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Local2030 Coalition, the High Impact Initiative on Localization:

Pushing Key Transitions and Achieving the SDGs by 2030

Progress and Impact Report

Executive Summary

July 2026

The 2023 SDG Summit marked the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030.





At the 2023 SDG Summit, the United Nations recognized that nearly two-thirds of the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without local action and designated the Local2030 Coalition as the High Impact Initiative (HII) on Localization as one of the United Nations system's twelve High Impact Initiatives to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Since then, the Initiative seeks to strengthen multilevel governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration by empowering local actors, accelerating local action and financing, and enhancing evidence for decision-making. In doing so, it contributes to accelerating progress across all SDGs while supporting the six SDG Transitions identified by the United Nations as having the greatest catalytic potential: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Three years after its launch, the High Impact Initiative has become the United Nations system's principal platform for convening collective action on localization, enabling locally led impact at scale.

Its comparative advantage lies in mobilizing national governments, local and regional authorities, UN entities, development partners, international financial institutions, civil society, academia, youth, and the private sector to work together toward territorial transformation and sustainable development. By connecting actors that have traditionally operated in parallel, the Local2030 Coalition, formed by 14 UN entities and co-chaired by UN-Habitat and the UN Regional Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), representing all the Regional Economic Commissions, is helping transform fragmented localization efforts into a coherent global delivery platform capable of translating global commitments into tracked territorial impact.

Reinforced by the Pact for the Future, which recognizes multilevel governance, localization and sustainable urbanization as essential enablers of sustainable development, the Coalition has increasingly positioned SDG localization within major global policy processes. Through its successive Road to... processes and strategic partnerships, the Coalition has mobilized more than 2,000 stakeholders worldwide through consultations and workshops ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the Second World Summit for Social Development, COP30 and WUF13.

The priorities and experiences emerging from these consultations, together with the UN Policy Briefs developed collectively by the Coalition's fourteen UN entities, have helped embed localization in the outcomes of these global processes, strengthening partnerships and showcasing locally led solutions with transformative potential. In doing so, the Coalition has helped ensure that local priorities increasingly shape global policy discussions while localization is rooted in the policy outcomes and commitments emerging from major intergovernmental processes.

This growing recognition is further reflected in the recommendation of the Local2030 Sevilla Platform for Action as one of the first cohort of flagship proposals emerging from the Third Policy Dialogue between the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative and the United Nations Task Force on Leveraging Partnerships towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while the Bilbao Bootcamp was also identified as a complementary initiative supporting the implementation of the flagship portfolio.

Through the complementary contributions of its members, the Coalition brings together expertise on sustainable urbanization, housing, land and basic services; multilevel governance and development coordination; local development finance and economic transformation; climate resilience and environmental sustainability; food systems and rural-urban linkages; gender equality and social inclusion; migration, displacement and humanitarian response; health and demographic change; and data, evidence and innovation into a shared platform for locally led sustainable development.

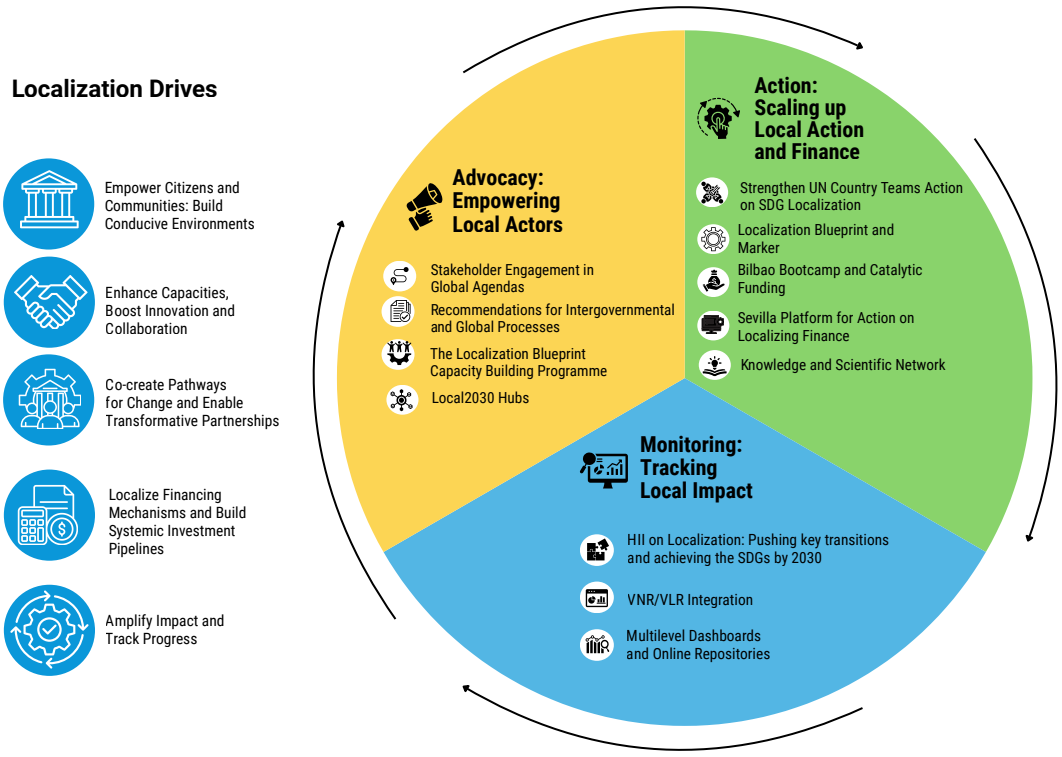
This integrated approach enables countries and territories to address complex development challenges through coordinated and locally led action.

