# Africa's Voluntary Local Reviews:
## Regional Guidelines & peer engagement

Regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary local reviews
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# Presentation Outline

**Background** SDG Implementation in Africa
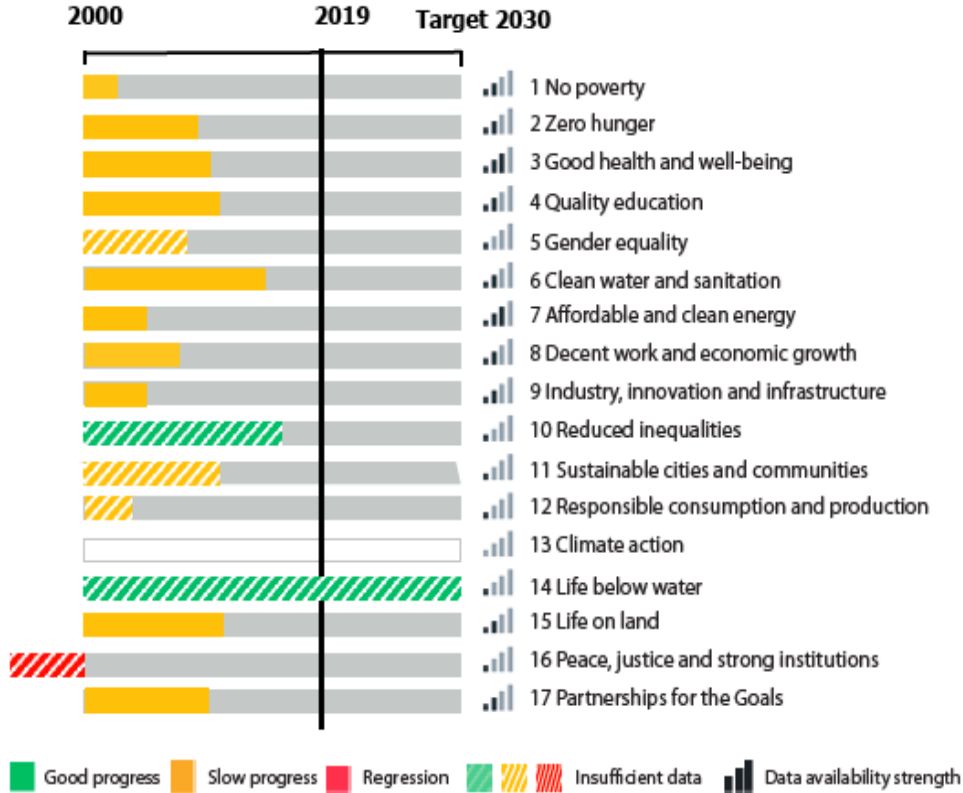
**COVID-19** and local action

**Voluntary Local Review** the tool

**Why** Africa Guideline and Template

**Africa VLR** Phased Process +Template and Tools

**Africa** VLR production: completed and in-progress

**Figure IV:** Progress made since 2000 towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

| 2000 | 2019 | Target 2030 |

- 1 No poverty
- 2 Zero hunger
- 3 Good health and well-being
- 4 Quality education
- 5 Gender equality
- 6 Clean water and sanitation
- 7 Affordable and clean energy
- 8 Decent work and economic growth
- 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10 Reduced inequalities
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 13 Climate action
- 14 Life below water
- 15 Life on land
- 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Good progress   Slow progress   Regression   Insufficient data   Data availability strength

*Source:* Report on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2020).

Implementation Progress

# COVID-19 and Local Action

- Impact at the local level

- Localities demonstrated flexibility and adaptability

- Health, education and standard of living impacted

- Africa has responded with innovation

- Reawakened investments in R&D, responsive health systems, biodiversity, climate change and socioeconomic conditions

- SDGs and Agenda 2063 in the spotlight as vehicles for a more sustainable future

- SDG's are a **"compass for bolstering Africa's long-term COVID recovery"**

# Benefits of VLR Production

| Benefits | De-siloing | Data-led policy | Shared language | Stakeholder Mobilization | Multi Stakeholder partnerships | Highlight strength and weakness | Monitoring progress | Transparent Accountability | Peer Review | Boost regional production | Global citizen ship |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SNG Government** | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | | ◆ | | ◆ | | | |
| **SNG-wide** | | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ | ◆ | | | |
| **Global** | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ |
| **Regional** | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| **National** | | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | | |

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**1** Member state request at ARFSD

**2** Contextual specificity

**3** Regional specificities of Agenda 2063

**4** Need to accelerate progress

**5** VLR accelerate overall progress

**6** Peer Review Mechanism

**Africa Voluntary
Local Review Guidelines**

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

UCLG AFRICA
CGLU AFRIQUE

UN⊕HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**1** **Member state request at ARFSD**

