performance-based grants

- ‘Performance Grants’ Programs could be launched (by national governments and development partners) to incentivize LGs for prioritization and resource allocations for SDGs. LGs to take lead to prioritize the SDGs in which they want to invest and the program develop assessment criterion for measuring LGs performance and releasing funds on the basis of compliance of the LG. Citizens can play a critical role in prioritizing SDGs, along with LGs, as per local needs and then verification of LGs performance towards achievement of identified actions which will trigger release of funds as ‘performance grants’ to LGs for next step and so.

3.3 Data and evaluation mechanisms⁴

- The SDGs will be monitored and assessed through a system of 231 indicators. The robustness and comprehensiveness of SDGs warrants a reliable data acquisition, progress monitoring and reporting system to achieve the SDGs targets.

- Effective and efficient planning, as well as the implementation and the sustainability of SDG interventions can only be ensured based on clear data and evaluation mechanisms. Especially at the local level data collection is a massive effort. As this is the starting point for any monitoring, a strong focus on the input side, the local data collection frameworks, seems to be necessary.

- Realization for reliable data for SDGs is growing and many countries have started taking initiatives in this regard. Countries have started comprehensive review process to assess the gaps in ‘data available for SDGs’ and ‘data required for SDGs’. The available data is also filtered through the ‘reliability and robustness’ check as for SDG data quality is of prime importance. Once the country’s data ecosystem has been reviewed against needs next is mainstreaming quality assurance measure. This process has also established baseline which is pre-requisite for measuring the performance of countries against SDGs targets.

- The time to invest in ‘acquiring, analysing and using better data’ is now. As countries have joined together for coordinated efforts to achieve the SDGs, investment in data will be crucial for its success. It is critical for governments to also develop a robust national monitoring system and localize the SDG targets and indicators as a priority before SDGs implementation. Contextualization of the SDGs at the country level is important if its targets are to be ‘grounded’ in national realities and reflect national development priorities.

- Many local and regional governments lack adequate mechanisms to gather information and data at

⁴ References:

2017 Atlas of SDGs by WB Pakistan Perspective, Data Reporting Gap, SDG, http://pc.gov.pk/uploads/report/Data_Gap_Report_Report_Version_6.pdf
National and sub national governments on the way towards the localization of SDGs, Local and Regional Government Report to the 2017 HLPF. https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/UCLG_GTF_LocalizationSDG.pdf
Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing For Development, (Addis Ababa Action Agenda – AAAA), http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

territorial level and local datasets are often not consistent with national data collection systems. However, there are examples of cities and regions that have created their own statistical institutions to complement planning services. Strengthening these institutions will be essential in order to monitor and assess the achievement of the SDGs at territorial level.

Plenary Session 3 Reliable data, the key to effective planning, budgeting and monitoring the implementation of SDGs

Objective: Create awareness on the importance of reliable data collection mechanisms to successfully plan and implement at the local level

Strengthening data availability for inclusive planning, budgeting implementation at the local level

How can information dashboards support local governments in evidence based implementation and monitoring of SDGs

Reporting on SDGs from local to national to global - an integrated approach

- One regime of dataset acquisition is through official system of government, where institutions, machines and human resources are required to carry out prescribed task, while the other more traditional dataset acquisition process is engaging citizens. Many countries have adopted and strengthened community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) where community level volunteers report on the progress and performance of sub-national governments directly to national governments. The system is worth replication to track sub-national governments' progress against SDGs as perceived by the citizens.

i. Strengthening data availability for inclusive planning, budgeting implementation at the local level;

- Effective and efficient planning, implementation and the sustainability of SDGs interventions are intrinsically dependent on reliable data and evaluation mechanisms. Planning and budget making are most important functions of sub-national governments. The decision makers need quality data to make informed and evidence-based policy decisions on planning and budgeting to allocate available funds more prudently. This requires a data ecosystem at sub-national level which should be integrated with national data ecosystem for consistency.

