

# VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW-VLR 2022

## A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF LOCALIZATION OF SDGs AT DISTRICT LEVEL



July 2022



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July, 2022

**Conducted by:**

*Awaz Foundation Pakistan*



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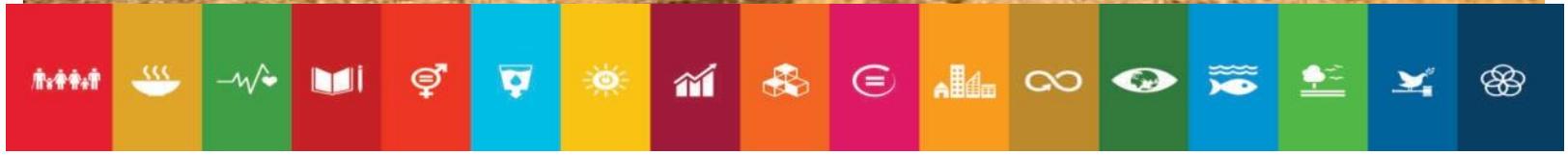




Gilgit



Di Khan



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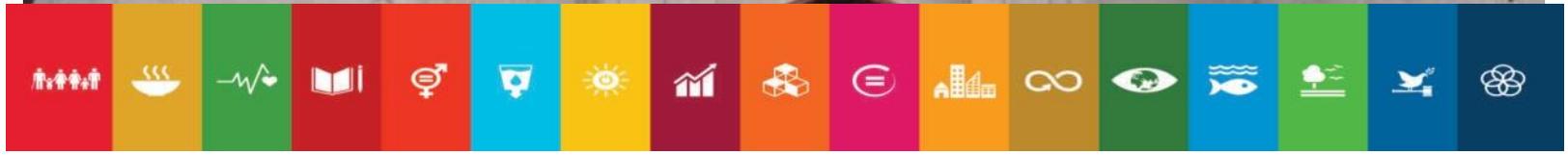




Karachi



Lahore



## Acronyms

ADPs	Annual Development Plans
AJ&K	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
CPDI	Center for Peace and Development Initiative
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
SCSPEB	Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education Balochistan
C&W	Construction and Works
DIK	Dera Ismail Khan
DHO	District Health Officer
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
LGs	Local Governments
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
LGRD	Local and Rural Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoHR	Ministry of Human Rights
MoPD	Ministry of Planning, Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MNCH	Maternal and Newborn Child Health
NEC	National Economic Council
NFC	National Financial Commission
PDA	Pakistan Development Alliance
PFC	Provincial Financial Commission
PITE	Provincial Institute for Teacher Training
SWD	Social Welfare Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WESS	Water Environment and Sanitation Society
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization





Peshawar



Muzaffarabad



## Preface

Localization of any global and regional agenda is normally a challenging and politically less supported everywhere in the developing countries, however Pakistan is among worst of them, where local governments are non-functional for more than 5 decades or so. Ironically, Pakistan remained under dictatorships for nearly half of the period since its inception in 1947 and rest of the period was comprised of various hybrid regimes. Truly democratic regimes were never witnessed by the ill-fated people of Pakistan till today. Interestingly, dictators always like the local government systems i.e. General Ayub Khan introduced basic democracies at the local levels in 60s', General Zia ul Haq ruled through Union and District Councils in 80s' and finally the last dictator General Pervez Musharraf launched and successfully implemented devolution of power through much empowered local bodies during 2000-2007. However, none of them were able to give administrative, financial and political powers to the elected representatives, truly, at the local levels. On the other hand, unfortunately none of the so called hybrid regimes were interested in local governance because of the fear of distribution of resources. After 18<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment in 2010 about 27 ministries and departments were devolved to provinces however none of the basic departments were ever devolved to the local government levels and all of them are still being governed through provincial governments. Provincial governments receive hefty finances from federal exchequer every financial year through national finance commission awards whereas none of the province has yet announced any provincial finance commission award. Local governments have no constitutional cover therefore provincial governments do not abide by the rulings of Supreme Court of Pakistan for holding local government elections every after five years. I personally had to face 23 days' imprisonment while we advocated for strong local government system and introduced shadow local governance in District Multan of Southern Punjab.

Agenda 2030 for social transformation and SDGs have the same fate as of local government system. National and provincial Parliamentary Task Forces, SDGs Units are functional and working well as they have also produced national and provincial priority frameworks towards the achievement of SDGs in Pakistan however none of the district level functionaries have yet set their priorities towards the implementation and achievement of SDGs. Whereas almost 65 global and national indicators are directly related to local governments and institutions. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report presented by Pakistan Development Alliance is first of its kind that shares challenges towards the localization of SDGs in Pakistan. The findings and recommendations of the VLR-report will open up new avenues of engagement and learning among governments and civil society organizations, alliances and their networks, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral programs and donors for the localization of SDGs in Pakistan.

I personally, and on behalf of AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance, thank all the contributors and supports of this significant process to present you this distinctive VLR-Report. I also take this opportunity to personally thank VSO-Pakistan as without their financial contributions, this significant work, might not have been possible.

I wish all the best for the readers and look forward to have feedback for the improvement of our work in future.  
With immense regards

Zia ur Rehman  
Chief Executive  
AwazCDS-Pakistan  
National Chair- Pakistan Development Alliance



## Special Message

The agenda of “Leave No One Behind” is at the core of the VSO work in Pakistan and it can only be achieved if the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved in its true sense. Therefore, we strive to support the government of Pakistan in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through our different interventions since 2018. Through our Social Accountability approach are empowering poor and marginalized people to lead their own development by exercising voice, claiming rights, and holding those in power to account. We are bridging the gap between marginalized segment of the society and the people who hold power at the government level and equip the marginalized to raise their voices and making sure that these voices are heard at the highest level and there are measures taken by the government to address the issues faced by this segment of the society.

Based on our previous interventions for sensitization, capacity building of communities and power holders on SDGs, one of the biggest lessons learnt was the localization of SDGs and at grassroot level. In Pakistan at the federal and provincial level Parliamentary Task Forces, SDGs Units are functional and working well and there are national and provincial priority frameworks which is the road map in achievement of the SDGs in Pakistan, but these structures and frameworks are missing at the district level.

Through this “Voluntary Local Review” of SDGs we have tried to capture and share the challenges faced towards the localization of SDGs at district level, for which that data has been collected at the district level through our citizen score card. The findings of this report will not only help shape VSO's future programming but will also help government and other development actors to align their priorities in line with the needs of these marginalized communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our partner AWAZ-CDS and Pakistan Development Alliance who are at the ground with the communities and are the driving force in achieving the results we set and who have huge contribution in bringing positive changes in the lives of the people we are working with.

Best Regards

Hashim Bilal  
Country Director  
VSO Pakistan



## Acknowledgements

AwazCDS-Pakistan wishes to thank Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); members of Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA) for their support and facilitation in 13 district of Pakistan (list of districts, line departments and list of participating members is attached as Annex 1), in administering Voluntary Local Review (VLR) survey. Their excellent cooperation despite short duration and meeting somewhat inflexible timelines shows their commitment and resourcefulness to be able to gather information required for the review of localization process of SDGs in selected districts of all regions of Pakistan. We are ever indebted! We gratefully acknowledge officials from district line departments who despite their official commitments and pressing engagements, took time to be part of the survey and shared pivotal information which greatly enriched the report on situational analysis of localization of SDGs.



Rajanpur

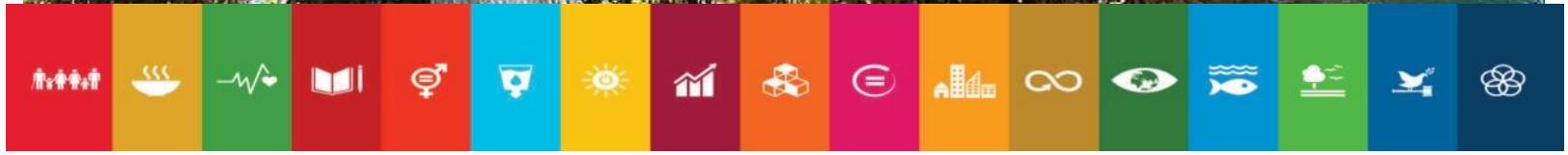




Astore



Khuzdar



## 1.0 Introduction and Background

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is an analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a specific local context. It is a very important monitoring tool for their implementation at city or regional level. The process of SDGs localization that starts with the Voluntary Local Review allows local authorities to identify their own priorities and territorial specificities. When it combines a careful analysis of indicators with a participatory process that involves citizen and local stakeholders and a coherence analysis of existing policies as a basis for planning and policy design it also becomes a strategic planning tool. “Localization” is the process of taking into account national, subnational and local contexts in the achievement of SDGs, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.”

Pakistan has shown stronger political commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and signed the international agreement on the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Pakistan, has taken concrete steps to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) between 2016 and 2030. For meeting its commitment, it has put in concerted efforts in policy coherence. In 2016, Pakistan integrated SDGs into its National Development Agenda through unanimous resolution by the National Assembly of Pakistan. In 2016, A National Program for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) was launched at Federal and Provincial Level, with UNDP's Technical Assistance for Implementation of SDGs. To institutionalize the 2030 Agenda, a five-year project 'National Initiative for Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs' has been launched jointly by the Ministry of Planning, Development (MoPD), Government of Pakistan and United Nations Development Programme – UNDP Pakistan.

The Federal SDGs Support Unit was established to provide coordination and support to respective federal ministries and line departments. The Unit is actively undertaking coordination, reporting, and monitoring progress towards SDGs, and providing policy, research, and knowledge management support for the Goals. At the same time, the team is working to create awareness amongst stakeholders about the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals by engaging them through multiple communication activities and tools.

National SDGs framework was launched envisaging national vision, plan and strategy to localize the full potential of SDGs in the country in 2018. Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs in the National and Provincial Parliaments was formed and a Sub-Committee of National Economic Council (NEC) for SDGs at the National level. Provincial Steering / Technical Committees in all provinces were also formed. Sub-national priority frameworks are also formed very recently in the year 2022, however, the institutional arrangement for localization of SDGs at the district levels is not in place. Only two district of Pakistan have Localization of District SDG plans, namely Killa Abdullah, Balochistan and Tharparker, Sindh out of 148 districts all over Pakistan. These two districts have identified projects and have aligned them with SDGs. Similarly the two districts have shown commitment but they lack capacities implementing SDGs as per priority targets and indicators of Pakistan. Additionally, they have no mechanism for data collection and lack and monitoring and evaluation expertise. These two district Annual Development Plans were developed with technical and financial support from United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in fact this is a UNDP show.

Local government elections are usually disrupted by the sub-national / provincial governments because they do not like to share and/ or devolve the resources to the lowest elected bodies. Therefore, local governments are either not available or non-functional in most of the districts of the country. Local administration comprised of various provincial departments led by Deputy Commissioner forms the district government. This is also a fact that thousands of schemes, for instance, education, health, infrastructure and other district level service delivery projects and schemes are and can be directly connected with one or the other SDGs. But retrofitting and planning is not in a way that these schemes could directly connect or contribute to achieving SDGs through localization. The district level Annual Development Plans (ADPs) continue to work on the old ways and processes, none of the district ADPs are aligned with SDGs except for two



abovementioned districts. Thus the success of localization process of SDGs in these two districts is yet to be found out after the implementation of their respective ADPs.

Government of Sindh is taking baby steps toward localization of SDGs, it has mentioned that such and such scheme would contribute to specific SDGs. According to an estimate Pakistan needs additional 100 billion dollars to achieve the Agenda 2030, which is seemingly an uphill task for Pakistan. Interestingly, the World Bank (WB) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has not shown any interest in the SDGs, UNDP only is pushing and steering this agenda, however this seem difficult that the Agenda 2030 can be fulfilled nationally or internationally, especially by third world countries.

Another problem at the grassroots level is the absence of administrative and financial powers of the district governments, despite devolution from federal government to provincial governments. An even greater challenge is how to create awareness and knowledge about SDGs, how critical the SDG goals are to uplifting the lives of the people and how to make the process sustainable at the district levels.

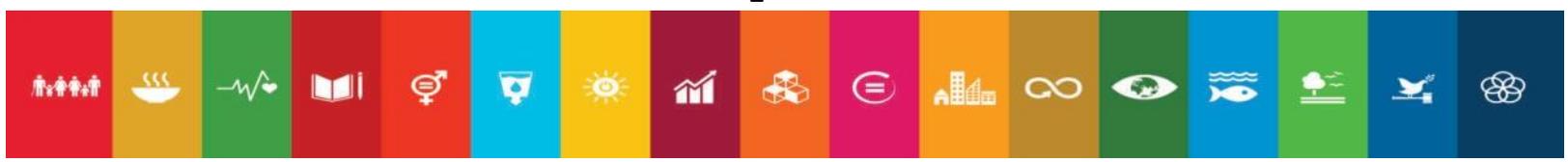
The Local Governments (LGs) are closest to the ground decision making, but democratic process in Pakistan is so fragile that no national government completes its term, the provincial governments get a chance to govern for a few years, they feel insecure to take concrete steps toward devolution of power to local governments. They tend to work on the schemes like street lights, street pavements or water supply and sanitation schemes in their constituencies to keep their vote bank intact. The above works are actually responsibility and mandate of the local governments, they are never given a chance and therefore their capacity for local governance remains an issue. There is another issues of funds that the local councils receive after National Financial Commission Awards (NFC) and Provincial Financial Commission Awards (PFC), the percentage of finances allocated for LGs is too small and further divided between the councilors, which is literally peanuts and no big projects can be implemented and to contribute to achieving SDGs. Unless democracy is given a chance and power is transferred smoothly to elected party every five years continuously, there is a possibility that the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment and local governments ordinance 2021 can be implemented in its true spirit.

AwazCDS-Pakistan with support from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and in collaboration with PDA- CSO members took initiative to evaluate SDGs implementation through conducting VLR survey in 13 districts, two in each regions, one urban and the other rural districts. The regions included, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AKJ) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). This report presents the finding of on ground situation of progress on localization of SDGs.

## 1.1 Limitations of survey

Like any other research, VLR survey was faced with several limitations which influenced the data collection and resultant analysis. There were shortcomings, conditions and influences that could not be controlled by AwazCDS-Pakistan and partner CSOs and that placed restrictions. Following are key limitations that influenced the results.