Building on the inaugural report presented in 2024, this cumulative report captures the continued expansion of partnerships, initiatives and results contributing to the High Impact Initiative's shared roadmap and agreed targets. Drawing on evidence from partners across all regions of the world, especially the Local2030 Hubs, it demonstrates that the Initiative is generating more than a collection of successful local experiences. Together, these initiatives illustrate the emergence of an integrated ecosystem in which financing, governance, technical cooperation, institutional capacity, knowledge, innovation and partnerships reinforce one another to accelerate SDG implementation.

The initiatives presented in this report are not intended to provide an exhaustive account of the Coalition's work or that of its partners. Rather, they illustrate a representative selection of experiences drawn from the collective efforts of the High Impact Initiative on localization's partners across regions, institutions and thematic areas. Together, they provide evidence of approaches that are accelerating localization while demonstrating a broader transformation: the evolution of localization from a collection of promising practices into an increasingly institutionalized global architecture for collective action, supported by common tools, aligned financing, multilevel governance and sustained political commitment.



The Local2030 Coalition Localization Delivery System



Financing Mobilization - From Funding Projects to Building Territorial Financing Systems





Through integrated financing systems for localization, the Coalition partners have mobilized resources across catalytic funding, co-financing, guarantees, sustainable capital-market instruments, and public-private partnerships. These include US$96 million in catalytic funding, US$575 million in co-financing and partner resources, an additional US$270 million mobilized through local impact and SDG localization programmes, approximately US$25.9 billion in private, cooperative, and investment commitments, US$8 billion in sustainable capital-market instruments through bonds and sukuk, and US$30 million in guarantee funds with an expected US$350 million in leverage for SDG-aligned social investments. Together, these results show a shift from stand-alone project funding toward territorial financing systems capable of unlocking SDG-aligned investment at scale.

One of the Initiative's most significant achievements has been the transition from isolated project funding toward integrated territorial financing systems for SDG localization. The post-FFD4 establishment of the Sevilla Platform for Action on Localizing Finance further institutionalizes this approach and provides a platform for scaling it globally.

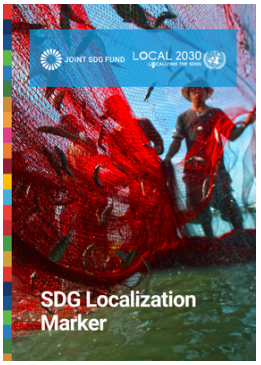
Coalition-led initiatives do more than provide direct support: they create the conditions for countries and partners to mobilize substantially larger investments, strengthen institutional capacities and embed SDG localization within national development and financing systems. Flagship initiatives such as the SDG Localization Seed Funding Portfolio and the Bilbao Bootcamp illustrate this catalytic approach by helping countries transform locally identified priorities into investment-ready programmes and financing pipelines.

Through the partnership between the Local2030 Coalition and the Joint SDG Fund, joint programmes on SDG localization were supported across 38 countries in 2024/2025 with USD 33.4 million in catalytic funding (10.4 million in 2024 and 23million in 2025), generating a financial leverage of USD 235 million (USD 50 million programmed in 2024 through the Seed Funding Call, with a further USD 185 million being mobilized through the 2025 Bilbao Bootcamp cohort of countries.) Building on this momentum, the 2026 Bilbao Bootcamp offers USD 36 million additional funding to 12 new joint programmes, further scaling catalytic financing and unlocking up to USD 340 million in co-financing opportunities for SDG localization.