- Despite widespread consensus on the importance of data for effective achievement of SDGs, the current availability of relevant and reliable data is still very limited. Even when data is available, it is often not used to its full potential (including new data which is being produced in abundance from digital devices). Unfortunately, the current debate focuses far too much on how to get more and quality of data. A shift in debate is needed from theory (reliable data acquisition) into practice (its informed use in all decision from planning to reporting).

- The lesson from MDG era is that the goals were hardly localized and MDGs remained as National targets. The sub-national and LGs remained oblivious to MDGs which is not the case in SDGs. SDGs are inclusive and emphasize participation and action by every tier of government and civil society for universal achievement. For SDGs, countries are expanding the data collection systems at sub-national and LG level incorporating the MDGs lessons. Realizing the importance of data for planning, budgeting and for other decision-making process many national governments are developing data ecosystem. There is need to adapt/localize SDGs indicators to align these with national indicators and expand to

sub-national and local level. National and sub-national governments should define these indicators according to their data collection capacities, including their human resources and technological facilities. Indicators should also take into account the diversity of territories. Thus, in line with the SDG motto of 'leaving no one behind', they should include social groups at risk of exclusion (that is, groups that usually fall far below the average indicators). Similarly, countries with special circumstances such as fragile, conflict-affected, landlocked or less developed countries or small islands might need to include additional indicators to better reflect and monitor their specific circumstances and needs.

- The data ecosystem efforts by national, sub-national and LG level should aim to:

- **INCREASE** the demand and supply of credible, accurate, dynamic, and disaggregated data;
- **ADDRESS** data gaps in terms of quantity, timeliness, credibility, and quality;
- **INCREASE** the capacity, accessibility, and effective use of data for decision-making, empowerment, and accountability;
- **PROMOTE** broad dissemination and scaling of new data innovations and technologies;
- **CONNECT** stakeholders across sectors as well as across data communities to harness the data revolution for sustainable development and leave no one behind;
- **CATALYZE** ambitious commitments and collaborations to harness the data revolution for SDGs achievement;
- **ELEVATE** data issues at important national, regional, and international events; and
- **SUPPORT** the advancement of country-led data ecosystem Sustainable Development.

ii. How can information dashboards support local governments in evidence-based implementation and monitoring of SDGs

- Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) offers a vast, reliable, low cost and high tech. medium for real time data transmission, reporting and progress monitoring.

- Dashboards, or executive information systems, have been around for more than three decades. But they never became effective management tools till recently. A dashboard is an online platform that captures and displays qualitative and quantitative governance and development data. The purpose of the dashboard is to provide a comprehensive and comparable picture of national, sub-national and LG against required indicators. GIS enabled dashboard provide real time data on level of service delivery with field images to verify actions and use that information as evidence. Dashboards have the flexibility to provide very strategic information for policy makers or highly detailed information to field staff. Dashboards are being used to do real time monitoring like daily school attendance in all primary schools of a country to functional tube-wells in a district. A dashboard can also become an interactive communication space when it is integrated with SMS-based communication that relays information to managers and employees located in the field. For policy makers who do not have time to sift through large datasets dashboard snap-shots provide real time field evidence and once evidence is presented decision makers immediately 'get it'. Many countries are also using dashboards to track the performance of LGs against approved plans, financial releases and utilization of funds. The use of dashboards could be very handy to track the performance of sub-national governments against localized and agreed SDGs targets.

- In many countries the government has adopted dashboards to seek feedback directly from citizens on the delivery of public services. The citizens using their mobile phones can directly provide information on government dashboards. The dashboards show information like the details of the services delivered, where they are delivered, and how citizens perceive service quality. This pro-active governance system bypasses the service provider (LGs) and provides a direct platform to citizens to report on LGs performance. The data collected through such systems could also be used to track LGs performance

against SDGs which is verified by citizens themselves.

iii. Reporting on SDGs from local to national to global - an integrated approach

- Once the data ecosystem has been set in a country (at national and sub-national level) next is establishment of national and global reporting protocols and regimes. Timely reporting of SDGs requires close coordination between all stakeholders (national and sub-national institutions responsible for SDGs planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting). The consumption of data – to make informed policy, administrative and financial decision – both at national and sub-national level hinges upon the data quality, timely collection and reporting mechanisms