- ARFSD Discussions highlighted role of VLRs in accelerating the implementation, follow-up and review of both agendas

- Potential of VLRs in ensuring ownership, accountability and commitment from all stakeholders

- Promoting meaningful engagement and the mobilization of resources and capacity

- Specific request made from African Member States to UNECA to design a template for peer-reviewed VLRs in Africa that is aligned with VNRs

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**2** **Contextual specificity**

- Strong rural-urban linkages

- Highest urban growth rate

- Most of the continent's urbanisation yet to take place

- Non-urban localities are producing local reviews

- Standard guideline and template would enhance coherence

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**3** **Regional specificities of Agenda 2063**

Table 3.1: Aspirations of Agenda 2063

| | Agenda 2063 |
|---|---|
| 1 | A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development |
| 2 | An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance |
| 3 | An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law |
| 4 | A peaceful and secure Africa |
| 5 | An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics |
| 6 | An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and young people, and caring for children |
| 7 | Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner |

Source: African Union Commission (2014).

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**4**

**Need to accelerate progress in the region**

- While there has been some progress, the region is not on track to meeting Agenda 2030 nor the aspirations of Agenda 2063

- Alignment between national and sub-national development frameworks

- Number of SNGs in region are interested in conducting a local review

- And many are in some stage of localizing the SDGs to local plans.

- Offers guidance and best practices to spur further VLR production in the region.

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**5**

## VLRs accelerate progress overall

- Few VLRs produced in Africa

- VLRs are emerging as an inclusive and participatory instrument for collaboration

- Important tool for communication and spearheading dialogue across government and with local actors, including grassroots institutions and citizens.

# Why Africa VLR Guidelines

**6** **Peer Review Mechanism**

- Enable peer review

- Learning and sharing

# Leave No One Behind - Process of Engagement

## Identify

- **Left behind and disadvantaged groups**
- **Less visible 'left behind' groups**

Map

1. Who is left behind
2. Which groups are the hardest to reach/ those not represented by CSOs
3. Why left behind
4. How are they left behind
5. Why are they excluded from public discourse or regular data collection on SDGs/ A2063 targets, indicators and goals
6. Which local organizations support marginalized groups

## Assess

- **Data gaps**
- **Intersecting disadvantages**

Determine

1. What are the available statistics
2. What further data should be collected
   a. How will data be collected
   b. How will data be disaggregated
3. How can existing statistics be complemented with qualitative data
   a. To capture challenges faced by marginalized groups
4. Are groups facing multiple disadvantages
   a. What are the disadvantages
   b. Any intersecting or overlapping disadvantages

## Partner

- **Left behind and disadvantaged groups**
- **CSOs and universities**

Engage

1. How can CSOs and universities can help
   a. To identify and access groups not represented by CSOs
   b. Conduct qualitative research
   c. Identify appropriate indicators and relevant data sources
2. Participation of left behind groups in planning, implementation and follow-up phases of VLR

# Africa VLR: The Template

- Simple
- Easy to follow
- Best practices
- Lessons learned
- Guiding Questions
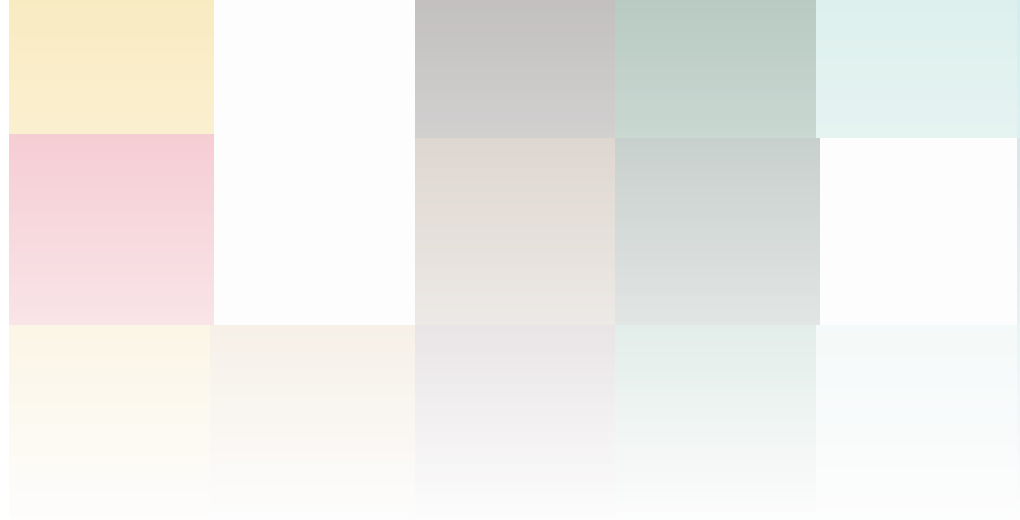
# Africa VLR Guideline - Guiding Principles

- **Find out where you are and define a way forward**. VLRs are a tool for monitoring and measuring progress, but they are also a mechanism for planning local action. A lack of data should not hold you back and start with what you have.