The impact of this approach extends well beyond the Coalition's own initiatives. By creating common methodologies, catalytic financing mechanisms and shared spaces for collaboration, the Coalition enables countries, UN Country Teams and partner institutions to adopt, adapt and replicate these approaches at scale. Across the wider localization ecosystem, partners are applying them through sustainable bonds and sukuk, blended finance, guarantee mechanisms, community financing models and other innovative financing instruments that mobilize public and private capital for locally led sustainable development.

Best Practices and Innovations — Building a Global Delivery Platform





The Coalition's contribution has been to integrate planning, financing, implementation, monitoring and learning tools and methodologies into a common delivery platform. Through the Localization Marker, Localization Blueprint, Localization Capacity Building Programme, Local2030 Hubs, Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN), SDG Localization Seed Funding Portfolio, Bilbao Bootcamp and the Coalition's "Road to..." processes, governments and partners are increasingly able to work within a shared framework that connects policy dialogue, technical cooperation, territorial planning, investment design and implementation support.

The Coalition's contribution extends beyond the direct implementation of its own initiatives. Its greatest added value lies in creating the conditions through which governments, UN Country Teams and partners increasingly adopt, adapt and scale common approaches to SDG localization. In this way, Coalition-led initiatives catalyse changes that extend well beyond their immediate scope, strengthening national and local ownership, influencing broader policy and operational practice, and enabling partners across the United Nations system and beyond.

This integrated approach represents one of the Initiative's defining innovations. Rather than promoting individual tools, the Coalition has shaped an operational architecture through which countries and territories can move from diagnosis to implementation using common methodologies, coordinated partnerships and mutually reinforcing interventions.



Institutional Commitment — Embedding Localization At Scale

Institutional commitment to SDG localization continues to deepen across all levels of governance. More than 1,400 local and regional governments are actively engaged, over 90 countries have committed to integrating localization frameworks, Local2030 Hubs continue to be territorial platforms for innovation, KSN has mobilized over one hundred local universities and research centers to harness science for SDG localization, and at least 45 UN Country Teams are engaging with localization as an accelerator for SDG implementation, demonstrating direct engagement with the Coalition's methodologies and partnerships.

These developments reflect more than expanding participation. They demonstrate growing collective ownership of SDG localization across governments, the United Nations System and partner institutions. By providing a permanent platform for collaboration, peer learning, joint action and system-wide coordination, the Local2030 Coalition is strengthening the institutional capacity required to transform global commitments into locally owned implementation.



Progress Toward the High Impact Initiative Targets

Short-Term Deliverables

- 50 national and subnational governments committed to supporting locally-driven actions
- Key IFIs committed to channeling significantly more financing towards the local level
- Innovative practices, initiatives, and solutions demonstrating impact of localized actions serve as an inspiration to go to scale

Medium-Term Priorities

- US$25 Million invested in catalytic initiatives at the local level
- Expand the network of Local2030 Hubs to support localization efforts everywhere
- Ensure that UN country teams embrace localization as the accelerator for pushing the transitions and achieving the SDGs
- Ensure that all members of the UNSDG are aware of the Local2030 Coalition and its activities

Longer-Term Priorities

- 1000 local governments join efforts to advance the SDGs at the local level
- US$150Million invested in catalytic initiatives at the local level through the Joint SDG Fund
- Major private sector investments in at least 100 cities aligned to the SDGs
- 100 countries where VLRs and local and sub-national governments contribute effectively to VNRs
- US$50M mobilised to support women's leadership and empowerment to deliver on the SDGs at the local level

Across financing mobilization, best practices and innovations, and institutional commitment, the High Impact Initiative is demonstrating strong progress against its roadmap. Short-term targets have largely been achieved or exceeded, medium-term objectives are advancing ahead of schedule, and the institutional, financial and operational foundations required to achieve the Initiative's long-term ambitions continue to strengthen.

More fundamentally, progress demonstrates the Coalition's growing ability to mobilize institutions, align partners, leverage investment, strengthen multilevel governance and accelerate collective action toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

The evidence presented throughout this report shows that SDG localization is evolving from a collection of promising practices into an increasingly institutionalized global delivery platform. The Local2030 Coalition has been instrumental in this transformation by creating the enabling conditions through which diverse actors can work collectively rather than independently, aligning political leadership, financing, technical expertise and territorial implementation around shared objectives.

As the international community prepares for the 2027 SDG Summit and enters the decisive final years of the 2030 Agenda, this report forms part of the Coalition's Road to the 2027 SDG Summit, providing cumulative evidence of progress while helping sustain SDG localization as a strategic priority within the global sustainable development agenda. It demonstrates that SDG localization has become one of the United Nations system's strongest accelerators for sustainable development. More importantly, it shows that the Local2030 Coalition has established a unique institutional platform capable of translating the United Nations' convening power into collective delivery through stronger partnerships, increased investment and locally led action at the scale required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.