- Strong collaboration and coordination are required for effective monitoring and reporting of progress on the SDGs. Data integration and consistency of reporting formats (from LGs to sub-national to national to global) is required to have a cascading (LGs, sub-national, national, regional to global) picture. This would require strong coordination among the National Statistical Office, other data producers within the National Statistical System (such as line ministries) and the Ministry of Planning or specialized designated agency in charge of leading the implementation of the National Development Strategy viz-z-viz SDGs. The coordination between National Statistical Office and global office of SDGs is also important to ensure timely submission of data on required format.

- To ensure effective and timely reporting of data from sub-national to national to global institutions role clarity, systems and protocols are being established. In order to improve transparency on SDG reporting sub-national and national data should also be made accessible to public – to give feedback/comments based on ground realities – this will ensure accountability of data providers and keep a local check on performance of implementing institutions.

3.4 Involving private sector⁵

- Local sphere of government is in the best position to facilitate mobilization of local development stakeholders, notably the civil society and private sectors, national and international organizations, for promoting inclusive sustainable development within their respective localities. Consequently, they are ideally placed to pool up resources, knowledge and social capital to facilitate the implementers in caving out comprehensive, informed and real need based integrated plans on SDGs agenda and its implementation.

- The ‘cross-sectoral and integrated’ approach to multi-stakeholder partnerships under the SDGs is a great opportunity to be grabbed. SDGs framework has thematic areas which are well connected among one another and there exist a cross sectoral link between targets and several SDGs. There are various

⁵ References:

Public-Private Partnerships and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Fit for purpose, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2288desaworkingpaper148.pdf>
Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/sustdev/csd/csd16/PF/presentations/hamilton.pdf>
Infrastructure and Public Private Partnership, World Bank, <http://blogs.worldbank.org/ppps/public-private-partnerships-and-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>
 2017 Atlas of SDGs by WB
Pakistan Perspective, Data Reporting Gap, SDG, http://pc.gov.pk/uploads/report/Data_Gap_Report_Report_Version_6.pdf
National and sub national governments on the way towards the localization of SDGs, Local and Regional Government Report to the 2017 HLPF, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/UCLG_GTF_LocalizationSDG.pdf
Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing For Development, (Addis Ababa Action Agenda – AAAA), http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

nexus, clusters, or links among sectors within the SDG framework such as: the education, gender and health nexus, the water, energy, and food nexus, the energy, food security, and poverty eradication nexus, as well as the climate, land, energy, and water nexus. Leveraging the clusters and nexuses, new partnerships are being designed to accelerate the implementation of SDGs. While adopting this approach, partnerships look closely at how targets under one goal may impact targets under other goals or how individual targets could serve multiple goals. Existing partnership initiatives also need to be assessed how they can contribute to incorporate other targets from other goals so as to enable greater integration and synergies. The partnership and alliances will require a monitoring and review process that looks at multiple goals at the same time.

- In the plenary, participants discussed ideas on how Public Private Partnership (PPP) and partnerships with citizens/CSOs can leverage implementation of SDGs.

Plenary Session 4 The private sector as a key facilitator implementing the SDGs – Roles and Expectations

Objective: Raise awareness on the critical role of the private sector for the implementation of the SDGs and highlight best practices in local cooperation.

Leave no one behind - Creating platforms for local governments for citizens engagement and entrepreneurial action to deliver on the SDGs

Private sector partnerships and innovative solutions in local service delivery

i. Leave no one behind - Creating platforms for local governments for citizens engagement and entrepreneurial action to deliver on the SDGs

- Most development practitioners agree that engaging citizens is integral to improve service delivery. Common and popular measure of citizen engagement, which are prevailing in many countries, ranges from careful tracking of social media trends on public policy issues to citizen report card system and from crowd sourcing/open data regular opinion surveys. Presently the most popular and common citizens’ engagement form, by national and sub-national governments, is grievance receiving mechanisms which is passive way of citizen engagement. In many countries governments are adopting pro-active citizen engagement measures to forge partnerships with them on all spheres of SDGs (from planning to costing and from monitoring to reporting). Technology has and will play important role in forging alliances between citizens and government. Thanks to technological advancement the policy makers can now connect with 65% of global population i.e. 4.9 Billion mobile users and or with 3.58 Billion internet users directly to get citizens perspective on local area needs, Local Governments (LG) performance and opinion about government policies related to social and infrastructure development. This is a huge human resource available to national and sub-national governments to engage with.

