LOCAL 2030
LOCALIZING THE SDGS

ROAD TO DOHA: THE LOCAL WAY

Local Social Development Solutions for SDG Acceleration

November 2025



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Introduction

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025, marks a pivotal moment for advancing global commitments to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable social progress. As part of the Road to Doha: The Local Way process, the United Nations Local2030 Coalition has gathered concrete, results-oriented case studies of local solutions, policies, and initiatives that demonstrate how local actors are leading transformative change for social development.

Localizing the 2030 Agenda

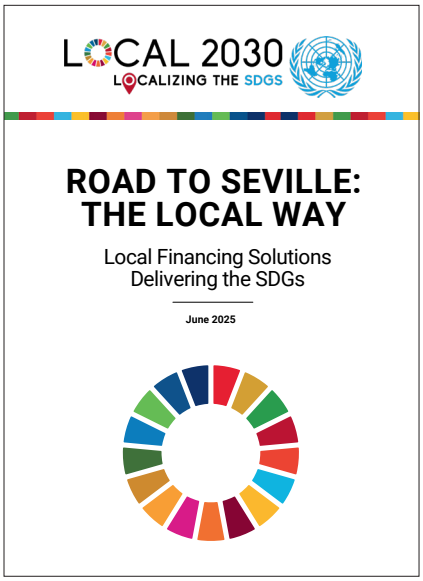
The Local2030 Coalition is the United Nations system's platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhancing coherence, efficiency, and the impact of UN action. 14 UN entities[1] drive the Coalition, co-chaired by UN-Habitat and FAO, ensuring that the UN system is equipped to articulate global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs, and priorities, while securing a single and powerful UN approach to localization.

Through its five constituencies–national government, local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth–the Local2030 Coalition is also a bridge between the United Nations and local development stakeholders, for the co-creation of solutions for systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind.

Concretely, the Coalition's members, constituencies, and partners join forces to:

- Ensure the continuous engagement of local stakeholders in the design and implementation of development agendas, tailoring global processes to local realities.
- Build capacities in the UN system and beyond to mainstream localization and accelerate the SDGs.
- Scale up contextualized innovative actions and financing solutions, increasing local impact for territorial transformation.
- Enhance data analysis and inform multilevel-multistakeholder dialogue for collective review of sustainable development processes.

In 2024–2025, the Local2030 Coalition advanced this mandate through the "Road to Seville" process towards the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4). Over 1,000 local development stakeholders across different world regions contributed to identify innovative financing solutions and policy recommendations that culminated in the Seville Platform for Action (SPA)–launched jointly by Spain, UN-Habitat, the OECD, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and the Finance in Common Initiative. The first action under this SPA–responding to the strong demand from participating entities–was the continuation of the "Road to..." modality of engagement in other global processes and agendas, including the Second World Summit for Social Development, COP30 and the World Urban Forum, among others. These processes of multilevel and multistakeholder consultation combine advocacy and evidence on localization to inform and shape United Nations processes and negotiations.



From Seville to Doha to Baku: Strengthening the Local Way



The Road to Doha: The Local Way builds directly on the Local2030 Seville Platform for Action's call to localize finance and governance mechanisms within global dialogues. This process showcases locally led social and housing policies, territorial innovations and multilevel governance frameworks that can inform and support the implementation of the WSSD2 Political Declaration – ensuring that local and regional actors are recognized as co-owners of social development.

1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the Regional Commissions.

The Policy Brief: "Recommendations for WSSD2—Localizing Social Development", developed by the Local2030 Coalition's Working Group on Localizing the SDG Transitions, provided the following recommendations to offer thematic direction, structuring the organizing framework for this report:



1) Acknowledge Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) as Key Actors in Social Development.
2) Engage LRGs and Local Stakeholders in the WSSD2 Process.
3) Promote Multilevel Coordination and Context-specific Local Strategies for Social Inclusion.
4) Deepen Inclusive Local Participation and Accountability.
5) Enhance Institutional and Operational Capacity of LRGs.
6) Scale up Innovative Local Action.
7) Advance Local Data, Monitoring and Reporting Systems.

Following this, Local2030 Hubs, local and regional governments, civil society networks, and UN partners have organised a global series of workshops and regional consultations identifying local solutions that demonstrate how inclusion, participation, and data-driven governance generate transformative social and territorial impact.

This participatory process will continue beyond Doha, passing through COP30 in Belém, Brazil, (Nov 2026) and towards the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku, Azerbaijan (May 2026). There, the outcomes of WSSD2 will connect with urban action and housing solutions, linking social development commitments to tangible improvements in living conditions, housing affordability, and territorial inclusion.

Themes and Approaches

The WSSD2 Policy Brief and consultations converged on three interlinked themes central to inclusive social development and the realization of the 2030 Agenda:

- •Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation – advancing job creation, poverty reduction, and resilience through localized, community-driven action;
- •Social Protection, Care, and Equity – ensuring locally rooted systems that empower women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups while addressing housing as a foundation for well-being and social inclusion; and
- •Participatory Governance and Territorial Transformation – promoting trust, transparency, and systemic change through multilevel collaboration.

To operationalize these themes, the report is structured around three complementary approaches reflecting the policy brief's recommendations:

- •Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities – building the institutional and leadership capacity of local actors for inclusive, sustainable development; linking to the policy brief's recommendations 1 and 5
- •Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Innovative Local Action – integrating community-led and institutional approaches for systemic transformation; linking to the policy brief's recommendations 3 and 6
- •Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data – deepening participation, evidence-based policymaking, and citizen engagement, linking to the policy brief's recommendations 4 and 7.

Evidence, Participation, and Impact

Consultations across regions engaged numerous organizations, identifying over 30 locally led social, economic, and housing solutions with measurable results in poverty reduction, resilience, and governance. Each case demonstrates how empowered local leadership, supported by coherent institutions and informed by data, translates global commitments into real social and territorial change.

Together, these stories reaffirm that local action is the foundation of global progress. They show how communities, governments, and partners—when equipped, connected, and supported—can make social development and housing inclusion tangible outcomes of the renewed social contract envisioned by WSSD2.



Local2030 Coalition Photo



ILO Photo/Fatma Cankara

Overview of Locally Led Solutions for Social Sevelopment

The portfolio of locally led solutions compiled under *The Road to Doha: The Local Way* captures the depth and diversity of local innovation driving inclusive social development worldwide. Together, these cases illustrate how governments, civil society, youth, academia, and the private sector are translating the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the Second World Summit for Social Development into tangible outcomes—strengthening governance, expanding social protection, and advancing territorial transformation.

In terms of themes, **Participatory Governance and Territorial Transformation** remains the most prevalent focus (15 solutions), followed by I**nclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation** (12), and **Social Protection, Care, and Equity** (12). This distribution highlights the centrality of governance and institutional coordination in achieving social progress, complemented by strong emphasis on economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, and resilience. Many initiatives link social protection with empowerment—showing how community-led systems can close protection gaps, foster equity, and enable human development.

Across approaches, **Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities** leads with 16 solutions, closely followed by **Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action** (14), and **Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data** (9). This balance reflects a collective orientation toward systemic transformation—connecting local innovation, capacity building, and data-driven participation to coherent governance and financing frameworks. Regional trends reveal distinct strengths. **Africa** highlights civil society leadership and youth-driven participation linking livelihoods with social protection; **Asia** emphasizes governance integration and SDG localization led by local governments; **Europe**, particularly **Spain** and **Germany**, showcases multilevel territorial governance and inclusion anchored in social economy models; **Latin America and the Caribbean** stands out for cross-sector innovation ecosystems bridging education, industry, and rural development; while **global initiatives**—such as the World Food Forum Youth Chapter and UITP's mobility framework—demonstrate how local action informs global policy and learning.

Stakeholder participation reflects strong local ownership: **civil society organizations** (19 solutions) and **local and regional governments** (12) drive implementation, while **universities, international partners, and private-sector actors** (8) serve as enablers of innovation, financing, and capacity building. This multi-actor composition underscores that sustainable impact relies on collaborative ecosystems rather than single interventions.

Across all cases, clear operational complementarities emerge: civil society advances empowerment and inclusion; local governments institutionalize coordination and accountability; and private and international partners catalyze innovation, investment, and scaling. Together, they exemplify how **local leadership, participatory governance, and shared accountability** can reimagine social development from the ground up—translating global commitments into equitable, resilient, and people-centered transformation.



Bilbao City Council Photo



ILO Photo

Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities

Local actors—communities, civil society, and local governments—are catalysts of social transformation and essential value levers for social development. The following solutions show how strengthening institutional, technical, and leadership capacities drives inclusive growth, resilience, and innovation. Across regions, they demonstrate that when local actors are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and resources to lead, global commitments become tangible local results.

The following solutions illustrate how **locally driven capacity building and innovation** are advancing inclusive local economies and social transformation. From Brazil to Spain and Zambia, they demonstrate how empowering youth, professionals, and community organizations through training, mentorship, and cross-sector collaboration strengthens resilience, creates jobs, and expands opportunity. Together, these initiatives show how social innovation and local leadership translate global goals into tangible, equitable progress.

Freehelper, Brazil | Plataforma Freehelper — A Skill-Based Volunteering Network Generating Over BRL 10 Million in Savings for the Third Sector

Solutions and Interventions

Nearly **90% of Brazil's Third Sector** is made up of small and medium-sized organizations facing persistent financial and technical capacity constraints. Through the **primary approach of empowering local actors and strengthening capacities, Freehelper** bridges this gap by connecting skilled volunteers and corporate professionals with NGOs across Brazil—mobilizing knowledge, technology, and management expertise to build institutional resilience and social innovation.

Operating as a **professional volunteering platform**, Freehelper matches specialists in technology, communication, finance, and legal services with NGOs seeking targeted support. Its **Professional Volunteering Program** and **Corporate Impact Projects** integrate private-sector engagement, aligning employee development with the strengthening of nonprofit organizations. A proprietary **Impact Measurement Model** quantifies direct financial savings from volunteer hours, translating pro bono contributions into measurable value—over **BRL 10 million saved** to date.

Freehelper also supports NGOs' **digital transformation**, helping improve visibility and fundraising potential by up to **20%**, while cultivating a **national network** of over **12,000 volunteers** and **2,000 NGOs**. Through this collaborative ecosystem, the initiative demonstrates how cross-sector partnerships can drive capacity development, accountability, and innovation—reflecting the **secondary approach of advancing inclusive participation and local data for greater impact measurement and transparency**.

Results and Scalability

Since **2018**, Freehelper has completed more than **1,500 professional volunteering projects**, providing tailored technical and advisory support to NGOs nationwide. The initiative has generated **over BRL 10 million in direct savings** for Brazil's Third Sector and strengthened organizational effectiveness across multiple impact areas. Its network of volunteers and partner NGOs has **directly benefited more than 5 million people**, enhancing social inclusion and civic engagement.

By embedding skill-based volunteering within the broader social economy, Freehelper demonstrates how empowering local institutions through knowledge exchange can scale systemic impact. The model is readily adaptable across regions—advancing **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure),** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

Mondragon Team Academy, Spain | From Ideas to Impact: How #SocialFactory Nurtures the Next Generation of Social Entrepreneurs

Solutions and Interventions

Spain's Social Economy Strategy 2023–2027 highlights challenges such as low youth entrepreneurship, limited generational renewal, and weak entrepreneurial education. In response, **Mondragon University's MTA network and #SocialFactory** are cultivating a new generation of changemakers through capacity building and local empowerment in the social economy.

#SocialFactory provides an integrated support ecosystem combining training, mentorship, funding, and community engagement. Participants receive tailored guidance on legal structures, finance, and sustainable business models, along with access to co-working spaces in **Oñati, Bilbao, Barcelona, Madrid**, and other cities. Workshops and masterclasses on cooperative entrepreneurship, ethical finance, and purpose-driven leadership link theory to practice, building competence and impact orientation.

To lower entry barriers, the initiative offers **seed funding up to EUR 1,250** and operates a **Social Economy Trend Radar** to help entrepreneurs anticipate opportunities and align with social needs. Its *secondary approach—driving innovation through multilevel coordination*—is reflected in partnerships among universities, enterprises, and local governments that together foster inclusive growth.

Results and Scalability

To date, **98 participants** have joined the program, with **15 projects** incubated and **11 active ventures** advancing toward market consolidation and measurable impact. The **We4All Leadership Program** has held **four annual training cycles** for 20–25 participants each, strengthening leadership, innovation, and cooperative development.

#SocialFactory has expanded its reach through events like the **#Social Summit** during *Impact Week (Bilbao, 2024)* and **#Youth Kooperatibistak**, linking young entrepreneurs with cooperative leaders. Five specialized workshops have deepened ecosystem collaboration.

By empowering youth to turn ideas into impactful ventures, **#SocialFactory** demonstrates how localized capacity building and coordinated innovation can drive **inclusive local economies and social innovation**—laying the groundwork for a more equitable entrepreneurial future.

Chembe District Youth Platform Luapula, Zambia | Reshaping Financial Education – Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship through Financial Literacy

Solutions and Interventions

With 60% of Zambia's 23 million people under the age of 27, harnessing youth potential is critical for sustainable and inclusive growth. Yet many young people lack access to financial education, entrepreneurship training, and mentorship opportunities.

Through the **Chembe District Youth Platform**, the initiative focuses on **empowering local actors and strengthening capacities** by establishing community enterprise hubs that provide **financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership training** for youth and women. These hubs promote inclusive local economies and social innovation by linking participants to digital tools, cooperative networks, and green enterprise models that improve productivity and income diversification.

The initiative's **secondary approach—driving innovation through multilevel coordination**—is reflected in its partnerships with local authorities, civil society, and development agencies, integrating social protection and inclusion into local planning. This collaborative framework ensures that vulnerable groups—particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities—access mentorship, community savings schemes, and leadership opportunities.

Results and Scalability

In just eight months, the platform trained over **3,000 students and youth**, resulting in more than **350 new youth-led startups** across Zambia. Over **250 teachers** were trained in financial literacy and business development, multiplying impact through schools and communities. These interventions have enhanced youth employability, strengthened local leadership, and fostered resilience within communities.

By combining capacity building with multilevel coordination, the initiative demonstrates how **locally led financial education** can drive entrepreneurship, economic empowerment, and innovation—advancing **SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth),** and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**. Its strong community ownership and scalable model make it a replicable example of how empowered local actors can transform youth potential into lasting economic opportunity.

These solutions show how inclusive innovation and locally anchored partnerships drive sustainable livelihoods and resilient economies. From Cagayan State University's community-based programs in the Philippines and the Great Love Village in Indonesia, to Brazil's Impact Coalition and Nigeria's Green Harvest Farm Initiative, each demonstrates how **empowering local actors and strengthening institutional capacities generate income, resilience, and ownership**. Together, they reveal how aligning local knowledge, science, and coordination creates scalable models of inclusive, sustainable development.

