

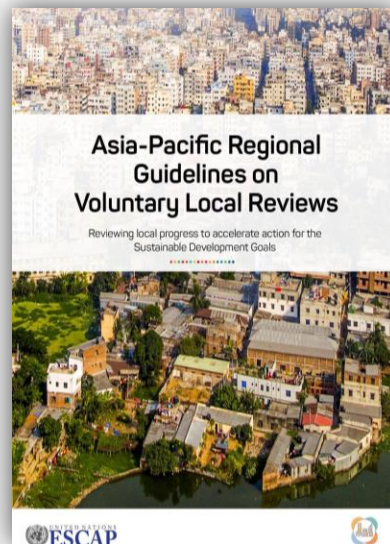
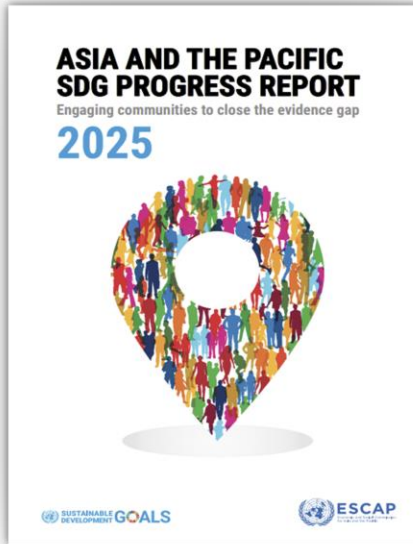
Measuring, Monitoring and Evaluating SDG Localization



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Regional frameworks & methodologies to track SDG Localization



Asia–Pacific SDG Progress Report:

- Tracks regional progress, highlights successes, gaps, and challenges.

Asia–Pacific SDG Gateway:

- Open indicators, national tracker, and subnational data to align local and national reporting.

VLR–VNR Integration:

- Regional guidelines to connect city VLRs with national VNRs through aligned indicators and templates.

SDG Localization Platform:

- One-stop hub with tools, guides, data, and case studies to support local action.

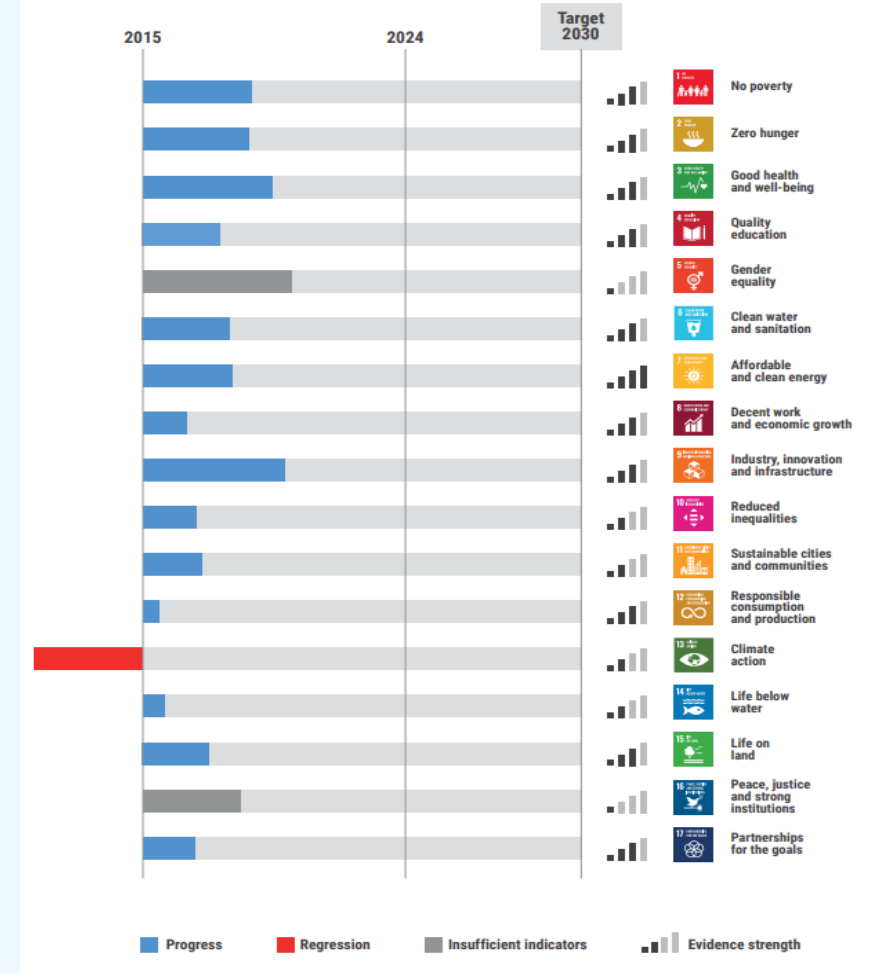


Regional SDG Status (2015–2025)