- It is important to have a sufficient sample size in order to draw valid conclusions. The larger the sample, the more precise results are. Due to funding constraints to carry out survey, AwazCDS-Pakistan was restricted to smaller sample size that made it difficult to identify significant relationships in the data.
- Time constraints to carry out a survey.
- The lower priority for carrying out a survey by partner CSOs because of their organizational competing urgent tasks.
- Limited access to data due to limited accessibility to and availability of officials of district line department in several districts.
- Floods in Baluchistan and torrential rains in Karachi delayed survey administration thus delays in data collection.



It is important to note that the survey was designed to be conducted with 11 below mentioned district line departments. However, in some districts especially rural and in case of Islamabad, few of the line departments did not exist, and in others representatives were unavailable. Therefore, graphs depict inconsistency in the number of line departments/survey participants. Hence the analysis is done as per the data availability for specific district independently.

## 2.0 Key Findings and Analysis of 13 Districts on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This section of the report presents the findings and analysis of survey conducted for voluntary review of localization of SDGs in 13 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Islamabad (ICT), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). Two districts from each region were selected, one urban and one rural. Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) from KP, Lahore and Rajanpur from Punjab, Quetta and Khuzdar from Balochistan, Karachi East and Tharparkar from Sindh, Muzaffarabad and Bagh from AJ&K and Astore and Gilgit from GB. Two separate questionnaires were developed for line departments and civil society organizations and translated into Urdu for comfortability and understanding of both interviewer and interviewee. Please see Annex 2.

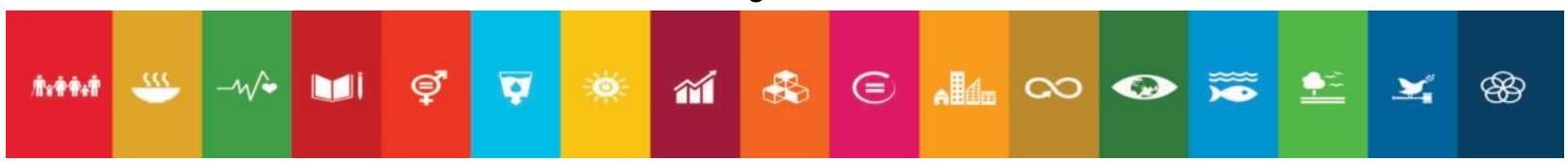
**Following district line departments were part of the survey.**

1. District Health Department
2. District Education Department
3. Social Welfare Development (SWD)
4. Environment Protection Department
5. Labour Department
6. Agriculture Department
7. Local Government Department
8. Chamber of Commerce
9. Police Department
10. Construction and Works
11. Public Health and Engineering

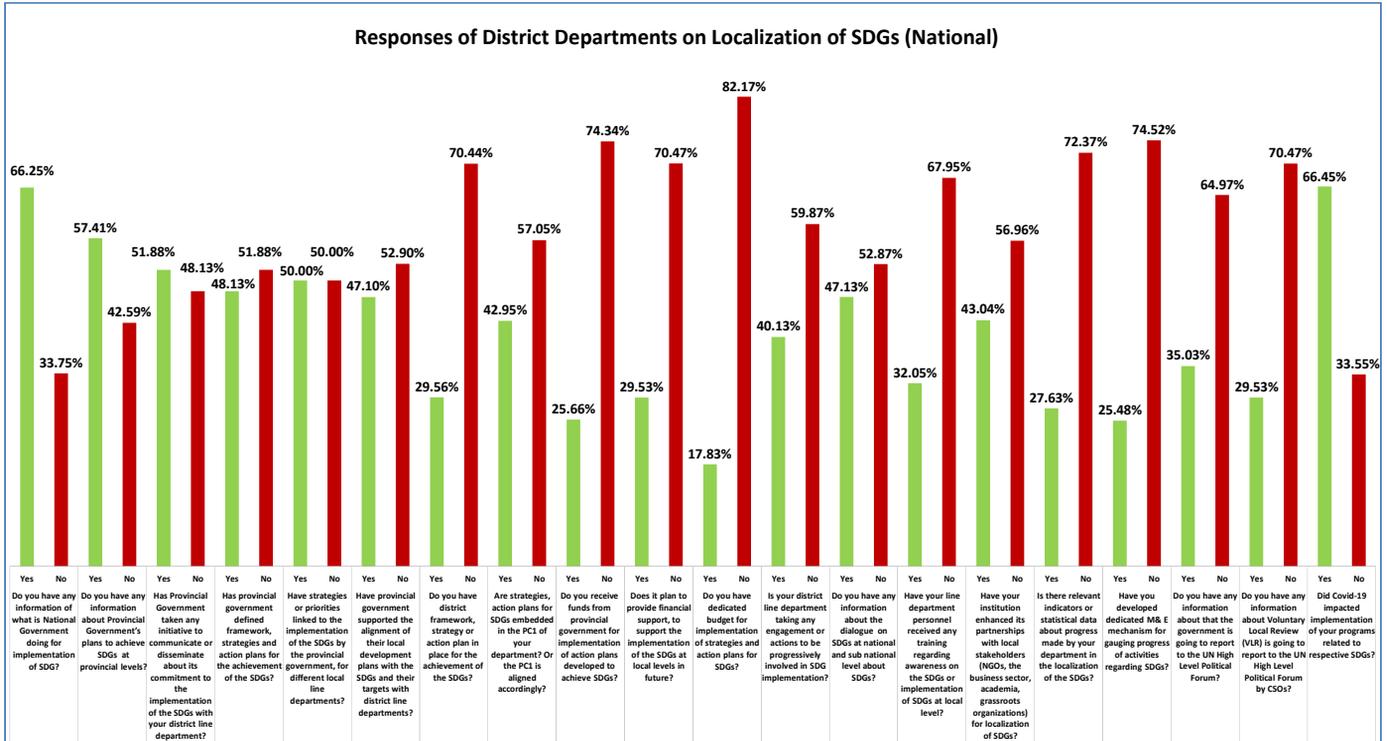
Additionally, to triangulate and cross verify information gathered from line departments, an independent view of 5 CSOs' representatives from each target district was taken into account to gauge localization process of SDGs. It is important to note that the survey was designed to be conducted with above line departments. However, in some districts especially rural, few of the line departments did not exist, in others representatives were unavailable. Therefore, the graphs depict inconsistency in the number of line departments /survey participants. Hence the analysis is done as per the data availability for specific district independently.

### 2.1 Progress of SDGs at National Level

The graph below depicts the overall national level situation of localization of SDGs. An aggregate of 66.25% respondents confirmed in all four provinces and two regions that they had have information about national government's endeavors regarding SDGs implementation. While 33.75 respondents from selected line departments from all over Pakistan informed that they did not have any information about it. Whereas 57.40% had information about what their respective regional and provincial governments were doing with regard to SDGs implementation. 51.88% respondents affirmed that the provincial and regional governments communicated with their respective departments about their initiatives with respect to SDGs while 48.12% responded negatively. It is pertinent to note that significant number of respondents had not been informed by their regional and subnational governments about their programs and projects for implementation of SDGs. 50% overall respondents informed that governments priorities are linked with SDGs and 50%



Responses of District Departments on Localization of SDGs (National)



informed that they did not have. While 52% reported that their respective regional and provincial governments have not supported them in aligning district level programs or projects. Unfortunately, overall 70.44 % respondent affirmed that there were no district level frameworks/ strategies and action plan were developed. An aggregate of 82.16% survey respondents reported negatively about provincial/ regional governments provision of funds. While 82.16% survey participants informed that they did not have dedicated budgets for localization of SDGs while 59.87% informed that they have not initiated the process of localization of SDGs progressively. 52.86% had no information about national level dialogue on SDGs, overall 67.94% respondents informed that they have not attended any training as well as 56.96% informed that they have not capacitated their staff on it. 74.52% respondent informed that their departments were devoid of M&E mechanism and 64.96% respondent replied negatively when they were asked about the information about localization dialogue an overall average of around 33% informed that Covid 19 had not impacted their work regarding SDGs localization.

Overall national level graph presents abysmal picture at local levels most importantly with regard to provision of funds, communication and coordination, capacity enhancement, M&E mechanisms as well as alignment of subnational goals, priorities, targets and indicators into their ADPs.

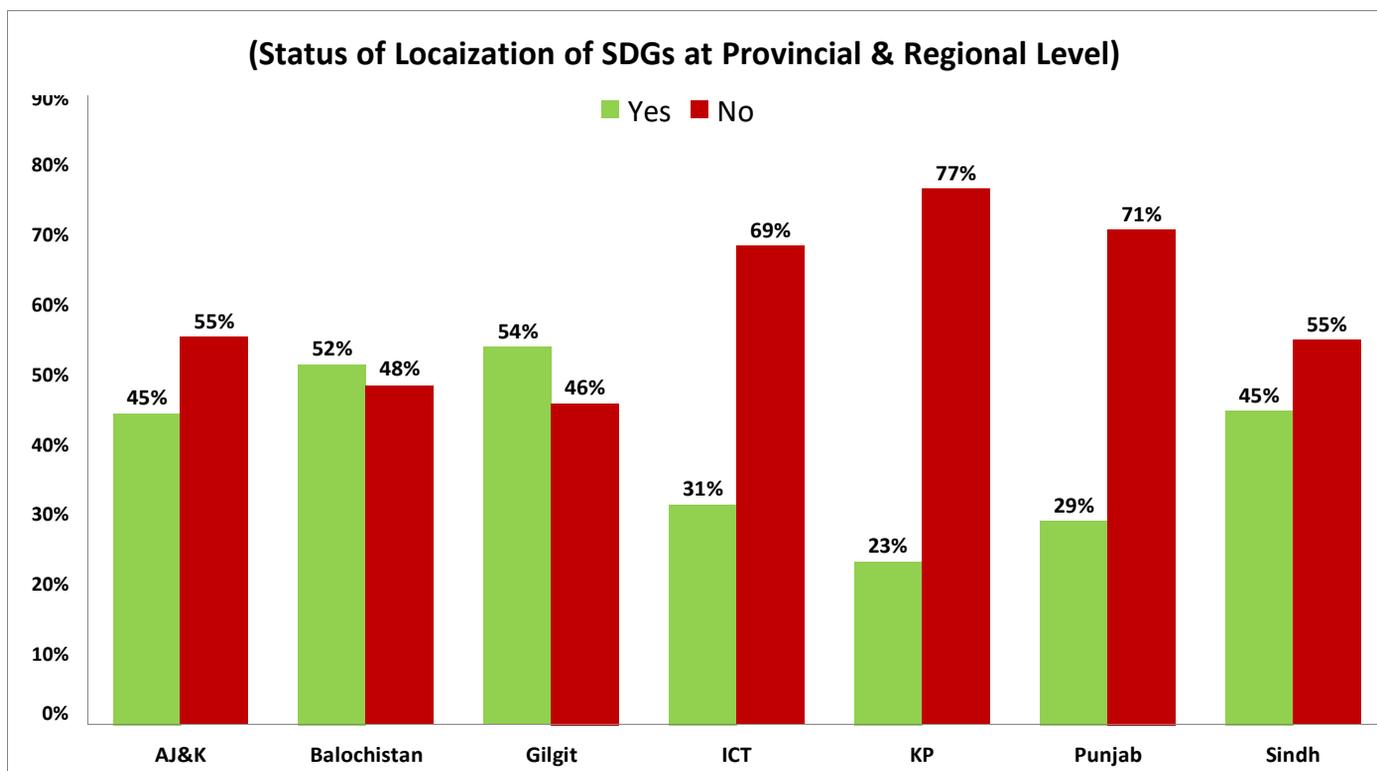
## 2.2 Progress of SDGs at Subnational Level

Below graph draws comparison of the overall awareness and actions about and for SDGs at provincial levels. KP province performed worst on 20 indicators as line department representatives' ratio for selection of NO option was as high as 77% and YES as low as 23%. And Punjab followed KP as second worst performance about SDGs localization and their responses remained as 71% opted NO and 29 checked for YES option. On the contrary Gilgit Baltistan performed better than all other regions, 54% line departments' representatives selected YES option for all indicators and 46% opted for NO. The second top performance from the line departments' representative was from Balochistan, 52% YES and 48% NO. While respondents in AJ&K and Sindh opted for equal percentages of option YES or NO i.e. 45% positive and 55% negative.

As far as aggregate responses from line department of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) respondents were not different from Punjab and KP. Respondents from line departments selected 69% NO for performance and information about localization of SDGs whereas 31% opted YES as an options for survey questions.



Overall most responses received as negative with respect to localization of SDGs from representatives of district line departments which presents the dismalling state of SDGs implementation affairs at local levels.



### 2.3 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K)

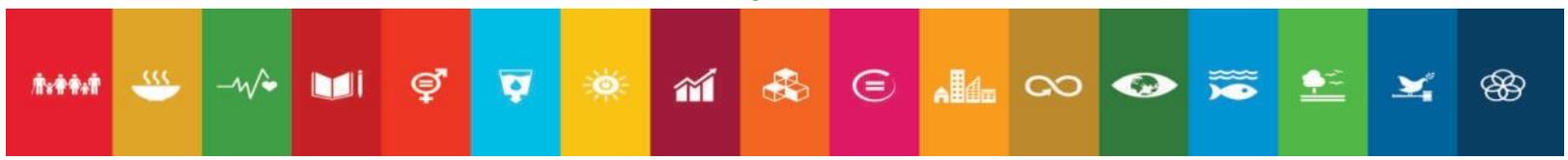
District Muzaffarabad and Bagh were selected for conducting VLR survey in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Area Development Organization (ADO) for Muzaffarabad and Baghbaan for Bagh district facilitated AwazCDS-Pakistan in conducting VLR survey.