Cagayan State University, Philippines | Building Sustainable Societies Through Integrated Community-Based Niche Livelihood Programs

Solutions and Interventions

Cagayan State University (CSU) has established integrated, community-based livelihood programs anchored on the SDGs across its eight campuses in Cagayan Province. Each program leverages local resources—such as bamboo, cacao, coffee, and dairy—to generate sustainable income while advancing research, innovation, and technology transfer.

Environmental scanning and SWOT analyses identified community strengths and needs, enabling CSU to align university expertise with local priorities. Initiatives include a **coconut gene bank in Sanchez Mira, bamboo propagation and processing in Gonzaga, and coffee and dairy enterprises in Piat**. Colleges provide entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and health training, while organizing cooperatives to strengthen production and marketing.

Collaboration with **DOST, DTI, DA,** and **DENR** supports research, seedling distribution, and technology upgrades. Grassroots governance, such as local ordinances mandating cacao planting, reinforces sustainability, while mushroom cultivation and student-led farming expand youth engagement.

By linking research, policy, and enterprise, CSU demonstrates how empowering local actors and strengthening institutional capacity can drive inclusive rural development. Its partnerships with national and local agencies reflect the secondary approach—**driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action**—under the broader theme of **Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation**.

Results and Scalability

Since 2020, CSU's programs have achieved measurable impact:

- **Carabao's Milk Feeding Program**: Benefited **8,000 at-risk learners** across four towns through school–LGU partnerships.
- **Bamboo and Mangrove Restoration**: Distributed **85,000 propagules**, established a **46-species Bamboo Sanctuary**, and generated **PHP 1.85 million** in local income.
- **Coffee Program**: Trained **125 farmers** and distributed **650 seedlings**, improving production and processing skills.

The **Andrews Campus** in Tuguegarao City serves as the marketing hub, connecting campus products to wider markets through business centers and coffee shops.

By integrating science, enterprise, and community empowerment, CSU offers a replicable model for rural transformation—showing how universities can catalyze sustainable livelihoods and territorial resilience.

Tzu Chi Foundation, Indonesia | From Flood to Flourishing – Tzu Chi's Five-Pronged Approach and the Creation of Great Love Village

Solutions and Interventions

After the 2002 floods in Jakarta, the **Tzu Chi Foundation**, in partnership with the **Jakarta Provincial Government**, transformed a humanitarian crisis into a model of **multilevel coordination and inclusive urban recovery**. Through its *Five-Pronged Approach*, Tzu Chi moved from emergency relief to long-term community transformation—draining flooded areas, disinfecting contaminated zones, providing medical care, and distributing supplies that quickly stabilized affected families.

Building on this momentum, **1,700 families** were safely relocated from flood-prone riverbanks to the newly constructed village in Cengkareng, integrating secure housing with schools, clinics, prayer spaces, and public facilities. This inclusive design ensured tenure security, access to services, and social cohesion.

Education and livelihoods became key pillars of recovery: **Cinta Kasih Schools**, vocational training, and micro-enterprise programs—such as sewing and snack production—created sustainable jobs and fostered economic self-reliance. Health and social care were embedded through clinics, mobile health services, and volunteer networks that promoted well-being and solidarity.

Environmental restoration complemented these efforts through river cleanup campaigns, waste recycling, and cultural events that strengthened community pride and stewardship. Central to this model was **local empowerment**, the project's secondary approach, ensuring residents-led schools, businesses, and community initiatives.

Results and Scalability

The initiative has turned disaster displacement into lasting inclusive development.

- **1,700 families** now live in safe, serviced housing with access to education, healthcare, and public amenities.
- A **2025 survey** of 150 residents found high satisfaction with housing (4.21/5) and facilities (4.29/5), alongside strong psychological well-being (4.01/5).
- Micro-enterprises created local jobs, while early childhood programs expanded educational opportunities.
- Residents report cleaner environments, improved health, and strengthened social bonds, particularly through interfaith cooperation and community-led management.

Sustained by strong **community ownership** and partnerships across government, civil society, and academia, the model embodies **Participatory Governance and Territorial Transformation** in practice. It demonstrates how **multilevel coordination**, supported by empowered local actors, can convert disaster recovery into inclusive, climate-resilient development aligned with the **SDGs**.

Institute of Corporate Citizenship, Brazil | Strengthening Impact Ecosystems – How the Impact Coalition Empowers Local Communities and Nature

Solutions and Interventions

Brazil's **impact business and investment ecosystem** is expanding as organizations—from incubators and accelerators to universities, funds, and government entities—align their operations with the **2030 Agenda**. The **Impact Coalition**, supported by the **Boticário Group Foundation**, exemplifies **driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action** by connecting public, private, and community actors to build regenerative, inclusive, and sustainable economies.

On the **Paraná Coast**, the Coalition mapped **177 environmental impact businesses**, revealing that most remain in early development stages and face significant financing and capacity gaps. To address this, a comprehensive framework was established:

- **"New Ideas" Hackathons** to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship around local environmental challenges.
- The **Regenerative Territories Program**, offering loans and seed funding for socio-environmental initiatives.
- **Local Governance mechanisms**, including regional councils and coordination hubs linking universities, incubators, and local authorities.
- **Training and capacity building** for systemic leadership and entrepreneurship support organizations.

• **Financial resource mobilization**, projecting **BRL 29 million** in total funding by 2026 to strengthen up to **600 impact businesses**.

By combining financial innovation with participatory governance, the Coalition enhances local coordination and institutional capacity—demonstrating the **secondary approach of empowering local actors and strengthening capacities** while advancing the theme of **Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation**.

Results and Scalability

The initiative has already **mobilized over BRL 8 million** annually and achieved **87% budget execution efficiency**, with **over BRL 6 million** projected for direct local investment in 2025. By mid-2024, one-third of its goal to support 600 businesses had been met. The program has strengthened local institutions and fostered multi-sectoral collaboration, establishing **Local Councils**, regional coordinations, and **systemic leadership training**.

The **Paraná Coast** now boasts a more connected, visible, and resilient impact ecosystem—linking entrepreneurship, environmental conservation, and social inclusion. Hackathons, mentorships, and regional mapping have inspired new sustainable ventures and increased recognition of the value of biodiversity. With diversified funding, strong local governance, and alignment with public and private investments, the Coalition represents a **scalable model for territorial innovation**, capable of transforming regional economies through inclusive, climate-resilient growth.

Green Harvest Farm Initiative, Nigeria | Harvesting Hope – Locally Led Organic Farming and Solar Irrigation Boost Food Security in Nigeria's Drylands

Solutions and Interventions

In **Gadaka, Yobe State**, farmers face the compounded challenges of climate change, erratic rainfall, and limited irrigation infrastructure—conditions that threaten productivity, food security, and livelihoods. To address these, the **Green Harvest Farm Initiative (GHFI)** was designed to **empower local actors and strengthen capacities** by equipping smallholder farmers, especially youth and women, with the skills, technology, and resources to adopt climate-smart agriculture.

The initiative promotes **organic and regenerative farming**, replacing chemical fertilizers with eco-friendly composting, crop rotation, and natural pest management to restore soil fertility and biodiversity. It also introduces **solar-powered irrigation systems**, ensuring year-round water access, reducing drought risks, and lowering dependence on fossil fuels.

GHFI's **secondary approach—driving innovation through multilevel coordination**—is reflected in its partnerships with local governments, agricultural experts, youth associations, and renewable energy innovators, aligning local efforts with national agricultural and climate priorities. Community-based training programs led by agronomists and youth volunteers build knowledge in sustainable farming, financial literacy, and digital tools for monitoring soil health, markets, and weather.

Through this integrated model, GHFI strengthens food security, creates green jobs, and promotes social inclusion—advancing **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 7 (Clean Energy),** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action) under the broader theme of Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation**.

Results and Scalability

Although still in its proposal phase, GHFI has gained traction with the **North East Development Commission (NEDC)** and the **Yobe State SDGs Office** for pilot implementation. Anticipated results include:

- **25–30% reduction** in input costs through organic fertilizers and bio-solutions.
- **Higher yields and improved soil health**, reducing environmental degradation.
- **Year-round productivity** supported by renewable solar irrigation systems.
- **New green jobs** in compost production, farm management, and solar maintenance.

Using a **train-the-trainer model**, GHFI empowers farmers to replicate sustainable practices across neighboring communities. With institutional backing and community ownership, it offers a scalable, locally led model for **eco-friendly agriculture and rural resilience**—turning drylands into engines of inclusive growth and sustainability across Nigeria and the wider Sahel.

These initiatives show how coordinated, community-based systems turn vulnerability into resilience. In Seoul, a citywide approach reconnected isolated youth; in Brazil, Instituto Dara's Family Action Plan advanced poverty reduction through intersectoral collaboration; and in Benin, EDI-ONG's Maison de Transit protected and reintegrated vulnerable children. Together, they demonstrate how multilevel governance and local capacity building make care, dignity, and inclusion core to sustainable social development.

Seoul Metropolitan Government – Youth & Future Planning Bureau, South Korea | Support for Isolated and Reclusive Youth – A Citywide Approach to Reconnection and Reintegration

Solutions and Interventions

In Seoul, an estimated **129,000 young people** aged 19–39—about **4.5% of the city's youth**—live in long-term social isolation, often disconnected from education, work, and community life. Recognizing youth reclusion as a growing systemic challenge linked to economic insecurity and mental health distress, the **Seoul Metropolitan Government** launched an integrated citywide program to reconnect isolated youth, strengthen well-being, and foster social reintegration.

Anchored in the principle of **driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action**, the **Support Program for Isolated and Reclusive Youth** builds a coordinated network across **28 welfare and youth centers**, ensuring early identification, counseling, and tailored support. The **Seoul Youth Gijigae Center** serves as the initiative's core hub—offering a safe "home within a home" for gradual recovery through blended online–offline programs that combine daily life skills, interpersonal training, and career planning.

The program links with complementary city services—such as Wrist Doctor 9988 and Garden Therapy—to address physical and mental well-being holistically. Family engagement and mentor development are integral, equipping parents and caregivers with tools to support reintegration. Guided by its **secondary approach, empowering local actors and strengthening capacities**, Seoul also institutionalized change through a dedicated ordinance and the creation of an **isolation measurement scale**, establishing a long-term framework for prevention, protection, and policy continuity.

Results and Scalability

In **2024**, the program identified and supported **852 reclusive youth**, achieving measurable social and psychological improvements:

- **>20% reduction** in reported isolation and depression.
- **19.6% increase** in self-efficacy and confidence.
- **40.6% of participants** transitioned to work or education within three months (including **48 full-time** and **46 part-time** jobs).
- **97% improvement** in family understanding and **77% improvement** in relationships.
- Overall participant satisfaction: **4.38/5**.

With an annual budget of **KRW 4.3 billion (USD 3.1 million)**, the model's success lies in its integrated, adaptive structure—combining data-driven diagnosis, personalized recovery pathways, and community partnerships. Replicable across other municipalities, the approach demonstrates how **multilevel governance and localized capacity building** can turn social isolation into pathways for empowerment and inclusion—advancing **Social Protection, Care, and Equity** in line with the SDGs.

Instituto Dara, Brazil | Restoring Dignity – How Brazil's Family Action Plan Empowers Families to Overcome Poverty

Solutions and Interventions

In Brazil, over **65 million people** live in poverty, affecting one in three citizens and disproportionately impacting women and children. Nearly half of children aged 0–14 live on less than USD 5.50 a day, and 63% of households led by Black women are below the poverty line. To address these systemic inequalities, Instituto Dara has, since 1991, implemented the **Family Action Plan (PAF)** — a pioneering model that exemplifies **driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action**.

The PAF adopts a **family-centered, multidimensional approach** to poverty reduction, integrating health, education, housing, income generation, and social participation. It works through personalized plans co-designed with families, supported by multidisciplinary teams and local partners. This coordination across sectors ensures that interventions are not fragmented but mutually reinforcing.

Rooted in the belief that sustainable change begins with empowered communities, Dara's work also reflects the **secondary approach—empowering local actors and strengthening capacities**—by training social workers, municipal officials, and NGOs to adapt and apply the PAF methodology. The model's adaptability allows it to align with Brazil's **Social Assistance System (SUAS)** and national poverty alleviation strategies, advancing the broader theme of **Social Protection, Care, and Equity** through systemic, inclusive action.

Results and Scalability

Over three decades, the PAF has directly transformed the lives of thousands of vulnerable families and influenced broader public policy frameworks. Key results include:

- **Replication of the model** through the Citizen Family public policy in **Belo Horizonte**, integrating intersectoral social support at the municipal level.
- A **partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship** to strengthen monitoring methodologies for Brazil's **Social Assistance Reference Centers (CRAS)**.
- **Implementation of the PAF in Itu/SP**, in collaboration with the City Government and Instituto Cuidar Itu, adapting the methodology to local contexts.

Through these outcomes, Instituto Dara demonstrates how **locally rooted innovation**, when combined with coordinated institutional partnerships, can drive systemic transformation. The PAF stands as a replicable model of **family-centered, intersectoral governance** that transforms poverty reduction from isolated intervention to inclusive, long-term social development—advancing dignity, autonomy, and human potential across Brazil.

Etoile pour le Développement Institutionnel, Benin | Social Protection for Children – Building Safe and Supportive Environments

Solutions and Interventions

In Benin, *Enfants et Développement International (EDI-ONG)* strengthens local child-protection systems through the **Maison de Transit**, which offers comprehensive care—emergency shelter, psychosocial support, and reintegration—tailored to each child's life plan. The initiative operates through close coordination with the Republican Police, courts, social welfare offices, and local leaders, ensuring protection from rescue to reintegration.

Community awareness campaigns, conducted with municipal services and local relays, promote responsible parenting and collective vigilance to prevent neglect, trafficking, and abuse. By **empowering local actors and strengthening institutional capacities**, EDI-ONG builds a sustainable, rights-based system that protects vulnerable children, while its **secondary focus on social protection and equity** reinforces inclusion and community resilience.

Results and Scalability

From 2022 to mid-2025, EDI-ONG supported more than 2,100 children (49% girls, 51% boys), including 426 migrants, most successfully reintegrated into families or community settings. The initiative's collaborative model and strong community ownership offer a scalable blueprint for integrated child protection across municipalities in Benin and beyond.

These three case studies highlight how **empowering local actors** and **building institutional capacity** drive progress in **social protection, care, and equity**. From the **Global Youth Philanthropy Network**'s youth-led microgrants advancing climate and social justice, to **PIANGO**'s community-rooted disaster coordination model in Fiji, and **Utah Valley University's UNESCO Chair** linking education, health, and inclusion across regions, each demonstrates how investing in people, partnerships, and local systems transforms care and protection into lasting, community-driven impact.

Global Youth Philanthropy Network, Global | Financing Youth-Led Climate and Social Justice Action Across 35 Countries

Solutions and Interventions

Young people are driving innovation and climate resilience but remain largely under-resourced. The Global Youth Philanthropy Network addresses this by directly financing youth-led organizations through **microgrants (USD 5,000–10,000)**, targeted capacity building, and open knowledge exchange.

