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The present report refers to the activities of the SDG local action project, established in October 2022 as an output of the UN SDG Action Campaign. The project contributes to the work of the UN SDG Action Campaign with local and regional governments, supporting local implementation of the Agenda 2030 and showcasing how cities and local governments are essential for SDG implementation.

The project objectives are to:

- Support local and regional governments efforts to implement the SDGs
- Identify and share innovative trends in SDG implementation at local level
- Generate communications tools and strategies to give visibility to SDG local actions.

This project contributes to the implementation of UNDP Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025, with special focus on the following Integrated Results: Tier One (1,5), Tier 2: Outcome ONE (2,4,5, 7,8,9,10,11) Outcome TWO (2,3,4,5,6,7) and Development Projects: Tier Two (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2. 6.1, E.1, E.2) and Tier Three (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5).

The project also includes the activities contributing to the implementation of the Global Mayors Challenge in the 8 winning cities, showcasing how cities are using Agenda 2030 locally to deliver public services innovatively, mobilizing communities and connecting local action with global impact. Additionally, this report covers activities implemented throughout 2023 and in 2022 (October to December 2022). Due to the limited reporting period in 2022, an annual report for that year could not be produced, hence its inclusion in this comprehensive report.
The implementation phase of the Global Mayors Challenge also started in the last months of 2022, with a total of $1,423,652 USD being committed during the whole reporting period. UNDP acts as an implementing partner of the Challenge, a global competition designed to spark innovative, replicable ideas for improving cities, and the lives of people living in them, by encouraging leaders to think outside the box about how to confront their most difficult challenges. UNDP conducts the procurement of services and goods on behalf of 8 of the 15 city winners of the Challenge: Amman (Jordan), Bogota (Colombia), Butuan (Philippines), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Hermosillo (Mexico), Kigali (Rwanda), Kumasi (Ghana) and Rourkela (India).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Contracted Funds</th>
<th>Procurement Plan 2023</th>
<th>Commitment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amman</td>
<td>116,346</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogota</td>
<td>218,481</td>
<td>262,857</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butuan</td>
<td>205,919</td>
<td>403,497</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermosillo</td>
<td>21,772</td>
<td>170,910</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kigali</td>
<td>123,087</td>
<td>98,180</td>
<td>125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumasi</td>
<td>205,295</td>
<td>237,512</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rourkela</td>
<td>532,749</td>
<td>601,109</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,423,652</td>
<td>1,773,977</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement vs target: 80%

![Bar chart showing commitment rates for each city.]

- Amman: 100%
- Bogota: 83%
- Butuan: 51%
- Hermosillo: 13%
- Kigali: 125%
- Kumasi: 86%
- Rourkela: 89%
Cities have started to show the results of the intense work performed during the second semester of 2023. Bogota, Butuan and Rourkela are the most advanced project, with services already reaching their citizens and impact being already observed on the ground.

Results are also evident in terms of knowledge generation, as indicated by the hosting of four webinars to showcase city projects and facilitate exchanges with other municipalities worldwide.

The SDG local action webpage was launched on 4th July 2023. It contains now 25 “SDG stories” reporting world cities innovations to achieve Agenda 2030 plus an additional 27 news stories, bringing the total number of pages to 52. The total number of users of the website is set now at 6,500, with an event count of 49K.

The web gives visibility to concrete local initiatives spearheaded by cities and local governments, translating the essence of the SDGs into practical solutions for citizens. We also conducted the campaign “Building bridges / Empowering citizens” in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership Local and United Cities and Local Governments. Starting on World Cities Day on 31st October 2023 until International Anticorruption Day on 9th December, the campaign designed a dedicated website with common messages from the 3 organizers, and references to specific local actions to prevent corruption through open government and increased transparency.

Finally, the year ended with the project retreat in Venice (Italy) on 30th and 31st October, where the whole UNDP team together with our partners Bloomberg Philanthropies and Delivery Associates came together to exchange experiences, learn together and plan future actions. The group also had the opportunity to visit the Venice City Care Pavilion, opened at St. Marks Square in Venice during the months of September to November 2023.

The Pavilion contents showcased how cities are innovating service delivery to enhance the well-being of their citizens. It attracted visitors from a specialized audience of architects, planners, and city enthusiasts. This marked the first occasion where local governments had a physical presence within the framework of the Venice Biennale for Architecture.
UNDP is supporting 8 of the 15 winners of the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, a global competition of innovative ideas organized by the Bloomberg Foundation. The first global challenge was opened for municipalities to submit pilot ideas on innovative public service delivery. More than 600 cities submitted their projects, with 15 being awarded 1 million USD each to upscale their initiative. UNDP supported the pilot phase in 2022 and is now helping with project implementation in 8 of the 15 cities. Our role is mainly to conduct procurement processes on behalf of the 8 cities, with the municipalities being the ultimate leading institution in charge of project implementation. Through procurement, UNDP is also able to guide cities through complicated processes, including the outsourcing of services, construction and personnel.