Asia–Pacific Progress on the SDGs

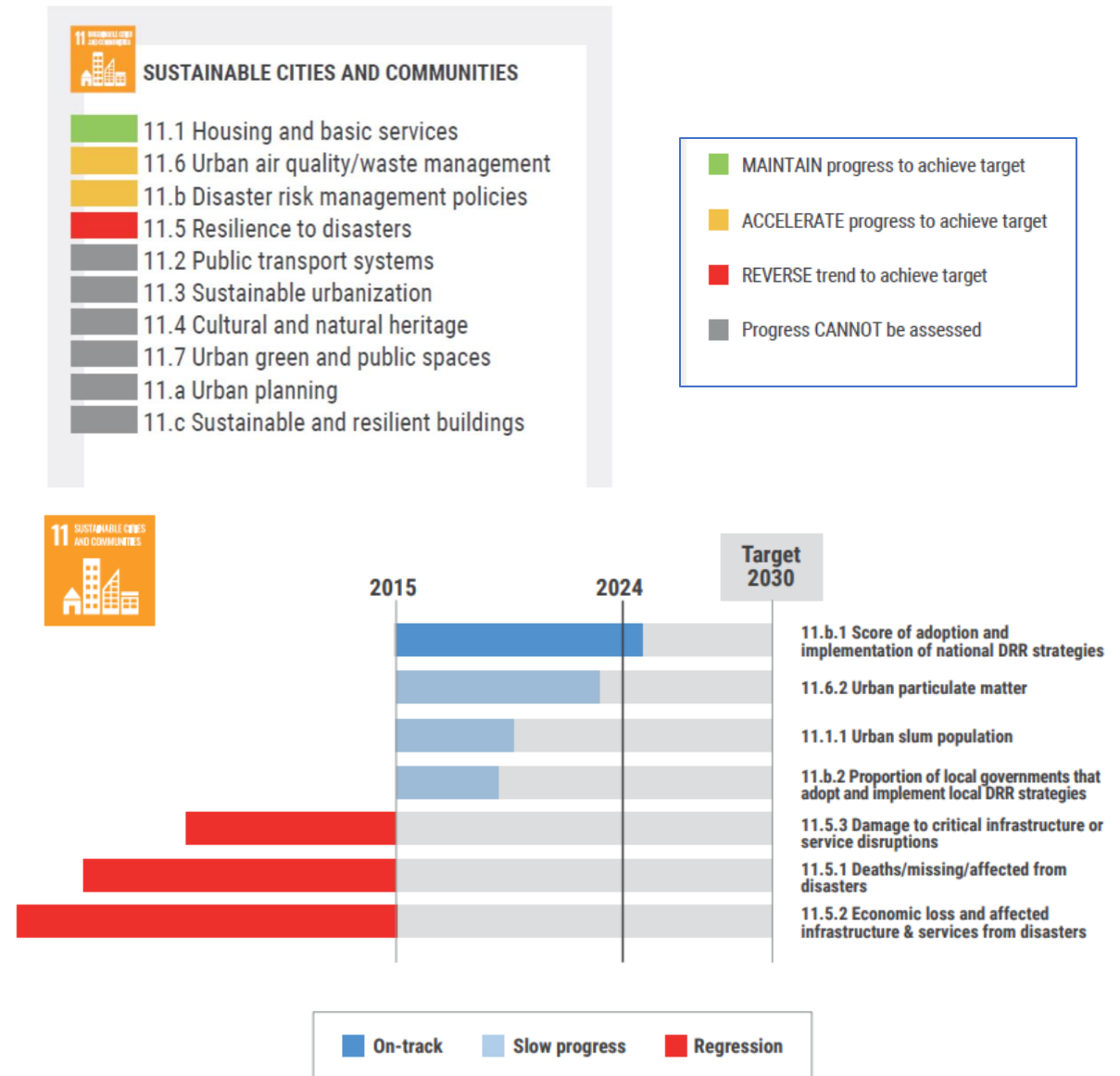
- **Overall trajectory:** Asia–Pacific remains **off track** for 2030; only ~11% of measurable targets were on track in 2024.
- **Uneven progress:** Development described as **fragmented and uneven**; some progress under **SDG 9** (industry/innovation), **SDG 3** (health), and **SDG 1** (hunger/poverty reduction).
- **Disaster risk reduction:** National DRR strategies expanding, but **disaster losses remain high**; in 2023, disasters displaced **12.7 million people**.
- **Climate & emissions:** Asia–Pacific accounts for **over half of global GHG emissions**; regression on **SDG 13** (climate action).
- **Air quality & environment:** Urban particulate matter levels **11% higher** than global average.
- **Bottom line:** Despite localized improvements, the region's overall SDG progress is **still off track**.