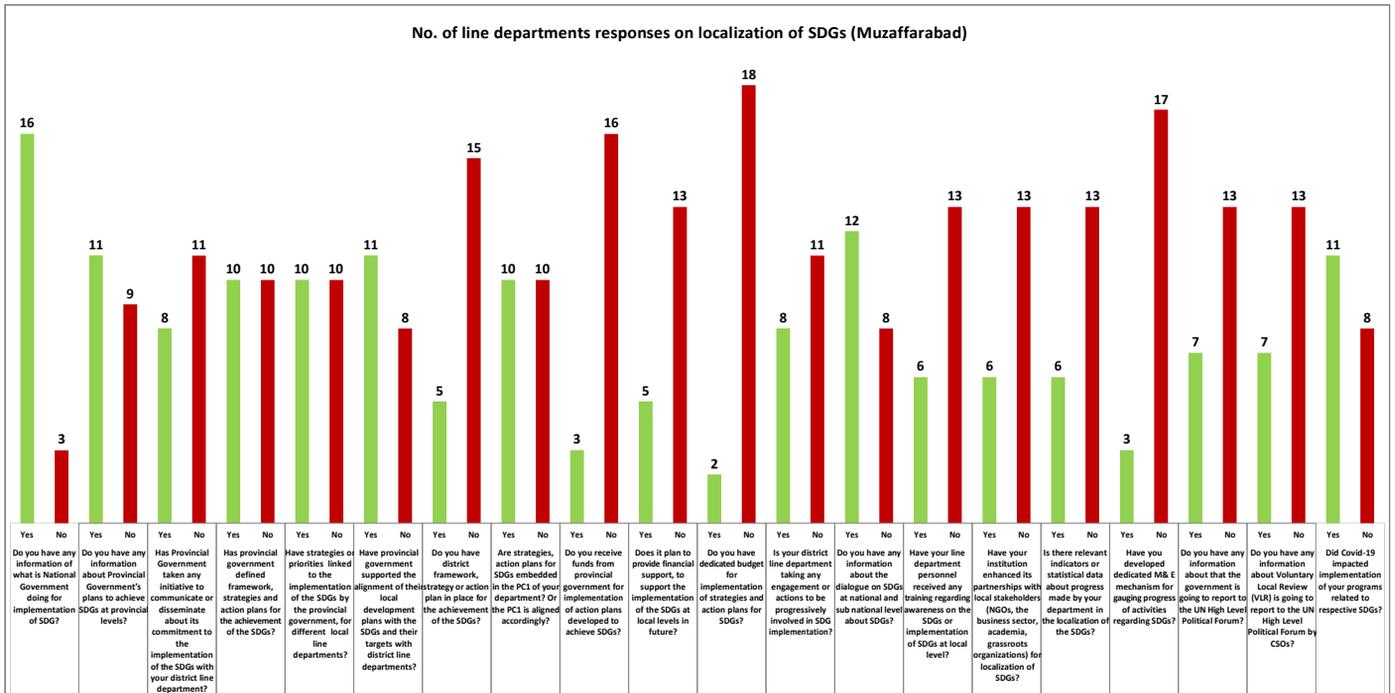
The situation of localization of SDGs in AJ&K portrays abysmal picture. When the respondents were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their PC1s, the response was quite disappointing. 74% reported negatively and 57% reported negatively, while 43% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 77% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 84% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 54% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 68% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and same percentage of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or target were developed reported 71% of the respondents from AJ&K region. Same remained for presence of M&E mechanisms and the negative responses remained 68% and 69% had information about voluntary local review, whereas 72% informed that their work was adversely impacted by COVID 19.

#### 2.3.1. Muzaffarabad

Following graph depicts responses from district line departments and civil society organizations. Total number of 18 survey questionnaires were administered with 11 district line departments and 7 civil society organizations.

Details of participating line departments were; Police, LG, Agriculture, District Council, Labour, Education, Public Health Engineering, Public Works, Health and Women Development Department. Whereas Almuqaddas Trust, Human Development Organization, Neelum Welfare Council, Act International, Muzaffarabad Poverty Alleviation Program, Islamic Relief and AJ&KRSP participated in the VLR survey.

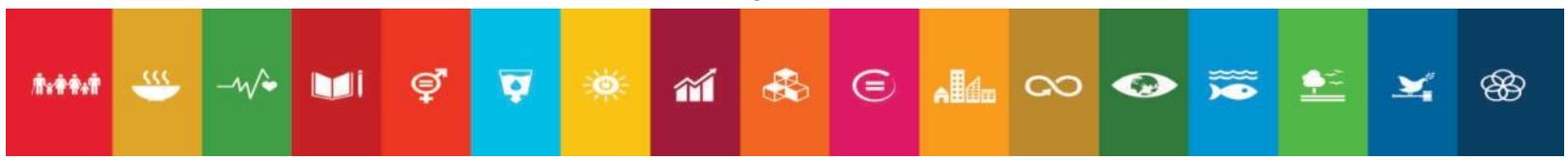




According to the graph, most of the participants of the survey had knowledge of federal government's efforts for achieving SDGs and SDG related work at national and Voluntary national review report. 11 participants confirmed that Covid 19 had adverse impact on their work. As far as district level localization and prioritization of SDGs concerned most responses were negative. For instance, police department respondent reported all quantitative questions negatively. They suggested that priority goals for district should be awareness campaign for SDGs, life on land and clean drinking water and sanitation. Similarly, SWD respondent replied negatively to all quantitative questions of localization of SDGs, however they prioritized their goals; education, human resource development and environment protection. Challenges they face were lack of funds, lack of planning, and lack of capacity of local line departments. Whereas women development informed that they have funds available for SDG 5, no district strategies or action plan available and SDGs were not embedded in the PC1 as well as no monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place with respect to SDGs. Health department did not have any action plan, monitoring plans and SDGs related budget. Most of the quantitative questions were addressed in negative while qualitative questions were not addressed

Agriculture department respondent had no information about what was happening on SDGs at federal level and most of responses about localization of SDGs were reported negatively, for instance availability of dedicated budget, PC1 explaining project in the preview of SDGs action plans and policies and training. District Council affirmed information about SDGs at federal level but at district level they informed that there is no practical work on localization and district line departments had no capacity to implement SDGs. Quality education, good health and poverty reduction should be priority goals of Muzaffarabad. Same responses were received by LG respondent, all quantitative question were ticked no. However, they shared priority goals what LG department thought should be for AJ&K, Health, Education, and poverty alleviation. SWD reported that work has been done at national levels it has national and provincial frameworks. But at the district levels no action plans, no strategies, no budgets and no training of staff was available and done. Public works department representative responded one question positively and the rest of the questions were report as No. Similarly, education, labour and public health engineering respondents had information at national levels, but as far as action plans, strategies and budget, trainings and partnerships were concerned at district level, they reported those were absent. Most of the respondents from above 3 departments prioritized goals for AJ&K as provision of quality education, free and compulsory education, infrastructure development and tourism.

Representatives of NGOs and CSOs were also of same opinion about localization. They urged to build capacities of line departments on embedding SDGs in their PC1s, demanded budget allocations and monitoring and evaluation

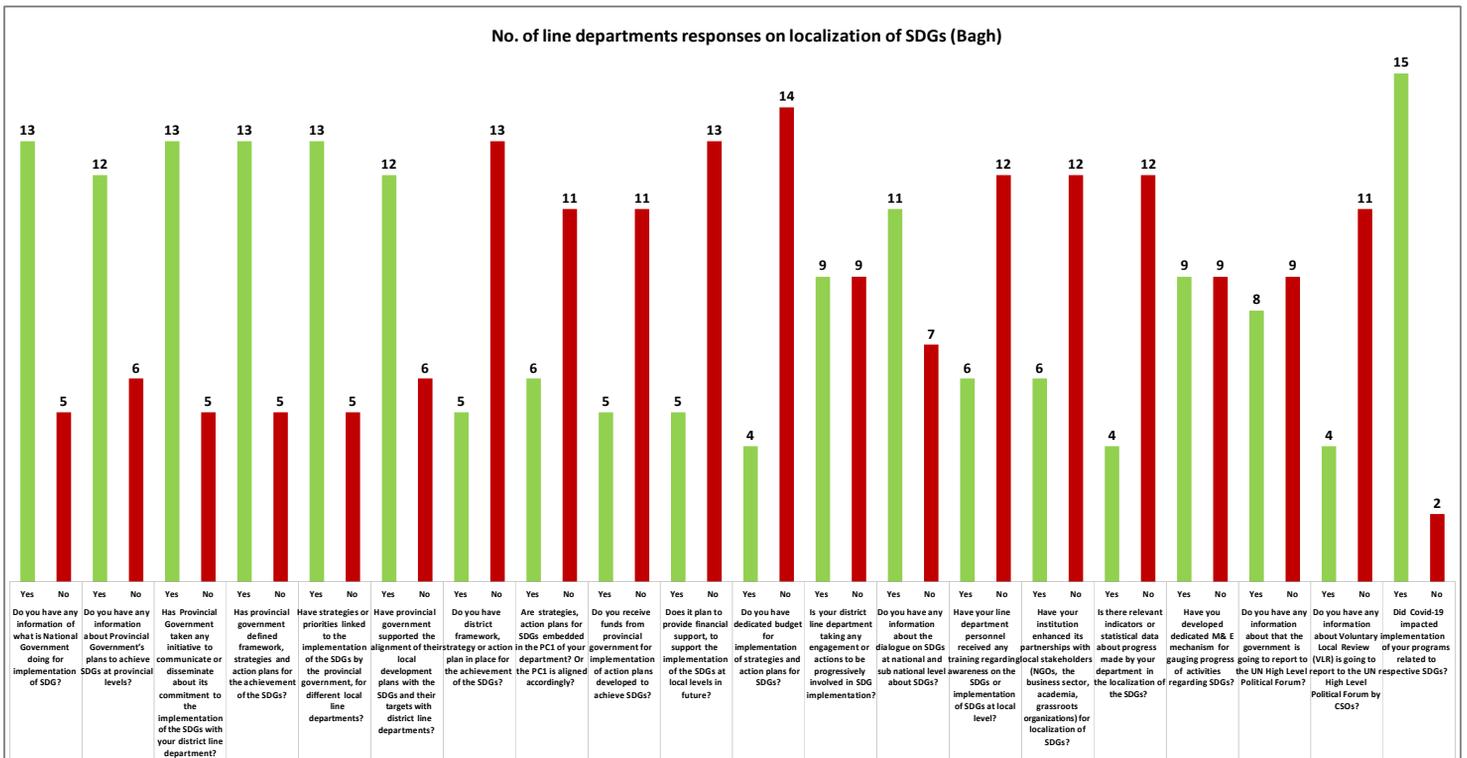


mechanism for projects specifically linked with SDGs. District Muzaffarabad priority goals were: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13 and 16.

Localization of SDGs at the district levels in all over Pakistan is a long haul, due to uncertain and precarious economic conditions prevalent in the country, national and provincial governments are struggling to fulfill their commitments of Agenda 2030, localization in this situation at district levels is a far cry.

### 2.3.2. Bagh

Looking at the graph below, it is evident that line departments and CSOs are aware of federal and provincial government level initiatives and intervention with regard to SDGs. However, the responses concerning local level implantation at portrays dismal picture. The ranges of responses for NO option for questions like strategies and action plans, budget and M&E mechanism or PC1s inclusive of SDGs remain as much as 14 to 11.



Overall 15 respondents reported positively regarding impact of Covid 19 on their work.

Public works department representative reported that there is no dedicated budget available for localization of SDGs, no action plans as well as no monitoring mechanism is available at district level. moreover, no training was imparted to staff of their department. Surprisingly, forest department representative checked Yes option for all questions and yet all qualitative questions were left unanswered. Respondent from police department Bagh reported lack of budgets and monitoring and evaluation mechanism as well as absence of action plans and strategies specifically for SDGs. He shared challenges of corruption and political influence in police recruitment system. Same responses received by the agriculture department about localization of SDGs. Public health engineering representative respond to all questions as NO at district level, except for SDGs related knowledge at federal level. he suggested the local goals should be clean drinking water, water schemes and development of action plan and its implementation. LGD respondent also shared same views about the localization of SDGs. District health department representative reported absence of action plan for SDGs at district level and no funds are allocated in this regards. However, he reported that District Health Officer (DHO) had implemented SDG related project EPI and MNCH which directly contribute to good health and wellbeing goal. However, they do not have monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place. Lack of funds, lack of human resources and lack of community awareness were the biggest challenges they face. Similar responses were received by participant of education department. They had all information what was being done for SDGs a federal level, but when it came to



district level the answers were ticked as No for; action plans, budget, training, M&E mechanism and mainstreaming SDGs in PC1. According to respondents from the line departments in district Bagh listed their priority goals, 2,3,4,5,6 and 16.

Civil society organizations were better informed about SDGs and they thought their work directly contributes to one or the other SDGs unlike their line department counterparts. Additionally, they also highlighted issues and challenges for non-localization of SDGs. First and foremost challenge that the line departments face was lack of funds coupled with lack of training and awareness, lack of inter departmental coordination, corruption and political influence on these departments.

## 2.4 Balochistan

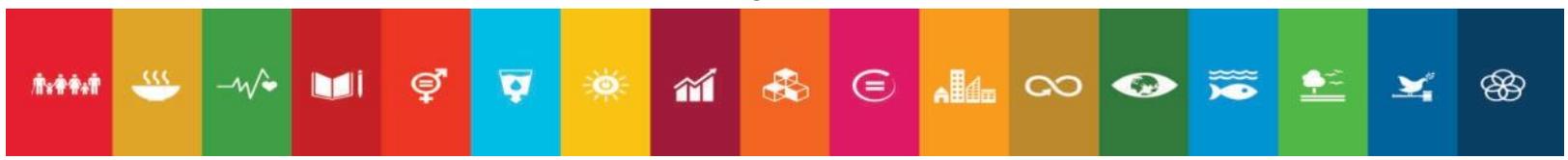
As per the survey design one urban i.e. Quetta and one rural district, Khuzdar were selected in Balochistan for survey administration. Water Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS) was partner of Awaz CDS in collecting survey data. The situation of localization of SDGs in Balochistan is as bleak as in other provinces. When the respondents from line departments were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their PC1s, the response was quite disappointing. 71% negatively and 50% reported negatively, while 50% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 57% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 63% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 57% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 69% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and same percentage of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or target were developed reported 60% of the respondents from Balochistan. Similarly no M&E mechanisms were in place and negative responses remained as high as 67% . 56% had information about voluntary local review whereas 67% informed that their work was hampered by COVID 19.

