



# EThekweni VLR and the South African VNR

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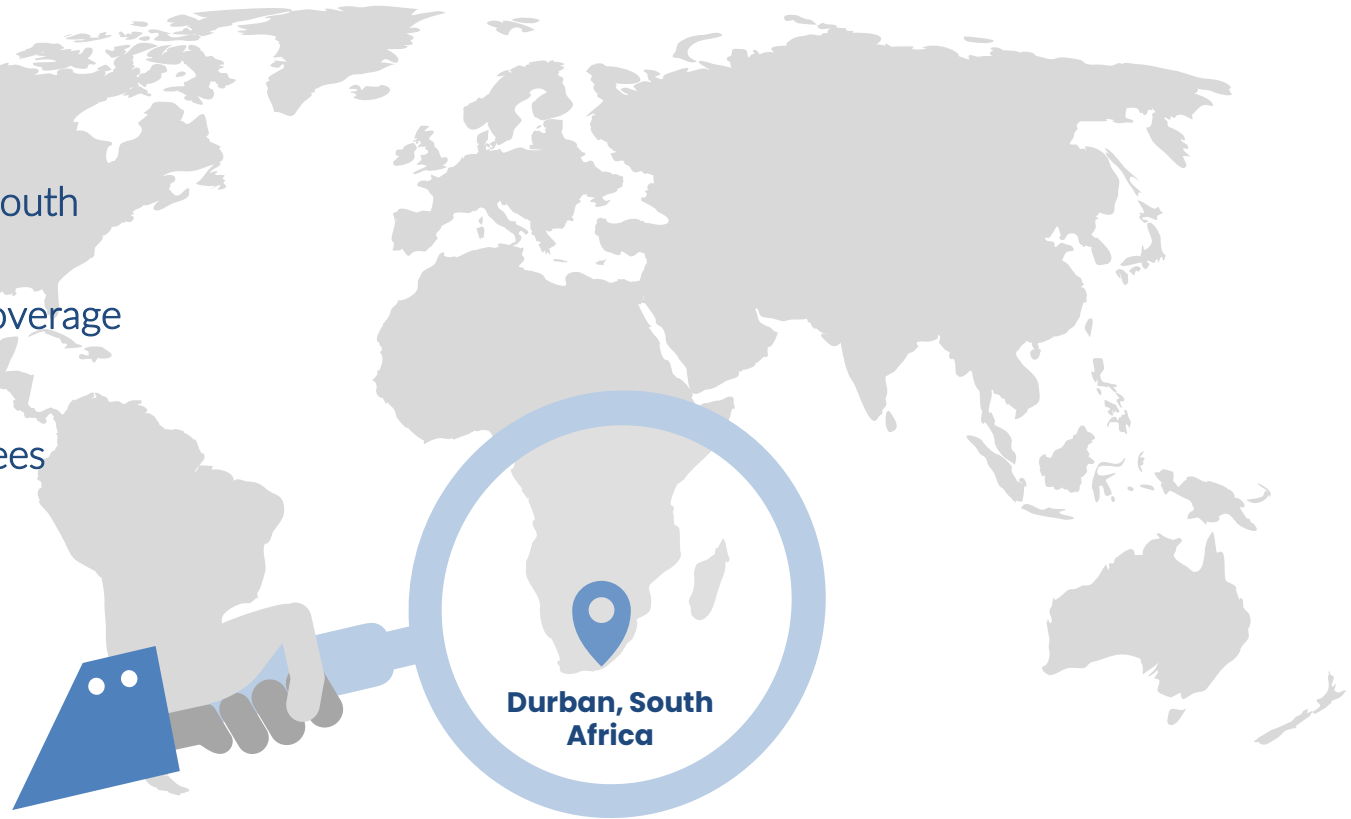


# EThekweni Municipality in context

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- ❖ 3rd Largest city in South Africa
- ❖ > 2500 km<sup>2</sup> land coverage
- ❖ -/+ R50 bn budget
- ❖ -/+ 30 000 employees
- ❖ Majority indigent households
- ❖ 68% rural



BY 2030 ETHEKWINI WILL BE AFRICA'S MOST LIVEABLE CITY



## VNR 2024 and the VLR's



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**South Africa has been actively engaged in supporting the preparation of voluntary local reviews (VLRs) and recognizes the importance of localizing the SDGs and involving local governments in the reporting process**



**The South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as a voice of local government, initiated an SDG program to support Municipalities to strengthen their advocacy work for the implementation of the SDGs and to be actively involved in the VNR.**



**Subnational authorities are included in VNR coordinating structures through formal mechanisms of representation, like SALGA having a seat on national committees or task forces responsible for overseeing the VNR process.**



**Municipalities submitted key messages during the VLR report writing workshop. Reflecting key messages from VLRs in the VNRs allows for a more comprehensive understanding of progress at the national level, including the challenges and successes experienced by local communities.**



## Alignment between the VNR & VLR



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Clear communication channels between national and local levels is needed, providing technical assistance and capacity-building support for data collection and analysis, stakeholder consultations, and integrating VLRs into broader national reporting mechanisms.

