



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
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## INTERNATIONAL MAYORS FORUM:

*Using VLRs to drive localization of the SDGs and inform VNRs: Sharing of experiences and lessons learned*

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25 April 2023

Making progress possible. **Together.**

# Presentation outline

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- Cape Town Overview
- CCT localisation approach
- Producing the VLR
- Post-2021 VLR production – Review and insights
- Next steps – 2023-2024

## Slide 2

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**CW53**

Add 1/2 slides on Hugh's requested inputs please

Carol Wright, 4/19/2023



# Cape Town Overview

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# Cape Town Overview (1)

The Cape Town has the largest population of all cities in the Western Cape Province of South Africa with a population density of 1 944 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**1.5 million**



Total households 2022

**4.7 million**



Population 2022

**>5.8million**



Population  
2040

**Cape Town total area: 2 445km<sup>2</sup>**



Population density of  
1 944 people/km<sup>2</sup>



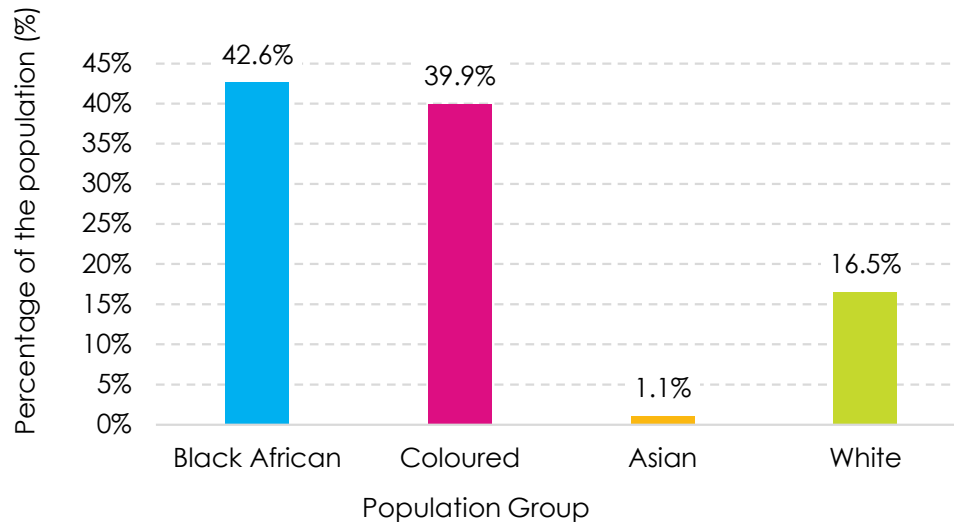
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Source: 2021 and 2022 Mid-year population estimates, 2016 Community Survey, Statistics South Africa and 2018 City of Cape Town Population Projections (2017 – 2040), 2021 Corporate GIS, Information and Knowledge Management

# Cape Town overview (2)

Cape Town comprises predominantly Black African and Coloured population groups and the highest percentage of people are in the working age group with a relatively equal split between male and female

Cape Town Population by Population Groups, 2016



The population is steadily ageing with the old age dependency ratio projected to increase