### 2.4.1 Queta

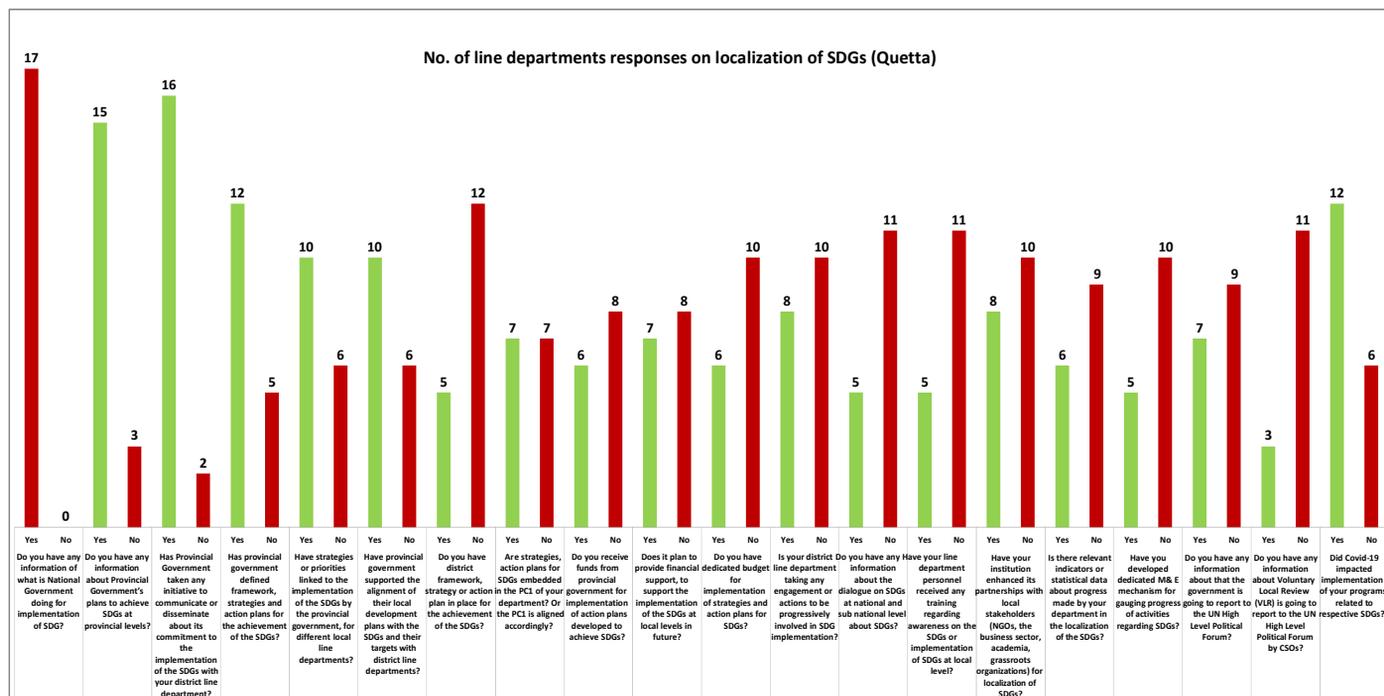
The survey was conducted with ten district line departments in Quetta, namely, SWD, C&W, PHE, Agriculture, Education, Directorate of Manpower, Training and Labour, Environment Protection, Provincial Institute for Teacher Training (PITE) LG and Police department. Participating CSOs were WESS, ICSO-IDO, Center for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI), World Health Organization (WHO) and Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education Balochistan (SCSPEB).

From the graph below, it came to the forth that none of the survey participants had any information about efforts and initiatives of federal government for achieving SDGs. However, all 17 participants of the survey both from local line departments and CSOs were aware of provincial government's interventions about SDGs. Following is information shared by both set of target respondents at local level SDGs implementation and other related information gathered.

11- out of 17 survey respondents affirmed that strategies aligned with SDGs. While five important line departments representatives denied any such activity i.e. education, PITE, agriculture, environment protection and police department. All 6 CSOs affirmed that strategies were linked with SDGs at line departments for priority goals. About the support from provincial government in prioritizing and strategizing and aligning ADPs with SDGS priorities, 10 participants confirmed positively and 6 negatively. One participant of the survey did not respond to this question. It is noteworthy that PHE, education, agriculture, environment protection, LG, Police and PITE responded negatively. With regard to having district framework for implementation of SDGs at local levels, all 17 participants of the survey informed that there was no such framework existed. Responding to question of SDGs embedded in the PC1, 7 participants said YES and 7 No, 3 participants did not answer to this question. Education, PITE, DMT, environment protection, LG, agriculture



and chamber of commerce representatives responded negatively. Responding to question if their departments had dedicated budget allocated for SDGs specifically. Most of the line departments replied negatively, PHE, education, PITE, DMT, environment protection, LG and police department checked NO option. With regard to NGO engagement, Police, PHE, education, PITE, agriculture, and chamber of commerce informed no such initiatives have been taken.



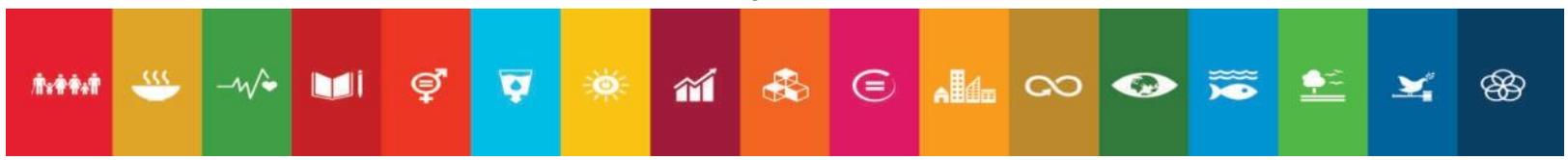
Upon receiving training on SDGs, SWD, DMT and LG informed they had attended training on SDGs while rest of the departments did not receive any training. 10 out of 17 replied NO for having any monitoring and evaluation mechanism for district level SDGs. While SWD and LG replied positively.

Survey participants from Quetta, prioritized goals for their districts; goal 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 16. The major challenges identified by the survey participants were lack of awareness about SDGs, lack of training and lack of funds for implementation of SDGs.

### 2.4.2 Khuzdar

Data collection from district Khuzdar was impossible due reasons shared in the following paragraph. The SDGs localization and otherwise situation portrayed sorry state of affairs in the remotest district Balochistan. Awaz CDS initially partnered with Mechanism for Rational Change (MRC), PDA member in Khuzdar. They were assigned the task of data collection on 16th June, 2022. However, they find it very difficult to collect data from the district line departments. Sometimes unavailability of the line departments' representatives and other times they had no information with regard to SDGs. As per the partner organizations field data collector that the line department's representatives did not have any information about SDGs other than what the term itself meant. To cross verify this information we requested MRC to share the list of line departments they visited, with details of representatives' name, designation, department and contact numbers.

The list is with AwazCDS-Pakistan and is not shared in the report as annex for the purpose of confidentiality of the representatives of line departments. Moreover, AwazCDS-Pakistan tried to use other contact to collect data, Muhammad Naseer Khan from BSDSB, unfortunately due to severe floods in Balochistan, it was impossible to contact line departments who were busy in rescue and relief activities.



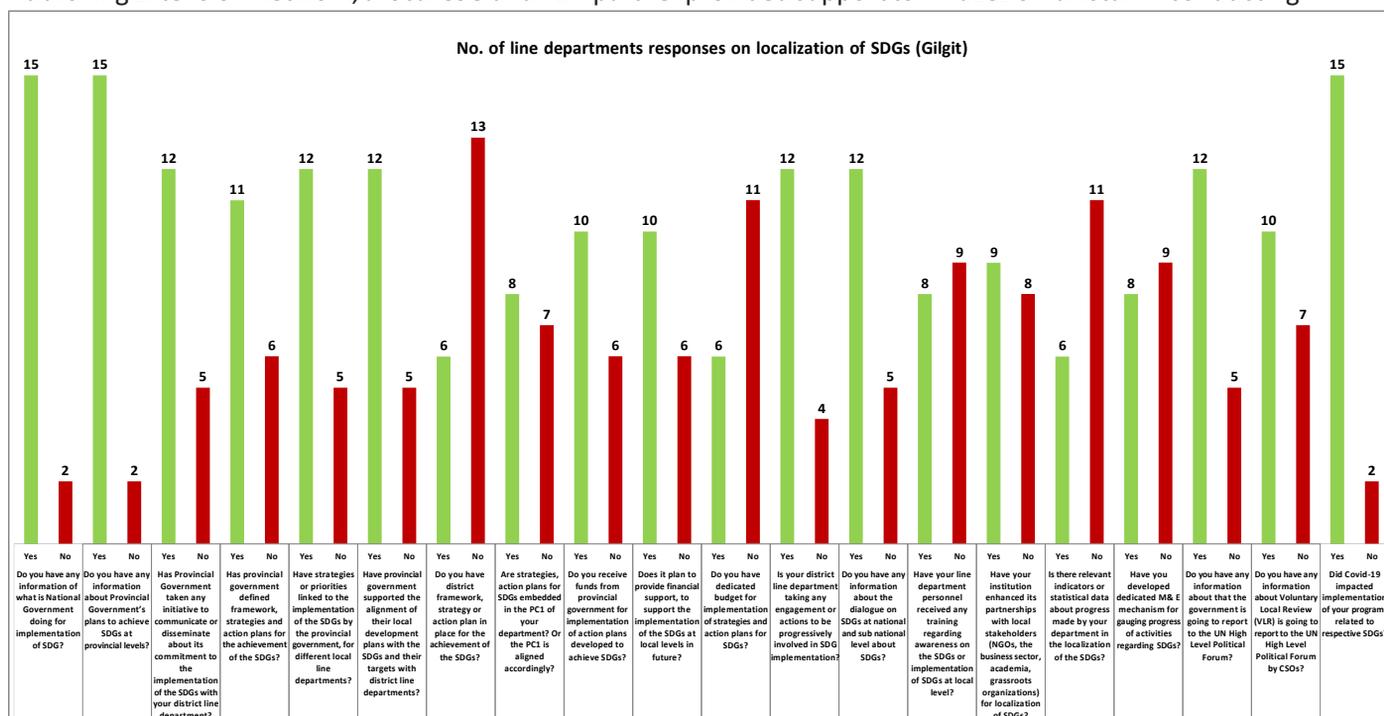
## 2.5 Gilgit Baltistan (GB)

Two districts namely, Gilgit and Astore were selected for VLR survey. Details of situation of Localization of SDGs in both districts are given below.

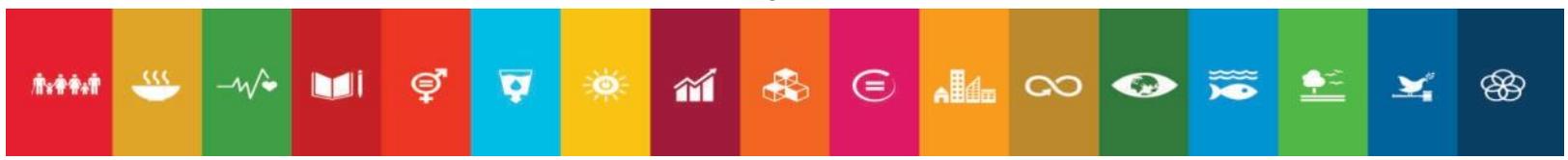
The state of localization of SDGs in Gilgit Baltistan remained better as compared to other provinces and regions. When the respondents from line departments were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their PC1s, the response was not better than other areas. 68% negatively and 50% reported negatively, while 50% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 60% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 63% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 57% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 69% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and 56% of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or targets were developed, reported 68% of the respondents from GB. Same case remained for development of M&E mechanisms and the negative responses remained as low as 65% and 48% had information about voluntary local review whereas 81% informed that their work was impacted by COVID 19.

### 2.5.1. Gilgit

Publishing Extension Network, a local CSO and PDA partner provided support to AwazCDS-Pakistan in conducting



VLR survey in district Gilgit. From a bird eye view, Gilgit shows overall encouraging results with regard to information and awareness about SDGs. Total number of participants from District line departments and CSOs was 17 of which 11 were line departments and 5 CSOs respondents and 1 was member of women chamber of commerce. Responding to information about national and provincial level initiatives about SDGs only two participants reported in negative i.e. Construction and works (called building department in GB) and forest department. LG, Police, Labour and industries, Women development, Social welfare, Education, Planning and development departments' respondents affirmed their knowledge of SDGs at national and provincial levels as well as all CSOs were affirmative for these two questions. About communication of provincial government with districts, and defined strategies and plans 12 and 11 respondents respectively affirmed and 5 and 6 shared no information for these two questions respectively. For communications from provincial government departments responded negatively were education, women development, and 3 NGOs and UN agencies i.e. World Wild Fund (WWF) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Darul Hunar



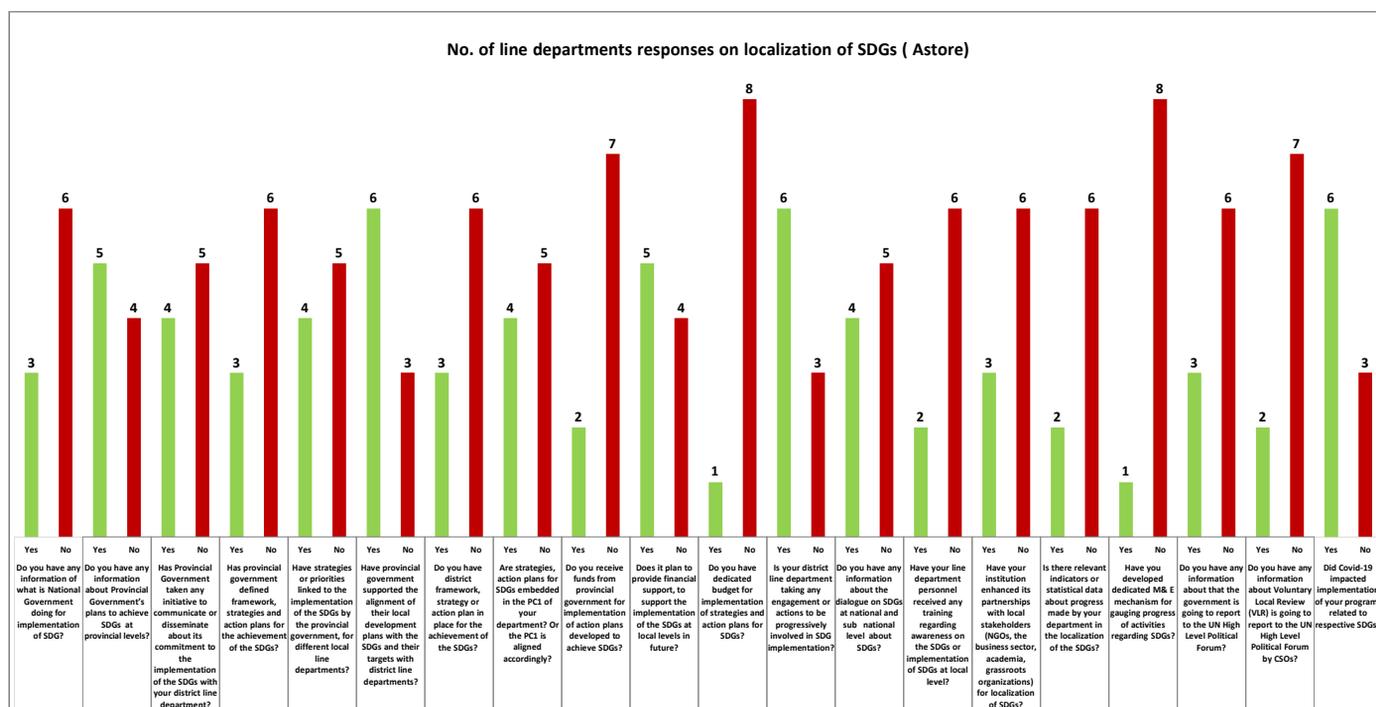
responded negatively. As far as strategies and action plans; forest, agriculture and building department were unaware as well as WWF and IUCN too. Upon dedicated budget for districts, 11 respondents reported no budgets were specifically allocated and 6 reported no budgets were allocated specifically for SDGs. Building, LG, Police, WWF, IUCN and Darul Hunar responded negatively. Rest of the line departments and CSOs confirmed. 15 out of 17 respondents informed that Covid 19 had impacted their intervention. Only building and local government department respondents reported that it had not.