Since 2023, the Network has supported **100 + projects in 35 countries**, advancing climate action, renewable energy, education, mental health, and social justice. Examples include biodiversity conservation in Kenya and Indonesia, renewable-energy cooperatives in Latin America, and digital-skills and inclusion programs worldwide.

Featured in the **Road to Doha and COP30 Youth Consultation**, co-organized with the FAO World Food Forum and Local2030 Coalition, the initiative demonstrates how **youth-responsive financing** enables young people to design, implement, and monitor local solutions aligned with the SDGs. It embodies the *primary approach of Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data*, while its peer-learning and reporting systems reflect the *secondary approach of Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities* within **Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation**.

Results and Scalability

- **Reach**: 100+ youth-led projects across 35 countries, benefiting tens of thousands of people.
- **Impact**: Initiatives span climate adaptation, renewable energy, mental health, and education, linking inclusion with sustainability.
- **Policy Influence**: Findings informed the Local2030 Coalition's inputs to the **Seville Platform for Action**, **WSSD2** and COP30 processes.
- **Scalability**: Its decentralized, low-cost model can expand through **youth trust funds, corporate partnerships, and South–South cooperation**, offering a replicable framework for inclusive, youth-led financing.

By democratizing access to resources and decision-making, the Network shows how inclusive participation and localized finance can turn youth leadership into global social and climate impact.

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and Fiji Council of Social Services, Fiji | Building Climate-Resilient Disaster Response Through Community-Rooted Coordination

Solutions and Interventions

Pacific island nations face severe climate risks, yet disaster responses have long been externally driven, sidelining local leadership. In 2020, PIANGO and FCOSS launched the **Pacific Humanitarian FALE** to reimagine humanitarian coordination through Pacific values and local governance.

The FALE established a regional hub co-governed by traditional chiefs, community elders, civil society, and government representatives, ensuring decision-making reflected local priorities. In partnership with the **Humanitarian Advisory Group**, PIANGO produced evidence showing locally led responses are more effective and cost-efficient, supporting the creation of national FALEs in **Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, and Vanuatu**.

A localized **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)** system grounded in Talanoa—Pacific dialogue traditions—turned conventional monitoring into inclusive community learning. Capacity building included training community responders in first aid and disaster risk reduction, equipping CSOs with emergency planning tools, and developing localized materials in island languages. District Councils of Social Service (DCSS) were revived as permanent coordination bodies, and with **FORUS** support, a national CSO Protocol was adopted to formalize local roles in disaster governance. Financial mechanisms were redesigned for **rapid, flexible response**, providing pre-positioned funds accessible to communities within 72 hours of disaster onset, with allocation decisions made locally.

Results and Scalability

Local leadership has ensured culturally grounded, inclusive responses—food, shelter, and psychosocial support now reflect traditional practices. Six national FALEs operate independently with trained teams, financial systems, and government partnerships. Over **400 community responders** have been certified, and the Talanoa-based MEAL approach has been adopted regionally.

Women now hold **48% of FALE governance positions**, and persons with disabilities co-designed accessible disaster protocols adopted in four national plans. The FALE model demonstrates how localized leadership, knowledge, and financing can transform disaster response into a sustainable, community-owned system adaptable across the Pacific and beyond.

UNESCO Chair on AI & Environmental Stewardship for Sustainable Futures – Utah Valley University, Dominican Republic, Peru, Indonesia, Cambodia | Empowering Communities through Knowledge and Care: Building Local Capacities for Health, Inclusion, and Water Security

Solutions and Interventions

Across Latin America and Asia, many communities face limited institutional capacity and context-adapted training systems that restrict access to health, rehabilitation, and water services. Through a holistic framework for education-based social transformation, Utah Valley University's UNESCO Chair strengthens local capacities by linking research, learning, and community action. Four country components demonstrate this integrated model:

- **Dominican Republic**: A bilingual CPR and EMS program built a university–hospital partnership, training students and hospitality workers and producing a Spanish–English Basic Medical Assessment Guide.
- **Indonesia**: Families of children with disabilities became first-line rehabilitators using locally available materials, supported by peer networks reaching over 40 children monthly.
- **Peru**: The *Bridging Waters Collaborative Model* connected universities and communities to test water quality across four regions, informing parliamentary debates on water investment.
- **Cambodia**: The *doTERRA Sanitation Model* mobilized students and builders to construct latrines, distribute ceramic filters, and deliver hygiene education in rural schools.

These initiatives show how empowering local actors and strengthening institutional capacity can deliver integrated health, inclusion, and water outcomes. The *secondary approach*—driving innovation through multilevel coordination—is reflected in partnerships among universities, communities, and public institutions that sustain and scale impact across territories.

Results and Scalability

- **Capacity outcomes**: Over **240 participants** trained in emergency care (Dominican Republic); **120+ caregivers** trained in rehabilitation (Indonesia); **five universities** gained SDG 6 testing capacity (Peru); and **multiple villages** improved sanitation and hygiene (Cambodia).
- **Governance outcomes**: Scientific data informed legislative decisions (Peru); partnerships opened formal EMS training pathways (Dominican Republic); and community networks enhanced service inclusion (Indonesia, Cambodia).

Replicable through university–community partnerships, open-access educational tools, and South–South collaboration, the model demonstrates how localized knowledge and care systems can transform social development and strengthen resilience.

The **Cities Countdown to 2030 initiative**—led by **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** in collaboration with the **United Nations** launched during the UN Summit of the Future (2024)—promotes the localization of the SDGs by showcasing concrete, scalable, and investment-ready solutions from cities and regions worldwide. Guided by a mission-driven and partnership-based approach, it advances the implementation of the **SDG Summit Political Declaration** by directing attention and resources to key transitions in food, energy, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate and biodiversity. Through the Countdown, local governments demonstrate how political leadership, policy innovation, and multilevel coordination translate global goals into local action. The Ramallah "Durable Qaddura" and Mexico City "UTOPÍAS" initiatives exemplify this effort, advancing the UN High-Impact Initiative on Localization through inclusive, care-centered urban transformation.

Ramallah Municipality, Palestine | Durable Qaddura: Advancing Inclusive Urban Care and Reopening Child-Friendly Public Space

Solutions and Interventions

Qaddura is a long-established refugee camp adjacent to downtown Ramallah, where unmanaged waste and the loss of safe public space have undermined child health and social cohesion. In response, the **Ramallah Municipality**, with refugee leaders and support from the **Mayors Migration Council's Global Cities Fund**, launched **Durable Qaddura**—a community-led urban regeneration initiative addressing waste, health, and inclusion. The program integrates three actions:

1. **Solid-waste upgrades**: new routes, vehicles, and collection points to improve hygiene near homes and schools.
2. **Public-park rehabilitation**: restored playgrounds and safe, accessible spaces for children and caregivers.
3. **Environmental awareness**: community campaigns promoting waste sorting, cleanliness, and shared stewardship.

By recognizing Qaddura as a neighborhood of Ramallah, the city applies municipal competencies and participatory governance to deliver equitable urban care in a context of displacement and limited services. The initiative embodies the *primary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action*, while its community partnerships and capacity building reflect the *secondary approach of Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities*.

Results and Scalability

Early results show cleaner streets, safer play areas, and greater community engagement around shared spaces—directly improving child well-being. Waste collection is now regularized, and the refurbished park serves as a hub for recreation and environmental learning.

Together with **UCLG** under the **Cities Countdown to 2030**, the city is documenting quantitative outcomes to inform replication. By embedding maintenance into municipal routines and community stewardship, Ramallah ensures sustainability and demonstrates how inclusive, child-sensitive urban regeneration can strengthen local systems of care and social cohesion.

Government of Mexico City, Mexico | UTOPÍAS: Building Inclusive Public Spaces to Restore Dignity and Well-Being in Mexico City

Solutions and Interventions

Home to over nine million people, Mexico City faces persistent socio-territorial inequalities, particularly in Iztapalapa—long marked by poverty, violence, and exclusion. To address these divides, the Government of Mexico City launched **UTOPÍAS – Units of Transformation and Organization for Inclusion and Social Harmony**, reclaiming the right to the city through **multifunctional, high-quality public spaces** integrating sports, culture, health, education, environment, and care services.

Each UTOPÍA includes swimming pools, gyms, theatres, art and music schools, digital learning centres, clinics, rehabilitation areas, community kitchens, and care facilities for children, elders, and persons with disabilities. Designed through participatory processes with residents, architects, and cultural actors, these spaces reflect local identity while fostering safety, inclusion, and civic pride.

Guided by principles of social justice, gender equality, and sustainability, UTOPÍAS embody the *primary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action*, linking city institutions, communities, and civil society to co-create inclusive urban infrastructure. The *secondary approach—Advancing Inclusive Participation and Local Data*—is reflected in community engagement and monitoring mechanisms informing expansion. By 2025, twelve UTOPÍAS are operational, with a target of 100 citywide within five years.

Results and Scalability

UTOPÍAS have transformed neglected areas into **vibrant centres of inclusion and care**, reaching over **five million residents** through cultural, sports, and social activities. Perceptions of safety, trust, and civic belonging have markedly improved, especially among women and youth.

Together with **UCLG** under the **Cities Countdown to 2030**, the city is documenting social, economic, and environmental impacts under the *Measure Impact and Showcase Results* pillars to guide replication. Supported by sustainable municipal financing, participatory management, and strong civil-society partnerships, UTOPÍAS model is designed for scalability. The city plans to expand from 12 to 100 UTOPÍAS, replicating the model across boroughs and adapting each unit to local needs, promoting **inclusive urban regeneration**, integrating care, culture, and education to advance social protection and urban equity.

The case study **"Resilient Housing and Community Strengthening"** by **Build Change** in Colombia demonstrates how housing can serve as a cornerstone of social protection and inclusive development. By empowering local actors—from builders and women's groups to municipal planners—Colombia's approach transforms safe, regularized, and resilient housing into a foundation for health, education, security, and opportunity. It shows that strengthening local capacities in housing is not only about infrastructure but about advancing equity, resilience, and social well-being.

Build Change, Colombia | Resilient Housing and Community Strengthening

Solutions and Interventions

Colombia faces a persistent housing deficit, with self-built settlements accounting for nearly 60% of urban dwellings. Overcrowding and structural vulnerability expose low-income families to safety risks and natural hazards. To address this, Build Change and local authorities developed two complementary initiatives—**Programa Terrazas** in Bogotá and a **Community Strengthening Program** in Urabá (Antioquia)—to improve housing quality, expand living space, and build community resilience.

In Bogotá, *Programa Terrazas* supports safe vertical expansion of informal homes, helping families construct structurally sound second floors while regularizing properties and integrating them into formal planning frameworks. The program offers design and retrofitting assistance, along with technical financing to reduce overcrowding and enhance safety.

In Urabá, Build Change strengthens community capacities by training local builders, masons, and women's groups in resilient construction and supporting families to access public housing programs. Local governments and community organizations co-manage training centers promoting safe, affordable retrofitting practices. Both initiatives embed housing improvements within social protection systems—linking safer homes to better health, education, and employment outcomes.

Results and Scalability

These initiatives have enabled thousands of families to live in safer, expanded, and regularized homes. In Bogotá, *Programa Terrazas* has reduced overcrowding and promoted housing regularization, allowing families to access subsidies, credit, and basic services. In Urabá, trained masons and women-led brigades have strengthened resilience and diversified local livelihoods.

Build Change's model positions **housing as social protection**, safeguarding lives while advancing economic and social inclusion. Its scalability lies in combining policy integration, technical innovation, and community ownership—offering a replicable model for Latin American cities tackling informal housing challenges.



UNDP Photo

Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action

Innovation and coordination across governance levels are driving systemic change. The following cases highlight how multilevel partnerships—linking national frameworks, territorial planning, and community action—deliver integrated solutions for inclusion, sustainability, and social cohesion. Together, they demonstrate how coordinated innovation and shared leadership accelerate progress toward the SDG transitions.

The following initiatives demonstrate how innovation and coordinated governance can turn local challenges into engines of *Inclusive Local Economies*. In Medan, community-led waste banks transform recycling into livelihoods, while in Peru, progressive housing systems and business models enhance safety, affordability, and inclusion. Together, they show how cross-sector collaboration and local innovation drive equitable, sustainable urban and social development.

Medan City Environmental Agency, Indonesia | Enhancing Waste Management through the Community-Based "New Normal" Waste Bank

Solutions and Interventions

Medan, Indonesia's largest metropolitan area outside Java, generates more than **600,000 tons of waste annually** but faces limited landfill capacity and low public participation in waste management. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened these challenges by increasing household waste and disrupting local economies. Through the **primary approach of advancing inclusive participation, accountability, and local data**, the **"New Normal" Waste Bank Program** was launched to transform waste management into a participatory, income-generating system that strengthens both environmental sustainability and community resilience.

Implemented by the **Medan City Environmental Agency** since **2019**, the initiative empowers residents—especially women—to sort, recycle, and monetize household waste through neighborhood waste banks. Participants deposit recyclable materials and earn savings, with **35 waste bank units** now operating and **7,786 members** (75% women). Key actions include technical training, recycling workshops, and digital transaction tracking to ensure transparency and accountability. Waste banks process materials into eco-paving blocks, compost, and maggot feed, while innovative exchange schemes allow participants to convert waste into **electricity tokens, tax payments, or gold**.

The program's **"Nona Helix" collaboration model**—linking government, academia, business, media, and communities—illustrates the **secondary approach of driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action**, embedding circular economy practices into Medan's local governance systems.

Results and Scalability

The program manages over **108 tons of waste monthly** (651 tons annually) and has attracted **foreign funding of IDR 1 billion (≈ USD 66,000)** from the Japanese Government for equipment. Recycled products include eco-paving blocks, pellets, and maggot-based feed. In **2023**, more than **4,700 residents** participated in World Cleanup Day, collecting nearly **3.7 tons of waste**. Women and low-income participants have gained new income sources through waste recycling and compost-based farming.

Recognized by the **Mayor of Medan** for its innovation and community leadership, the model demonstrates how inclusive, data-driven, and multisectoral approaches can strengthen circular economies and local livelihoods. Its flexibility, digital systems, and strong community ownership make it highly replicable across Indonesia, aligning with the **National Action Plan for SDGs** and the **National Strategy for Household Waste Management (Jakstranas)**.

Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS), Habitat for Humanity International, Peru | Innovating from the Ground Up: Strengthening Progressive Housing and Social Inclusion in Peru

Solutions and Interventions

Peru faces a dual housing challenge: a quantitative deficit and a persistent qualitative gap. Despite increased supply, **over 70% of urban homes are self-built**, often without technical or financial guidance, leaving families vulnerable to unsafe and prolonged construction processes averaging **16 years**. **"Innovar desde lo posible"** (*Innovating from What's Possible*) promotes **progressive, inclusive housing systems** by improving the self-construction process that defines Peru's housing landscape.

Using market-based innovation, the initiative connects families with **local providers, microfinance institutions, and technical experts**. It maps the housing ecosystem, designs inclusive business models, and applies the **"Guardián Constructor"** design-thinking approach to better understand families' needs. By promoting **hybrid financing models** combining savings, flexible loans, and technical support, it reduces the time, cost, and risk of self-construction.