- **VLRs are a tool for telling your local story.** VLRs allow local and regional governments to tell their story and present local priorities.

- **VLRs represent a process, not just a product.** The VLR is a process and not just a report and the process is engaging, participatory and unbound by a defined start and end dates.

- VLRs should promote multi-stakeholder engagement that incorporates principles of human rights, gender equality and leaving no one behind.

- VLRs enhance linkages between national and local levels of government.

**Phase I**

- Methodological Processes: preparatory work, literature review and visioning

- SDGs and Agenda 2063 - Linking priorities

- Stakeholder engagement planning

- Institutional Model for leading review

- Roadmap and work plan

**Phase II**

- Data collection, analysis and write up

- Validation, Publication & dissemination

**Phase III**

- Integration, Monitoring, Implementation and Follow-up

- Conclusion

# Africa VLR: The Process

| Policy Areas/ Strategic Pillar | SDG 1: Poverty | | | | | | | SDG 2: Food Security | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1a | 1b | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2a | 2b | 2c |
| Health Strategy | x | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Sector Policy | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Biodiversity Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | |
| Land Policy Act | x | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Smallholder Policy | | | | | x | | x | | x | x | | | | | |
| Justice Systems Reforms Program | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | | |
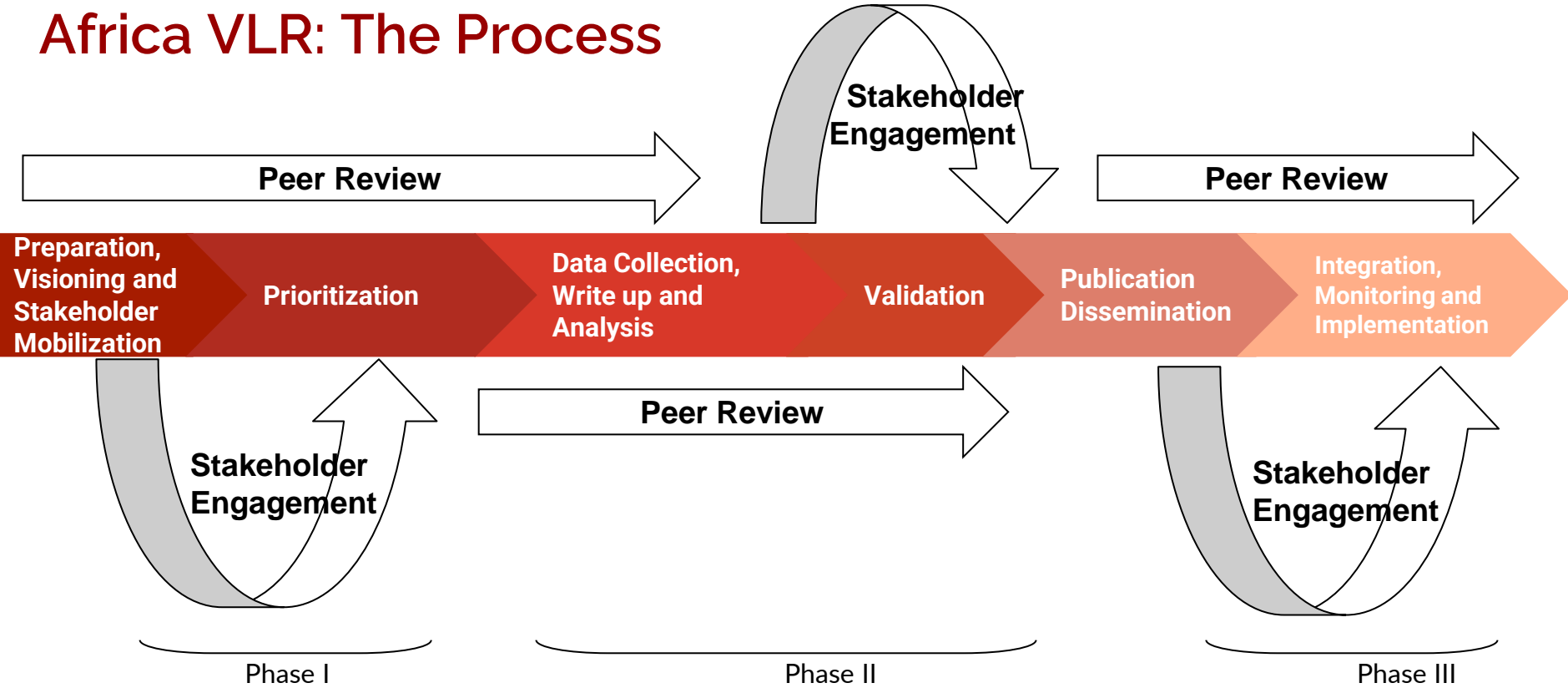
Table1: SDG Alignment Table

| Sustainable Development Goals | Local Sustainability Policy | Other relevant local policies? | Local initiatives and projects |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GOAL 1: NO POVERTY End Poverty in all its forms everywhere** | | | |
| 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day | | | |
| 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions | | | |

Table 2: Mapping Agenda 2063 to Local Policies and Strategies

| 2063 Aspirations | Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development | | | | | | | Aspiration 2: An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance | | | Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law | | Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa | | | Aspiration 5: Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics | Aspiration 6: An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children | | Aspiration 7: An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2063 Goals** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Health Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Youth Livelihood Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 3: Linking 2063 and SDGs[1]

| UN SDGs | Agenda 2063 Goals | Local Policy Area/ Strategic Pillar |
|---|---|---|
| 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world | 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all<br>5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life | |
| 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. | 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all<br>3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens<br>4. Transformed economies and job creation<br>5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate) | |
| 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. | 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life | |

**AFRICA VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW GUIDELINES**

<u>Table 6: PEER-REVIEW CHECKLIST BY PHASE</u>

VLR:
Prepared by:
Date:

**Pre-VLR**

| Activity | Initiated | In-progress | Advanced | Not Started | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SDG and Agenda 2063 awareness-raising with local stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Localization of SDGs through the production of a localization report or some sort of SDGs report for local context | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Organization of survey or questionnaire to be distributed locality--wide that captures inputs to the SDGs and A20 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Determine resources needed to conduct local review | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| **Comments** | | | | | |

## Phase I

| Activity | Initiated | In-progress | Advanced | Not Started | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conduct a literature review of local policies, strategies, plans and programmes responding the SDGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Organization of survey or questionnaire to be distributed locality-wide that captures inputs to the SDGs and A2063 | ☐ | ☐ | | ☐ | |
| SDG Awareness raising and public outreach with local stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Identify organizations collecting data for the localized targets or indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Map SDGs to local plans and strategies | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Map Agenda 2063 goals and indicators to local plans and strategies | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Determine institutional mechanism to lead the production of VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Phase II

| Activity | Initiated | In-progress | Advanced | Not Started | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prioritize goals, targets and indicators for review. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Define the number of goals locality wants to measure and monitor | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Continue identifying organizations collecting data for the localized targets and indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Develop proxy indicators where needed | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Finalize the definition of local targets and indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Where possible, present data in terms of in time-series, percentages, proportions, ratios | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Develop data collection methodology and approach identifying list of instruments for data collection, sources of limitations encountered | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Review progress against each identified priority SDG | | | | | |

| Activity | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carry out review of draft VLR internally | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Establish validation period and how to conduct | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Carry out review of draft VLR with key stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Incorporate comments and feedback from key stakeholders to VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Validate VLR from relevant parties through identified mechanism | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

**Comments**

| Activity | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contribute to national SDG/ A2063 monitoring mechanisms including VNR processes that assist national government goals, targets and indicators / Reflect on how the collection, maintenance and use of local data can be used to inform service delivery | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Collaboration with local stakeholder in local decision making and planning | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Continued involvement of stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups in the follow up actions | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Follow—up meetings with regional and global stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Phase III & post-VLR

| Activity | Initiated | In-progress | Advanced | Not Started | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Publish VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Consider translation into local languages, if applicable | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Wide dissemination of VLRs to stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Presentation of VLR with relevant national Government authorities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Integration with VNR processes | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Develop a communications strategy around the main messages and lessons learnt of the VLR to share | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Develop roadmap to follow up plan on key accelerator goals and action items as identified in VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Identify impact of VLR process and report (using ECA template on VLR impact and lessons learned) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

| Activity | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Address lessons learned from first VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Participate in peer review exercises with other regional SNGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Participate in the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, national urban forums and other related forums to exchange experience and lessons learnt from the process | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| Planning for a future VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

**Comment**

# **Africa** VLR Production

## 9 published
## 10 in progress

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021-2022 |
|------|------|-----------|
| Busia | Accra | Brazzaville |
| Kwale | Harare | Cape Town |
| Marsabit | Ngora District | Brikama |
| Taita Taveta | Victoria Falls | Kanifing |
| | Yaoundé | Kuntaur |
| | | Benin *2 localities |
| —— | | Zimbabwe *3 localities |

Thank you