While responding to qualitative questions, LG reported that they don't have funds for implementation of developmental work. Police department said that provincial government is providing all technical and financial support to their department to maintain law and order and create peaceful society. Their priority goals were maintaining law and order, establish supremacy of law and require support and cooperation for fostering sustainable development in the district. The priority goals of forest department were, environment protection, climate change and food security. They required training and awareness for achieving these goals. Women development informed that it is embedded in their PC1 as how to implement projects in the preview of SDGs and they have specific budget in their ADP to address certain SDGs related projects. Their goals were poverty reduction, goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16. Education department elaborated on their goals i.e. equal opportunities to quality education for all and imparting technical education. The survey was unable to include health department; a very important survey participant was missed because of their unavailability. Their availability for interviews was not possible despite several requests telephonically and in person.

### 2.5.2. Astore

Karakorum Rural Support Program (KRSP) facilitated AwazCDS-Pakistan for conducting VLR survey in district Astore. Total number of 14 respondents, 8 from line department and 6 from NGOs were part of the survey. The details of line department as follow, LG, SWD, Environment Protection, Health, Public Health Engineering and Works, Police, Education department. NGOs/ CSOs participated in the survey were Aga Kham Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Organic enterprise, Alqalm Welfare organization, Shikang welfare organization and Looss welfare Society.

As the pattern trails throughout the analysis of urban and rural districts has difference of awareness knowledge



and technical expertise for implementing and localization of SDGs. However, results from Gilgit district were comparatively better other urban districts. Interestingly, Astore being a rural district showed better results than other



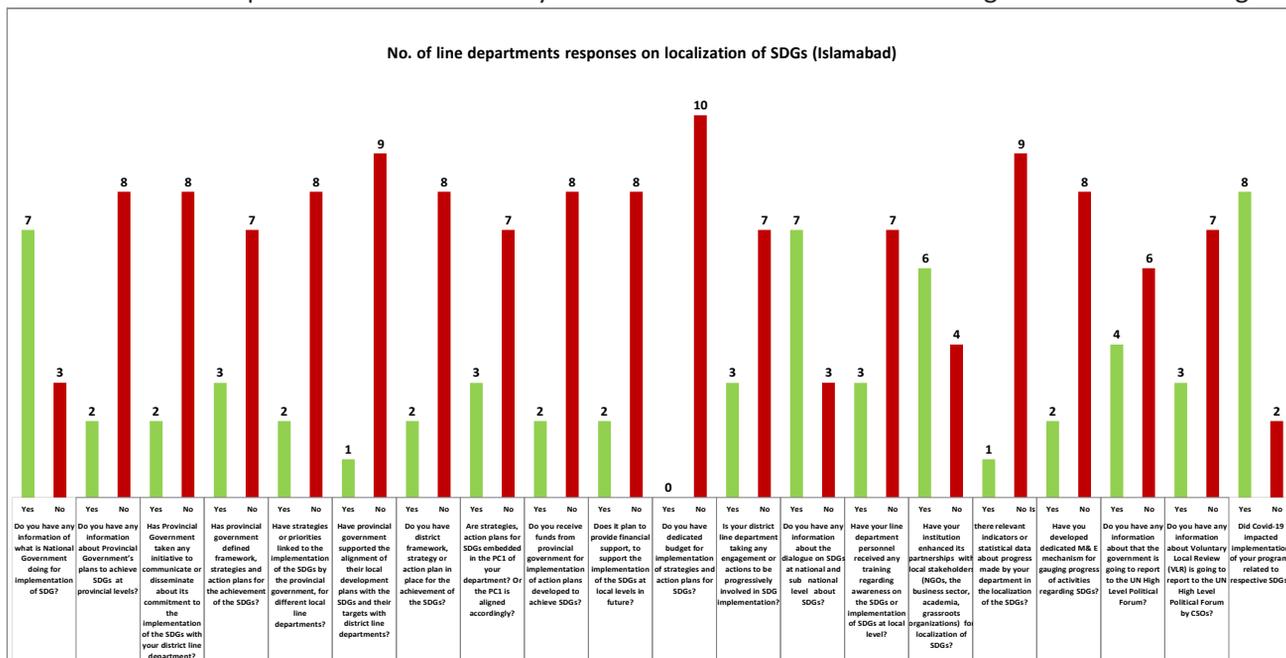
rural districts of all regions were part of the survey. Responding to question about information about federal government's efforts for achieving SDGs 3 participants responded positively and 6 negatively as well as 6 did not answer this question. Police department informed that there are no strategies and action plans for SDGs implementation in placed in the department. As well as there were no awareness trainings were undertaken for the department on SDGs, similarly, SDGs implementation is not embedded in the PC1 and there was no specific monitoring and evaluation mechanism developed related to SDGs. Representative from police department did not respond to all question especially qualitative question. Most of quantitative questions were answered negatively. Whereas Agriculture department informed that there has been budget specified for SDGs in PSDP at national level. They had received training on SDGs implementations and they ink their projects with SDGs at the time of preparing PC1. He informed that there were no efforts made to forge partnerships with CSOs and NGOs for localization of SDGs. Furthermore, agriculture department did not have SDGs framework. As well as no monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Similarly, representative from education department informed that there was no district action plan, strategies, M&E mechanism explicitly for SDGs. However, they have their own departmental plans, and M&E systems. LG department of adore had no information about federal government's plans, initiative and efforts for achieving SDGs. SW department respondent confirmed all questions in No. Environment protection department had information about what national and provincial governments were doing to achieve SDGs, some training on SDGs awareness were imparted by the government, however they did not have SDGs embedded in their PC1 nor did they have specific M&E plan and no budgets explicitly allocated for achieving SDGs. Health department representative responded negatively for all survey questions. He highlighted that there is lack of funds, lack of health infrastructure and lack of human resources. Similar responses were received from public health engineering and works. According to respondents their district priority goals were 2, 3, 4, 8 and 13.

NGOs/ CSOs also informed that the district line departments did not have any specific budgets, nor they have capacity for implementation of SDGs and government's efforts for localization were not visible at district levels.

## 2.6 Islamabad (ICT)

UGOOD was partner of AwazCDS-Pakistan in conducting this survey in Islamabad. Total 10 line departments were contacted in Islamabad. Most of the selected departments did not give time for participating in the survey despite repeated requests. This graph explains line departments' views. CSOs data is analyzed in the latter paragraph. 7 out of 10 respondents from line departments confirmed they had information about what national government was doing



to achieve SDGs, police, labour department and directorate of education reported that they have no information about it. The second bar depicts only two respondents had information about provincial governments' initiatives on SDGs, rest of the respondents had no information and it is quite understandable because ICT has its own administration mechanism under the federal government and under 18<sup>th</sup> amendment in the Constitution, federal and provincial concerns and mandates have been changed. Replying to question about alignment of plans with SDGs priorities one of ten replied positively. Only LGRD replied that they have aligned their plans with national SDGs priorities and it has strategies and action plans as well. Only LGRD, Ministry of Human Rights and Environment protection department informed the SDGs priorities are embedded in their PC1. 10 out of 10 respondents replied negatively to have dedicated budgets for achieving or implementation of SDGs. None of the departments reported that they had dedicated strategies and action plans for implementation of SDGs. Moreover, ministry of human rights, chamber of commerce and special education representatives informed that they had received training regards SDGs; while LGRD, chamber of commerce, directorate of education, special education and environment protection department respondents positively when asked about forging partnerships with NGOs and civil society organizations. It is important to note that police department representative responded negatively for all survey questions. Only one department responded positively about having mechanism for data collection. 8 of 10 respondents replied that Covid 19 had hampered their work adversely and 2 responded that it did not. Looking at the graph, Islamabad which is capital of the country portrayed similar pictures as other districts from all over Pakistan.

## 2.7 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

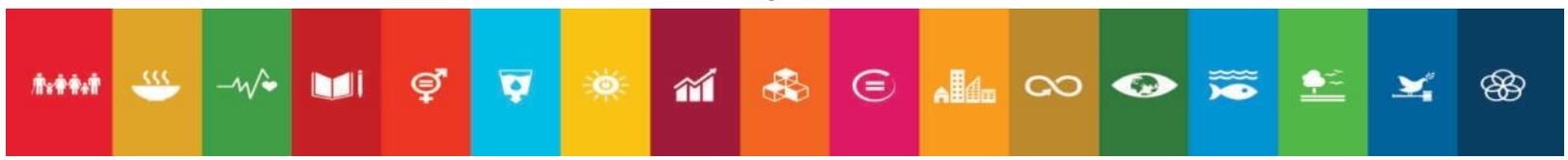
Two districts of KP namely Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan were selected for conducting VLR survey with 11 local line departments and 5 CSOs working in the target districts.

The results of state of localization of SDGs in KP were remained worst as compared to other provinces and regions. When the respondents from line departments were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their PC1s, the response was not better than other areas. 80% negatively and 76% reported negatively, while 24% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 84% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 88% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 80% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 80% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and 60% of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or target were developed reported 68% of the respondents from KP. Same situation remained for development of M&E mechanisms and the negative responses remained as low as 88% and 88% had no information about voluntary local review whereas 65% informed that their work was impacted by COVID 19.

### 2.7.1 Peshawar

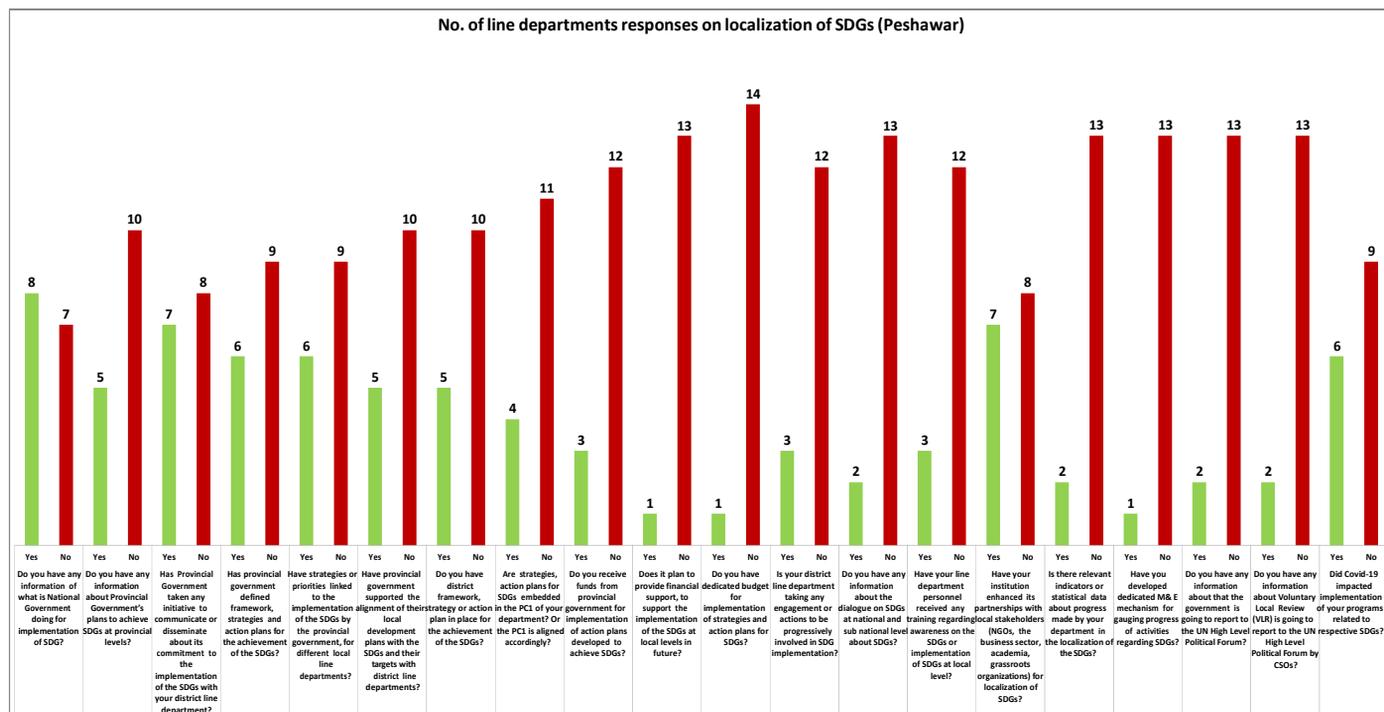
Partner for conducting VLR survey in district Peshawar was Blue Veins. The graph below gives details of the survey conducted with local line departments in Peshawar. Representatives from Local Government, Agriculture, Police, Construction and Works, Directorate of Labour, Social welfare and Women Development, Environment Protection, District Health and Education Department. CSOs included Group Development Pakistan, Transgender Alliance, Blue Veins and express news.

6 out of 15 respondents from line departments namely, health, C& W, Agriculture and 4 civil society organizations did not have any information about what federal government is doing to achieve SDGs. Similarly, 7 out of 15 respondents from line departments i.e. health, education, environment protection, labour, C& W and agriculture department had no information what initiatives provincial government had taken with regard to SDGs. Surprisingly, 5 civil society organization responded negatively for this question.



It is interesting to note that Health, Environment and C& W responded negatively to all 20 quantitative questions of the survey. Respondent from C&W did not answer to qualitative questions and shared only one district priority goal that was provision of clean drinking water.

Whereas environment department respondent had no information whatsoever provincial government doing to achieve SDGs, he had information about federal government that it had constituted SDGs taskforce and SDG unit he also informed that district priority goals were education, environment protection and clean drinking water. This was also true for labour and local government departments, option NO was checked for all questions.



Whereas, police, social welfare and women development were better informed about SDGs implementation, budgets and strategies etc.