# CCT SDG Localisation approach and the VLR

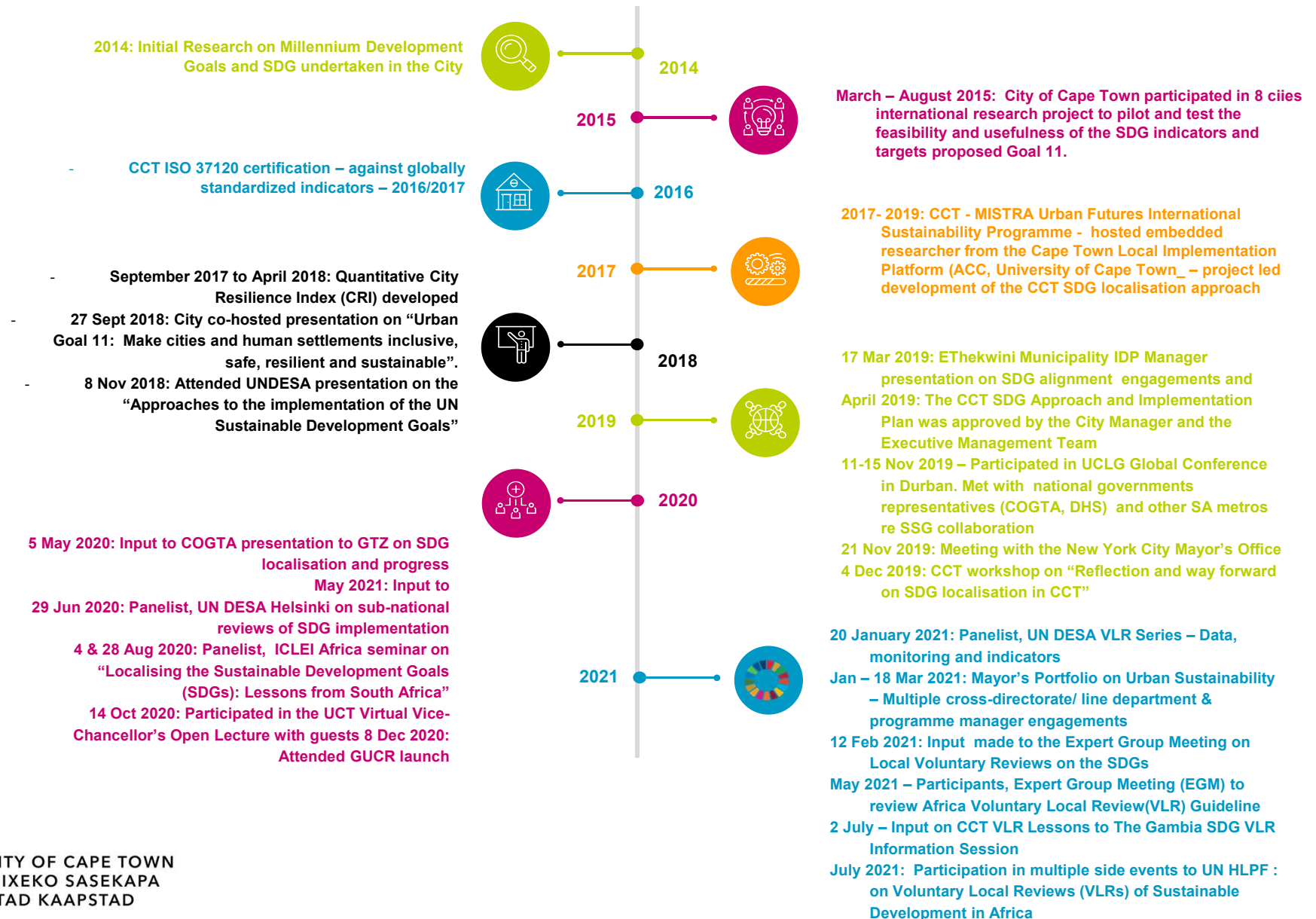
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# City of Cape Town SDG Localisation Approach