With **USD 116 million mobilized** and **225,000 families engaged** across Latin America (45% through co-investment), the initiative shows how coordinated innovation, policy advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration make housing safer and more affordable. It reflects the *primary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action*, while the *secondary approach of Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities* is evident in its partnerships with builders, FinTechs, and municipalities.

Results and Scalability

- **225,598 families** improved housing safety, energy efficiency, and financial resilience.
- **218,463 inclusive products and services** delivered, strengthening local supply chains.
- **Construction time and cost** reduced through design and financial planning tools.
- **Collaboration enhanced** among governments, academia, and startups.

Scalability opportunities include integrating progressive housing finance into **public programs like Techo Propio**, expanding **FinTech partnerships** for milestone-linked loans, and adapting the **Guardián Constructor** model across Latin America.

By linking innovation, inclusion, and local capacity, *Innovar desde lo posible* shows how empowering communities and aligning systems can turn housing into a driver of resilience and social equity.

These initiatives show how inclusive innovation in essential services advances **social protection and equity**. UITP's global framework integrates safety, affordability, and inclusion into urban mobility systems, while GIZ's housing retrofit program improves living conditions, reduces energy poverty, and creates green jobs. Together, they demonstrate how coordinated, people-centered solutions can transform public services into pathways for dignity, resilience, and just transitions.

International Association of Public Transport, Global | Inclusive, Safe, and Affordable Urban Mobility: UITP's Global Framework for Equitable Transport Transitions

Solutions and Interventions

Cities worldwide face the challenge of ensuring mobility that is **equitable, safe, and sustainable** amid climate transitions and rising costs. Women, low-income residents, and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by unsafe, unaffordable, or exclusionary systems. To address this, the **International Association of Public Transport (UITP)** developed a **global framework** linking gender equality, social inclusion, and climate action in transport.

Through three interrelated initiatives, UITP mobilizes operators, cities, and communities to co-create systems that are safe, affordable, and inclusive while advancing just transitions toward net-zero urban mobility. UITP's integrated approach connects three complementary action areas:

1. **Safe and Dignified Mobility**: The Gender-Based Violence and Harassment Initiative engaged 21 operators in 18 cities to identify safety gaps and implement measures—gender-sensitive staff training, improved CCTV and lighting, and new reporting and enforcement protocols with police partners.
2. **Socially Inclusive Net-Zero Transitions**: The Net-Zero Mobility Policy Framework ensures climate goals do not deepen inequality. Using the 4 A's (Availability, Accessibility, Affordability, Acceptability), UITP promotes equity assessments,

concessionary fares, and phased low-emission zones that protect low-income users.
3. **Affordable and Fair Fare Systems**: The Fare Equity Model advances progressive fare structures, targeted subsidies, and mobility credits. Pilots show affordability measures and transparent reinvestment increase ridership while maintaining financial sustainability.

Together, these initiatives embed **equity, safety, and affordability** into mobility governance—positioning public transport as both a **social equalizer and a driver of climate justice**. The framework reflects the *primary approach of Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data* by integrating user feedback, disaggregated data, and community engagement, while the *secondary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action* is visible in the collaborative design between cities, operators, and users.

Results and Scalability

- **Safety**: 59% of participating operators now conduct gender-sensitivity training; standardized reporting has strengthened accountability and trust.
- **Social Inclusion**: Participatory planning and equitable fare policies have expanded access for women, low-income groups, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- **Environmental Impact**: Cities adopting UITP's Net-Zero framework report emission reductions (e.g., **NO_2 down 49% in London**) while maintaining affordability.
- **Governance**: Multilevel coordination among cities, operators, and communities has generated replicable models linking transport equity, inclusion, and climate resilience.

UITP's network of **1,900 member organizations** enables continuous peer learning and transfer of good practices across regions, advancing **SDGs 5, 10, 11, and 13**. The framework illustrates how inclusive governance and data-driven innovation can make urban mobility a cornerstone of equitable, sustainable development.

These initiatives show how inclusive innovation in essential services advances social protection and equity. UITP's global framework integrates safety, affordability, and inclusion into urban mobility systems, while GIZ's housing retrofit program improves living conditions, reduces energy poverty, and creates green jobs. Together, they demonstrate how coordinated, people-centered solutions can transform public services into pathways for dignity, resilience, and just transitions.

GIZ Mexico, Mexico | Retrofitting for Dignity: Energy-Efficient Social Housing in Mexico's Hot-Dry Regions

Solutions and Interventions

Mexico faces a dual challenge of inadequate housing quality and energy poverty. While access has expanded, poor insulation and inefficient appliances leave households—especially in hot, arid regions like Mexicali and Hermosillo—exposed to high energy costs and discomfort.

The **Energy-Efficiency Refurbishment Programme**, led by **GIZ Mexico**, modernized **over 7,300 homes**, improving conditions for **29,500 people** through step-by-step retrofits tailored to local climates and family resources:
- **Step I**: Roof insulation, efficient cooling, solar water heating, and water-saving devices.
- **Step II**: Full-envelope insulation, reflective finishes, and solar PV systems.
- **Step III**: Advanced ventilation, airtightness, and high-performance windows.

Each phase combined **technical upgrades, community participation, and workforce training**, fostering co-ownership and inclusion. Digital energy audits improved targeting and monitoring, while households were prioritized by vulnerability, with many women leading home improvements.

The initiative exemplifies the *primary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action* by linking local retrofits to national housing and climate-finance policies. Its *secondary approach—Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities*—is reflected in workforce training, local enterprise engagement, and digital innovation.

Results and Scalability

- **Energy savings**: 47–83%
- **Cooling demand**: reduced by 18% (248 139 kWh/m²/year)
- **Air-tightness**: improved from 5.4/h to 0.91/h
- **GHG mitigation**: ≈ 8,850 t CO-eq

The program enhanced comfort, lowered costs, and created **green jobs** through technician certification and local business participation. It also positioned housing retrofits within Mexico's **climate-finance framework**, enabling future **green mortgages** and retrofit incentives.

Scaling pathways include mobilizing finance through the **Mexican Sustainable Taxonomy**, expanding workforce training, and promoting **industrialized retrofit solutions** to cut time and costs. By integrating housing, energy, and climate innovation, the program turns social housing retrofits into engines of resilience and equity.

These three initiatives—from **Brazil's Iguassu Valley, Spain's Canary Islands**, and **Ethiopia's Community-Led Development Movement**—demonstrate how coordinated innovation across governance levels drives inclusive social transformation. By linking education, entrepreneurship, territorial dialogue, and citizen–government collaboration, they strengthen trust, accountability, and local ownership. Together, they show how multilevel partnerships turn innovation into a catalyst for sustainable and equitable development.

Iguassu Valley – West Development Program, Brazil | Education and Innovation as Catalysts for Local Social Development

Solutions and Interventions

In Western Paraná, Iguassu Valley—supported by Sebrae, Biopark, and regional industry associations—operates as a collaborative innovation ecosystem across 54 municipalities. The region's strong agrifood base faces challenges of small-scale farming unsustainability and rural youth migration. The initiative demonstrates how empowering local actors through education, innovation, and public–private collaboration can generate inclusive and lasting social development.

Three flagship interventions stand out:

- **Biopark Fine Cheeses**: Inspired by global varieties, Biopark's laboratory adapts and develops cheese recipes to local conditions, transferring standardized formulas free of charge to small producers. Beyond "tropicalized" classics, original creations such as *Passionata* and *Láurea* have achieved national and international recognition.
- **Donaduzzi Educação**: A nonprofit education program applying active learning and full inclusion of neurodivergent students, including those with autism and exceptional abilities. All training is subsidized and linked to employability pathways.
- **NAPI Healthy Foods (New Research and Innovation Arrangements)**: A public–private mechanism co-funded equally by the Government of Paraná and local companies. In this model, every BRL 2.5 million invested by 10 major companies yields access to BRL 50 million in research—20 times leverage. Projects are co-designed by academia, business, and civil society to generate market-ready solutions that strengthen the regional innovation economy.

Together, these initiatives link education, research, and entrepreneurship, illustrating how innovation ecosystems can empower local communities and industries while enhancing economic resilience. The initiative also reflects the **secondary approach** by fostering multilevel coordination among government, academia, and the private sector to scale impact.

Results and Scalability

- **Fine Cheeses**: Local producers gained new income streams, with *Passionata* ranking ninth globally at the 2024 *World Cheese Awards* among 4,786 entries.
- **Donaduzzi Educação**: Hundreds trained; 90% of enrolled students have already secured employment before graduation, improving household income and social inclusion.
- **NAPI Healthy Foods**: Cutting-edge research has advanced the eradication of *Salmonella* along the protein value chain, with early results showing strong potential for regional scaling.

The integrated model demonstrates how aligning education, innovation, and private investment can drive territorial transformation, turning Western Paraná into a hub for inclusive, sustainable, and knowledge-driven growth.

Government of the Canary Islands, Spain | Building Cohesion Across Islands: The Canary Islands' Model for Inclusive and Sustainable Social Development

Solutions and Interventions

The Canary Islands are advancing an integrated territorial approach linking social **inclusion, innovation, and coordinated governance** to address challenges shaped by insularity, demographic change, and tourism dependence. Guided by the **Agenda Canaria 2030**, the region promotes multi-actor collaboration, evidence-based policymaking, and locally led innovation to strengthen social cohesion and resilience. Three initiatives illustrate this approach:

- **Agenda Canaria 2030 Governance Framework**: The Agenda Canaria 2030 provides a shared framework for sustainable development through institutional mechanisms that connect regional ministries, island councils, municipalities, academia, and civil society. It ensures coherence and participation across sectors and territories, promoting locally adapted responses to social and economic challenges.
- **Tierra Firme – Training and Employment for Youth in Africa**: Implemented by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Senegal, Tierra Firme promotes vocational training and employment for young people in countries such as Senegal, The Gambia, and Mauritania. The initiative strengthens local livelihoods and offers viable alternatives to irregular migration, linking training with job placement and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- **Palacios del Pueblo – Revitalizing Community Spaces for Well-being**: Led by Asociación Rayuela and the University of La Laguna, Palacios del Pueblo transforms libraries and public squares into spaces of social connection and creativity.

Through participatory storytelling and co-design in local neighbourhoods, the project fosters inclusion, combats loneliness, and enhances mental health in areas affected by tourism pressure.

Results and Scalability

The Canary Islands' model integrates inclusive governance, innovation, and cooperation, fostering coordinated social policies and community-led action. By combining territorial equity with international partnership and local participation, it advances SDGs 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, and 17, demonstrating how regional governments can localize social development in complex territorial contexts.

Hunger Project Ethiopia, Ethiopia | Creative Partnerships – Building Government–Community Committees for Trust and Shared Decision-Making

Solutions and Interventions

Although Ethiopia's fiscal decentralization policy mandates citizen participation in budgeting and monitoring, awareness and practice at the community level remain limited. To bridge this gap, the *Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD) Ethiopia* and the *Grassroots Development Capacity Association (GDCA)* launched a collaborative initiative to translate policy into local action through **community–government governance committees**.

Following a national and local baseline survey on policy awareness, validation workshops identified the need for participatory accountability mechanisms. In each participating *woreda*, ad hoc *Good Governance Committees* were elected—comprising four government representatives (administration, finance, revenue, and agriculture) and three community-based organization members (from youth, women's, and farmers' associations). These committees received training in budget monitoring, service delivery evaluation, and citizen rights.

Using community-developed scorecards, they monitored local services such as health posts, water points, and farmer training centers, jointly developing action plans with administrators to address identified gaps. Activities also included posting local budgets on notice boards to enhance transparency and conducting dialogue forums to build trust between citizens and authorities.

This approach was selected under the **primary approach of Participatory Governance and Accountability**, emphasizing shared responsibility and transparency. It also integrates the **secondary approach of Capacity Strengthening**, reinforcing

institutional and civic skills for collaborative decision-making.

Results and Scalability

An endline survey recorded notable gains in citizen engagement, trust in local leadership, and cooperation between civil society and government. Tangible improvements followed—such as restored water supply to a local health center, improving service quality and use. Committees continue meeting beyond the project's first year, embedding a culture of dialogue and joint problem-solving. Local governments are replicating the model and incorporating its tools into administrative routines, while national-level policy recommendations are guiding scale-up. This initiative shows how **locally anchored partnerships** and simple, transparent tools can transform governance from top-down administration into co-owned, accountable systems that improve services and strengthen democratic participation.

These three initiatives—from **Malaysia's Kuantan City Council, China's Shisanglin Town Government**, and **Zimbabwe's Simukaupenye Integrated Youth Academy**—show how creative and participatory governance can revitalize local spaces and civic life. Through culture-led regeneration, adaptive reuse, and youth-driven decision-making, they illustrate how communities co-design social, cultural, and environmental transformation. Together, they demonstrate how coordinated local action and citizen engagement translate inclusion into tangible, lasting development.

Kuantan City Council | Malaysia | Kuantan Art Street – Community-Powered Regeneration of Kuantan Old Town

Solutions and Interventions

Kuantan's historic Old Town had long suffered from economic decline, vacant shops, and limited youth engagement. To reverse this, the city launched *Kuantan Art Street* (2020–2022) — a catalytic initiative under the **Kuantan Local Plan 2035** designed to revive the city's identity, stimulate local enterprise, and create inclusive, low-carbon public spaces.

Led by the Kuantan City Council with State support, the project applied a **place-based revitalization approach** that combined heritage conservation, cultural expression, and community enterprise. More than 60 shop owners collaborated in facade restorations, while 13 local artists created 36 murals along a 500-meter stretch of Jalan Mahkota and Jalan Besar, transforming a neglected corridor into a vibrant cultural landmark. Public squares, pocket parks, and pedestrian corridors were co-designed with residents using natural materials and native vegetation, promoting walkability, cycling, and healthy lifestyles.

Complementing its spatial improvements, the initiative fostered youth entrepreneurship and tourism, enabling over ten new local businesses — from cafés and bookstores to vintage markets — and linking the area to river-cruise and hospitality services. A key success factor was **participatory planning**, ensuring that residents were involved in decision-making from design to implementation, strengthening ownership and cultural pride.

Results and Scalability

Old Town has been transformed into a lively heritage destination attracting nearly **900,000 visitors**. The project generated around **RM 10 million** (≈ USD 2.3 million) in local business revenues and created new jobs for over 1,000 residents. Murals, restored buildings, and green spaces have renewed the city's cultural identity and livability, earning international recognition — including the **Green Apple Environment Award (2022)** and the **International Awards for Liveable Communities (UNEP/LivCom 2021)**.

The model demonstrates how **strategic public investment and community co-creation** can catalyze urban regeneration at minimal cost (RM 450,000), leveraging private contributions and local talent. Its integrated design — aligning heritage, mobility, and entrepreneurship — offers a replicable blueprint for other mid-sized cities seeking to revitalize declining historic districts through culture-driven, people-centered urban renewal.

