SDG LOCAL & URBAN GOVERNANCE DASHBOARD
A solution developed by UNDP Regional Hub for Asia-Pacific and Microsoft

The transformative 2030 agenda, adopted in September 2015 by all UN member states, sets an ambitious agenda to protect people and the planet, and achieve prosperity for all. While these goals are global in nature and universally applicable, countries are expected to prioritize and localize SDG targets guided by the ambition and spirit of the agenda but taking into account national and local circumstances.

This process of "localizing the SDGs" requires tools and policy guidance for states, provinces, and local governments.

In this context, the UNDP Regional Hub for Asia-Pacific (BRH) in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Centre in Nepal developed the "SDG Local and Urban Governance Dashboard" to provide 'evidence-based' information for subnational and local governments to mainstream relevant SDGs in local development plans and budgets (multi-year or annual), prioritizing most critical needs, vulnerabilities, resources and local governance opportunities and challenges.

The problem

Achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will require a large share of the investments for achieving the agenda to be made at sub-national level and be led by local authorities. For such investments to be successful, it is vital to have policy coherence and coordination among all levels of governments, citizens and the private sector.

However, policy coherence and strengthening institutional arrangements for coordination and cooperation requires decision makers to fully take into account the development and governance context on the ground.

Existing data deficit hinders decision makers to get a comprehensive picture of the development context, and where data exists – it is often in silos, and mechanisms do not exist to layer different sources of information for an integrated analysis.

For example, combining poverty determinate data such as the MPI/HDI with country specific socioeconomic data such as conflict or climate change and layering local governance systems, capacities and processes are often not considered when developing plans and allocating budgets; nor are development data compared with local government institutional capacities/ processes to deliver on plans.

UNDP's Asia-Pacific offer

UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub together with the Microsoft Innovation Center in Nepal has developed the "SDG Local and Urban Governance Dashboard" with the purpose of providing decision makers, public, and other stakeholders a comprehensive picture of social economic development situation, resource allocations, public perception of local institutions' capacity and quality of public services, and capacity of the municipalities to deliver on those services.

A cloud computing tool

Using 'cloud computing' technology, the dashboard allows layering of different sets of quantitative data related to poverty determinants (MPI, HDI, MICS), public expenditures, and qualitative people's and private sectors' perception data to be analyzed against (customized) local governance data that are essential to localize the SDGs. Analysis of, and interlinkages among the five data sets are visually presented on a dashboard.

Additional indicators (conflict, climate change or disaster data, etc.) can also be linked and layered to the above five base data sets. This information can be aggregated to provide a comprehensive and comparable picture district by district at the provincial as well as at the national level.
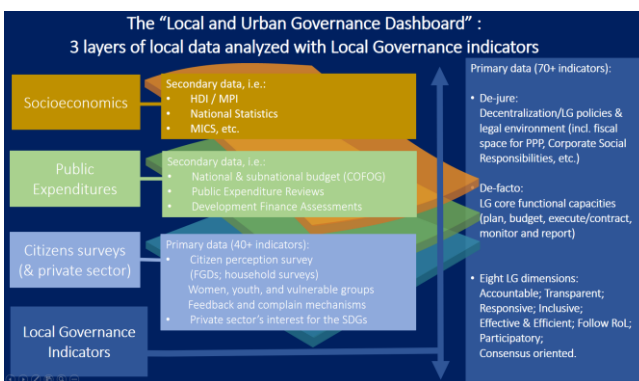
Methodology

To support municipalities prioritization, planning and budgeting processes, and strengthen coherence and coordination between different levels of government, UNDP has developed a methodology that maps, assesses, analyses, layers, and visualizes different sets of data. The methodology presents an integrated analysis and recommendations with the following:

Local governance indicators

Given the critical role of the local governments in implementing the SDGs, the indicators look at local government capacities to prioritize, plan, build partnerships, allocate and deliver services and achieve the SDGs.
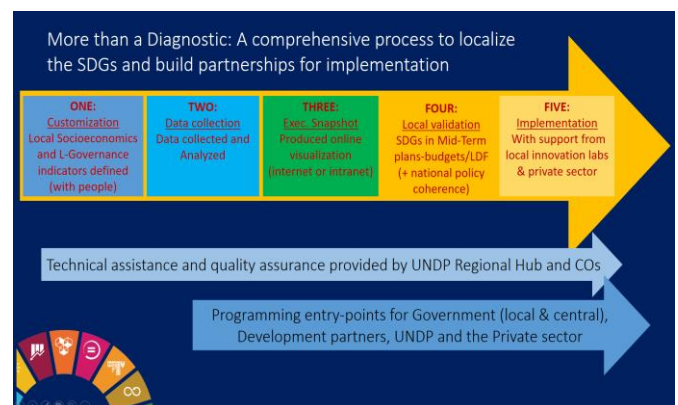
The local governance assessment consists of three qualitative surveys:

•	An assessment of the decentralization and local governance environment (DLG) under which the local governments operate; it looks at the *de jure* functions/authorities of local government related to political, administrative and fiscal decentralization.

•	An assessment of the *de facto* capacities of district administrations and councils regarding core functions to plan and implement the SDGs (i.e. planning, budgeting, financing, coordination, implementation outsourcing, monitoring, etc.). This capacity assessment can be useful for improving the overall performance of local governments.

•	An assessment of people and private sector perception. People perception survey is conducted amongst local stakeholders' including youth, women, and vulnerable population gauging performance of their local government to deliver services, prioritize and implement the SDGs. Private sector perception survey is conducted amongst private companies, Chambers of Commerce, business associations, and non-governmental organizations gauging interest in the SDGs and their perceived internal and external constraints in engaging with local authorities.

How are the findings being used

In **Pakistan** (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province), the diagnostic tool was conducted in two districts (Charsadda and Peshawar). Authorities are now working towards institutionalizing the tool for formulation of the district development plan.

In **Indonesia** (Riau province), results from the diagnostic are being used to enhance the next development plan in Pelalawan and better align local fiscal resources with local SDG priorities, and enhance private sector engagement.

In **the Philippines** (Davao del Norte province), together with the Community Based Monitoring System the diagnostic was conducted in Panabo to provide evidences for district annual investments plans.