- Many countries, especially Asia and Africa, have started pro-active citizen engagement and feedback gathering model whereby the government initiates the contact rather than waiting for the citizen to do so. This model leverages the wide cell phone network and coverage in countries and reaches out to the identified beneficiaries of public services. Importantly, the feedback and evidence (snap shot etc) provided by citizens becomes the basis on which the government can take action against offices and officials. On one side the action by government on citizen feedback reduces the deficit trust, and on other the feedback also help government to improve its planning, budgeting and service delivery to come

closer to achieving the SDG targets.

- Countries in Latin America have gone a step ahead and have established network of institutions and organizations from civil society, the public and private sectors and academia, with overall objective to identify, disseminate and monitor indicators related to SDGs, especially SDG 11 in the major metropolitan regions of the countries. The networks support participatory decision-making processes in order to deliver better results in the achievement of SDG goals, in line with the integrated urban development metropolitan plans. The network is also helping civil society with the monitoring process of SDG 11, empowering and qualifying its representatives in the official forums of discussion on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

ii. *Private sector partnerships and innovative solutions in local service delivery*

- SDGs focus is on social, human and infrastructure development across the world with inclusive role of all stakeholders. It is estimated that investment of \$5 trillion per year will be required alone for infrastructure (including clean water, healthcare, education, and access to energy for all) to achieve the SDGs targets. Infrastructure development is prime task of national and sub-national governments, but many countries neither have enough capital to invest nor have expertise like planning, contract preparation and negotiation, contract management, accounting and budgeting and progress tracking. Private sector is not only capital rich but also has cutting edge business development expertise. SDGs framework provide an ideal opportunity to forge partnership between national and sub-national governments, who are in need of capital and expertise, and Private sector, which has capital and expertise as in need of business. The SDGs offer Public Private Partnership (PPP) alliance opportunities between governments and private sector. The alliance needs to be thoughtfully designed and implemented – keeping in view risks and accountability aspects – between private and public partners to prevent pitfalls from the past.

- Broader spectrum of SDGs framework requires that both partners (public and private) work on innovative contractual arrangements to exploit synergies, capital and human resources and in the application of management knowledge, with optimal attainment of the goals of all parties involved, where these goals could not be attained to the same extent without the other parties. The ultimate rational of PPP should be add value for money or in other words, to improve the coverage, access, and quality of a given service to the citizen in a cost-efficient manner compared to the alternative of public procurement. For public sector PPP offers opportunities like access to capital, certainty of outputs and outcomes, off balance sheet borrowing, innovation and in some respect transfer of risks. Public sector needs to address some of basic issues ranging from institutional weak capacities (especially at sub-national level to negotiate and monitor PPP contracts), lack of transparency in deals, conflicts of interest, corruption etc to maximize the benefit of this partnership. National governments need to work on policy reforms to create enabling environment (to attract private sector), constituting strong legal framework, establishing regulatory regime and transparent procurement systems to avoid pitfalls of PPP. PPPs can be a tool for achievement of sustainable development objectives provided the principles of good governance are applied by both partners in contractual relationship.



4. **Success Factors: An overview of Local Governments' Contribution to SDGs in Pakistan**

Local governments' representatives including Heads of Local Governments from all four provinces of Pakistan and Capital Territory participated in the event. Multiple interactive sessions were organized giving them the opportunity to discuss their role and responsibilities, to take stock of where they exactly stand, what are issues and challenges impeding progress, recognize their strengths to turn challenges into opportunities, financial and technical support they need from government and development partners in delivering on development agenda 2030.