Shisanglin Town Government of Changping District of Beijing Municipality, China | Mingyuan Training and Conference Center Renovation Project

Solutions and Interventions

Built in the early 1980s, the Mingyuan Training and Conference Center had fallen into disrepair, with outdated facilities and declining use despite its location near the Ming Tombs scenic area. Surrounding villages faced limited employment, seasonal tourism, and a weakened sense of community. The renovation aimed to restore the Center's functionality, align it with the area's historical and cultural character, and catalyze local economic revitalization — demonstrating how adaptive reuse can strengthen community identity and sustainable rural development. The project was implemented in two stages.

Stage 1 – Reconstruction: Facilities were modernized while preserving traditional low-density layouts. Courtyards and open corridors improved accessibility and light. Spaces were repurposed using green, energy-saving principles — an abandoned pool became a multi-functional hall, reserved land was transformed into a community farm, and existing furniture was refurbished.

Stage 2 – Environmental and Cultural Renovation: The redesign incorporated traditional Chinese aesthetics compatible with the Ming Tombs landscape. A garden-core layout, layered mountains, and water channels evoked a "dwelling in the mountains" atmosphere, complemented by intelligent lighting systems that balanced energy efficiency with ambiance.

Participatory design ensured that village surveys and consultations shaped the renovation, linking the project to local needs and values. This participatory approach (secondary theme: **community co-design and inclusion**) anchored the Center's role as both a functional space and a social connector.

Results and Scalability

The Center regained full operational capacity and now hosts cultural, educational, and business events. It spurred new local enterprises in catering, lodging, and retail, creating jobs and stimulating the rural economy. Partnerships with villagers to cultivate vegetables and livestock on the grounds supply nearby restaurants, lowering costs while preserving local livelihoods.

Culturally, the project restored community pride and reinforced the area's identity as part of the Ming Tombs heritage zone. Its integration of ecological design, cultural sensitivity, and participatory management offers a **replicable model** for other towns revitalizing underused heritage assets through sustainable and inclusive design.

Simukaupenye Integrated Youth Academy, Zimbabwe | Meaningful Youth Participation Deepens Civic Engagement

Solutions and Interventions

Zimbabwe's governance framework formally includes children and youth through a Junior Parliament, yet meaningful participation has been limited—especially for rural youth and young women constrained by gender norms and time burdens. The *Shamva Integrated Youth Association (SIYA)* has transformed this landscape by fostering genuine collaboration between communities and government through the **Adult and Youth Partnership for Sustainable Development**.

The initiative established a **Junior Chamber** that mirrors local councils, enabling young representatives to debate priorities, monitor budgets, and present proposals—such as playgrounds in informal settlements—through their senior counterparts. Youth are now actively involved in annual budget consultations, supported by training on governance, accountability, and monitoring tools.

Recognizing gender barriers, SIYA launched the **Young Women Engage** program, forming 25 young women's circles—now representing over 500 participants—whose elected chairs sit on ward development committees. A **Parents' Support Network** trains families to champion girls' civic participation, fostering intergenerational dialogue and community trust. This participatory model demonstrates why locally led, inclusive governance is key to sustainable development, while its gender lens ensures broader equity and social transformation.

Results and Scalability

Citizen participation in local governance increased by 15%, with Junior Councilors and young women now active in decision-making and monitoring. The district council signed a five-year MoU with SIYA, allocated land for a Youth Center, and adopted gender-responsive budgeting. The model has been recognized nationally and internationally, inspiring replication across multiple districts—90% of which are now part of the National Association of Junior Councils. By institutionalizing youth voices and gender equity, the initiative provides a replicable pathway for strengthening civic engagement and accountable local governance across Africa.

The cases from **Kaduna State (Nigeria)** and **Finland** show how coordinated governance can turn global goals into locally owned results. Both embed the SDGs into territorial systems through data-driven planning, open governance, and structured Voluntary Local Review (VLR) processes that link local action with national reporting. Kaduna integrates SDGs across all 23 councils through MAPS-based planning and citizen accountability, while Finland institutionalizes VLR–VNR linkages, connecting municipalities, civil society, and national institutions. Together, they demonstrate how multilevel coordination and inclusive innovation drive coherent, participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Office of the Governor, Kaduna State; Kaduna SDG Coordination Office, Nigeria | Localizing Global Goals: How Kaduna State Embedded the SDGs into Governance, Planning, and Citizen Accountability

Solutions and Interventions

Kaduna State has developed a comprehensive, data-driven model for **SDG localization** that integrates planning, budgeting, and citizen accountability across all 23 Local Government Councils. Confronted with fragmented coordination and limited transparency, the State introduced a three-pillar framework focused on **institutional integration, evidence-based planning, and participatory governance**.

Through the **Office of the Governor**, the Kaduna SDG Coordination Office ensures coherence across ministries, departments, local governments, and civil society. The **State Development Plan (2021–2025)** fully embeds SDG targets in budgetary systems, while the **SDG MAPS** framework enables each local government to align its workplans with both national and global priorities.

The **Kaduna State Bureau of Statistics** provides real-time SDG data through digital dashboards, supporting informed decisions and targeted interventions. As a member of the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**, Kaduna institutionalized participatory governance through open contracting, citizen budgets, and information access initiatives. The **SDG Delivery Partnership Framework** unites government, UN agencies, donors, and private actors to jointly design and fund initiatives in education, health, social protection, and climate resilience.

Results and Scalability

Kaduna achieved **full SDG integration across all 23 Local Government Councils**, embedding global goals in annual workplans and budgets. Open governance mechanisms have strengthened accountability, while digital monitoring systems have improved evidence-based policymaking and service delivery.

The **SDG Delivery Partnership Framework** has institutionalized cross-sector collaboration, aligning diverse resources toward shared outcomes. By embedding SDG principles within formal governance and fiscal systems, Kaduna ensures continuity beyond political cycles. Its model—linking institutional integration, participatory accountability, and partnership-driven financing—offers a **replicable pathway** for subnational governments seeking to localize global agendas through transparent, inclusive governance.

Finnish Municipalities (Espoo, Vantaa), Fingo (Finnish NGO Platform), Ministry of Finance, Finland | Localizing the SDGs through VLRs and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Solutions and Interventions

Finland has pioneered an integrated approach to **SDG localization** by linking municipal action with national frameworks through **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)** and strong civil society engagement. While Finland advanced nationally on the SDGs, the challenge was to translate these commitments into local planning and participatory governance.

The Ministry of Finance formally recognizes city-led VLRs—such as those by **Espoo** and **Vantaa**—as inputs to the national **Voluntary National Review (VNR)**, creating vertical policy coherence. Espoo's 2020 VLR introduced **citizen consultations, youth focus groups, cross-sectoral reviews, and SDG-linked KPIs**, transforming it into a strategic planning tool embedded in annual municipal cycles. Vantaa adopted **SDG-based budgeting and participatory planning**, offering replicable models for other municipalities.

Through **Fingo's public engagement strategy**, sustainable development entered mainstream public discourse. The **World Village Festival**, attracting around 50,000 participants annually, and the **Bridge 47 global citizenship education program** foster civic awareness and participation, while Fingo coordinated civil society input into national SDG reviews, reinforcing multi-stakeholder ownership.

Results and Scalability

Finland's model shows how **multilevel governance and inclusive engagement** institutionalize SDG progress. Espoo and Vantaa's VLRs are now integrated into national reporting, aligning municipal strategies with national priorities.

Fingo's platforms have **broadened public participation**, and the **VLR–VNR linkage** established a replicable framework for coherence and peer learning among municipalities. Over a dozen Finnish cities are now developing VLRs using Espoo and Vantaa's models. Transparent, participatory governance has strengthened institutional trust, offering a scalable pathway for countries seeking to align local innovation, national accountability, and citizen participation in sustainable development.

These cases from **Germany** and **Spain** show how coordinated, multilevel governance drives territorial transformation. The County of Oldenburg demonstrates how empowered local actors and data-driven innovation enable just, low-carbon transitions in rural settings, while the Basque Country exemplifies how shared leadership, social economy, and institutionalized participation embed accountability and inclusion in governance. Together, they illustrate how collective action across sectors and levels of government can accelerate equitable, sustainable development.

County of Oldenburg Government, Germany | From Local Farms to Global Goals: The County of Oldenburg Leads an Inclusive Climate Transition

Solutions and Interventions

The **County of Oldenburg**, a rural district in northwestern Germany spanning eight municipalities, faces the challenge of advancing climate action across dispersed communities—reducing emissions from transport and agriculture while ensuring a just transition.

Since 2015, the county has integrated sustainability into local governance. Four municipalities gained **Fair Trade Town** status, and initiatives like repair cafés, school upcycling, and fair-trade fairs spread across all towns. In 2022, Oldenburg joined the **Global Sustainable Municipality** program, creating a **2030 Agenda strategy** and its first **Voluntary Local Review (VLR)** in 2025 to align local progress with the SDGs.

A **Climate Protection, Adaptation and Sustainability Office** now reports directly to the County President, anchoring a **2045 carbon-neutral goal**. Under *Wir für gutes Klima* ("We for a Good Climate"), the county launched the **Climate Alliance in Agriculture**, providing farm-level GHG audits and mitigation support, and introduced **electric citizen cars**—volunteer-run shuttles improving rural mobility and cutting emissions. A coordinated plan added over **150 public charging stations**, expanding access to e-mobility.

Oldenburg's model—grounded in participation, institutional leadership, and innovation—embodies the *primary approach of Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities*, while the *secondary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action* is reflected in strong partnerships with farmers, communities, and national networks.

Results and Scalability

By 2024, all eight municipalities hosted sustainability initiatives, and four achieved **Fair Trade Town** status. The county received two **Climate Active Municipality awards** for its inclusive climate action. Electric citizen cars expanded rural connectivity, while more than **150 charging points** advanced e-mobility infrastructure. The **Climate Alliance in Agriculture** supported farms in emissions reduction and climate-smart practices.

Through its **VLR**, Oldenburg now tracks SDG progress with transparency and citizen input. Strong political commitment and participatory governance ensure continuity beyond electoral cycles. Its volunteer-run e-car model and farm-level audits offer scalable tools for rural regions, showing how empowered local actors and coordinated innovation can drive equitable, low-carbon transitions that enhance quality of life.

Bilbao/Euskadi, Spain | Shared Leadership for Sustainable Transformation: The Basque Model of Territorial Governance

Solutions and Interventions

The Basque Country exemplifies how **multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance** can localize the 2030 Agenda through shared leadership, trust, and co-responsibility. Public institutions, civil society, academia, and the social economy jointly design inclusive policies that promote territorial cohesion and systemic transformation. This model, aligned with the *Bilbao Blueprint*, demonstrates **why effective SDG localization depends on whole-of-society collaboration and institutionalized participation**, ensuring continuity and accountability across political cycles.

Localization is guided by five interlinked pillars: active and informed citizenship; capacity-building and innovation; co-creation of territorial roadmaps; mobilization of public and private investment; and the development of a global narrative rooted in local identity and transformation. These principles embed social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions into governance and policymaking.

Results and Scalability

The Basque Country has built a **transformative ecosystem** for inclusive and sustainable development, anchored in its social economy, innovative public services, and participatory institutions, which include:

- **Social Economy**: Represents 9.3% of employment and 5.1% of GDP, generating quality jobs and promoting equity, particularly for women, migrants, and persons with disabilities.
- **Harreragune – One-Stop Service for Migrant Integration**: Jointly led by Bilbao City Council and the Basque Government, it provides unconditional access to rights and services for 3,447 people from 84 countries in its first 10 months, embodying the *Diversity Advantage* approach.
- **Sareen Sarea – Basque Third Social Sector Platform**: Submitted 100+ policy proposals to the new Childhood and Adolescence Law, institutionalizing civil-society participation, policy co-creation, and the collaborative development and implementation of the law.

Together, these examples demonstrate how territorial governance—grounded in partnership, inclusion, and innovation—creates scalable pathways for SDG localization and social transformation across Europe and beyond.



Gobierno de Canarias Photo

Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data

Inclusive participation and local data are reshaping how policies respond to people's needs. The following solutions highlight participatory monitoring, transparency, and citizen engagement as drivers of accountability and trust between governments and communities. By using local data and inclusive tools, these initiatives enhance decision-making, equity, and shared ownership—making social progress more informed, inclusive, and measurable.

Both cases—AwazCDS's *National People's Assembly* in Pakistan and the World Food Forum's *Youth Agenda* in the Philippines—demonstrate how inclusive participation and data-driven collaboration can drive equitable governance. By amplifying rural women's voices in labor reform and institutionalizing youth engagement in food and climate policy, these initiatives turn civic dialogue into measurable social protection outcomes. Together, they show how local data and collective advocacy can make national policymaking more transparent, participatory, and accountable.

Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services (AwazCDS), Pakistan | From Exclusion to Empowerment: Advancing Social Protection and Recognition for Informal Women Workers in Pakistan

Solutions and Interventions

Women in Pakistan's informal economy—particularly in agriculture, domestic work, and home-based production—sustain rural livelihoods but remain **unrecognized, underpaid, and excluded from social protection**.

The **National People's Assembly**, convened by **AwazCDS-Pakistan**, united rural women leaders, parliamentarians, and civil society to drive reform through three pillars:

1. **Legal and policy reform** – Advocating formal recognition of women informal workers in national labour statistics and social protection systems, ensuring access to fair wages and benefits.
2. **Inclusive governance and social protection** – Promoting harmonized, transparent schemes across provinces and institutionalized representation of women in social protection boards and policy forums.
3. **Capacity development** – Expanding technical, digital, and AI-related training for rural women to boost employability and resilience in emerging labor markets.

The Assembly culminated in the People's Charter of Demands 2025, a unified national advocacy platform amplifying rural women's voices on inequality, inflation, and labor rights. Grounded in lived experience, the model ensures policy change is community-driven and sustainable. It reflects the primary approach of Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data, complemented by the secondary approach of Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities.

Results and Scalability

The Assembly created **Pakistan's first national platform** linking rural women with policymakers, leading to adoption of the **People's Charter of Demands** 2025—a replicable framework for inclusive social protection. The **National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC)** has since integrated gender-sensitive frameworks into national training programs.

This **multilevel coordination model**, connecting grassroots leaders with government institutions, ensures sustained advocacy through partnerships with **AwazCDS** and **PODA**, embedding women's representation in social protection boards and local governance. By translating testimonies into evidence-based policy proposals, the initiative builds a foundation for scalable reform.

Through **digital literacy and AI-skills training**, rural women are being prepared for future job markets, advancing social protection and economic inclusion. This participatory model demonstrates how community-led advocacy can shape national reform and foster equitable, resilient development.

World Food Forum – Philippines Youth Chapter, Philippines | Co-Creating a National Youth Agenda for Food Security and Climate Justice

Solutions and Interventions

Youth make up over 30% of the Philippine population yet remain underrepresented in shaping food security and climate policies. The **World Food Forum Philippines Youth Chapter**, supported by the **FAO Youth Action Track**, led a participatory process to co-create a **National Youth Agenda for Food Systems and Climate Justice**, aligning youth aspirations with national policy frameworks and recognizing them as **partners in sustainability planning**.

