

LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS — IN EGYPT —



Executive Summary of the Project for the Localization
of Sustainable Development Goals in Egypt
October 2020

Egypt is considered the first country to work on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), following the approach of establishing quantitative targets for each governorate to achieve, with the aim of accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in Egypt.

In this context, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED), in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), launched the Project for the Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level. The project was implemented in three phases. Phase I focused on establishing quantitative targets for each governorate in each of the SDG achievement indicators. The first step was to quantify the SDG indicators for which governorate level data was available. After that, a methodology to establish these indicators' targets for each governorate was developed, which helps the governorate to develop the appropriate plans, and arrange its priorities to achieve these targets. This methodology was developed to ensure the following:

- The established targets are in line with the Egypt's Vision 2030 and other sectoral strategies;
- The achievement of governorate level targets would lead to the achievement of national level targets;
- The gaps between the various governorates will be narrowed;
- The Governorate level targets are achievable;
- The Governorates with critical indicators levels are given priority;
- Both the current population size of the governorate as well as its projected population in 2030 are taken into consideration.

This phase was concluded by producing a report on the situation of each indicator per governorate in the base year, and the governorate level target for that indicator. During subsequent phases, the new data produced at governorate level for some indicators was used to monitor governorates' performance in each of these indicators.

During Phase II, five governorates were selected to roll out the localization, workshops were held to introduce the SDGs, indicators, and the quantitative targets established for each governorate. Workshops were attended by the local Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) officials. The governorates of Al Qalyubiyah, Al Minya, Assiut, Sohag and Qena were selected during this phase. The governorates of Assiut, Sohag and Qena were selected due to the fact that they come last in most development indicators. On the other hand, Al Minya governorate was selected despite the fact that it is not among the least performers, rather because it has witnessed a decline in most development indicators during the ten years period preceding the workshops. In contrast, Al Qalyubiyah was selected for having achieved the best results in its indicators during the same period. The project held additional training for planning officials in the five governorates on the fundamentals of planning and methods of integrating sustainable development goals into local plans.

During the period from October to December 2019, the third phase was implemented where training workshops were held in the rest of the twenty-two governorates for PME officials and the branches of both the National Population Council (NPC) and the National Council for Women (NCW). Eight two-day workshops were held. In these workshops, participants get oriented on the SDGs and the methodology used in establishing selected SDG indicator targets. The experiences of different countries in achieving development on the local level were also presented. Additionally, the Voluntary National Review (VNRs) submitted by Egypt to the United Nations twice were explained in details as well as the concept of Voluntary Local Review, its content and the accompanied process to produce these reports. Participants were introduced to

the challenges and requirements related to developing the planning system in the governorates, in addition to the experiences and opportunities presented by partnering

with the private sector and local civil society organizations, and the competitive advantages of each governorate.

A paper on the results of these workshops was prepared. The discussions pointed out that there are available opportunities in the governorates, including the fact that PME officials in the governorates accept the SDGs and the idea of establishing quantitative targets for them. The paper also covered the important challenges facing the governorates. Some competitive advantages of some governorates were also presented.

Additionally, a paper on "Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Planning System in Egypt: Current Situation and Future Steps" was prepared. The paper focuses on the localization of the SDGs in Egypt, and sheds light on some international practices in achieving them. The paper analyses the planning process in Egypt, including available opportunities to strengthen the localization process. It also quantifies the tools used in the localization of the SDGs currently under implementation in Egypt. Additionally, the paper discusses the future steps to be taken through specific interventions that aim to institutionalize and strengthen the localization process.

The project outputs include a guide on preparing VLRs for the SDGs. These VLRs aim to achieve the following:

- Evaluate governorates' performance towards achieving relevant SDGs.
- Identify the success factors, opportunities and challenges facing the governorates in the localization and implementation of the SDGs. This should assist in developing the policies to be adopted by each governorate to enhance effective and efficient implementation.
- Provide a substantive baseline for MPED and the sectoral ministries to rely on in identifying the development gaps between the governorates and taking the necessary steps to rectify them.
- Provide the necessary information to MPED as the national body competent to produce reports on the implementation of the SDGs. At the same time, the VNRs are to be prepared through providing a deeper insight into SDG implementation on the local level.

- Build on and utilize governorate level data provided by the Competitiveness Indicator, currently being prepared by MPED in cooperation with the Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) and the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC).
- Provide a tool for the exchange of lessons learnt from the localization process in the 27 governorates.
- Provide a tool for the exchange of experiences on the international level.

The paper also includes the necessary steps to prepare the VLRs, a list of the participating parties, and the data sources that can be relied on in this process.