Progress on Implementation of all SDGs, across Asia and the Pacific



SDG 11 Progress and Subregional Trends (2015–2024)

- **Overall picture:** SDG 11 progress described as fragmented and uneven.
- **Limited success:** Only indicator 11.b.1 (DRR strategies) is on track.
- **Persistent challenges:**
 - **Air quality** - particulate matter levels **11% above global average**.
 - **Disaster impacts worsening** - 2023 saw **12.7M people displaced**.
 - **Rising economic losses** - from disasters despite DRR adoption.
- **Subregional variations:**
 - **North & Central Asia:** Moderate gains in air quality (11.6.2) & DRR adoption, but disaster losses still high.
 - **Pacific:** Strong DRR adoption (11.b.1) but difficulties in resilience (11.5.3) and reducing losses.
 - **East & North-East Asia:** DRR and air quality improving, but persistent disaster vulnerability.
 - **South-East Asia:** Limited progress in slum reduction (11.1.1) and infrastructure resilience (11.5.3).
 - **South & South-West Asia:** Air quality, disaster loss reduction, and resilience remain pressing challenges.



Source: ESCAP Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway, SDG Progress Snapshot. Available at <https://data.unescap.org>.

Note: 7 out of 15 official SDG indicators were used.

Key Data Challenges for SDG Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific

- **Limited data availability and disaggregation:** Gaps in gender, age, income, location, and other dimensions hide vulnerable groups.
- **Fragmented national–local data systems:** Local data often not standardized or integrated into national reporting.
- **Weak local statistical capacity:** Limited resources, skills, and infrastructure for data collection and analysis.
- **Underuse of citizen-generated and alternative data:** Valuable community data often excluded from official monitoring.
- **Inconsistent indicator alignment and reporting:** Gaps between global, national, and local frameworks weaken VLR–VNR coherence.
- **Financing constraints:** Heavy reliance on donor projects; lack of sustainable funding for data systems.



Without stronger data ecosystems, we can't fully measure, manage, or accelerate SDG progress

Collaborating Across Levels of Government to Close SDG Data Gaps – Key Action Areas



**Strengthen
Local Statistical
Capacity**



**Establish
National–Local
Data Protocols
and
Interoperability**



**Expand Use of
Citizen-
Generated and
Spatial Data**

Role of Voluntary Local Review in Strengthening Accountability

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs):

- **Almost all Asia-Pacific countries** have presented at least one VNR since 2016.
- **Many are repeat reporters** (e.g., Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Thailand).
- VNRs increasingly include **local and regional inputs**, strengthening multilevel governance.

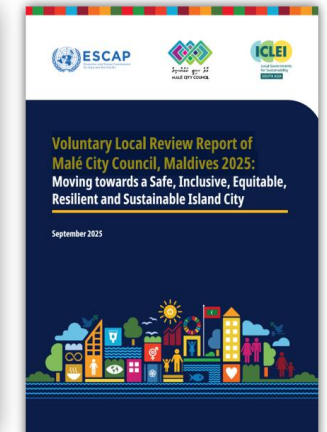
Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs):

- By 2025, **60 VLRs** have been produced across the region.
- VLRs enable **cities to measure and communicate SDG progress**, align with national strategies, and amplify local priorities internationally.
- They **embed monitoring frameworks** at the local level, improve planning, and **engage citizens and stakeholders in decision-making**.

