United Nations Development Programme

Regional Bureau for Arab States
Initiation Plan

Project Title: SDG Localization Towards a Regenerative Future for the Arab Region

Expected Regional Programme Outcome(s):

RPD Outcome 1: Poverty and inequality reduced through enhanced regional cooperation.

Expected RPD Output(s):

2.1 Support open, agile, accountable, and future-ready governance systems in co-creating and delivering solutions to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals achievement (SDGs) (Strategic Plan 2.1)

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: October 1, 2021/March 31, 2023

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Brief Description

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, all UN Member States together with the UN System and development partners at large have embarked on a major process to address the challenge of not only implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level but also locally. The real test indeed lies in transforming the aspirations of the SDGs into a reality for communities and individuals by supporting an inclusive and sustainable development of the territories and localities. The SDGs provide a powerful illustration of the challenges and opportunities that cities and their surroundings present, equal power for women in leadership and decision-making in local governance. Localizing the SDGs is firmly supported through the Local 2030 coalition, a network and platform that supports the on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs, with a focus on those furthest behind. It is a convergence point between local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations and other local actors, and the United Nations system.

In the spirit of supporting the Local 2030 coalition initiatives, UNDP and UN-HABITAT are working together in supporting activities of the Steering Committee, the UN system and partners. It is in the same vein, that in the Arab region, UNDP's regional programme is undertaking a regional initiative to contribute to this course under SDG+ Localization. The initiative focuses on Output 1.1 of the Regional Programme on 'the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmental agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solution. This will be done through a project initiation plan with 3 key outputs below:

1. Capacity of a cohort of learners on SDG localization in the region enhanced
2. Appropriate steps and mechanisms for establishing a knowledge hub on SDG localization developed
3. A project proposal for the future implementation of SDG localization in the region developed

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Programme Period: 01 October 2021-31 March 2023			Total resources required:	$200,0000
			Total allocated resources:	$200,0000
Atlas Project Number:	00138207		• Regular	N/A
Atlas Output ID:	00128370		• Other:	
			o Govt of Italy	$200,000
Gender Marker:	GEN 2			
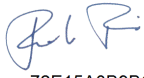
Agreed by UNDP:

Paola Pagliani, Regional Programme Coordinator, RBAS

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I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, all UN Member States together with the UN System and development partners at large have embarked on a major process to address the challenge of not only implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level but also locally. The real test lies in transforming the aspirations of the SDGs into a reality for communities and individuals by supporting an inclusive and sustainable development of the territories and localities. The implementation of SDGs requires an integrated approach to coordinate and articulate the actions among local, regional, national and global facets. The SDGs provide a powerful illustration of the challenges and opportunities that cities and their surroundings present.

Localizing the SDGs is supported through the Local 2030 coalition, a network and platform that propels on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs, with a focus on those furthest behind. It is a convergence point between local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations and other local actors, and the United Nations system. Local 2030 supports local leaders in collaboratively incubating and sharing solutions, unlocking bottlenecks and implementing strategies to localizing SDGs. It is envisaged that 2022 is the year for Local 2030 Coalition to establish itself as the UN-wide System platform for SDGs localization. With only seven (7) years left to achieve the goals of Agenda 2030, the Local 2030 Coalition is set to empower local governments and actors to accelerate delivery of the SDGs.

In the spirit of supporting the Local 2030 coalition initiatives, UNDP and UN-habitat are working together in supporting activities of the Steering Committee, the UN system and partners. It is in the same vein, that in the Arab region, UNDP's regional programme is undertaking a regional initiative to contribute to this course under SDG+ Localization. The objective of the initiative SDGs+ Localizations towards a Regenerative Future for the Arab Region is to design a multi-stakeholder and collective process to achieve an SDGs+ agenda of localization. It will also promote peer-based knowledge transfer and global knowledge exchange between key local governance stakeholders. This component in the new initiative will be carried out through the collaboration of several UNDP offices, networks of Local and Regional Government (LRG) engaged in SDG localization and the Italian Cooperation.

The strategy of the ongoing initiative promoted by UNDP-Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development (ART) programme that builds upon the long-standing commitment of Italy to foster integrated territorial development initiatives as well as its experience and excellence in supporting sustainable regional and local development in its own territories. Over the past decade, through the support of UNDP's initiative, Italy's contribution has resulted in the activation of concrete mechanisms for participatory processes at the local level. This has contributed to setting-up multilevel governance mechanisms, methodologies, and tools to promote local development processes, and strengthening economic and social cohesion by reducing disparities in representation, particularly by increasing women participation.

