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SOU 36: Leave No One Behind – by localising the 2030 Agenda,
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Summary of the introductory report

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a.) Introduction

Localising global agendas

Local governments and cities are crucial actors for the implementation of global and international agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. Without the involvement of local and regional governments, the goals of these agendas cannot be reached. Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness among local, regional and national governments as well as development partners for the importance of these agendas and the crucial role that local actors play in implementing it.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

One of the five key principles of the 2030 Agenda is the goal to ‘Leave No One Behind (LNOB)’. LNOB is a crosscutting issue that is embedded in many SDGs, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda and gives new momentum to inclusive forms of urban governance. When implementing the SDGs on the local level, it is imperative to make sure to leave no one anyone behind and to reach out to the furthest behind first. This approach offers opportunities and poses challenges, e.g. regarding the question of how to measure the implementation of LNOB and how to report on the progress. The disaggregation of data is also crucial with regard to recognising and responding to inequalities or to ensure access to basic services.

The role of decentralisation and local governance

Decentralisation and local governance (DLG) reforms can have a great impact in many respects. Livelihoods can only be improved when people on the local level are being reached. Therefore, decentralised political and administrative systems are required to bring governments closer to the people and ensure better service delivery. DLG reforms also play an important role in achieving international agreements. Agreements such as the 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris climate agreement and the New Urban Agenda can hardly be achieved without taking into account and involving the local level. Decentralised institutions and forms of governance are therefore an important basis for the successful localisation of the 2030 Agenda.
b.) The session SOU 36: Leave No One Behind – by localising the 2030 Agenda

Goal of the session

As many African countries are facing challenges with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, its goals and principles, this session aims at giving room for an exchange on the opportunities, challenges as well as experiences of the localisation of the 2030 Agenda.

DeLoG wants to raise awareness for the principle ‘Leave No One Behind (LNOB)’, pointing out possibilities of how to leave no one behind by localising the 2030 Agenda and taking stock of the process of localising the SDGs in Africa.

Agenda

The first part of the session aims at presenting good practice examples of local and regional initiatives from Africa to implement the SDGs and the implementation of the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’. The challenges and opportunities arising therefrom for local and regional governments will be discussed. The challenges of disaggregating data, which is crucial for recognising and responding to certain inequalities and ensuring accessibility, will be addressed, as well. The session will start by a general overview of these topics, followed by concrete experiences from local and regional governments in Africa.

The second part of the session will give the participants the possibility to enter a debate regarding the challenges and opportunities for local authorities in how to respond to the 2030 Agenda and its call for measures not to leave the poorest and most vulnerable people behind. This includes access to basic services, inclusion and social cohesion, as these are important factors of sustainable cities and regions.

The session will conclude with a collection of recommendations of how to strengthen the capacity of local and regional governments in Africa to make further progress in not leaving anyone behind through the localisation of the SDGs.

There will be strong thematic synergies between this session and the session on ‘Localising the SDGs in Africa’, organised by UCLG. The common objective of the two sessions is to strengthen the localisation of the SDGs in Africa, to promote mutual learning and to foster decentralised cooperation.

Guiding questions

- What does localising the 2030 Agenda mean for you and your organisation?
- Which role in implementing the 2030 Agenda are there for local and regional actors and which local actors are crucial for the implementation of the SDGs?
- One of the key principles of the 2030 Agenda is ‘Leave No One Behind (LNOB)’. To what extent do local actors take LNOB into account when planning / implementing projects?
- What are best practice approach to deal with the challenge of the LNOB principle?
- Who are the most vulnerable groups in your community and how does the Agenda 2030 help to tackle their hardships?
- What resistance / problems do you encounter?
What is the situation regarding the availability of dis-aggregated data? Do we have sufficient data to know where we stand at the moment as local and regional actors (that is needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind)?

How do we go about getting the much needed disaggregated data?

Where to identify leverage to address the particularly disadvantaged groups?

How to ensure adequate participation by local communities, local businesses, faith-based groups in localising the SDGs?

To what extend are the strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda on the local level aligned to national development plans and frameworks? Is there is enough room for local actors to set their own, context sensitive priorities?

Is there adequate funding on the local level to implement the SDGs?

What mechanisms are in place to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs and the principle of LNOB among local actors, national institutions, stakeholders and development partners?

What are good practice examples for increasing the ownership of local communities for the 2030 agenda?

c.) Background: About DeLoG

(DeLoG) is an informal network of 29 bi- and multilateral development partners and acts as a knowledge platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG). It aims at strengthening the harmonisation and effectiveness of donor activities and contributes to current DLG debates by facilitating the exchange of experiences and knowledge among DLG practitioners, academia and the wider DLG audience. DeLoG offers various opportunities for debate and information dissemination, for example a blog, newsletter or the Global Seminar Series, a knowledge exchange format that provides the opportunity to present and discuss current DLG issues. Furthermore, DeLoG is a member of the learn4dev network and leads the thematic expert group on DLG. As such, DeLoG offers tailor-made joint learning events in different formats such as regional, in-country and open seminars as well as e-learning courses for member and partner organisation staff.