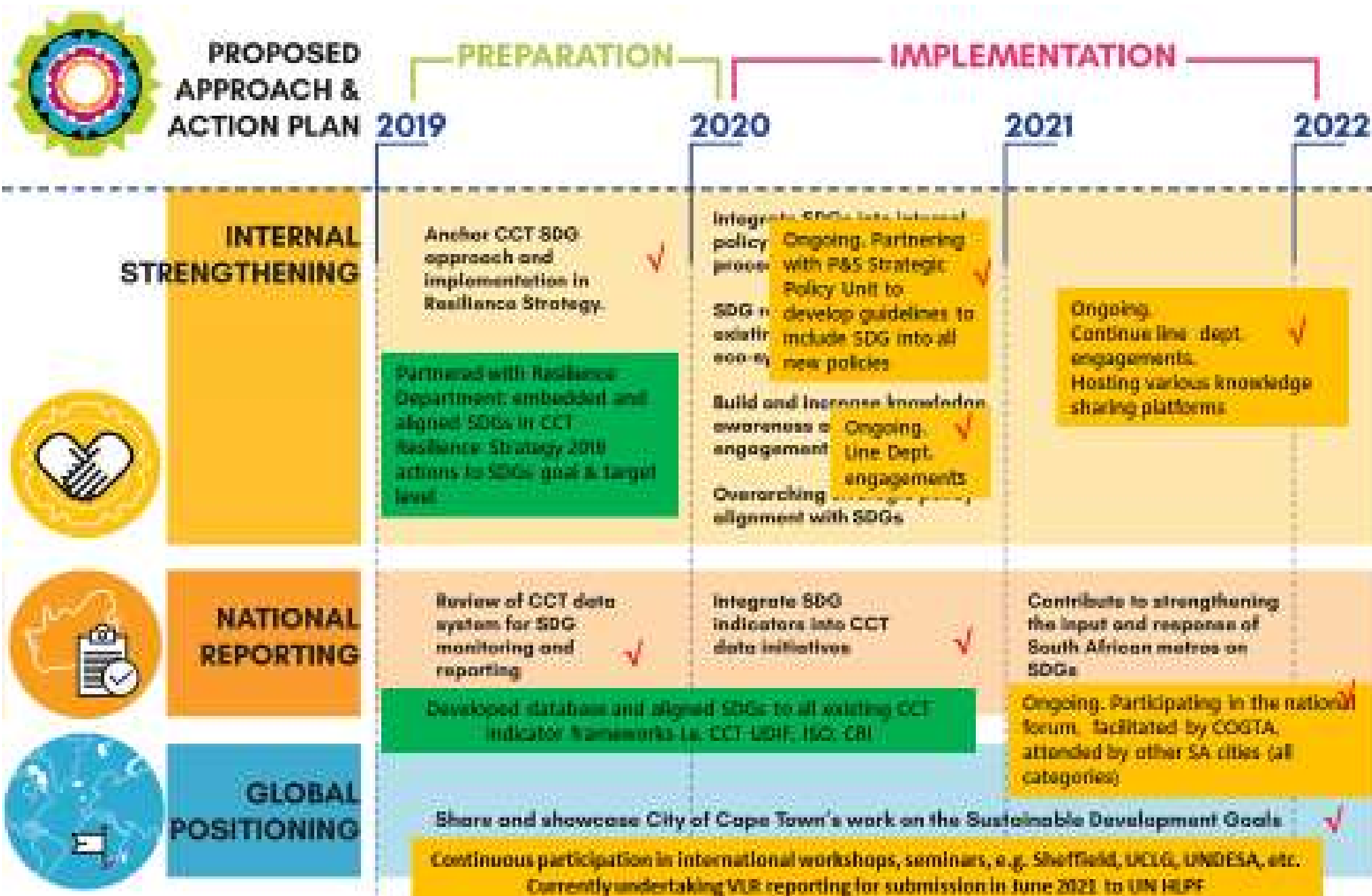


# CCT- VLR production timeline



# Milestones achieved

Green – Completed  
Orange – Ongoing



# CCT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) 2022-2027, including Climate Change and SDGs integration

## Overall Objectives alignment

IDP OBJECTIVES	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1. Increased jobs and investment in the Cape Town economy																	
2. Improved access to quality and reliable basic services																	
3. End load-shedding in Cape Town over time																	
4. Well-managed and modernised infrastructure to support inclusive economic growth																	
5. Effective law enforcement to make communities safer																	
6. Strengthen partnerships for safer communities																	
7. Increased supply of affordable, well-located homes																	
8. Safer, better-quality homes in informal settlements and backyards over time																	
9. Healthy and sustainable environment																	
10. Clean and healthy waterways and beaches																	
11. Quality and safe parks and recreation facilities																	
12. A sustainable transport system that is integrated, efficient and provides safe and affordable travel options for all																	
13. Safe and quality roads for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles																	
14. A resilient city																	
15. A more spatially integrated and inclusive city																	
16. A capable and collaborative city government																	

## Individual programme alignment

**12.4 Travel demand and congestion relief programme**  
 Programme description: Reduce the time residents spend in traffic

SDGs 3 9 11

Congestion on Cape Town roads is costly for the economy and commuters in terms of both time and money. It also harms the environment and affects the efficiency and speed of road-based public transport such as minibus taxis and contracted buses. The City remains committed to improving public transport access and expanding non-motorised transport infrastructure as the most effective ways to reduce congestion. At the same time, however, it will work to reduce the time residents spend in traffic through targeted road capacity improvements and interventions.

**12.4.A. Targeted road capacity enhancement project:** The City will address major pressure points in the road network through infrastructure investments to alleviate congestion. These projects will focus on roads that typically have a peak traffic period in excess of two hours. These include locations where road improvements can alleviate the impact of congestion on road-based public transport services. Targeted road capacity expansions will include Broadway Boulevard in Somerset West, Jip de Jager Drive in Bellville, and the upgrade of Saxdowns and Amandel roads in the Kuils River area. The City will also pursue the completion of the Foreshore freeways.