In this context, and in the framework of the ongoing Partnership for SDG localization initiative, the UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab State (RBAS), in cooperation with UNDP Country Offices (COs) in the Arab States region, is working towards engaging multiple stakeholders in the co-creation of a regional initiative within the Regional Local Agenda 2030 Framework. The initiative fosters the establishment of a permanent dialogue with stakeholders interested in local sustainable development, including Arab Universities and an International network of PhD schools on the SDGs convened by the Italian Think Tank CeSPi (Centre for Politics and International Studies).

The initiative focuses on outputs 2.1 of the Regional Programme to support open, agile, accountable, and future-ready governance systems in co-creating and delivering solutions to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals achievement (SDGs). Also, data shows that border areas are often left behind in fragile states with limited or no state presence, even though in the Arab region they form nodal centres for regional peace and economic development. Therefore, SDG localization is interconnected to the way we build and manage our urban spaces, this includes factoring in borderland towns that are left behind in development advancement. All these aspects will form the focus of a project initiation plan with three key outputs as follows:

- Capacity of a cohort of learners on SDG localization in the region enhanced Appropriate steps and mechanisms for establishing a knowledge hub on SDG localization developed
- A project proposal for the future implementation of SDG localization in the region developed

II.   MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Under this Project Initiation Plan (PIP), the SDG Integration team at UNDP Amman Hub will lead the project development process and will be responsible to implement all necessary activities, with the support of the RBAS Regional Programme team. An Internal Working Group will be established to guide, and review and endorse the project document of the new initiative. The Internal Working Group is responsible for ensuring that the deliverables outlined in this Initiation Plan are completed on time and in line with the requirements of all involved parties. It will be composed of:

- The Regional Policy Advisor on SDG Integration and the Regional Programme Coordinator – coordinating the substantive strategic and programmatic aspects.
- The Partnerships Development Specialist – supporting the partnership aspects (RBAS NY)
- The SDG Coordination Specialist – Project Manager of this initiative
- The Economic Officer – supporting activities and liaising with UNDP COs

Additionally, three (3) consultants will be required to help develop various aspects of the new project and support activities. These additional capacities are as follows:

- ✓ *A senior Consultant on SDGs Localization and Role of Academic* to support the conceptualization and development of this regional initiative, with a focus on connecting the Arab region to global initiatives and localization actors that focus on local governance and territorial partnerships and on developing a knowledge sharing framework and platform with leading academic institutions on SDGs localization.
- ✓ *An SDGs Localization Consultant* to support the implementation of this regional initiative, with a focus on organizing a series of dialogues, seminars and consultations aimed at developing the regional initiatives and identifying the role of various stakeholders.
- ✓ *A senior consultant on project design*: To support the formulation of a project document for the new regional project to mobilize resources and embark on proposals to scale-up initiatives in other region(s).

III.   MONITORING

To ensure strong multi-level ownership, the Initiation Plan will be implemented in full consultation and close engagement with country office, academic networks, Civil Society Organization and other relevant stakeholders – in particular those who will benefit from and be directly involved in the implementation of the project (i.e. direct project beneficiaries). A list of these stakeholders will be prepared throughout the implementation of this plan and included as *Annex* to the eventual project document. A final validation workshop will be conducted along with other consultations, and the outcome of these consultations will be documented in a validation report, which will also include a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The validation workshop will gather representatives from all relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the final draft project document.

The aim is to discuss the resulting project proposal with relevant donors and stakeholders within and beyond the region.

The PIP will apply the regular monitoring and reporting framework established in UNDP. The project manager will be responsible to produce regular updates of the activities and the final validation report by UNDP. A project document will be attached to the report or an explanation if initiation does not produce a full project. The monitoring of activities will use UNDP formats as per the POPP regulations.

