

# International Mayors Forum Dakar, Senegal

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Country/City Experience: Developing VLRs in Latin America and Africa: The Experiences of The Gambia

### PRESENTER

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DEPARTMENT OF  
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# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

- **Summary of the Brikama Local Government Area.**
- **The voluntary local review process.**
- **Prioritized SDGs with global indicators.**
- **Data collection methods for the VLR process.**
- **Lessons learnt**
- **Challenges**
- **Way forward**

## **SUMMARY OF THE BRIKAMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

- The Brikama LGA is one of the rapidly urbanizing region which represent 38% of the population of the Gambia. It has a total land area of 1764.3km<sup>2</sup> with a population density of 397 persons per square km.
- The region has nine (9) districts, each headed by a chief(Seyfo)
- It has 28 wards headed by an Elected Ward Councilor and nominated Councilors representing various interest groups.
- The inhabitants earn their livelihood through farming, horticultural, petty trading, fishing and clerical work with a recorded poverty rate of 51.2 percent, which is higher than the national average of 48.6 percent.
- The LGA has a youthful population.

**Source: 2013 Population & Housing Census**

## **THE VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW PROCESS**

- The VLR process was consultative and Inclusive.
- A VLR consultant was hired by UNDESA through UNRCO and GALGA was the coordinating. Brikama, Kanifing and Kuntaur piloted the First VLR.
- An inception workshop was organized for regional and national stakeholders to finalized the VLR road maps for the three regions.
- Each LGA priority SDGs reported were identified through Stakeholder consultations and each SDG relevant and trackable indicators were identified.
- Report writing teams for each LGA comprising key stakeholders were constituted for the drafting of the reports.
- An ECA VLR report writing guide was used to guide the report writing
- Three draft reports are produced( Brikama, Kanifing and Kuntaur which were sent to UNDESA for review.

## **PRIORITIZED SDGS WITH GLOBAL INDICATORS**

- The LGA adopted seven (7) SDGs with twenty (20) global indicators. The prioritized SDGs are as follows:
- **Goal 1.** No poverty
- **Goal 3.** Good health and wellbeing
- **Goal 4.** Quality education
- **Goal 5.** Gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

# DATA COLLECTION METHODS FOR THE VLR PROCESS

- Secondary data was collected from different published literature
- The council relied mainly on data collected by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics because the Council do not have readily available literatures on the sustainable development goals (targets) that the council could source from.
- The data was sourced mainly from the MICS 2010 and 2018, the IHS of 2010, 2015 and 2021, the DHS of 2013/14 and 2019/20, Ministry of Local Government Reports and Brikama Area Council's Reports and Records.
- The stakeholder consultations (the stakeholder consultations organized for VNR)

## LESSONS LEARNT

- The VLR provided the opportunity for the focal persons and the writing team to acquaint themselves with the priority SDGs and the selected indicators.
- During the review Partnership and inter-agency collaboration was strengthened and need for coordinated efforts and resources.
- Capacity in terms of reporting and planning Gaps were identified at Regional level ( Council strategy Development Plans with the SDGs).
- Most regional department offices were relying on national plans rather than having their regional plans.
- The need to fast track the decentralization process.
- More special attention will be given to SDGs Agenda 2030 and African Agenda 2063 by the coming regional Plans(2024 onwards)

# CHALLENGES

- Inadequate resources for the VLR process. As the first three VLRs( Brikama, Kanifing and Kuntaur) budgets were not available at various regional levels and from UNDESA to finalise the VLR reports
- Availability of data and local knowledge within the regions and communities were not readily available to be incorporated. We relied on secondary data.
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- Inadequate coordination and harmonisation of policies, regulations, programs and projects featured during the review process.
- Low awareness of the two agendas: SDGs 2030 and African 2063 Agenda especially at Grassroots level.
- Capacity and Commitment of stakeholders was challenge ( the writing team).



# WAY FORWARD

- Effective policies and collaborative efforts are very important to empower local authorities in the implementation process.
- Strengthen awareness creation at regional and local levels about the existence of SDGs and the African Agenda 2063, its implementation and reporting.
- Coordination of resources in the implementation of SDGs for better impact.
- Strengthen/provide research activities at regional and local levels on the SDGs, encourage city peer researches, study tours and cheer up national and local governments to mandatory reports on SDGs periodically.
- Councils in the Gambia to establish an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Systems to strengthen data collection, monitoring, and reporting on SDGs.
- Ensure that National, regional and local plans are anchored on the SDGs.

Thank you all for the kind  
attention!!!