**City role** Deliver  
**Accountable directorate** Urban Mobility

**12.4.B. Traffic signal efficiency project:** The City will invest in modern technologies such as vehicle detection systems and traffic signal controllers to improve the movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. These technology upgrades will improve the City's ability to manage how people and cars move through the city at different times of the day, and meaningfully contribute towards reducing congestion.

**City role** Deliver  
**Accountable directorate** Urban Mobility

**12.4.C. Sustainable transport initiative:** Building on the benefits of infrastructure interventions that prioritise public transport and NMT for reducing the need to travel by private vehicle, the City will focus on stakeholder engagement including the promotion of flexible work programmes for large employers. The City will also strategically manage on-street parking to accommodate a range of travel modes in Cape Town's business districts.

**City role** Innovate; Partner  
**Accountable directorate** Urban Mobility

## OBJECTIVE 13: SAFE AND QUALITY ROADS FOR PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS AND VEHICLES

**13.1 Road safety and maintenance programme**  
 Programme description: Maintain a quality and safe road network<sup>10</sup> for the benefit of all users.

Climate Priority Programme  
 SDGs 3 9 10 11

The City is committed to maintaining a quality road network, recognising its importance as a key platform for economic growth by allowing the efficient movement of people and goods throughout Cape Town. Effective maintenance strategies are implemented to sustain the road network into the future and the City will continue to upgrade and maintain public transport infrastructure, roads, stormwater infrastructure and traffic signals, and to repair potholes. Since the majority of residents walk as part of their daily journeys, the City will invest in NMT infrastructure and making streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. This will provide safer travel options for pedestrians and cyclists, enhance access to public transport services, particularly for vulnerable transport users, and promote cleaner and carbon-neutral travel. In addition, the City recognises that traffic calming is critical to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

# Producing the VLR – Lessons and Challenges

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# CCT SDG/VLR 2021 Products & Processes (& Enablers)

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## Products

- CCT 2021 VLR Report
  - Handed over to the Mayor's Office/International Relations
  - Completed and communicated into the organisation and externally
  - Shared with UN DESA for upload to the NYC Mayor's Office, UN DESA repository and other relevant INGOs
- Data Annexure – sets a baseline for CCT SDG monitoring and reporting
- GitHub platform – to share the data book on an accessible platform, for wider audience
- Expanded Technical Task Team to inform CCT localisation work going

## Processes

- CCT SDG localisation work plan implementation
  - Alignment with key strategies and frameworks, e.g.
    - New IDP ToO Plan
    - CCT Recovery Plan/Scenarios
    - Well Being
    - Homelessness
  - SDG awareness raising with departments and programmes
  - SDG proxy indicator review and alignment with SDGs, goals and targets
  - Outreach to relevant stakeholders, including national government departments, other SA Metros, cities in Africa (via UN ECA)

# Role of local government in SDG localisation

- **Alignment:** While the SDGs are global in their ambition, the achievement depends on local action and transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level. This all needs to be in line with national frameworks but with communities' priorities.
- **Advocacy:** Have the potential to facilitated partnerships – both internal and external to the organise thus gathering support for local SDG implementation and monitoring. It can further show how local individuals, communities, marginalised and vulnerable groups can be included into policy making at a local level and this is supported by concrete actions (e.g. CCT IDP 2022-2027 programmes).
- **Implementation:** Is the sphere of government nearest to the people, are well placed to align SDGs to local conditions and translating the global goals into local aspirations. These holds the potential to broaden the base of support for the SDGs.
- **Monitoring:** Play a key role in monitoring and reporting progress on localising the SDGs. They help drive and move the process forward by supporting the development of broad, integrated and participatory monitoring and reporting indicators.