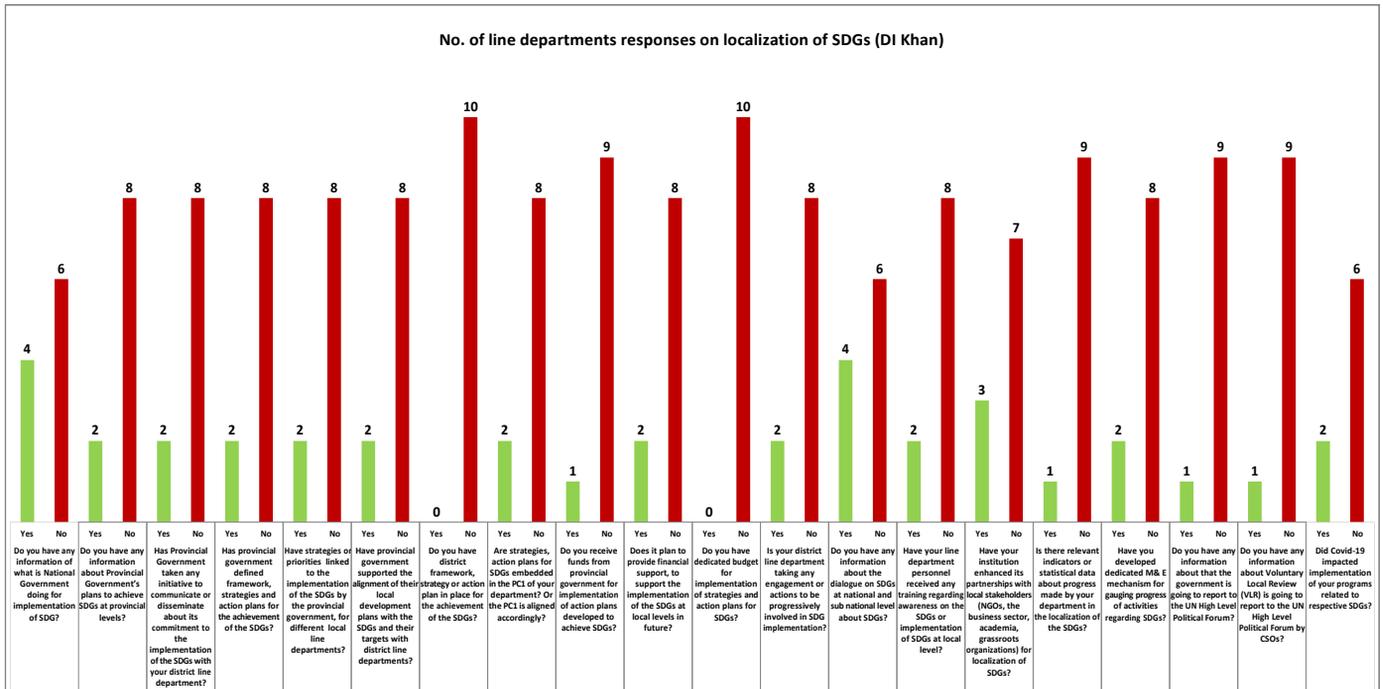
1 out of 14 respondent of line departments had no information about the provincial governments plans to provide funds for SDGs implementation at district levels and one respondent did not share his views on this question. Moreover 14 of 15 respondents reported that there were no dedicated district budgets for SDGs implementation. Overall graph presents the level of awareness, training and capacity of local line departments with respect to SDGs and its implementation. They were unable to recognize the fact that their departments contribute to SDGs implementation through district ADPs. Rest of the survey questions were scantily responded in affirmative. Negative responses ranged between 7 to 14 for 20 quantitative questions whereas the range of positive responses was 1 that was lowest and 8 was highest. The list of priority goals for Peshawar district were reported; goal 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13 by respondents.

Furthermore, CSOs contacted for survey seemed confused and unaware of the initiatives of provincial government for realization of SDGs. The situation of localization in district Peshawar seemed in jeopardy as per survey results.

### 2.7.2 Dera Ismail Khan (DIK)

The results of survey in DIK- rural district of KP are similar as in the rural district of Pakistan. From the graph below it is apparent that things were worse in DIK as compared to Peshawar although results from Peshawar were not encouraging as an urban district. Sahara, a local CSO facilitated AwazCDS-Pakistan in carrying out VLR survey in District DIK.





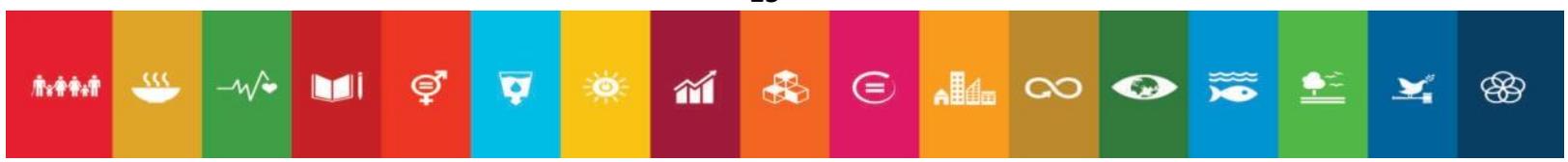
Only 5-line department were available in DIK and 5 CSOs were contacted for survey administration, making it total number of 10 respondents. 4 of 10 representatives of line departments and CSOs informed that they had information about what national government is doing for achievement of SDGs. Whereas 6 had no information about it. Education, local governments, C&W and labour department responded negatively, only SWD informed positively. Similarly, 3 of 5 CSOs affirmed that they had information. The situation of information at provincial level was even worse, only 2 respondents had information about initiatives of provincial government's initiatives on SDGs. SzWD and Pakistan Red Crescent responded positively, 8 respondents were unaware of it. communication between province and districts for SDGs was weak and only 2 of 10 respondents confirmed i.e. SWD and Pakistan Red Crescent, rest of the line departments responded negatively for all questions except for above two. Education department representative affirmed that their district priorities are aligned with provincial SDGs priorities. It is noteworthy that qualitative questions were unanswered most of the survey participants. None of the survey participants informed that there is dedicated budget allocated for district line departments specifically for achievements of SGDs. 6 of 10 participants informed that Covid 19 did not hamper their work and 9 out 10 said that there were no partnerships created between district government CSOs or NGOs.

However, they gave suggestions/ priorities and shared challenges which they face. For instance, participant from education department shared what district priority goals should be (not decided by the provincial or district government) zero hunger, clean drinking water and sanitation and quality education. The graph is self-explanatory, the responses remained as low as zero, and rest of the indicator ranged between 1-4 as positive and 6-10 as negative. Moreover, he highlighted challenges and issues; on information about SDGs at district government level, lack of inter department coordination and lack of trained and professional staff. LG department suggested that there should be district SDGs framework, action plan and budgets and training of line departments staff should be imparted on SDGs, indicators targets and implementation strategies. The 5 out 11 line departments did not inform about the priority goals for district. Remaining 6 reported that their priority goals were 2, 3,4 and 6.

## 2.8 Punjab

Two districts of Punjab namely Lahore and Rajanpur were selected for administering VLR questionnaire with 11 local line departments and 5 CSOs working in the districts.

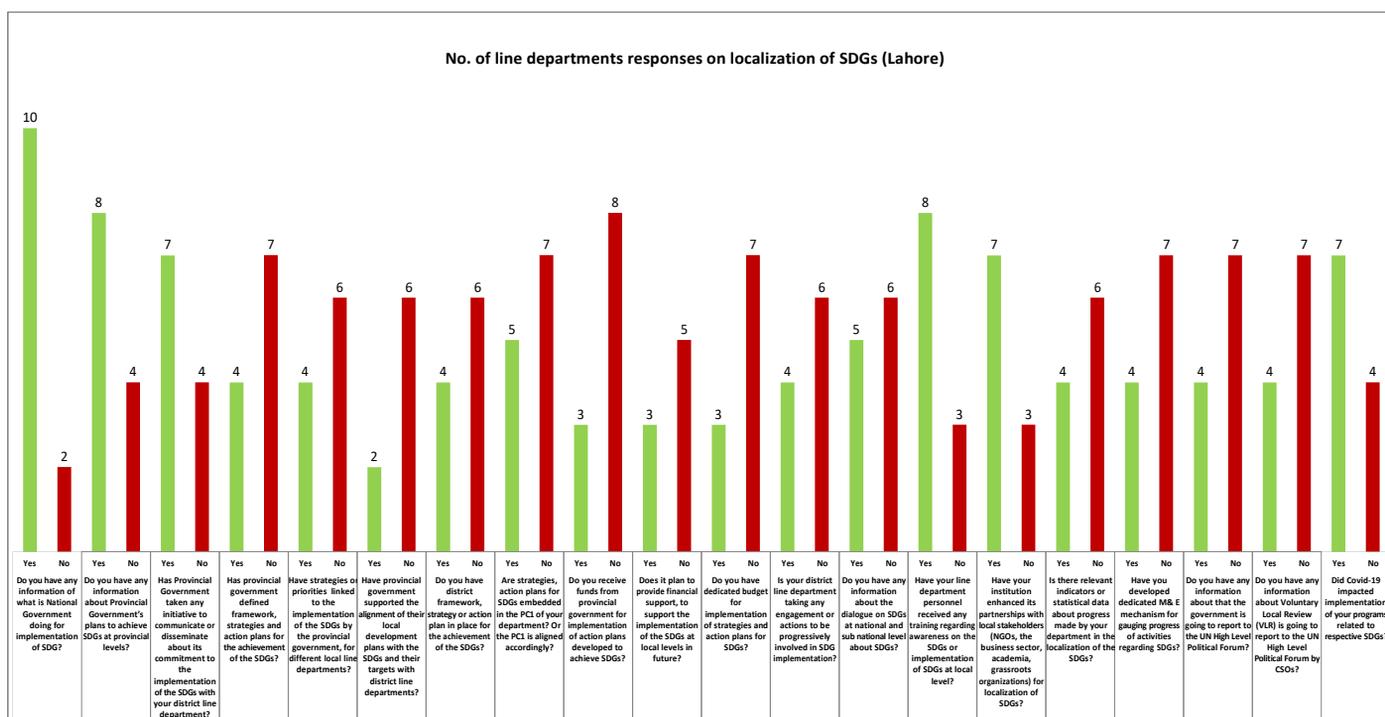
The results of state of localization of SDGs in Punjab remained disappointing as well. When the respondents from line



departments were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their Pc1s, the response was not better than other areas, 77% negatively and 88% reported negatively, while only 22% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 83% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 85% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 77% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 63% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and 72% of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or target were developed reported 82% of the respondents from Punjab. Same situation remained for development of M&E mechanisms and the negative responses remained as low as 81% and 77% had no information about voluntary local review whereas 50% informed that their work was impacted by COVID 19 in Punjab.

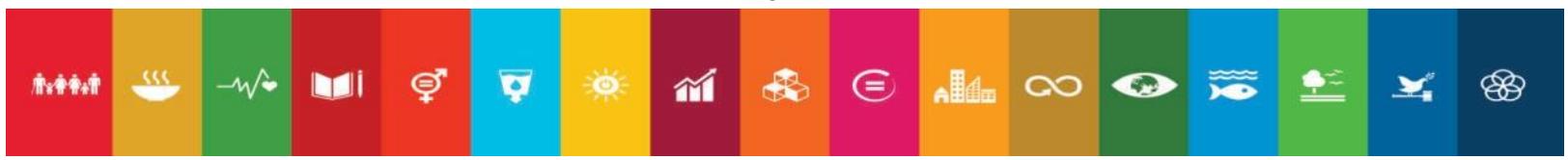
### 2.8.1 Lahore

Partner for conducting VLR survey in district Lahore was HomeNet Pakistan. Following graph presents the responses of the No. of line departments representatives in yes or no for the set of questions asked about SDGs, information, implementation strategies, availability of finances, SDGs aligned annual development plans and or



Planning Commission Form 1 (PC1) etc. 10 out of 12 representatives of line departments list given above affirmed that they have information about SDGs, while 2 representatives responded in negative. Interestingly, police and social welfare department representatives informed that they don't have any information what national government was doing with regard to achieving SDGs. However, lesser number or line departments representatives had any information about the same question asked about provincial government's initiatives on SDGs, i.e. 8 confirmed positively and 4 confirmed negatively. Those who responded negatively were, police department, SWD, labour department and Pehchan CSO had no information about what provincial government's plans were for achievement of SDGs. 7 respondents affirmed that provincial government has intimated their plans of implementation of SDGs with local line departments. Interestingly, police, Construction and Works (C&W), Labour department responded negatively along with two CSOs, namely Pehchan and VSVS. Police department representative in Lahore responded to all questions in negative. It is ironic that police department responsibility to protect citizens and provide a peaceful society, their work directly contributes to goal16 and social welfare and women development department connected to goal 1, 2, 5. It is biting situation in a district like Lahore, and the plea of rural districts is eye opening.