Additionally, fostering partnerships between national and local governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders can enhance the credibility and relevance of VNRs

SALGA's methodology supports selected municipalities in 5 phases whereby Civic society, Universities, Government departments, UNDP, UND-DESA and the SA National Planning commission shared tools, knowledge and lessons learned with municipalities

SALGA is working with National Statistics SA on data and STATSSA support municipalities in all provinces (The program is embedded with DATA as key

SALGA assisted municipalities to align SDGs and Municipal Integrated Development Plans; and undertook a deep dive into what services municipalities are offering and the related SDG projects

The development of the key messages to the VNR were developed during the VLR report writing retreat which was proposed by SALGA to provide a conducive environment and in-person support for writing the VLR.



# EThekweni Municipality: Progress noted during VLR process

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## **\*\* Municipal mandates are intrinsically aligned to the SDGs.**

- Enthusiasm and some good work is apparent across multiple SDGs, showcasing a commitment to localizing the global agenda for sustainable development.
- Environmental Stewardship: Notable achievements have been realized in environmental sustainability, with initiatives such as the "Green Corridor" project contributing to biodiversity conservation and the promotion of renewable energy.
- Community Engagement/ awareness: Strong community engagement has been a driving force, empowering residents to actively participate in shaping the municipality's sustainable development journey. All stakeholders engaged were eager to participate and are willing to work with the city to advance progress on the SDGs
- Collaborative projects/ partnerships are excelling and producing good results.
- Monitoring and reporting are in progress – indicators have been localized, SDG open data portal developed. EThekweni will report on all indicators where data is available, although 9 SDGs were prioritized in the VLR.
- Awareness efforts are bearing fruit.



# Efforts to raise awareness of SDGs and the VLR process

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- Science expo/ science clubs in partnership with Eskom
- Liaising with schools for workshops/ competitions
- Public art/ murals
- SDG Comic book
- SDG awareness through story telling
- Publications & videos on SDG related projects
- Webinars (internal & external)
- Other publications, social media posts
- Peer-reviewed journals published – data/ SDG 6/ institutionalisation
- Exploring SDG Awareness through Gaming



# ETHEKWINI SDG AWARENESS SURVEY RESULTS



**ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY** **DURBANSDGs**  
ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

## TAKE A QUIZ

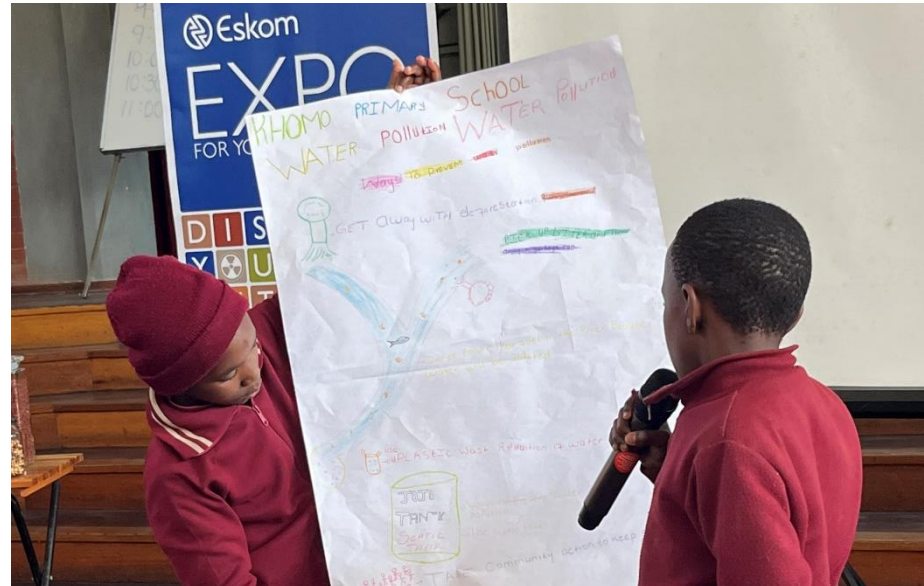
### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE SDGs?

EThekweni Municipality will be undertaking an SDG awareness campaign for all staff and the public at large.