The event provided constructive and conducive environment to the participants linking global development agenda and global knowledge to local development goals and priorities in their communities. They



shared their experiences, actions they have taken and issues they have faced. An analysis into their inputs and feedback found a few success factors that were common in their inspiring stories of success in developing communities.

1. **Local knowledge**

Local government representatives, elected by the local communities and being part of the same, have all the local knowledge necessary to work on the local issues, addressing the problems, building on the strengths and opportunities. Historical context and cultural diversity and sensitivities often play important role in setting the stage for advancement and development.

2. **Local Priorities**

Local governments work on local priorities using local potentials. The communities being immediate beneficiaries get the relief in terms of resolution of long lasting issues and improvement in the on ground conditions.

3. **Indigenous solutions**

Indigenous solutions are the best solutions in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. Local governments are in better position to apply indigenous solutions to local problems.

4. **Inclusive and participatory development planning**

Planning for local sustainable development is effected through a participatory process. Development plans produced through such a process enjoy full support and commitment of the local community in their realization. Empowering women and encouraging their participation in the development planning and implementation proved a contributing factor.

Key Actions taken by the Local Governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab contributing to the implementation of SDGs at local levels



- Special funds to poor families, affected by natural disasters or road accidents in district Karak



- Establishment of Food street at a historical place of Namak Mandi Peshawar providing quality, safe and clean traditional food varieties for families to spend good time together.
- Establishment of first milk testing laboratory in Peshawar district
- Provision of fruit trees in district Torghar in cooperation with Agriculture department



- Electrification of 4 district hospitals and 25 basic health units in Peshawar district
- Pubic washroom facilities for ladies and differently abled citizens
- Construction of toilets in government schools
- Special wards for treatment of tetanus in Peshawar district
- Promoting sports activities at district level in Mardan
- Reduced fee for diagnostic tests in hospitals in district Mardan
- Establishment of eight medical dispensaries in villages of district Torghar
- Organizing activities for sports and youth affairs in district Dir Bala promoting well being
- Promoting local sports in district Bannu
- Improving health facilities in basic health units in district Bannu
- Organized sports gala in district Lodhran for 23 different games. 8000 sportsmen participated in the event.
- Action against child labour in district Bahawalnagar
- Treatment of Hepatitis C patients in district Nankana Sahib



- Special support packages for boys and girls in selected schools. Package included school uniform, sweater, bag, water bottle and umbrella in district Swat
- Provision of uniform and stationery to poor school going children in district Mardan
- Under the initiative of Talent Hunt, special coaching classes and qualified teachers were arranged for boys and girls preparing them for central board exams. Hostel facilities were also provided in district Swat
- Provision of laptops and cash prizes as awards for position holders in district Swat, Peshawar and Mardan

- Displaying name and pictures of position holders and their teachers on small bill boards and hoarding paying them tribute and inviting parents and students for admission in those government schools in district Swat
- Ensuring electricity to schools by solar solutions in districts Peshawar and Bannu
- Construction of toilets in schools through community participation in Peshawar district
- Provision of basic facilities including boundary walls, Furniture, toilets etc in governments schools in district Torghar
- Awareness campaign and innovative solutions (installation of CCTV cameras and control room) to combat cheating practises during examination and ensuring transparency in district Hangu
- Hiring of local teachers on contract through community support ensuring teachers presence in schools in district Bannu



- Education schemes for girls
- Washroom facilities for ladies and differently abled citizens
- Provision of sewing machine to poor widows and differently abled women in district Karak to start work from home
- Establishment of women resource centre and safe home in district Mardan
- Technical and vocational training programmes for women in district Mardan
- Arrangement of afternoon classes for middle schools girls in primary schools, where middle schools are not available in close vicinities in district Torghar
- Provision of wheelchairs and sewing machines to differently abled persons and deserving women in district Dir Bala
- Efforts for improving social and economic status of women in district Bahawalnagar
- Empowering women through technical and vocational training programmes in district Nankana sahib
- Provision of livestock to poor women ensuring their economic participation in district Nankana sahib
- Efforts for improving social status, education and health of women and transgender community in district Sahiwal
- Facilitated women participation in development planning and decision making in district Sahiwal