All eight projects are dealing with innovation on public services. Innovation is understood as resolving problems in a different way, not necessarily using digital technology, but often includes a strong component on measuring data and assessing impact in the lives of the local citizens.
IN AMMAN, JORDAN
The Amman is Listening data platform brings integrated city services closer to citizens, especially during emergencies.

IN BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
The Home Assistance programme is addressing inequalities and supporting women to unload their caring duties, offering them new opportunities.

IN BUTUAN, PHILIPPINES
The AgriBOOST project acts upon the local agricultural market, enabling farmers, vendors, and other value-chain players, and creating capacities and fairer market conditions.

IN HERMOSILLO, MEXICO
The Biciclando project employs women to drive e-bikes to collect waste and recycle through circular economy centers.

IN KIGALI, RWANDA
The city is building a smart-waste and rain-water collection for low-income buildings.

IN KUMASI, GHANA
The municipality has established a revolving fund loan system to build household toilets that employ young artisans using local designs and technology to build them.

IN ROURKELA, INDIA
The municipality has built cold-storage rooms managed by women cooperatives to reduce food waste, and increase access to fresh produce.
UNDP is also helping cities to learn from each other and to inspire others, while carefully planning for future options for the sustainability of the projects once the international support ends, in year 2025.

The project contracted out staff in modality of national implementation to support the municipalities capacities, the first operations started in early 2023 with the procurement of office space, equipment and the organization of service provision through PPPs and others. By the end of year 2023, five of the eight cities had achieved their implementation targets for year 2023. In the case of Freetown, the project was frozen due to the electoral process both at national and local levels in Sierra Leone and activities only restarted at the end of the year. In Hermosillo, the city conducted a pilot of recycling urban waste at a very small scale that was able to inform the scale up during 2024. In Amman, the late arrival of the project supervisor, only contracted in August 2023, and the request by the city to sign a MOU produced subsequent delays in the start of activities.

Three institutional Memorandum of Understanding were signed between UNDP and the cities of Bogota, Amman and Hermosillo providing the institutional coverage to the common activities. UNDP also supported the gathering of the winning cities in Venice in October 2023.

LESSONS LEARNT

UNDP has a long-standing history working with municipalities in all sorts of contexts, including conflict torn and fragile countries. But we keep learning from recent experiences.

The support to the Global Mayors Challenge has brought new and not so new issues regarding innovation in service delivery, led by local governments.

One of the first issues that we have noticed is that working with municipalities has its complexities in terms of building capacities, bringing together different city departments, dealing with resistance to change. But it is a kind of work that very quickly shows impact, added value and sustainability in time. Working with the 8 winners has been challenging as the teams were new to UNDP, under the national implementation modality, and working remotely from the core project management. A lot of attention needs to be paid to communicating clearly, and often, about processes and procedures. It was also important to show the local UNDP teams that they had support, even remotely, and that they could always count on the UNDP core team to face any adversity. Creating this kind of link with colleagues working remotely is always challenging, but it has been one of the main factors for the rapid turn out of deliverables at city level.
The question of local capacity is never to be underestimated, we have assisted the professional growth of all the city staff and municipal partners, whatever the final results of the project, UNDP will leave behind skills to deal with complex innovative projects in terms of project management, budgeting, contracting and understanding how international cooperation works. We hope that these new skills will contribute to the financial sustainability of the projects once the project ends, this being one of the main priorities for the project team.

Agenda 2030 has proven an excellent instrument for public communication, not only internally in terms of impact and results, but also to connect with the final beneficiaries. The city staff has learnt about the Sustainable Development Goals, about how to generate content for global communications and how to put their project on the global map, by showing how their local actions contribute to make Agenda 2030 a reality at local level.

The project still has two more years to go, but the cities are in a good position to make a durable impact, showcase how innovation can happen at the local level, even if it is never an easy path, and inspire others to follow their steps in making a difference in the lives of their citizens.
During the last 4 months of 2023, UNDP organized four webinars under its newly created “SDG local solutions series”, online events focused on showcasing how cities are taking inspiration from Agenda 2030 to innovate service provision. The series aims to inspire mutual learning and provide participants with useful solutions to apply to their own cities.