Growing VLR–VNR integration is creating vertical coherence between local implementation and national accountability.

Impact on Accountability:

- **Increased transparency** by making local SDG progress visible.
- **Strengthen shared responsibility** between national and local governments.
- Together, **VNRs and VLRs build stronger accountability ecosystems** and deepen **localized ownership** of the 2030 Agenda



Regional Example VLR/VNR Integration

Surabaya, Indonesia

- Close involvement of national ministry in planning VLR & reviewing draft report

Dhulikhel-Nepal

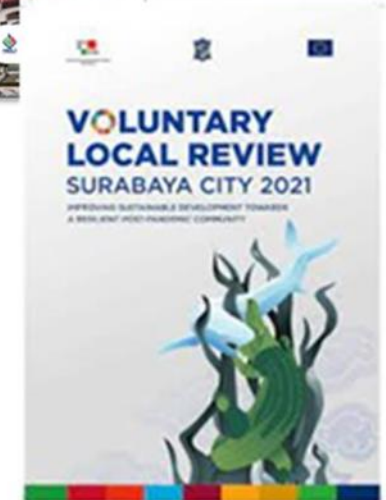
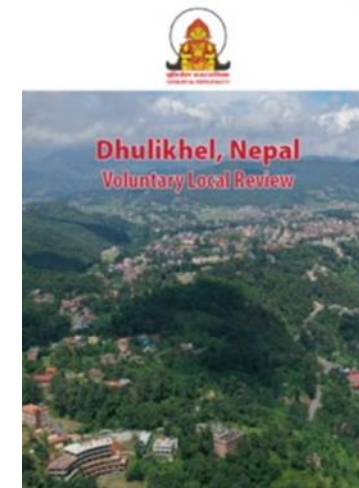
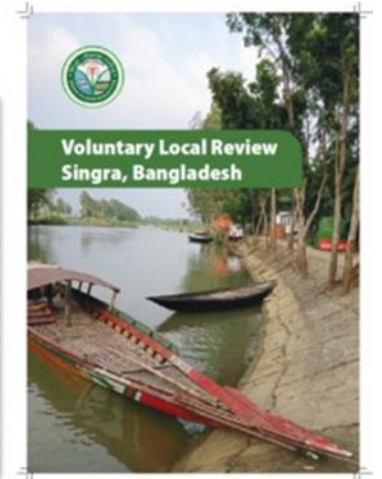
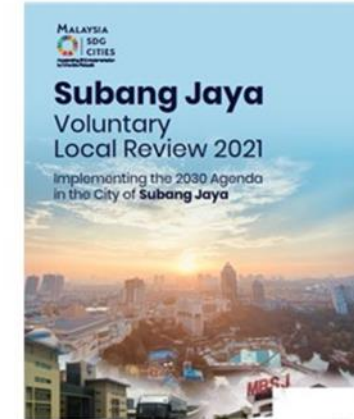
- VLR core team received training from VNR professionals

Bhopal-India

- Derived and used VLR indicators from National Indicator Framework (NIF)

2022 Philippines VNR

- Features a VSR & a VLR (Naga City) highlighting experiences from localization
- National government offers local progress & planning workshops to cities conducting VLRs
- Issues guidelines on the localization of the Philippines Development Plan, binding subnational government to create programs, activities and projects that contribute to PDP and SDG targets



Mechanisms for Knowledge Exchange & Peer Learning

Online Platforms

SDG Knowledge Platform



SDG Localization Platform

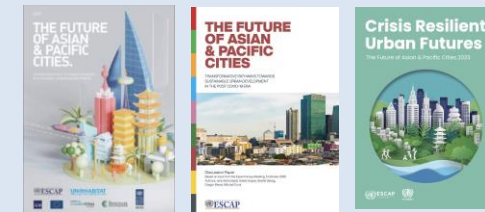


Intergovernmental Meetings & Multistakeholder Forums

- **Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)**
- **Commission & Committee on Environment and Development (CED)**
- **International Forum on Low Carbon Cities (IFLCC)**
- **Regional Partners Forum (RPF)**
- **Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF)**
- **World Urban Forum (WUF)**

Publications

The Future of Asian-Pacific Cities Series



Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Reports



Commission Theme Study Reports



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