## CCT priority SDGs for VLR reporting 2021

Alignment Reviews





# Overview of CCT VLR process (2021)

## Approach

Transversal technical support, review & build internal capability. Informed by other cities VLR lessons, learnings and guidelines

## SDGs reported on



## 3 Strategic anchors

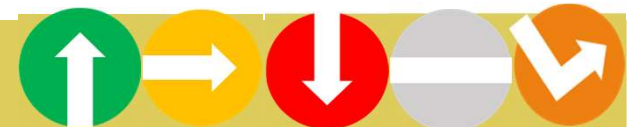
**Resilience Strategy (2019), Integrated Development Plan (2017 to 2022) and The CCT COVID-19 Recovery Plan**

## Alignment to

Key strategies, sector plans and the Mayor's Portfolio projects, to all SDGs, to inform prioritisation

## Data Assessment

Indicative Achievement Assessment: Applied at goal, target, indicator levels



# Prioritisation of SDGs for CCT VLR 2020/2021

- 3 strategic anchors:  
**Resilience Strategy (2019), Integrated Development Plan (2017 to 2022) and The CCT COVID-19 Recovery Plan**
- Alignment reviews of key strategies, sector plans and the Mayor's Portfolio projects

## CCT priority SDGs for VLR reporting 2021

Alignment Reviews





# Outcome – 8 CCT VLR 2020 -2021 priority SDGs

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# Structure – Presenting the CCT VLR 2021 SDG assessment



## Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Target

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.24 a day services and upgrade slums



In Cape Town, poverty decreased between 2014 and 2018 but has likely increased due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

### Indicator

Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

The Cape Town poverty statistics for the period 2014 to 2018 show a positive trend and an overall decline (in percentage of households living in poverty) from 24,2% in 2017 to 16,3% in 2018.

### Project detail

*Income relief through job opportunities:* The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is aimed at reducing poverty and providing income relief by supplying temporary work to the unemployed.






*Food garden projects:* The City the “Food Garden Project” to address food insecurity in vulnerable communities.

# Summary at Indicator level- SDG 9



**Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**







**Trend in the City:** The targets and indicators related to Goal 9 have useful data available, though the recency and coverage of statistics varies. There are limitations associated with reporting productive shares at the municipal level, and reporting here could be improved with improved monitoring of programme outcomes.

9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	
9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	
9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	
9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	

# Summary at Indicator level- SDG 17



## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure	
17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring	
17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	
17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	
17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	
17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration	

# Post Production - Review and insights

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# Experiences during the VLR production



## Successes

Build a baseline for trends monitoring on the SDG reporting for city level data thus providing/improving data for evidence based decision-making

Provided a base for the VNR to provide comparability between reports on CCT and national level government – as led by the “hub & spoke” approach

Development of SDG GitHub portal

Provide comparability between reports of city and national level governments

Strengthened the City’s ability to foster SDG localization and demonstrate local governments’ capacity and commitments

While the City followed a “hub and spoke approach”, ownerships was created through transversal line departments engagements and input

Entrenched local governments’ capacity and commitments

Data became transparent to the broader society



## Challenges

The SDG Tier Classification does not include lower than national level data for the SDGs which is a challenge for cities who wish to track city level SDGs progress – but also an opportunity

The unavailability of disaggregated data – especially on gender, disability (also at different geographic scales) has implications for the City’s ability to understand better who benefits from its programmes/projects - and who are excluded from which services. The capacity for the City to tell who is it leaving behind is diminished by the data limitations

Kinds of partnerships undertaken by the City may fall short to be transformative

Relook at the CCT partnership model: how we partner, who we partner with and is it representative of transformation?

The City’s Integrated Development Plans of (IDP) 2017-2022 and newly developed 2022-2027 recognises a range of challenges and puts forward a set of programmes to address these challenges. How do we further align the IDP programme and IDP Research Agenda to the SDGs

# Experiences during the VLR production cont.



## Opportunities

Using the SDG localisation process as a learning/capacity development opportunities

Using line departments programmes and building on existing processes and products – e.g. Mayor's Portfolio of Urban Sustainability Programmes. This has the benefit of creating new partnerships within the organisation, and/or strengthening existing ones

Alignment between a COVID recovery lens and the SDGs

Tracking and comparing progress assisted the CCT in identifying challenges, opportunities and needs

The VLR 2021 added value as it provided a baseline for measuring SDG progress. This tracking and comparing progress assisted the CCT in identifying challenges, opportunities and needs going forward, but simultaneously offering practical solutions on a way forward, i.e. production of a GitHub platform to present City data.

Allowed for vertical engagement, partnerships and recognized the gap to develop a City's Forum in RSA to facilitate and assist cities in developing VLRs – but still realising the diversity of each RSA city.