Through regional consultations in **Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao**, more than **400 youth representatives** from academia, civil society, and farmer groups developed ten key recommendations on food justice, climate resilience, and equitable governance. The agenda—focused on access to resources, climate-smart agriculture, youth participation, and ethical production—culminated in a **National Youth Declaration on Food Systems Transformation**, submitted to the Department of Agriculture and presented at the World Food Forum Global Stage (Rome, 2024) and Road to Doha Youth Consultation (2025).

Working with FAO and the National Youth Commission, the initiative aligned with the **Philippine Development Plan (2023–2028)** and the **Climate Change Act**, embedding youth perspectives into official policies. The case exemplifies the *primary approach of Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data* while reinforcing the *secondary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Action*.

Results and Scalability

The Philippines became one of the first countries in Asia to **institutionalize a youth-led food and climate agenda** under the FAO framework. Over 400 young leaders co-created actionable priorities now informing **Department of Agriculture and Youth Commission** programs. Delegates presented outcomes at **WFF Rome (2024) and WSSD2 consultations**, offering a **replicable model** for structured youth engagement.

By formalizing youth participation and linking it to **SDGs 2 and 13**, the WFF Philippines model demonstrates how co-created agendas can transform grassroots innovation into national commitment for food security and climate justice.

The cases from **Nepal, Zambia, and Argentina** show how inclusive participation, transparency, and data-driven governance can transform decision-making and rebuild public trust. Each advances **Participatory Governance and Territorial Transformation**—from Nepal's youth-led SDG reviews and Zambia's citizen budget monitoring to Argentina's creative civic co-creation platforms. Together, they demonstrate how communities and youth, empowered to generate evidence and engage in policymaking, can institutionalize accountability and align local priorities with broader social development goals.

NGO Federation of Nepal and Nepal SDG Forum, Nepal | Reviving Local Democracy Through Youth-Led SDG Reviews in Nepal

Solutions and Interventions

In Nepal, 753 local governments face capacity and resource constraints that limit SDG implementation. Despite federal structures, youth participation in local planning and monitoring remains weak, and data systems are underdeveloped.

To address these gaps, the **NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)** and the **Nepal SDG Forum**—a FORUS member—pioneered a **youth-led Voluntary Local Review (VLR)** process placing young people at the center of SDG monitoring. Between 2020 and 2024, youth groups, civic mentors, and local officials collaborated through school-based focus groups, online consultations, and community dialogues to identify local achievements and challenges.

The initiative established **inclusive SDG Committees** at municipal and provincial levels, developed **training modules** on participatory planning and financial oversight, and fostered a **national coordination space** linking civil society, local authorities, and the **National Planning Commission**. Harmonizing local indicators with national frameworks strengthened coherence and accountability across governance levels.

Results and Scalability

Within four years, **17 municipalities** completed VLRs, with several others preparing localization guidelines. Over **200 children and adolescents** contributed to SDG assessments, and **500 local officials** received training in planning and monitoring. Youth-identified priorities are now reflected in municipal development plans and budgets.

The **SDG Localization Guideline**, fiscal incentives tied to inclusion indicators, and strengthened intergovernmental coordination have institutionalized participatory governance. This **youth-led, locally driven model** demonstrates how inclusive SDG review processes can revitalize local democracy and accountability—offering a replicable framework for decentralized systems.

Zambia Council for Social Development, Zambia | Transforming Fiscal Justice Through Community-Led Budget Monitoring in Zambia

Solutions and Interventions

In Zambia, centralized governance, restrictive NGO laws, and weak fiscal systems have limited transparency and community participation in local budgeting. To address these gaps, the **Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD)** positioned capacity building as a lever for both protection and transformation—empowering municipalities and communities to strengthen fiscal accountability and inclusive planning.

Between 2018 and 2024, ZCSD trained local officials in **public financial management**, participatory budgeting, and SDG-aligned expenditure tracking, certifying participants in budget oversight and procurement monitoring. Parallel training for community-based organizations built capacity to access and interpret fiscal data, conduct **social audits**, and engage in district planning. Simplified "citizen budgets" and participatory dashboards improved accessibility, while public forums and local media partnerships amplified transparency and accountability.

ZCSD also institutionalized **community feedback mechanisms**, ensuring civil society representation in local planning committees and establishing direct channels between residents and authorities.

Results and Scalability

Within five years, **budget transparency improved in 12 municipalities**, with quarterly expenditure reports now publicly released. **Community audits** drove tangible reallocations—such as increased agricultural funding and maternal health upgrades—while six additional districts independently adopted ZCSD's **citizen scorecard** model.

ZCSD's training materials were integrated into national capacity-building programs, and anti-corruption investigations in participating districts led to the recovery of misused funds. Crucially, relations between citizens and authorities shifted from adversarial to collaborative, embedding a culture of shared accountability.

Despite ongoing political and financial constraints, the model demonstrates how **locally anchored fiscal transparency and civic participation** can drive long-term governance reform and equitable development.

Red Encuentro de Entidades No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo, Argentina | Democratizing Development Through Youth Co-Creation and Creative Platforms in Argentina

Solutions and Interventions

Facing economic instability, eroding trust, and limited youth participation, **Red Encuentro** launched a youth co-creation model (2019–2024) that positioned young people as policy partners rather than observers. Through **policy labs**, youth collaborated with municipal officials to identify local priorities—education, employment, public space, and environment—and design implementable solutions.

Civic education modules in schools and youth centers strengthened political literacy and introduced participatory budgeting and SDG frameworks. Complementary **radio, street art, and theater projects** transformed public spaces into dialogue arenas, amplifying youth voices from marginalized communities. Digital tools enabled idea submission, voting, and progress tracking, broadening inclusion.

Red Encuentro also trained municipal officials in participatory governance, helping embed youth engagement within local planning processes and strengthening institutional responsiveness.

Results and Scalability

Youth policy proposals were formally adopted into municipal plans, leading to **youth advisory councils** in three cities, **gender-violence prevention programs** in schools, and improved **public transport** to underserved areas. Though economic volatility and political turnover pose challenges, institutionalized youth structures and trained leaders sustain momentum. The Red Encuentro model demonstrates how creativity, civic learning, and shared governance can rebuild trust and empower youth as co-architects of local development—offering a replicable pathway for inclusive governance across Latin America.

Both the *CityNet SDG Navigator* in the Philippines and Paraná's cross-sector innovation model in Brazil show how participation, accountability, and local data can transform governance. By linking evidence-based planning with inclusive decision-making, these initiatives demonstrate how cities and regions can turn transparency and collaboration into measurable progress toward equitable, resilient, and data-driven territorial development.

City Government of Makati, Philippines | Localizing the SDGs – Self-Assessment and Monitoring with the CityNet SDG Navigator

Solutions and Interventions

In Makati and other cities of Metro Manila, local governments face the dual challenge of rapid urbanization and uneven access to data for sustainable planning. Recognizing that most SDG targets rely on local action, the **CityNet SDG Navigator** helps cities self-assess progress, identify gaps, and align local priorities with national and global commitments.

Through the **primary approach of advancing inclusive participation, accountability, and local data**, the pilot strengthens evidence-based governance and citizen engagement for SDG implementation.

In **2022**, the **City Government of Makati**, together with **CityNet Philippines**, piloted the Navigator in four NCR cities—Makati, Muntinlupa, Quezon City, and San Juan. The platform guides local teams through a structured self-assessment aligned with UN targets, generating tailored recommendations and case studies from the **Urban SDG Knowledge Platform**. A participatory process engages residents, civil society, academia, and the private sector to ensure that local SDG priorities reflect community needs. Each city produced an **SDG Self-Assessment Report** and **Action Plan**, with findings publicly shared to promote transparency and peer learning.

Ongoing monitoring, integration of SDG priorities into city development plans, and institutionalization of the Navigator in planning cycles demonstrate the project's commitment to sustained accountability. The initiative also embodies the **secondary approach of driving innovation through multilevel coordination**, linking city-level efforts with national policy frameworks and regional peer exchange.

Results and Scalability

The pilot produced measurable governance and capacity gains:

- **Four cities completed SDG self-assessments** and published action plans identifying priority areas and next steps.
- **Inclusive stakeholder participation** strengthened ownership and ensured that the needs of vulnerable groups were reflected in plans.
- **Enhanced local data systems** improved transparency, planning, and coordination with national agencies.
- **Human-rights-based orientation** integrated equity and inclusion in local development strategies.

With a modest **USD 5,000 CityNet grant**, the initiative proved cost-effective and easily replicable. **Mandaue City** is

preparing the next phase, and CityNet plans to scale the model to additional Philippine local governments and regional clusters. The approach demonstrates how data-driven, participatory monitoring can advance **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions),** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

By formalizing youth participation and linking it to SDGs 2 and 13, the WFF Philippines model demonstrates how co-created agendas can transform grassroots innovation into national commitment for food security and climate justice.

Government of the State of Paraná – State Secretariats of Education (FUNDEPAR), Science, Technology and Higher Education (SETI), and Industry, Commerce and Services (SEIC), Brazil | Integrating Inclusion, Innovation, and Accountability: Paraná's Cross-Sector Model for Territorial Transformation

Solutions and Interventions

The State of Paraná is advancing an integrated territorial model that combines **social inclusion, innovation, and accountability** across education, industry, and science. Guided by the *primary approach of advancing inclusive participation, accountability, and local data* and the *secondary approach of driving innovation through multilevel coordination and local action*, Paraná shows how cross-sector collaboration drives equitable, sustainable local economies. Three flagship programs illustrate this model:

1. **Inclusive Industrial Workforce (Indústria Acolhedora – SEIC)**
   Bridging humanitarian needs and labor-market demand, the program connects migrants and refugees to formal employment through job placement, intercultural and vocational training, and awareness campaigns coordinated by the **Fiep System** and **Emprega Indústria** platform.
2. **Organic and Agroecological School Feeding (FUNDEPAR)**
   The **State School Feeding Program** serves **over one million students daily**—10% of Paraná's population—sourcing **25% of supplies from family farms**. In 2025, **1,800 farming families** will supply **4.5 million kilograms of food**, backed by **BRL 47 million** in investment. A new legal framework commits to **100% organic school meals by 2030**, ensuring transparency through participatory governance and data tracking.
3. **Accredited Innovation Environments (SETI)**
   The Accreditation of Innovation Promotion Environments (APIs) links universities, businesses, and local governments to foster inclusive innovation. By 2024, **489 APIs** operated across **64 municipalities**, mobilizing **BRL 708 million** under the **Paraná Competitive Program** to expand applied research and technology access.

Together, these initiatives create a coordinated ecosystem connecting education, industry, and innovation—embedding participation, data, and local ownership in territorial transformation.

Results and Scalability

- **Social Inclusion**: *Indústria Acolhedora* engaged **144 industries** in **29 cities**, training **336 employees** and supporting **549 migrants**, fostering equitable workplaces.
- **Local Food Systems**: Organic production expanded from **29 to 291 municipalities** between **2011–2025**, with family-farm output rising from **77,000 to 4.5 million kilograms**.
- **Innovation: 489 APIs** now drive public–private collaboration and inclusive technology transfer across **64 municipalities**.

Paraná's cross-sector model demonstrates how **participatory governance, local data, and coordinated policy** can scale inclusive territorial development—advancing **SDGs 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17**.

Both initiatives—Spain's *EkoPulse* and Honduras's *Golden Order Diplomats*—show how the private sector can drive inclusive participation and accountability through innovation. By leveraging technology, corporate social responsibility, and education, they democratize access to sustainability and civic knowledge. Together, they illustrate how business-led initiatives can extend social impact, build community trust, and advance equitable local development aligned with the SDGs.

PowerImpact, Spain | Democratizing Sustainability: How EkoPulse Empowers Communities to Drive Inclusive Local Change

Solutions and Interventions

Traditional sustainability systems often overlook smaller actors—SMEs, freelancers, schools, and citizens—limiting participation and recognition. **EkoPulse** addresses this gap through a **participatory, data-driven platform** that enables communities, businesses, and institutions to measure, visualize, and improve their sustainability performance.

An **open-source digital tool**, EkoPulse uses **AI, blockchain,** and **IoT** to generate verifiable sustainability scores and reliability grades. Its freemium model ensures access for all, with optional third-party validation from **SGS Tecnos** and **AENOR**. The pilot implemented with partners from the **BOOST program, Red Alma/RITA**, and sustainability education networks, links schools, cooperatives, and SMEs in a shared ecosystem for local climate and social action.

Students and educators help neighborhood businesses map and enhance sustainability practices, connecting education with territorial innovation. Municipalities are joining progressively to use aggregated data for planning and community recognition. The initiative exemplifies the *primary approach of Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data*, while its cross-sector collaboration reflects the *secondary approach of Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action*.

Results and Scalability

The **pilot** has united schools, cooperatives, and enterprises to co-create a collective sustainability map, fostering stronger links between education, business, and community. Early results show rising awareness of how local action contributes to the SDGs.

EkoPulse's **modular, open-source design** allows easy adaptation to different territories. Municipalities are preparing to integrate its data into **Agenda 2030 dashboards**, aligning local insights with national and global goals. With growing interest from Spanish and European partners, EkoPulse offers a replicable model for **democratizing sustainability through data, participation, and innovation**.

Golden Order Diplomats, Honduras | Empowering Honduran Voices: Inclusive Diplomacy Education for Peaceful Electoral Resilience and SDG Awareness

Solutions and Interventions

In Honduras, political polarization and election-related violence heighten exclusion, particularly for women, youth, and indigenous communities lacking impartial civic information. **Golden Order Diplomats** launched a CSR-driven initiative to promote **inclusive diplomacy education** and **SDG awareness**, strengthening peace, participation, and governance resilience.

Through in-person school visits and digital outreach, the program has reached **4,000+ students** with interactive workshops on politics, diplomacy, and SDGs, fostering youth leadership and nonpartisan dialogue. Its **International Certificate in Electoral Integrity** offers **50 free scholarships** (60% women, 25% indigenous youth) in its first cohort, launching **November 2025**, with plans to reach **500+ participants**. Complementary open-access materials and explainer videos on TikTok, YouTube, and WhatsApp broaden reach to marginalized and rural audiences.

Operating under Honduras's **ZEDE PROSPERA** framework, the initiative transforms corporate social responsibility into a **locally grounded mechanism for equitable participation and peacebuilding**, aligning with the *primary approach of Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data* and reinforcing the *secondary approach of Strengthening Capacities and Empowering Local Actors* through education and digital tools.

Results and Scalability

The program has improved civic awareness and confidence — **70% of participants** report better understanding of governance and SDGs, with many initiating family discussions on peaceful elections. The **scholarship program** expands

equitable access to civic education, while digital content has reached **tens of thousands**, countering misinformation and promoting nonpartisan dialogue.

Its **hybrid model**—combining community training, digital engagement, and CSR-backed funding—is scalable across fragile contexts. By democratizing civic knowledge, **Golden Order Diplomats** is nurturing a generation of informed, peace-oriented citizens advancing **SDGs 10 and 16**.