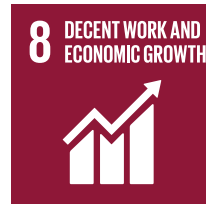


- Installation of tube wells for provision of clean drinking water
- Installation of water filtration plants in districts Peshawar, Jhang, Multan, Sheikupura and Nankana sahib
- Installation of reverse osmosis system to make salty water drinkable in the district Karak
- Improved sewerage system in district Multan, Sheikupura, Vehari and Dera Ghazi Khan

- Provisions of alternative water pressure pumps in areas where tube wells were not working in district Bannu ensuring clean drinking water to community
- Ensuring clean drinking water to 15 villages in district Nankana sahib
- Installation of hand pumps in rural areas of district Dera Ghazi Khan



- Installation of solar solution in four district level hospitals and 25 community level basic health units in Peshawar district
- Solarisation of public schools in Peshawar and Bannu



- Establishment of Food Street at Namak Mandi Peshawar created local business and employment opportunities.
- Organizing special events to promote small business including exhibitions
- Provision of sewing machine to poor widows in district Karak start working from home
- Increasing work opportunities in ditrict Torghar by providing fruit trees
- Support local people in livestock in district Torghar
- Creating work and employment opportunities through tourism development in district Dir Bala
- Work opportunities in reforestation drive of oil trees in district Dir Bala



- Promotion of tourism industry in district Dir Bala; establishing picnic spots, improving road infrastructure and organizing events
- Promotion of cottage industry in district Bahawalnagar
- Establishment of modern slaughter house and meat processing plant in district Bahawalpur
- Establishment of Industrial estate and Expo Centre in district Bahawalpur
- Construction of link roads from farms to market in district Bahawalpur and Rajanpur
- Rehabilitation of seven linked road from farms to market destroyed in floods in Dera Ghazi Khan district



- Provision of clean drinking water to 2000 minority community by installation of tube well
- Provision of special grant for education in backward areas of district Karak



- Improved condition of public bus terminal
- Public washroom facilities for ladies and differently abled citizens
- Establishment of first ever parking plaza in Peshawar for traffic issue
- Introduced Awards 'Fakhre Peshawar' for the inhabitants of Peshawar to recognize their services and achievements for the city
- Organizing events for special occasions e.g. Jasine Bahara, Azm-e-Jawan for Youth, Cultural shows, Spring Festivals, Sports event etc.
- Introduction of Emergency Relief Squad on highways in district Karak to provide necessary relief services during accidents
- Formulation of district development plan by district Chitral in a participatory manner
- Saaf Dehat Program in district Bahawalpur of Punjab in cooperation with local community to ensuring cleanliness of area
- Establishment of model villages in district Bahawalnagar
- Installation of street lights and placement of security guards in villages of district Jhang
- Improving street lights in district Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan
- Beautification of Multan City with involvement of youth
- Improving road infrastructure in district Bahawalpur
- Improving District Council Hall in district Muzzafarghar



- Promoting renewable sources of energy e.g. solarisation of public buildings to save energy and fuel consumption for generating electricity
- Discourage burning olive trees for energy in district Dir Bala
- Solid waste management in district Sheikupura



- Established green belts
- Reforestation of olive trees in district Dir Bala





- Awareness raising of local people on protection of olives trees and reforestation of olive trees in district Dir Bala



- Efforts to resolve conflicts and family disputes at community level in district Torgar



- Involving local business community in the establishment of food street at Namak Mandi Peshawar
- Parking plaza in Peshawar was established in partnership with Peshawar Development Authority (provincial level institution). This initiative also increased revenue source.
- Community participation in school activities through Parent Teachers Associations
- Partnership with local communities for development work in district Bahawalnagar
- Involving university students and senior citizens in development projects in district Bahawalpur
- Partnerships with local business community for development work in district Sheikupura
- Partnerships with local NGOs in district Nankana sahib



5. Joint pledge for continued commitment to SDGs

His Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi reaffirmed Government of Pakistan continued commitment to Sustainable Development Goals, while addressing International delegates, representatives of Local Governments from all four provinces of Pakistan, senior federal and provincial government officials of Pakistan, diplomats and representatives of development partners engaged in Pakistan.