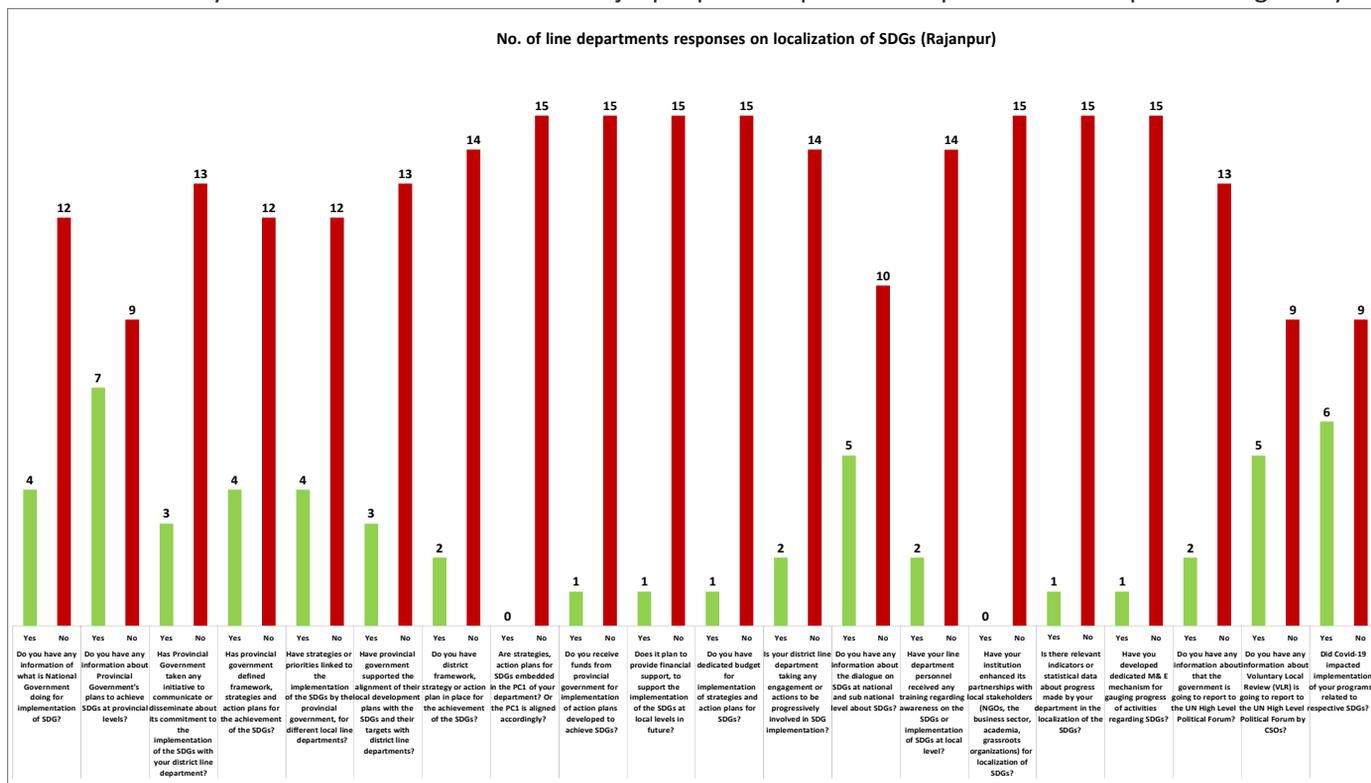
7 respondents were affirmative of provincial government commination with about their plans and initiatives for



SDGs, while police and labour department had no idea about it as well as 3 CSOs denied any information about it. 7 respondents negatively responded about provincial government's defined framework, strategies and action plans for SDGs, those included, police, labour, environment, SWD and two CSOs denied any information about this. Those who affirmed were Health, Education and Industries; and one respondent did not answer this question. If we give a bird eye view of the graph most of the responses of 7 line departments remained at average negative except for training on implementation of SDGs was the highest, 8 respondents received training on SDGs. Followed by Covid impact, 7 reported that it had impacted SDGs related work while 4 of them did not think it had impacted their work. Representative from health department in Lahore did not highlight any special initiatives and reported their involvement was minimal or no involvement implementation of SDGs. Their priority goals were wellbeing, gender equality and climate action. Environment department representative informed that there had been special SDG unit established in planning and development department Punjab and environment protection department participates in the meetings. Special education department representative highlighted challenges faced in implementation of SDGs i.e. scarcity of financial resources, government's laidback attitude and systematic barriers for PWDs and their wellbeing. SWD representative had nothing to share about special initiatives for poor, women, children, PWDs or other under privileged groups. Although their department is linked with goal 1, 2, 3 and 5 however they did not think that it was a conscious effort by their department. Representatives from district Lahore gave long list of the priority goals as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 8, 10, 13 and 16. The responses from most of the departments about implementation, understanding, information and initiatives regarding SDGs of SDGs at district level presents a bleak picture.

### 2.8.2 Rajanpur

NEELAB a local CSO and PDA partner facilitated Awaz CDS-Pakistan in administering VLR Survey in district Rajanpur. Following graph portrays dismal picture of the line department's information or their interventions to achieve SDGs at local level. The clear void was seen between the rural and urban districts of Punjab although localization of SDGs situation is not rosy in the urban district i.e. Lahore. Rajanpur police department representative responded negatively



to all 20 questions. That means they are not briefed and informed about the federal or provincial governments initiatives or commitments towards SDGs implementation. Police department was unable to answer about their initiatives to protect citizen's lives through qualitative questions asked. Police department shared that during the lockdown in Covid they faced difficulties in maintaining law and order. However, respondents from CSOs informed that they had



some information and that the health, education and other district level services are directly connected to SDGs. Health department official responded negatively about all quantitative questions (questionnaire attached as Annex 2). Moreover, the representative of health department highlighted the challenge of awareness about SDGs and need for state of the art hospital, dispensaries, availability of medicine, provision of CT scan machine and establishment and upgradation of rural health units. As far as district Rajanpur education department is concerned, DPO informed that they are contributing to SDG 4 in terms of providing quality education and education for all program. He informed that there is no district framework for SDGs but the education department is contributing to SDGs achievement through providing quality education. Their priorities were quality education, education for all and early childhood education. He also added that due to Covid 19, their department was unable to implement its ADP, no surveys were conducted as well as no awareness campaigns were carried out.

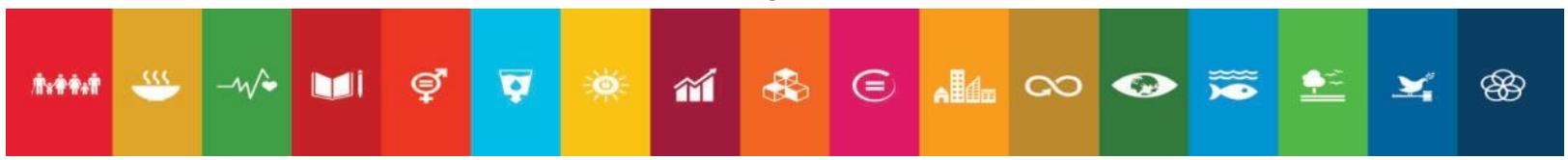
Interestingly, labour department representative informed that their department has introduced, merit grant through worker's welfare, talent grant, special grants to fund cases of labourer's death as well as program for labourers' primary education program. Social welfare and women development department representative responded to all quantitative questions negatively. However, he agreed that their department needs awareness and training and finances to contribute towards SDGs. Representative from Agriculture department respondent also had no information about SDGs, frameworks, strategies or initiatives. Instead he demanded that the department should be made independent, their suggestions for improvement in agriculture should be taken seriously. Their staff should be trained on modern technology of local crops and agriculture department should be taken into confidence while providing water and other agricultural inputs. C& W did not have much to share as they were unaware of the SDGs and related paraphernalia. He only shared that Covid 19 impacted their developmental work. Representative from public health engineering shared that sewerage schemes, water supply schemes, water filtration plants were their priorities but he had no information how they are linked any SDG. While local government and community department respondent also had no information about federal or provincial governments initiatives for SDDs or training on implementation of these. However, he shared the government of Punjab notification for birth registration campaign they carried out in December 2021. Representative of trade union had no information about SDGs, he urged the government to announce Rajanpur as tax free zone for alleviating poverty in the district. Similarly, respondent from environment protection department did not have much to share. He informed their department had constituted smog control committee. None of the informants shared that if there was dedicated budget for programs or projects specifically for SDGs.

On the contrary, 3 of 5 CSOs representatives had significant information about SDGs and what was happening at national and provincial government levels, while two had no information. They highlighted that government line departments have lesser capacity, awareness and training on SDGs. They also shared challenges that the district faces, poverty, unemployment and lack of educational opportunities for girls. They also suggested that local line departments should focus on education, health clean drinking water as well as peace and justice. They also shared that partnership with local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and CSOs remained low.

In a nutshell, the district line departments in Rajanpur had scant information about or training on implementation of SDGs as well as no realization that their work is directly linked with one or the other SDG which shows the status of localization process of SDGs at district levels. Moreover, according to representatives from the district line departments, their district's priority goals were: 2, 3, 4, 13 and 16.

## 2.9 Sindh

Karachi East and Tharparkar were the two districts of Sindh in which VLR survey was conducted. It is worth noting that Tharparkar is one of the only two districts that have District SDGs framework. Thar Education Alliance and Rasti

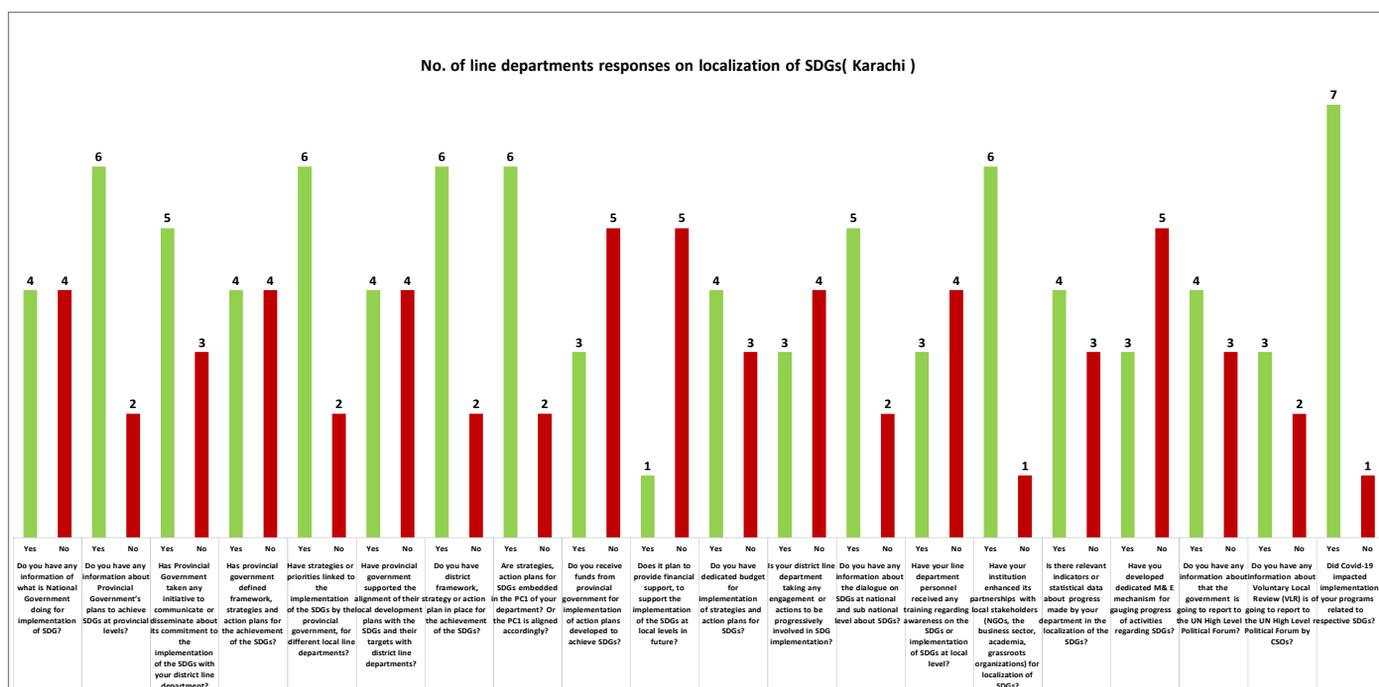


supported AwazCDS-Pakistan for conducting this survey.

The results of state of localization of SDGs in Punjab remained disappointing as well. When the respondents from line departments were asked about the presence of frameworks strategies and action plans embedded in their PC1s, the response little better than other areas, 53% negatively and 35% reported negatively, while only 65% confirmed that it had been embedded in their PC1s. 71% reported negatively that they received or it has plans to provide funds from their regional government for implementation of SDGs at local levels. Similarly, 75% informed that there is no dedicated budget for implementation of SDGs, 63% of respondents said that they have not progressively started implementing SDGs at district levels, while 75% respondents informed that they had not attended any training regarding SDGs and 75% of respondents affirmed that they have not enhanced capacities of their institutions for SDGs implementation nor did any indicators or target were developed reported 54% reported respondents from Sindh. Same situation remained for development of M&E mechanisms and the negative responses remained as low as 76% and 79% had no information about voluntary local review whereas 6% informed that their work was impacted by COVID 19.

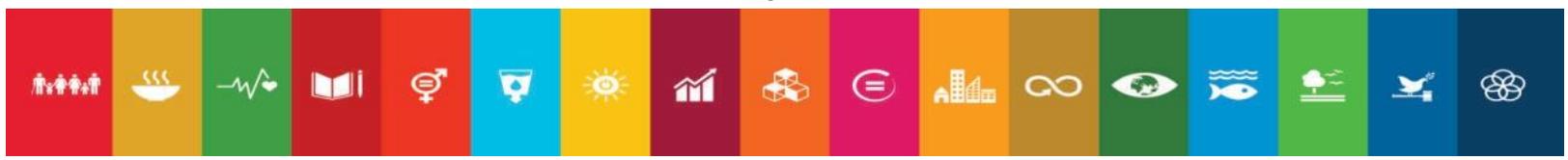
### 2.9.1 Karachi East

Karachi east was selected as urban district of Sindh to gauge localization of SDGs. Unfortunately, Karachi was worst hit with torrential rains and conducting this survey was not only difficult due to this factor but the line departments were on high alert for providing relief in any type of emergency that could occurred. However, with the incessant efforts of



our partner Rasti, only 8 line departments could be contacted.