Each webinar generated a web article including lessons learnt and the presentations from the invited cities, together with a YouTube video and a series of infographics to better communicate the cities’ achievements. You can see more on the project webpage: www.sdglocalaction.org
The project supports the work of the UN SDG Action Campaign with cities and local governments, recognizing the importance to keep them engaged in the Agenda 2030, by creating communication tools and promoting advocacy about the importance of Agenda 2030 as an instrument for planning, budgeting and communicating local action. The project also showcases how cities and local governments are instrumental to make SDGs a reality, through the identification of stories, news and concrete actions where people can see how the SDGs are real and relevant to their daily lives.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

In July 2023, the SDG Local Action team launched the official website, having produced 25 stories, 27 news articles, and 12 blog articles about how local and regional governments are locally implementing Agenda 2030. The website was visited by more than 5,800 users and achieved a 43,000 event count (number of interactions). The team also created an X (former Twitter) account in February 2023, having acquired 281 followers and published content that was viewed more than 34,000 times (number of impressions) in 2023. In 2022-2023, more than 69 original videos were promoted on the official YouTube channel and counted 270 subscribers. Moreover, in 2023, we started producing multilingual newsletters in English, Spanish and French that are sent to tailored audiences, totaling more than 2,000 subscribers.
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL CONTAINS 69 ORIGINAL VIDEOS AND HAVE 270 SUBSCRIBERS.

A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY WAS ALSO CREATED FOR CITIES WISHING TO USE THE LOCAL ACTION LOGO.

THE PROJECT TWITTER ACCOUNT OPENED IN FEBRUARY 2023 AND PUBLISHED 75 ORIGINAL TWEETS, REACHING A TOTAL OF 281 FOLLOWERS.

DIFFERENT COMMUNICATION TOOLS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE TRELLO BOARD.

www.sdglocalaction.org
DAEJEON, SOUTH KOREA: UCLG CONGRESS – WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS
DAEJEON, 10
10–14 OCTOBER 2022

Organization of the official side event “What is next for Agenda 2030? Tools for local and regional governments” with the presence of the Mayors of Klang Municipal Council (Malaysia), Deinze (Belgium), Toba Tek Singh District, Punjab (Pakistan) the Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and representatives from the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) and the Federation of Latin America and Caribbean Municipal Association (FLACMA). The event discussed the remaining 7 years to 2030, addressing how SDGs have transformed public administration at local level, supporting long-term social and economic planning while helping to focus on local priorities and local needs.

The project also organized and animated the “SDG corner” at the Congress, where participants could visit, take pictures or give testimonials about the importance of Agenda 2030 for their daily work.

NEW YORK, USA: HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
12 JULY 2023

The forum is the main space for local governments to report on their contribution to Agenda 2030, identify trends and share experiences. Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator participated in the opening.
For the fifth time, UNDP co-organized this yearly event, taking place annually in Venice focusing on how cities and local governments are contributing to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all. This edition developed the idea about the need to “Flip the Script” for more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable cities and territories, bringing communities together and transforming policy and local action to make our cities more inclusive, greener, healthier and equitable.

VENICE, ITALY: VENICE CITY SOLUTIONS 2022 “LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FLIPPING THE SCRIPT TO REIMAGINE THE CITY”
28–29 NOVEMBER 2022

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: 2023 METROPOLIS CONGRESS
12-15 JUNE 2023

We were present at the 2023 Metropolis Congress that took place in Brussels, between 12 and 15 June 2023, supporting the city of Bogota and participating in the side event: the power of care: how supporting caregivers can change our cities.
Contribution to the Multilevel Action Pavilion @UNFCCC COP27 and ICLEI + UNDP High Level Dialogue: All-of-government action to respond to the Climate Emergency, 8 November 2022.

Building on its recognition at the Glasgow Climate Pact, multilevel and cooperative action by all levels of government will be the most powerful game-changer to drive global climate action. In this event, ICLEI leaders had the opportunity to discuss with the UNDP Administrator their ideas and to collectively advance towards realizing this vision.

Moderated by Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI, Local governments for sustainability, the event featured insights from the Minister for Housing, Utilities, and Urban Development of Egypt, the Governor of Tokyo (Japan), Bonn (Germany), Glasgow and Bristol (UK), Quelimane (Mozambique) UK, Des Moines (USA) and the Municipal Secretary of International Relations of Sao Paulo (Brazil).
UNDP participated in the forum with representatives from the Executive Office of UNDP and the Regional Bureau of Latin America and Caribbean. The event was organized by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), the Secretary of State of International Cooperation of the Spanish Government and the Barcelona Provincial Council with the objective to place the local governments of both regions in the renewed strategy arising from the Summit of Heads of State and Government from last July, and to propose to the different actors of the two regions the role that local governments can and should play in the development of this strategy. The forum also emphasized the added value of decentralized cooperation between local governments.
We were present at the CLGF Conference in Kigali, supporting a delegation from Rourkela (India) and Kigali Municipality to participate in the proceedings. UNDP also organized a side event on “How Agenda 2030 is helping cities innovate and scale up local projects”. The session aimed to inspire mutual learning and provide participants with useful solutions to apply to their own contexts.