On the occasion H.E. PM Abbasi appreciated participation of Local Government Representatives from all across Pakistan and encouraged them to play their role in localising and realizing the SDGs. He expressed his confidence on the district leaders' abilities and commitment in contributing towards achievement of SDGs at local levels.



Pakistan is the only country that has established a parliamentary committee on SDGs and SDGs cells at federal and provincial levels. The Government of Pakistan is striving to achieve all 17 SDGs.

Sartaj Aziz
Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

The devolved system, recently introduced in Pakistan, created immense opportunities for local development. Under the system local elected representatives are empowered to work for the prosperity of their communities. Key to success is adopting integrated and inclusive approach to development. He said for local problems we need local solutions and working together for their successful resolution.



We shall accelerate the journey and reach the destination by synergizing our role as public representatives with our responsibilities to our voters as enshrined in the SDGs.

Joint Statement by LG representatives
Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,
Baluchistan and Sindh

The representatives of local governments from all four provinces of Pakistan signed a statement of their joint commitment to Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and realization of SDGs at local level. They also expressed their utmost satisfaction with valuable exchange of information and experience sharing during the three days event. They marked the event as exceptionally valuable platform provided them opportunity to exchange ideas and proposals with the international delegates regarding the various possibilities that exist for SDG goals' achievement through the local governments.



Salient features of their joint commitment include

1. People First

Local governments are direct representatives of local people and communities. Commitment was made for people-centered, environment friendly, and participatory approach to development. Local governments' representatives are elected members of the local communities. They have the people mandate and they are accountable to them directly.

2. Human Resource Development

Being cognizant of human resource development and its impact on ensuring sustainable development, local governments pledged to improve the overall Human Development Index of the country through the vehicle of SDG implementation.

3. Addressing financial, legal and administrative challenges

The enabling environment, supportive legal and administrative frameworks and necessary resources are key elements in the way to true potential of the local government systems across Pakistan.

4. Cooperation and Collaboration

Support from federal and provincial governments and collaboration with development partners working on the implementation of SDGs is important for realization of SDGs at local levels.

5. Partnerships and Networking

Partnerships at local level for implementation and networking with international development community and private sector for knowledge on best practises and additional resources have potential to synergize our efforts towards sustainable development and accelerate progress on SDGs.

Statement towards the UCLG Delegates

WE the delegates from Pakistan representing four provinces and the capital territory resolve to commit all effort, resources and planning power at our disposal for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets therein that fall in the purview of our authority.

WE are cognizant of our responsibilities towards improving the overall Human Development Index of the country through the vehicle of SDG implementation. We commit to overcoming the challenges that lie on the path to enforcement of the ideals behind SDGs. We are aware of the issues concerning financial restraints, legal and administrative challenges that need to be addressed to release the true potential of local government systems across Pakistan.

WE hope that the national decision makers will join our efforts to improve the life, health and well-being of Pakistan's citizens. We are looking forward to international guidance, support and valuable suggestions on how to move forward on the path to achieving SDGs. We note with satisfaction that this particular symposium has been an exceptionally valuable platform to exchange ideas and proposals with the international delegates regarding the various possibilities that exist for SDG goals' achievement via the local government.

WE are determined to bridge the gap between national key SDG indicators and global standards through constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Government of Pakistan. The path to a true people-centered, environment friendly, and participatory national life lies through the local governments. The SDGs are milestones on this journey to national progress. WE shall accelerate this journey and reach the destination by synergizing our role as public representatives with our responsibilities to our voters as enshrined in the SDGs.



Visualising the happenings



Think Globally Act Locally: SDGs Implementation through Local Governments - 11-13 April 2018 Islamabad, Pakistan



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