IV.   WORK PLAN

Period[1]: 01 October 2021-31 March 2023

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME						RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount in USD
Output 1: Capacity of a cohort of learners on SDG localization in the region enhanced *Indicator:* 1.1 Number of learners whose capacity is developed 1.2 Number of partners mapped and engaged *Baseline:*	1.1. Support mission to Rome and partnership agreement with Rome Tre University and network of the International PhD School on the SDGs (a network consisting of 42 academic and doctoral schools from 29 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean convened in Italy) to create and host a training cluster on the Localization of the SDG	X						UNDP Project Manager and selected member of SDGi team	Italian Govt. seed funding	Travel	4,750

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[1]Maximum 18 months

1.1 0 1.2 0 *Target:* 1.1 40 1.2 3	1.2. Knowledge management accompanied by the creation of "Permanent Seminar on the localization of the SDGs" hosted by two/three universities in Italy and running of 4-6 seminars	X	X				UNDP	CESPI	Consultant	34,500
	1.3. Identify focal points in UNDP, UN-Habitat, NGOs, UNHCR and Italian AICS country offices including the development of thematic areas of seminars, training materials and reporting on progress of on-going initiatives	X	X				UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Consultant	26,400
	1.4. Document progress on SDGs localization and identify areas for follow-up/project support, through: • Submission of a concept note • Publication of webinar content material	X	X				UNDP	Italian Govt. seed funding	Staff	1,500
									Contractual services	5,500

Sub-total Output 1											72,650
Output 2: Appropriate steps and mechanisms for establishing a knowledge hub on SDG localization developed *Indicator:* 2.1 Institutional focus areas identified on SDG Localisation, including on gender participation *Baseline*: 2.1 Absence of a mapping on SDG localisation and gender inclusion *Target:* 2.1 A Gender inclusive actors' inventory and SDG localisation in place	2.1. Develop a guidance note on the steps and mechanisms to establish a knowledge hub for SDGs localization		X	X				UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Consultant	11,250
	2.2. Map key stakeholders to be engaged in SDG localisation initiatives		X	X				UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Consultant	18,100
Sub-total Output 2											29,350
Output 3: A project proposal for the future	3.1 Document COs current work and needs related to SDG			X	X			UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Staff	5,000

implementation of SDG localization in the region developed	localization and borderland towns contexts, including identifying appropriate SDG localization evidence-based interventions/demands								Contractual services	5,000
Indicator: 3.1 Project proposal developed for SDG localization 3.2 Number of buy-in from Country Offices	3.2 Mission to conduct assessment and develop roadmap content in support of CO contexts on SDG localization			X	X	X	UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Travel	8,000
	3.3 Organize up to two (2) regional workshops on SDG localization and agree on key areas of collaboration with stakeholders				X	X	UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Travel	42,000
Baseline: 3.1 Absence of a proposal on SDG localisation 3.2. 0									Contractual services	8,000
Target: 3.1 Project proposal for SDG localization discussed and approved by RBAS 3.2 Buy-in from 2 COs	3.4 Formulate a project document to mobilize resources and embark on proposals to scale-up SDG localization initiatives			X		X	UNDP	Italian Govt. Seed Funding	Detail assignment	15,000
Sub-total Output 3										83,000
GMS										15,000

TOTAL		
		200,000

Annex 1: Risk Analysis

	Project Title: SDG Localization towards a Regenerative Future for the Arab Region				Project Number:00138207	Date: October 2021			
#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures/ Mngt response	Risk Owner	Submitted updated by	Last update	Status
1	Instability and political tensions in the region prevent advocacy for the SDG localization agenda	January 2022	Political	P =2 I = Moderate	Minimize negative impacts, UNDP Regional Programme Coordinator/SDG Coordination Specialist for more coordination. Showing more impartiality and neutrality. Involving all stakeholders and recipients	Initiative Manager and Regional Programme Coordinator	Justus Okoko		Ongoing
2	Political tensions during field visits and initiative	March 2022	Security	P=2 I=Moderate	Close collaboration and coordination with the UN Department for Safety and Security	UNDP CO Programme	Justus Okoko		Ongoing
3	Delays in COs submitting list of stakeholders	February 2022	Strategic	P = 2 I = Moderate	Discussion to be held with UNDP COs office management and responsible programme staff	Initiative Manager UNDP CO Management	Justus Okoko		Decrease in risk
4	Lack of interest from other UN agencies or stakeholders, especially in supporting training sessions and pilot initiatives	March 2022	Strategic	P = 2 I = Moderate	Arrange constant inter-agency meetings and follow up with concerned UN agencies on key roles. It is important to maintain effective collaboration with UN-HABITAT and UNCHR given their roles in urban development and refugees support respectively.	Initiative Manager, UNDP CO Management and Regional Programme Coordinator	Justus Okoko		Ongoing