Data became transparent to the broader society and allowed others to



## Lessons learnt

**Advancing an institutional model** where most follows either a city-wide model; and with the challenge required with phasing an expanding approach to include communities and NGOs etc.

Methodology to approach the production of the VLR, include structure, look and feel where/how to pitch the report? Goals level, targets?

**Supporting mechanisms:** Having guidelines and/or reviews of other city practices relating to key decision points

Build on existing CCT processes/programmes – e.g. deciding which CCT programmes projects to showcase

Strengthening data gathering quality

Sharing experiences and lessons learnt and/or providing guidelines for linking subnational and national processes, including integrating LRG data into VNR processes and reports

2022-2023 CCT – Lessons on driving strategy into implementation

## Lessons learnt 3- What is still missing? How can LRGs be further supported?

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- Strengthening the ability to gather quality data – for Tier II and Tier III indicator reporting, i.e. build LRG capacity to report on complex/transversal outcomes
- Tools to help assess “goal attainment”
- Local linked target setting and alignment – guidelines for this and linking to the strategic goals of the regional authority/local authority; sustainable and meaningful ways
- Guidelines on Phasing monitoring and delivery to assist to optimise the attainment of the goals (given 10 year window to support change)
- Sharing experiences and lessons learnt and/or providing guidelines for linking subnational and national processes, including integrating LRG data into VNR processes and reports



# Next steps 2023-2024

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# Using the VLRs to drive SDG localisation

- With the current institutional model followed by the CCT, there remains scope to pursue and engage non-state stakeholders on a broader or shared 2030 (and beyond to 2050) vision for Cape Town, i.e.
  - with the first three of the “5As” i.e. awareness, alignment and analysis undertaken through the first VLR, the CCT has the opportunity to extend awareness raising outside the institution
  - with local communities, civic and not for profit organisations, academia, organs of state and other spheres of government – to leverage partnership opportunities and build transformative partnerships
  - Identify what specific SDG targets to prioritise, what targets to commit to and pursue, and what would constitute evidence of change in the local context
- VLR provided a platform for the alignment and inclusion of the SDGs into strategic documents, e.g. the City’s strategic 2022-2027 IDP. This will allow for deeper goal and target alignment and increased localisations around monitoring and evaluation



# Using the VLRs to inform VNRs

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While acknowledging the high levels of monitoring and reporting into various multi-level government platforms, the reasons, benefit and value for the City of Cape Town to have undertaken a VLR and monitor progress towards the 2030 goals are multiple.

- It would potentially aid the CCT's contribution to the South African Voluntary National Review (VNR) report and offer the opportunity to reflect Cape Town achievements and challenges into the VNR and, in turn, being informed by lessons from the VNR process.
- Due to the dearth of available of City level data in South Africa (i.e. sub-national, district and/or area specific) data by Stats SA, the CCT VLR, in addition to the achievements and challenges, will also provide City level-data.
- The CCT VLR (2021) highlights how the City has addressed sustainable development, economic, social and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner, through actions that were taken and how strategic documents were aligned. The VLR (2021) allows the City to showcase how these must be reflected in the upcoming VNR.

# Next steps – long term view

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## Internal strengthening

- Expand existing awareness building process and refining how the CCT localisation is undertaken – especially in light of the current 5 year plan alignment to the SDGs
- Refining current approaches methodologies for engaging line departments – e.g. from business planning stage to project planning and evaluation
- Currently – research underway to gather officials' views on their (past) SDG engagement experiences, how it impacted their SDG alignment of programmes/projects, and the way they measure achievement and/or progress towards the goals.

## National reporting

- Potential to update VLR in next financial year (2023/2024) to inform the national VNR report for July 2024

## Global positioning

- Skills and knowledge sharing actions at various levels – e.g. assisting with SDG and VLR capacity building among South African secondary cities and smaller municipalities

# Acknowledgements

<p>National</p> 	<p>Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)          South African metros, e.g. EThekweni, Johannesburg, etc.          South African Local Government Association (SALGA)</p>
<p>Africa</p> 	<p>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</p>
<p>International</p> 	<p>UNOSD          UN DESA, UN-DSDG          UN HABITAT          New York City, Mayor's Office for International Affairs          Various international cities</p>



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**Thank You**

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