**KIGALI**

Kigali is introducing a comprehensive solution that utilizes innovations in stormwater capture, flood mitigation, and smart waste-sensor technologies to reduce residents’ dependency on commercial water and keep solid waste from polluting the water supply.

**KENYA**

In Kenya, Homa Bay County is accelerating the promise of leaving no one behind through systematic community participation, social accountability, and innovation to localize SDGs and drive change in service delivery.

**ROURKELA**

Rourkela, in India, is implementing the Cold Rooms project operated by women self-help groups to address the high rates of difficult conditions experienced by farmers and vendors, including exposure to extreme weather, multiple drivers of cost that reduce the viability of low-volume production as well as a marketplace void of clear market signals. The Cold Rooms project will provide farmers with a place to store their produce thus reducing distress selling and increasing the shelf life of farmer produce. Also, the project will facilitate creating a link between farmers and the market of buyers, providing increased stability in the sale price and volume capacity.
In 2022, the project collaborated with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to mobilize cities in the #FlipTheScript Campaign developed by the UN SDG Action Campaign. The Campaign focused on how to achieve the SDGs on time for year 2030, there is a need to react, reset and restart old models that are no longer working and flip them into new ones. There is a need to rewrite the story and shape a new reality for all people, not just a few.

The Campaign, running until December 2023, focused on bringing the #FlipTheScript message to cities and local governments. The campaign gathered representatives from local governments to create a narrative that adapted the global messages to the realities of cities.

THREE VIDEOS WERE DEVELOPED AND DISTRIBUTED WIDELY TO INSPIRE CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

1. **Walking to School Prevents My City From Being Polluted**

2. **My Government Provides Me With Opportunities, I Know I Can Count On It**

3. **My Local Government Cares About Me, I Feel That I Belong To My Community**
Finally, the Campaign also identified 6 specific stories where local governments are #Flipping the Script.

The materials were widely circulated through social media and during the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (see above).

Bilbao, Spain  
Nouakchott, Mauritania  
Brooklyn, USA  
Pasig, Philippines  
Cuenca, Ecuador  
Xian, China

The materials were widely circulated through social media and during the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (see above).
In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN SDG Action Campaign, the project also generates a narrative to support communications during the Second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution that met in Paris in June 2023.

The campaign focused on the importance of cities to reduce plastic pollution. It consisted of a series of dedicated messages and media cards for institutions to use in preparation for the event, with the Mayor of Paris organizing a meeting of local governments to bring the message of local governments to the negotiations.

"Many cities are helping to #FlipTheScript on plastic pollution guided by the circular economy principles, from reverse vending to driving behavioral change, to converting waste plastics into value-added materials" says UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner.

UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner
The project is also supporting the overall work of UNDP with local and regional governments. As such, it supports institutional presence in global events, builds partnerships with local government association and works together with the different UNDP departments that work in such transversal areas such as cities, local development, local governance and sustainable urban development.

During the reporting period, the project contributed to link with different departments within UNDP headquarters and country offices. This is just a selection of our activities.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Support the participation of UNDP management in global events and meetings with local government representatives that involves collecting information, preparing briefing notes and coordinating agendas of UNDP senior management, including the UNDP Administrator.
- Representation of UNDP in global events organized by local government and their associations, such as HLPF, the SDG Summit, the COP, and the Metropolis and CLGF conferences.
- Support to the signature of Memorandum of Understanding such as the one signed in 2023 with the Global Fund for the Development of Cities (FMDV).
- Presenting UNDP position on local SDG action as per request by Country Offices. Contribution to the UN-Habitat, UNDP, UCLG training modules on “Localizing the SDGs” including regular updates.
- Receiving delegations of local and regional governments visiting New York headquarters (Association of Regions of Mali, ORUFOGAR, Dutch Association of Municipalities (VNG), Municipality of Rosario, Utrecht, Dortmund, and others.)
Responding to requests from UNDP Country Offices regarding the institution’s work with local governments and their involvement in Agenda 2030 local implementation. For example: support to the municipality of Canelones (Uruguay) in the identification of SDG indicators, contribution to the Philippines Urban Forum, event on SDG localization in Odisha (India), event on sustainable urbanization in Ghana, and visibility of Voluntary Local Reports supported by UNDP locally.

Contribution to UNDESA Policy brief on “Accelerating SDG Localization to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and serve local communities” by providing cases of UNDP supported VLRs (Voluntary Local Reviews) as well as contributing to the final document visual identity and editing.

Elaboration of dedicated materials, such as the Guidelines “Aligning local projects with the SDGs. A quick guide for measuring action” available at https://sdglocalaction.org/linking-local-projects-to-sdgs/