ILO Photo

Main Lessons Learned

The expanded portfolio of locally led solutions compiled for the WSSD2 process reaffirms that transformation occurs when **local actors are empowered, public-private partnerships are enhanced, innovation is coordinated across governance levels, and communities are engaged through transparent data and participation**. From civic education in Honduras and participatory governance in Ethiopia to digital innovation in Spain and cross-sector ecosystems in Brazil, the cases show that **local action achieves systemic impact when anchored in capable institutions, coherent policies, and shared evidence**.

Together, these lessons outline how to scale local transformation—by strengthening institutions, deepening participatory governance, and connecting innovation across local, national, and global systems.

Lessons Learned: Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities

1. **Building Institutional Capacity through Local Leadership and Collaboration** — New experiences, from Honduras's *Golden Order Diplomats* civic education model to Ethiopia's *Community–Government Committees*, underscore that **locally rooted leadership and cooperation between civil society and public institutions** are pivotal for trust and accountability. In contexts as diverse as Brazil's *Freehelper* and Seoul's *youth reintegration program*, empowerment transforms projects into long-term governance systems.

2. **Embedding Learning, Mentorship, and Innovation Ecosystems** — Initiatives like Spain's *#SocialFactory* and Zambia's youth financial-literacy programs show that peer learning and mentorship sustain innovation. *EkoPulse* expands this by demonstrating how digital platforms and open data can transform sustainability learning into **collective intelligence**, linking education, cooperatives, and municipalities.

3. **Linking Social Inclusion with Institutionalized Local Governance** — Formal governance mechanisms—from Benin's CBOs to Indonesia's humanitarian projects—ensure accountability and continuity. The *Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD)* in Ethiopia has further shown how participatory budgeting and joint service committees can **translate decentralization policy into co-owned governance**, strengthening institutional legitimacy and civic capacity.

Lessons Learned: Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action

1. **Integrated Multilevel Governance Drives Policy Coherence and Shared Accountability** — Across cases, from Brazil's Indústria Acolhedora to Germany's Social Economy Integration, innovation thrives when municipal, regional, and national actors align through coordination frameworks. Paraguay's Youth Hub further shows how multilevel collaboration sustains continuity across electoral cycles.

2. **Participatory and Data-Driven Collaboration Strengthens Local Ownership and Replicability** — Projects such as UITP's *Net-Zero Mobility Framework* and Spain's *EkoPulse* demonstrate that data-driven participation enhances equity and adaptability. Locally co-created metrics, participatory dashboards, and digital observatories make solutions transferable across regions.

3. **Innovation Thrives through Localized Partnerships and Flexible Platforms** — From Malaysia's *Kuantan Art Street* to Indonesia's *Waste Bank*, flexibility enables cross-sector experimentation. Regional innovation ecosystems—such as Brazil's *Iguassu Valley Network*—illustrate how quadruple-helix partnerships (government, academia, civil society, business) embed innovation in local governance systems.

Lessons Learned: Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data

1. **Participation Works When It Becomes Institutionalized** — Cases like CityNet's *SDG Navigator* and Paraná's participatory food-governance systems show that inclusion endures when **codified in ordinances, councils, and administrative frameworks**. Ethiopia's community–government committees reinforce this, translating civic dialogue into routine governance.

2. **Community-Generated Data Builds Ownership and Accountability** — Peru's community monitoring and Cambodia's citizen mapping illustrate how **locally produced evidence improves trust, transparency, and targeting**. Integrating such data into municipal dashboards strengthens policy alignment with citizens' needs.

3. **Cross-Sector Coordination Strengthens Both Data and Participation** — Cases highlight that **linking citizen feedback with institutional data systems** creates balanced, socially equitable governance. In Honduras, the *Golden Order Diplomats* initiative extends this through digital civic education, combining CSR funding with open-access knowledge sharing.



UNHCR Photo

Conclusions and Way Forward

The *Road to Doha: The Local Way* confirms that social development transformation depends on **empowered local actors, coordinated innovation, and inclusive, data-driven governance**. Across regions, these locally led solutions show that when leadership is recognized, resourced, and connected to enabling frameworks, global commitments yield tangible progress. Building on the **Seville Platform for Action** and the **Local2030 Coalition's WSSD2 Policy Brief**, the following pathways outline how to translate localized success into systemic, equitable, and lasting change.

Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities

Empowering local actors means investing in institutions, leadership, and learning systems that transform local innovation into lasting governance—advancing **Policy Brief Recommendations 1 and 5** on strengthening LRGs and enhancing institutional capacity.

Success stories such as **Harreragune (Spain), Freehelper (Brazil),** and **the Family Action Plan (Brazil)** demonstrate how capacity-building, digital tools, and participatory systems sustain inclusion. In **Ethiopia** and **Honduras**, partnerships between governments and communities institutionalized dialogue and trust, while **Cagayan State University's campus-based programs** show how universities and cooperatives co-produce data, training, and enterprise.

Empowerment also means embedding accountability through participatory observatories, scorecards, and **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**. Linking institutional capacity, partnerships, and accountability converts decentralized initiatives into resilient, equitable governance systems.

Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action

Transformative impact occurs when innovation aligns across all levels of governance—building systemic bridges between communities, institutions, and governments to amplify territorial impact. This approach advances **Policy Brief Recommendations 3 and 6** on strengthening multilevel coordination and scaling local innovation.

From **Paraná's cross-sector governance** and **the Basque territorial model to Oldenburg's rural climate alliance** and **Brazil's Iguassu Valley innovation ecosystem**, coordination among institutions ensures coherence and durability. **Malaysia's Kuantan Art Street, Indonesia's Waste Bank,** and **GIZ Mexico's retrofit program** show how flexible local–national partnerships turn innovation into territorial transformation.

Investing in **local innovation ecosystems**—linking governments, businesses, and communities—enables replication and scale. Embedding local data systems and shared dashboards strengthens evidence-based coordination. When innovation and multilevel collaboration converge, local experimentation evolves into systemic, inclusive policy reform.

Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data

Inclusive participation and data-driven governance form the backbone of equitable development—advancing **Policy Brief Recommendations 4 and 7** on deepening participation, strengthening accountability, and building robust local data ecosystems.

Initiatives such as **CityNet's SDG Navigator (Philippines), the WFF Youth Agenda,** and **Pakistan's National People's Assembly** show that participation achieves impact when institutionalized through councils, charters, and open data systems while tools like **Ethiopia's community scorecards** and **Honduras's civic education model** link evidence to empowerment. Tying **fiscal incentives or recognition schemes** to participatory governance further strengthens accountability, making inclusion a performance standard rather than a procedural goal. Together, these cases show that data and participation drive innovation, trust, and democratic renewal.

Looking Ahead

The Road to Doha: The Local Way reaffirms that **localization is one of the foundations—not the byproduct—of global social development**. The **Seville Platform for Action** and this portfolio of 30+ locally led solutions chart a roadmap for implementing the **WSSD2 Political Declaration**—anchored in empowered leadership, coordinated innovation, and inclusive governance.

Moving forward, the **UN system, governments, local authorities, civil society, and the private sector** must sustain the *"Road to..." modality*—linking evidence, advocacy, and finance for locally led transformation. Institutionalizing these pathways in **national follow-up mechanisms, financing frameworks**, and regional learning networks will ensure that WSSD2 marks a new era of social development—**driven by territories, powered by data, and defined by inclusion**.

Annexes

Annex A — Local2030's Policy Brief "Recommendations for WSSD2: Localizing Social Development"

Policy Brief Series

Recommendations for WSSD2: Localizing Social Development

Affirming Localization and Empowerment of the Local Level for Inclusive Social Development

June 2025

Introduction and Context

This paper presents key recommendations by the United Nations Local2030 Coalition on the role of localization for the implementation, review, and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action. The Coalition is the UN system-wide platform dedicated to advancing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level, through its 14 UN entities and five constituencies. The paper leverages the Coalition's mandate and technical expertise on localization to underscore the importance of empowering local and regional governments (LRGs) and demonstrate how local actors and stakeholders can contribute to the localization of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) process and outcomes.

Opportunities

The evolving global development landscape and subsequent growing demand for localization presents a timely opportunity to better align global commitments with local realities. LRGs play a vital role in translating national policies into meaningful, community-level action, helping to ensure that development responds to diverse local contexts and addresses in-country disparities. Their proximity to communities enables LRGs to identify needs, foster inclusive participation, and deliver context-specific solutions. Over 60% of SDG targets and 70% of climate solutions depend on local action – making engaging and empowering LRGs as strategic partners critical. By institutionalizing multilevel governance mechanisms and strengthening coordination across sectors, countries can enhance policy coherence and accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals. The localization approach brings together all levels of government and stakeholders in solidarity to advance inclusive, effective, and resilient social development.

Alignment with Prior Agreements and Relevant Strategies

This essential role of LRGs, local actors, and localization has been repeatedly affirmed across major UN agreements – including in the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration (Commitment 4) and its Programme of Action (14(d), 72(b-c)), which emphasizes the importance of strengthening the role of LRGs, communities, and civil society; and encourages decentralization and the facilitation of local participation in social development. Subsequent agreements have reinforced this consensus, including in the 2030 Agenda (paras 21, 34, 45, 52,77, 79-81), the New Urban Agenda (paras 1, 8, 9, 15(b), 15(c)(ii), 16, 21, 23, 25, etc.), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paras 5, 34, 42, 48, 62, 66, 67, 92, 112, 117, 125, 130), the Future We Want (paras 22, 42, 43, 76, Section E on regional, national, subnational and local levels (97-103), 135, 253), and the Pact for the Future (Action 6, 32, 55(e)), among others.

These references lay the foundation and confirm the broad consensus that localization, community empowerment, and multilevel governance are essential to achieving global commitments. The mandates of UN entities – such as UN-Habitat, permanent co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition and lead of its Secretariat, whose newly adopted Strategic Plan aligns closely with this agenda – also increasingly reflect these priorities.

1

Recommendations



1) Acknowledge LRGs as Key Actors in Social Development: Reaffirm the essential role and contributions of LRGs in advancing plans, policies, and investments that reduce poverty and inequalities and promote full and productive employment and decent work, effective social protection systems, social economy, inclusive labour markets, and access to housing, land, and health and basic services for all.



2) Engage LRGs and Local Stakeholders in the WSSD2 Process: Ensure the meaningful engagement of LRGs and local stakeholders in shaping and implementing the WSSD2 outcomes. Their proximity to communities positions them to identify local priorities, potential and needs and to respond with tailored, inclusive policies and plans.



3) Promote Multilevel Coordination and Context-specific Local Strategies for Social Inclusion: Strengthen whole-of-government approaches that articulate and align national, subnational, and local efforts, including feedback from the local level. Support the development of local strategies and action plans, engaging local stakeholders across all sectors, including employers' and workers' organizations, civil society, the private sector, cooperatives, and academia, to be context-specific, yet coherent with national priorities.



4) Deepen Inclusive Local Participation and Accountability: Reinforce the importance of inclusive and participatory governance and social dialogue to build trust and improve the accountability and responsiveness of public services at the local level. This includes mechanisms that empower communities to participate in planning, budgeting, and oversight of programmes and initiatives, with particular attention to marginalized groups.



5) Enhance Institutional and Operational Capacity of LRGs: Endorse adequate and reliable resourcing of LRGs and local actors to implement relevant international agreements, transforming high-level commitments into concrete, locally driven, and socially inclusive action. Invest in strengthening the institutional and delivery capacity of civil society and LRGs to design and implement integrated social development responses to interrelated and complex social development challenges.



6) Scale up Innovative Local Action: Integrate local actors and community-led solutions in the financing, implementation, and follow-up of local action. This approach fosters systemic change through more coherent, integrated, and context-responsive strategies, investments and programmes to scale up impact, accelerate progress, and drive innovation in addressing social development and social economy gaps across all levels of governance.



7) Advance Local Data, Monitoring and Reporting Systems: Promote mechanisms for national–local coordination and support LRGs and local and community actors in contributing to monitoring, reporting and review processes through coherent, multilevel governance frameworks. Strengthen local data systems and the use of local-level and disaggregated data – by income, gender, age, geography, disability, and other factors – including through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) alongside Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), to inform inclusive, location-specific and evidence-based social development policies and assessments.

Annex B — List of Local Solutions with Consultations and Resources

Title of Solution	Leading Organization	Stakeholder Type	Country	Resources
1. Plataforma Freehelper – A Skill-Based Volunteering Network Generating Over BRL 10 Million in Savings for the Third Sector	Freehelper	Civil Society	Brazil	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Paraná Hub Road to WSSD2: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 10 October 2025 **More Info**: FreeHelper
From Ideas to Impact: How #SocialFactory Nurtures the Next Generation of Social Entrepreneurs	Mondragon Team Academy	Private Sector	Spain	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Euskadi Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 16 October 2025 **More Info**: #SocialFactory Program; Impact Week 2024; Social Mondragon Team Academy launches the #SocialFactory program - NewsFactory Video
Reshaping Financial Education – Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship through Financial Literacy	Chembe District Youth Platform Luapula	Civil Society	Zambia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Road to Doha: The Local Way Youth Consultation **Date**: 20 October 2025
Building Sustainable Societies Through Integrated Community-Based Niche Livelihood Programs	Cagayan State University	Civil Society	Philippines	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Cagayan State University Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 13 October 2025 **More Info**: Regional Consultation Report; Sanchez Mira; BamGroves of Hope; Carig; CSU-SM Consultation
From Flood to Flourishing: Tzu Chi's Five-Pronged Approach and the Creation of Great Love Village in Jakarta, Indonesia	Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	Civil Society	Indonesia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025
Strengthening Impact Ecosystems – How the Impact Coalition Empowers Local Communities and Nature	Institute of Corporate Citizenship	Civil Society	Brazil	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Paraná Hub Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 10 October 2025 **More Info**: Coalizão Pelo Impacto
Harvesting Hope – Locally Led Organic Farming and Solar Irrigation Boost Food Security in Nigeria's Drylands	Green Harvest Farm Initiative	Civil Society	Nigeria	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Road to Doha: The Local Way Youth Consultation **Date**: 20 October 2025 **More Info**: Youth Consultation Report
Support for Isolated and Reclusive Youth – A Citywide Approach to Reconnection and Reintegration	Seoul Metropolitan Government – Youth & Future Planning Bureau	L/R Government	South Korea	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Case Study Database
Restoring Dignity – How Brazil's Family Action Plan Empowers Families to Overcome Poverty	Instituto Dara	Civil Society	Brazil	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Brasil & Comunidade Lusófona – Vozes locais rumo à Doha Catalyst Now Workshop **Date**: 15 October 2025 **More Info**: Instituto Dara

