

LOCAL ACTION

SDG Local Action: EALGA, CLGF and UNDP partner to tell African stories

The East African Local Governments Association (EALGA) together with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have since February ,2023 been implementing the SDG Local Action Project, which is part of the UN SDG Action Campaign.

The UN SDG Action Campaign was established by the UN Secretary General to inspire people and organizations from all backgrounds and every part of the world to take actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while holding decision-makers to account for progress society-wide. **The Campaign aims to showcase how cities and local governments are actively contributing towards the implementation of Agenda 2030, accelerating transformative action to achieve the SDGs for all, and everywhere.**

Under the project, EALGA will support local and regional governments in the East African Community as well as other African countries to exchange on SDG local implementation, knowledge generation and replication of successful experiences in implementing Agenda 2030 at local level.



In this context, EALGA as manager of the CLGF regional office for East and Southern Africa worked with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), to highlight the work municipalities and local governments are doing to fast-track SDG implementation in Southern Africa.

SALGA is actively collaborating with municipalities to effectively localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a coordinating body, SALGA is capacitating municipalities, ensuring that they are empowered with the necessary skills and knowledge to align their efforts with the SDGs.



Through building awareness about the SDGs and providing guidance on how to respond to voluntary local reviews, SALGA is playing a pivotal role in empowering municipalities to drive sustainable development at the local level.

The Association's commitment to assisting municipalities goes beyond mere guidance; they are involved in identifying existing policy gaps, planning, budgeting, and responding to service delivery concerns within their communities. SALGA is ensuring that municipalities have the necessary support and resources to effectively implement the SDGs, making a meaningful impact on the lives of their citizens.

According to Ms. Clarissa Augustine, International Projects Coordinator at SALGA, this dedication to coordinating and capacitating municipalities in localizing the SDGs is a testament to SALGA's commitment to sustainable development.

As part of their ongoing efforts to promote awareness and understanding of the SDGs they launched an awareness-raising campaign and conducted a series of online meetings to closely monitor and evaluate the progress made by various municipalities in localizing the SDGs.

"Several cities have shown a keen interest in actively contributing to this cause. These include Tswane, Baffolo City, Mandela Metro, and the City of Johannesburg, which have all taken proactive measures to ensure the successful localization of the SDGs", Clarrisa adds. These cities have also taken the initiative to write Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to further enhance their efforts.

District municipalities have also recognized the importance of SDG localization and have shown a keen interest in actively participating in this process. With the introduction of the District Development Model (DDM), these municipalities have a unique opportunity to catalyze and expedite the localization of the SDGs within their respective districts.

District municipalities play a crucial role in the development and progress of a region. With their responsibility to coordinate and oversee the affairs of local municipalities within their jurisdiction, they possess the unique ability to bring together the collective aspirations and goals of the entire area.

They formulate district development plans outlining the strategic objectives, key initiatives, and targeted outcomes that will guide the social, economic, and environmental progress of the district.

In this process, district municipalities also incorporate the development plans of the individual local municipalities under their umbrella hence enabling them to participate in the achievement of the SDGs. This collaborative approach ensures that all stakeholders are involved in the planning and budgeting process, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

The participation of local municipalities in the rollout of the SDGs is crucial as it enables them to align their own plans and initiatives with the broader development agenda of the district. This synchronized effort facilitates the efficient allocation of resources, avoids duplication of efforts, and promotes a cohesive and integrated approach to development.

As Ms. Augustine explained, "SALGA aims to foster a sense of urgency and collective responsibility among all stakeholders to actively contribute to the localization of the SDGs. By creating a platform that connects cities and district municipalities, an environment is built that promotes collaboration, accountability, and the achievement of the SDGs."

Look out for the inspirational stories from Koboko Municipality in Uganda, the City of Johannesburg and Buffalo City Metro, in South Africa, in the next issue of the EALGA Newsletter.