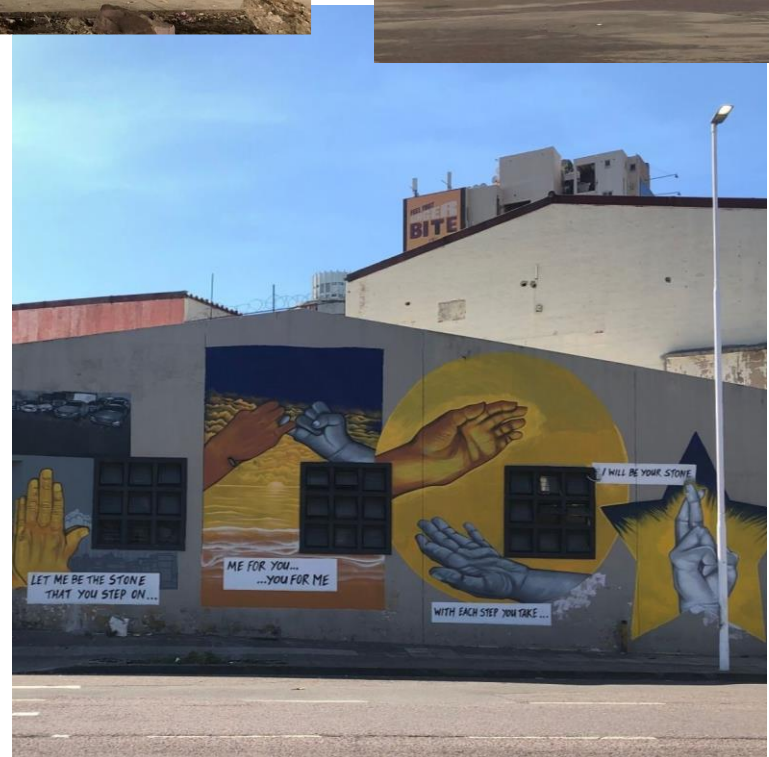
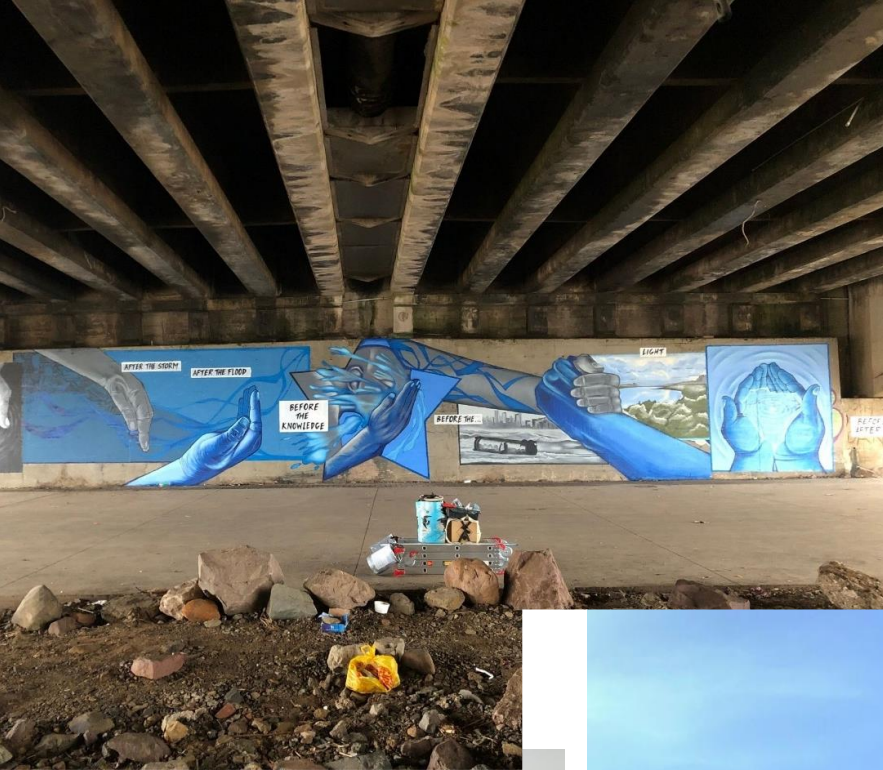
### But First!

We would like to find out what you know about the SDGs so that we prepare an informed campaign.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)



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# SDG Murals



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## Partnerships



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1. Warwick Zero Waste Project
2. Homelessness project with Southern Sun group
3. Sisonke food garden
4. Human Security assessments
5. SDG Awareness – murals, Eskom
6. REFFECT Africa Project – waste to energy
7. Hydro power
8. Buffelsdraai landfill reforestation by community
9. Transformative riverine management project
10. KwaMashu Waste beneficiation
11. Flood early warning system
12. Water reuse project Public Private Partnership
13. Community gardens/ agri-hubs
14. UK Prosperity fund – informal settlements and transit orientated development; data strategy
15. Bremen – trilateral report on SDG indicators, digital twin



## Conclusion



- The process of developing the VLR has highlighted the importance of collaboration/ partnerships; relevant, disaggregated and quality data for reporting, and the need for more awareness campaigns as areas that need urgent focus.
- Challenges, particularly with data availability and alignment of reporting within the South African context, must be sped up to portray an accurate status of the progress towards meeting the targets.
- In addition, advocacy and awareness initiatives must pick up speed to create accountability amongst every resident on the planet.
- Increase in dedicated financing is required to achieve the goals.



**THANK YOU!**