Title of Solution	Leading Organization	Stakeholder Type	Country	Resources
Social Protection for Children – Building Safe and Supportive Environments	Etoile pour le Développement Institutionnel (EDI-ONG)	Civil Society	Benin	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD) Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 15 October 2025 **More Info**: Benin National Development Plan 2018-2025
Global Youth Philanthropy: Financing Youth-Led Climate and Social Justice Action Across 35 Countries	Global Youth Philanthropy Network	Civil Society	Global	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Road to Doha: The Local Way Youth Consultation **Date**: 20 October 2025 **More Info**: Youth Consultation Report
Building Climate-Resilient Disaster Response Through Community-Rooted Coordination	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) and Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)	Civil Society	Fiji	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
Empowering Communities through Knowledge and Care: Building Local Capacities for Health, Inclusion, and Water Security	UNESCO Chair on AI & Environmental Stewardship – Utah Valley University	Civil Society	Dominican Republic, Peru, Indonesia, Cambodia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution submitted by Utah Valley University **More Info**: UVU and UNESCO Chair Report
Durable Qaddura: Advancing Inclusive Urban Care and Reopening Child-Friendly Public Space	Ramallah Municipality	L/R Government	Palestine	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Local and Regional Governments Consultation. Solution submitted by UCLG: Cities Countdown Initiative **More Info**: Cities Countdown 2030
UTOPÍAS: Building Inclusive Public Spaces to Restore Dignity and Well-Being in Mexico City	Government of Mexico City	L/R Government	Mexico	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Local and Regional Governments Consultation. Solution submitted by UCLG: Cities Countdown Initiative **More Info**: Cities Countdown 2030
Resilient Housing and Community Strengthening	Build Change	Civil Society	Colombia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: UN ECLAC Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation on Social Protection, Housing, and Inclusion
Enhancing Waste Management through the Community-Based 'New Normal' Waste Bank	Medan City Environmental Agency	L/R Government	Indonesia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Case Study Database
Innovating from the Ground Up: Strengthening Progressive Housing and Social Inclusion in Peru	Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (Habitat for Humanity International)	Civil Society	Peru	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: UN ECLAC Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation on Social Protection, Housing, and Inclusion **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Inovar Desde lo Posible

Title of Solution	Leading Organization	Stakeholder Type	Country	Resources
Education and Innovation as Catalysts for Local Social Development	Iguassu Valley – West Development Program	International Organization	Brazil	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Paraná Hub Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 10 October 2025 **More Info**: Iguassu Valley
Building Cohesion Across Islands: The Canary Islands' Model for Inclusive and Sustainable Social Development	Government of the Canary Islands	International Organization	Spain	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Government of the Canary Islands Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 17 October 2025 **More Info**: Tierra Firme
Creative Partnerships – Building Government–Community Committees for Trust and Shared Decision-Making	Hunger Project Ethiopia (MCLD)	Public-Private Partnership	Ethiopia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD) Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 15 October 2025 **More Info**: MCLD Ethiopia
Kuantan Art Street – Community-Powered Regeneration of Kuantan Old Town	Kuantan City Council	L/R Government	Malaysia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Case Study Database
Mingyuan Training and Conference Center Renovation Project	Shisanglin Town Government of Changping District of Beijing Municipality	Civil Society	China	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Case Study Database
Meaningful Youth Participation Deepens Civic Engagement	Simukaupenye Integrated Youth Academy (SIYA)	L/R Government	Zimbabwe	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD) Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 15 October 2025 **More Info**: Simukaupenye Integrated Youth Academy (SIYA)
Localizing Global Goals: How Kaduna State Embedded the SDGs into Governance, Planning, and Citizen Accountability	Office of the Governor, Kaduna State; Kaduna SDG Coordination Office	L/R Government	Nigeria	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
Localizing the SDGs through VLRs and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement	Finnish Municipalities (Espoo, Vantaa), Fingo (Finnish NGO Platform), Ministry of Finance	L/R Government	Finland	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
From Local Farms to Global Goals: The County of Oldenburg Leads an Inclusive Climate Transition	County of Oldenburg Government	L/R Government	Germany	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by DIFU **More Info**: Voluntary Local Government Review 2025

Title of Solution	Leading Organization	Stakeholder Type	Country	Resources
Shared Leadership for Sustainable Transformation: The Basque Model of Territorial Governance	Bilbao/Euskadi	L/R Government	Spain	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Euskadi Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **More Info**: Euskadi Road to WSSD2: The Local Way
Inclusive, Safe, and Affordable Urban Mobility: UITP's Global Framework for Equitable Transport Transitions	International Association of Public Transport (UITP)	L/R Government	Global	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by UITP **More Info**: Action points: Unseen and Underreported; Policy Brief: Net-Zero Mobility; Policy Brief: Keeping it Fare
Retrofitting for Dignity: Energy-Efficient Social Housing in Mexico's Hot-Dry Regions	GIZ Mexico	UN Agency	Mexico	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: UN ECLAC Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation on Social Protection, Housing, and Inclusion **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Energy efficiency refurbishment
From Exclusion to Empowerment: Advancing Social Protection and Recognition for Informal Women Workers in Pakistan	Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services (AwazCDS)	Civil Society	Pakistan	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: The Nation Pakistan publication
Co-Creating a National Youth Agenda for Food Security and Climate Justice	World Food Forum (WFF) – Philippines Youth Chapter	UN Agency	Philippines	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Road to Doha: The Local Way Youth Consultation **Date**: 20 October 2025 **More Info**: Youth Consultation Report
Reviving Local Democracy Through Youth-Led SDG Reviews in Nepal	NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and Nepal SDG Forum	Civil Society	Nepal	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
Transforming Fiscal Justice Through Community-Led Budget Monitoring in Zambia	Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD)	Civil Society	Zambia	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
Democratizing Development Through Youth Co-Creation and Creative Platforms in Argentina	Red Encuentro de Entidades No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo (EENGD)	Civil Society	Argentina	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by FORUS **More Info**: Unlocking the power of localization and multi-stakeholder partnerships to rescue the SDGs
Localizing the SDGs – Self-Assessment and Monitoring with the CityNet SDG Navigator	City Government of Makati	L/R Government	Philippines	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: APLP-CITIES 4th Quarter 2025 Meeting/UN ESCAP Road to Doha: The Local Way Regional Consultation **Date**: 22 October 2025 **More Info**: Case Study Database

Title of Solution	Leading Organization	Stakeholder Type	Country	Resources
Integrating Inclusion, Innovation, and Accountability: Paraná's Cross-Sector Model for Territorial Transformation	Government of the State of Paraná	L/R Government	Brazil	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Paraná Hub Road to Doha: The Local Way Workshop **Date**: 10 October 2025 **More Info**: Separtec; Industria Acolhedora; Secretaria da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior
Democratizing Sustainability: How EkoPulse Empowers Communities to Drive Inclusive Local Change	PowerImpact	Private Sector	Spain	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Solution Submitted by PowerImpact **More Info**: EkoPulse
Empowering Honduran Voices: Inclusive Diplomacy Education for Peaceful Electoral Resilience and SDG Awareness	Golden Order Diplomats	Private Sector	Honduras	**Consultation/Workshop/ Submission**: Road to Doha: The Local Way Youth Consultation **Date**: 20 October 2025 **More Info**: Youth Consultation Report

Annex C — Template for Collecting the WSSD2 Locally Led Solutions

Template for Locally Led Solutions

Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)

The **Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)** will be held in Doha, 4–6 November 2025. As part of the **Road to Doha: The Local Way** process, the Local2030 Coalition is gathering **clear, result-oriented case studies** of local solutions, policies, and initiatives that demonstrate how local actors are leading and advancing inclusive social development.

We are looking for **locally led social solutions** that advance inclusive social development by addressing equity, resilience, and social inclusion. We are especially interested in highlighting **innovations and policies with potential for scale-up or replication**, ensuring that lessons from local experience inform the implementation of the **WSSD2 Political Declaration**. Contributions should provide **evidence of results and impact**, whether quantitative or qualitative, that clearly show how communities have benefited. Finally, stories must illustrate a **multilevel, multi-stakeholder approach**, aligning local action with national priorities and global commitments, and demonstrating how collaboration across actors and governance levels drives more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

Please use the following form to submit your contribution. Selected solutions will be featured in the **Road to Doha Report** and promoted through the Coalition's official communication and advocacy platforms. **Your contribution is an opportunity to show the impact of localization in the global social development agenda at WSSD2 and beyond.**

Title: *It should quickly convey the core impact or transformation*	*[Example: "Reviving Learning: How Performance-Based Financing Brought 125,000 Children Back to School in Honduras"]*
Region/ Country	
Local Context/ Main Challenge:	*[Max 100 words]*
Leading Organization/ Institution:	
Partners/ Stakeholders Involved: *Acknowledge implementing partners, funders, and key stakeholders*	
Key Themes: *Please rank the three categories of themes to indicate where the solution has its strongest emphasis.*	☐ **Inclusive Local Economies and Social Innovation** – The solution highlights how localized economic and community-led solutions create jobs, reduce poverty, and foster resilience, while balancing social, economic, and environmental goals. ☐ **Social Protection, Care, and Equity** – The solution demonstrates how locally driven social protection and care solutions reduce inequalities, empower women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups. ☐ **Participatory Governance and Territorial Transformation** – The solution showcases how governance innovations enable systemic transformation by aligning local visions with national/global commitments, building trust, and scaling impact. *In 1-2 sentences, please explain why you selected your primary theme:* _____ _____

Approaches: *Please rank the three categories of approaches to indicate where the solution has its strongest emphasis.*	☐ **Empowering Local Actors and Strengthening Capacities** – Solutions that build institutional capacity, resources, and leadership of local actors to deliver inclusive, effective, and sustainable social development. ☐ **Driving Innovation through Multilevel Coordination and Local Action** – Solutions that foster systemic change by integrating community-led solutions, multilevel coordination, and innovative approaches aligned with national priorities. ☐ **Advancing Inclusive Participation, Accountability, and Local Data** – Solutions that enhance participation, accountability, and evidence-based policymaking through citizen engagement, participatory governance, and strengthened local data systems. *In 1-2 sentences, please explain why you selected your primary approach:* _____ _____
Solutions/ Interventions: *Building on the key themes and approaches selected, please describe specific actions, policies, and initiatives implemented.*	*[Max 400 words]*
Main Results and Scalability: ● *What changed? Please provide qualitative + quantitative information.* ● *How is the solution being sustained, and could it be scaled or adapted elsewhere?*	*[Max 300 words]* *[Example: 'Within 18 months, school attendance rose by 22%, student literacy scores improved by 17%, and over 400 teachers were trained in inclusive, student-centered methods.']*
Lessons Learned: *What worked? What can others take from this story? Focus on transferability, replicability, or innovation*	*[Max 120 words]* *[Example: 'Strong local leadership and data-driven planning helped tailor the intervention to community needs. The Ministry of Education is now working to scale the model nationally with support from regional partners.']*
Quotes, Photos, and Visuals (optional)	*Example: "Now I can send my children to school with proper books," said Maria, a mother of three in rural Cabo Verde.*
Contact Information:	
Sources: *Kindly share additional publications, presentations, recordings, including bibliographical references.*	

About the UN Local2030 Coalition

The Local 2030 Coalition is the United Nations system's platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhancing coherence, efficiency, and the impact of UN action.

14 UN entities[1] drive the Coalition, co-chaired by UN-Habitat and FAO, ensuring that the UN system is equipped to articulate global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs, and priorities, while securing a single and powerful UN approach to localization.

Through its five constituencies–national and local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth –the Local2030 Coalition is also a bridge between the United Nations and local development stakeholders, co-creating solutions for systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind.

Concretely, the Coalition's members, constituencies, and partners join forces to:

- Ensure the continuous engagement of local stakeholders in the design and implementation of development agendas, tailoring global processes to local realities.
- Build capacities in the UN system and beyond to mainstream localization and accelerate the SDGs.
- Scale up contextualized innovative actions and financing solutions, increasing local impact for territorial transformation.
- Enhance data analysis and inform multilevel-multistakeholder dialogue for collective review of sustainable development processes.

Our Progress at a Glance

In the last two years, the Local2030 Coalition made major strides in advancing the localization of the SDGs, supported by the establishment of its Secretariat in Bilbao, Spain.

The Local2030 Coalition achieved significant success in advocating for the integration of localization into the global development agenda. Through high-level representation and strategic participation in key forums—such as the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future and the UN High-level Political Forum—the Coalition effectively positioned local action as a critical lever for achieving the SDGs. It raised the visibility of local solutions and ensured that the voices of nation¬al, local, and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth were reflected in international decision-making. The Coalition's work contributed to a broader recognition among global leaders that sustainable development must be rooted in local realities and priorities, and that empowering local actors around the world is essential to achieving meaningful and lasting change at the global level.

The Coalition's two interagency working groups, established in February 2024, bring together the collective expertise of the UN system to develop knowledge, tools, and joint advocacy for action on *"Localizing the SDG Transitions"* (Working Group 1) and *"Financing the SDG Transitions at the Local Level"* (Working Group 2). Complementing these efforts, the Local2030 Hubs serve as centers of excellence that anchor the Coalition's work on the ground, fostering SDG localization, driving systemic transformation, and scaling up impact across all levels. As of 2025, there are four established Local2030 Hubs—Paraná (Brazil), Shizuoka (Japan), Hawaii (US), and Liverpool (UK)—and four prospective Hubs—Cairo (Egypt), Cabo Verde, Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), and the Basque Country (Spain)—that have expressed interest in joining the network.

A hallmark of the Coalition's achievements is the successful and inclusive engagement of its five constituencies: national governments, local and regional governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth co-create localized, evidence-based solutions. While national, regional, and local governments led the design of territorial development strategies, civil society actors and academic institutions contribute through research and peer learning.

Constituencies continue to play a vital role in shaping and sharing context-sensitive, inclusive approaches to SDG localization, complementing initiatives such as the *"Road to Seville: The Local Way,"* which engaged over 1,000 organizations worldwide in advancing transformative local financing solutions. This broad coalition ensured that the localization process remained coherent, collaborative, and responsive to diverse territorial realities.

In partnership with the Joint SDG Fund and with the support of Spain, USD 60.5 million has been committed to UN joint programmes focused on SDG localization worldwide. As part of this joint effort, innovative tools such as the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and the Bilbao Blueprint have been developed to strengthen local ownership, enhance impact, and streamline programme design—cutting preparation time by two-thirds while significantly improving proposal quality. This collaborative approach has also given rise to an annual event, the *"Bilbao Bootcamp"*.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, the Local2030 Coalition aims to deepen its systemic impact through expanded partnerships and the operationalization of new Local2030 Hubs, further broadening the geographic reach of its territorial transformation model. The Coalition will continue to strengthen capacities across the UN system through its Capacity Building Programme, while advancing knowledge exchange. Its current and future priorities include sustaining the *"Road To(s)"* processes towards major global milestones—such as COP30, WUF13, and the 2027 SDG Summit, scaling up financing via the Bilbao Bootcamp, and the SDG Partnership Platform for localization, curating unified monitoring frameworks to promote and monitor local progress.

Together, the work of the Local2030 Coalition will ensure that local actors remain central to shaping global sustainable development, aligning the UN's system-wide approach to localization with concrete action and measurable impact on the ground.

1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the Regional Commissions.

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