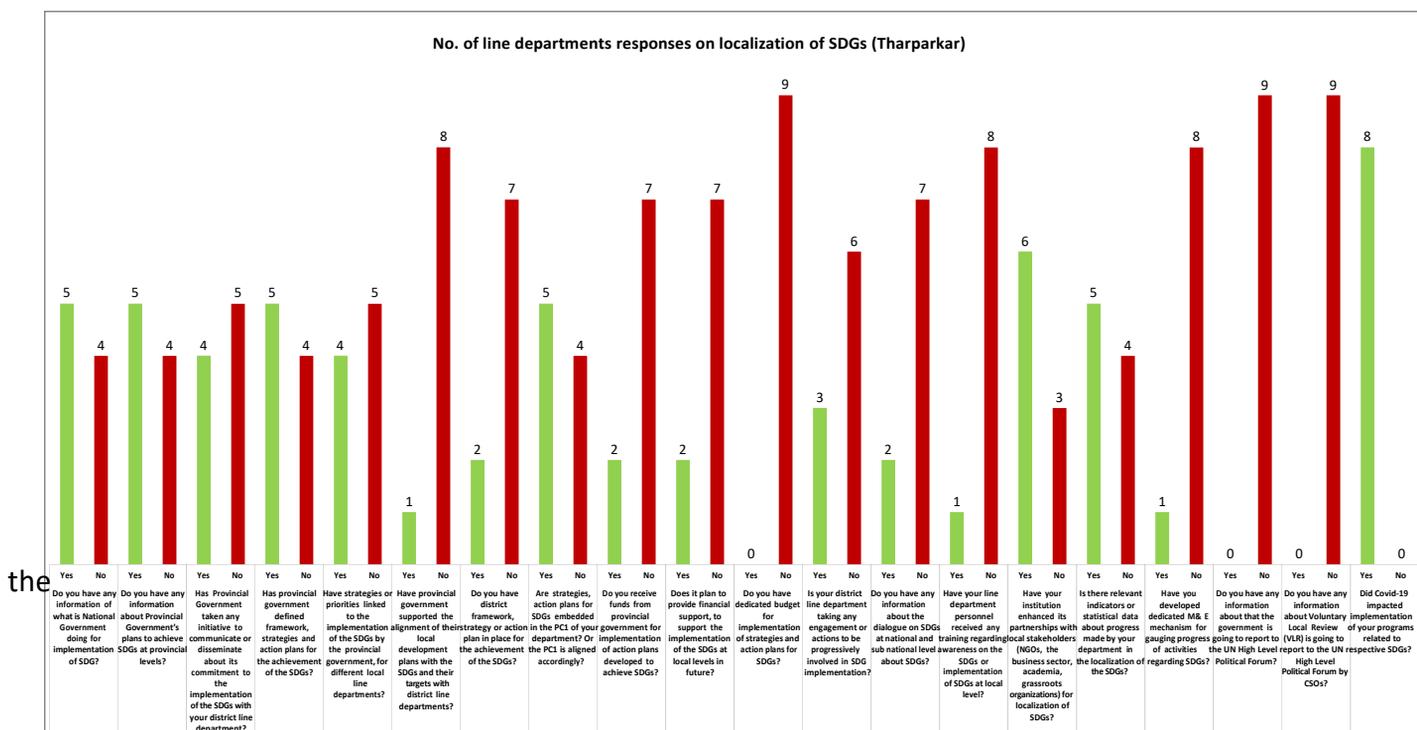
Over all Karachi east had performed better on the indicators of the survey as compared to rest of the participating districts. As it is apparent in the graph that the departments did not have much information about national government's initiatives about SDGs but were aware what was happening at provincial levels at the SDGs front. 6 of 8 line departments were informed, environment, health, education, agriculture, and education works department responded positively. 4 departments confirmed that provincial government had aligned its strategies for achieving SDGs. 5 of 8 departments affirmed that provincial government has communicated their plans and strategies with district line departments and were aware; agriculture, education, health, social welfare and LG –DMC east. Education, agriculture, health and social welfare department responded positively that provincial government has strategies and action plans for achieving SDGs rest of the respondents relied in negative. Similarly, education, agriculture, health, environment protection and social welfare department affirmed that provincial government has linked priorities with districts action plans. Whereas LG-



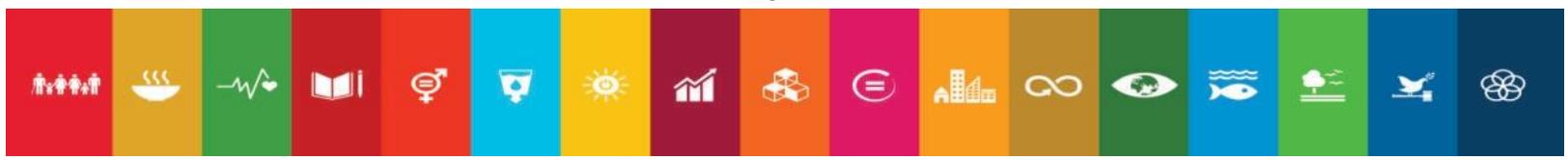
DMC East and education department responded negatively upon having their district SDGs framework. Ironically police department representative left all survey questions unanswered. All other than police and LG-DMC east informed that SDGs were not embedded in their PC1, LG-DCM East replied in negative and police did not respond to this and rest confirmed that those were embedded in their PC1s. As far as dedicated budget were concerned, only three departments' representatives responded that they receive dedicated budgets for SDGs implementation i.e. education, health and education works department. About partnership with CSOs, all affirmed they have forged partnerships with NGOs and CSOs only LG-DMC responded negatively and police did not respond to this question. Education, health, agriculture and education works departments' respondents confirmed they have M&E mechanisms in place. Responding to COVID 19 impact question only social welfare department replied negatively rest of the respondents confirmed that COVID 19 had impacted their work.

### 2.9.2 Tharparkar

As far as district Tharparkar is concerned, the line departments information about the SDGs at national and sub nation level was better than the other participating districts in the survey. At the average 5 of 9 reported positively for the first three questions. Only health department respondent confirmed that they have aligned their ADP as per provincial SDGs priorities.



Police, agriculture, women protection, social welfare, public health engineering, local government and education department responded negatively. Similarly, health and local government department informed that they have framework and action plan for SDGs, rest of the respondents from above listed departments replied in negative. While social welfare, public health engineering, local government and health department informed that they strategies and action plans for SDGs are embedded in the PC1. Whereas all participants of the survey replied in negative when asked if they had dedicated budgets for implementation of SDGs related programs and projects, as well as only health department reported that they received training on SDGs. Participants of the survey from police, social welfare, women development, public health engineering, education, local government and health department reported their collaboration and partnership with civil society organizations whereas only police department reported that they have monitoring and evaluation mechanism in placed. All respondents of the survey unequivocally confirmed that their work was impacted by the COVID 19. Their priority goals were: 1,2,3,4,6 and 16. Representatives from CSOs reported that unfortunately there was nothing done for the localization of SDGs, reasons being lack of information and coordination



between provincial and district line departments, lack of necessary funds and autonomy of budget spending as well as line departments need training on SDGs and other related mechanisms



### 3.0 Recommendations

This part of the report presents the recommendations distilled from the findings of the survey conducted in 13 districts (1 rural & 1 urban) of four provinces, two regions and ICT.

- There is lack of information about the national and subnational initiatives and programs regarding SDGs in the district levels. It is recommended that governments both at national and subnational levels carry out awareness raising and communication campaigns about SDGs to keep people and line departments in loop at grassroots levels. As well as enhance capacities of local line departments about contributing towards SDGs implementation.
- Support/train local line departments upon embedding government's priorities in their respective PC1s.
- Align ADPs of line departments with federal and provincial SDGs priorities and localize its efforts to achieve SDGs.
- Provincial governments should demonstrate seriousness about localization of Sustainable Development Goals and support district line departments in preparing district frameworks, strategies and action plans.
- Provincial governments should enhance capacities of line departments in devising, implementing M&E mechanisms, data collection and reporting and further feeding this information to national and provincial databases.
- National and subnational governments should devise multi-level governance mechanism for SDGs implementation and provide appropriate institutional frameworks.
- Multi-level dialogues should be organized to include voice of all the people from all over Pakistan and prioritize SDGs on territorial needs coming from the local people and departments.
- Involve all stakeholders, NGOs, CSOs, academia and private corporations at the local level and reach a consensus on the SDGs implementation priorities, strategies and action plans.
- Build local line departments' capacities for effective and responsive leadership. As well as mobilize local resources and forge local partnerships for implementation and achievement of SDGs.
- In order to set local priorities, subnational, regional and local ADPs should be reviewed with the objective of identifying needs, priorities, gaps and cross-sectional linkages between the geographic areas and their relationships with SDGs and national priorities.
- Create SDGs working groups and task forces at the district levels, could be a promising way of connecting departments and better coordination and sharing of information.
- Multi-stakeholder mechanism should be in place, both formal and informal that should ensure the participation of civil society organizations and others. Everyone should have opportunity to contribute towards common goal of sustainable development. These mechanisms would ensure inclusion, accountability and transparency. That will also ensure that no group dominates the other.
- Coherence with national and subnational plans with district annual development plans is key to success in implementation of SDGs. ADPs should be, setting local priorities, developed consultatively, setting local priorities, shared targets for a specific district, coherent with national priorities and strategic projects should be designed for districts.
- Provide timely budgets and enhance line departments' capacities on financial strategies, implementation strategies, monitoring and evaluation and assessment data collection.
- Local Bodies should be functional and autonomous to undertake development projects aligned with their local Priorities & SDGs.



## 4.0 Conclusion

The VLR survey informed that localization of SDGs is a far cry for Pakistan at district levels. There was a deep void between the districts of urban and rural and provinces and regions about the information, capacity, resources both financial and human necessary for implementation of SDGs.

For the speedy achievement of the global agenda and to overcome the problems in the implementation of SDGs in the country, capacity building is a must by integrating the trained forces at federal, provincial and district level. The government must ensure the integration of capacity building for institutional strengthening to develop SDGs frameworks for each district stressing ownership and responsibility. Moreover, the norms and rules, which govern federal and provincial institutions should be flexible by addressing the capacity gaps related to formulation and evaluation of the projects envisaged under SDGs at district levels. The absence of stakeholders like CSOs, academia, think tanks and policy makers is very critical in Pakistan which hampers implementation of SDGs agenda whereas it requires integrated and joint efforts by all segments of society as well as governments at all levels. In addition, financial management in public departments needs to be professionalized via capacity development programs. It is necessary to establish information centers at national and sub-national level so as to release accurate and credible information. It will help in decision making, and to facilitate information exchange between different levels of government involved in implementation of SDGs.

Local government elections should be held in all provinces in timely manner. All the local government bodies should be given administrative and financial autonomy so as they can better collect, allocate and use their resources. Provinces should organize Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) awards so as devolution of power and resources reaches at the lowest tier of the government.

Local governments should be given constitutional cover so as the lowest tier of the government should never be dismantled or dysfunctional.



## 5.0 Annexes

### Annex 1: List of District Line Departments

S. No	Line Departments
1.	District Health Department
2.	District Education Department
3.	Social Welfare and Women Development (SWD)
4.	Environment Protection
5.	Labour Department
6.	Agriculture Department
7.	Local Government Department
8.	Chamber of Commerce
9.	Police Department
10.	Construction and Works
11.	Public Health and Engineering

### Annex 2: List of Districts and Partner CSOs

S. No.	District	CSO
1.	Lahore	HomeNet Pakistan
2.	Rajanpur	NEELAB
3.	Peshawar	Blue Veins
4.	D. I Khan	SAHARA
5.	Quetta	WESS
6.	Khuzdar	MRC
7.	Karachi East	RASTI
8.	Tharparkar	Thar Education Alliance
9.	Gilgit	PEN
10.	Astore	KRSP
11.	Muzaffarabad	ADO
12.	Bagh	Baghbaan
13.	Islamabad	UGOOD



### Annex 3: Questionnaire for District Line Departments

## SDGs کی لوکلائزیشن پر رضا کارانہ لوکل ریویو (VLR) پر ڈسٹرکٹ لائن محکموں کے لیے سوالنامہ

اس سروے کے ذریعے لی گئی معلومات سے CSOs کو اپنی رپورٹ تیار کرنے میں مدد ملے گی، اور اس سروے کے تحت مقامی سطحوں پر SDGs کے نفاذ اور رپورٹنگ کے عمل کو سمجھنے میں معاونت ملے گی۔

ڈسٹرکٹ لائن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا نام: .....

ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے چیئر پرسن کا نام: .....

ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر کا نام: .....

سوالنامے کا اصل جواب دہندہ کا نام: .....

عہدہ: .....

ای میل اڈریس: .....

رابطہ نمبر: .....

سوال 1: کیا آپ کے پاس کوئی معلومات ہے کہ قومی حکومت SDGs کے نفاذ کے لیے کیا کر رہی ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

اگر آپ کا جواب ہاں میں ہے تو براہ کرم وضاحت کریں۔

.....  
.....  
.....

سوال 2: کیا آپ کے پاس صوبائی سطح پر SDGs کے حصول کے لیے صوبائی حکومت کے منصوبوں کے بارے میں کوئی معلومات ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

اگر آپ کا جواب ہاں میں ہے تو براہ کرم وضاحت کریں۔

.....  
.....  
.....



سوال 3: کیا صوبائی حکومت نے آپ کے ضلعی محکمہ کے ساتھ SDGs کے نفاذ پر عمل درآمد یا اس کی آگہی کے لئے کوئی پہل کی ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 4: کیا صوبائی حکومت نے SDGs کے حصول کے لیے فریم ورک، حکمت عملی اور ایکشن پلان کی وضاحت کی ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 5: کیا صوبائی حکومت کی طرف سے مختلف مقامی لائن محکموں کے لیے SDGs کے نفاذ سے مربوط حکمت عملی یا ترجیحات موجود ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 6: کیا صوبائی حکومت نے اپنے مقامی ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی SDGs اور ان کے اہداف کو ضلعی لائن محکموں کے ساتھ ترتیب دینے کی حمایت کی ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 7: کیا آپ کے پاس SDGs کے حصول کے لیے ضلعی فریم ورک، حکمت عملی یا ایکشن پلان موجود ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

اگر آپ کا جواب ہاں میں ہے تو کیا آپ براہ کرم اس کا پی کو ہمارے ساتھ شیئر کر سکتے ہیں؟

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سوال 8: کیا آپ کے محکمہ کے PC1 میں SDGs کے لیے حکمت عملی، ایکشن پلان شامل ہیں؟ یا PC1 اس کے مطابق منسلک ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 9: کیا آپ SDGs کے حصول کے لیے بنائے گئے ایکشن پلان پر عمل درآمد کے لیے صوبائی حکومت سے فنڈز وصول کرتے ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 10: کیا اس ایکشن پلان کا مقصد مستقبل میں مقامی سطحوں پر SDGs کے نفاذ کے لیے مالی مدد فراہم کرنا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 11: کیا آپ کے پاس SDGs کے لیے حکمت عملیوں اور ایکشن پلان پر عمل درآمد کے لیے الگ بجٹ ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 12: کیا آپ کا ضلعی محکمہ SDG کے نفاذ میں بتدریج شامل ہونے کے لیے کوئی اقدام کر رہا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

اگر ہاں، تو کیا آپ اپنے ادارے کے اقدامات کے بارے میں بتا سکتے ہیں۔

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سوال 13: کیا آپ کے پاس SDGs کے بارے میں قومی اور صوبائی سطح پر ہونے والی بات چیت کے بارے میں کوئی معلومات ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 14: کیا آپ کے لائن ڈپارٹمنٹ کے اہلکاروں نے SDGs کے بارے میں آگاہی یا مقامی سطح پر SDGs کے نفاذ کے حوالے سے کوئی تربیت حاصل کی ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 15: کیا آپ کے ادارے نے SDGs کی لوکلائزیشن کے لیے مقامی اسٹیک ہولڈرز (این جی اوز، کاروباری شعبے، اکیڈمی، نجلی سطح کی تنظیموں) کے ساتھ اپنی شراکت داری کو بڑھایا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 16: کیا SDGs کی لوکلائزیشن میں آپ کے محکمہ کی طرف سے پیش رفت کے بارے میں متعلقہ اشاریے (Indicators) یا شماریاتی ڈیٹا موجود ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 17: کیا آپ نے SDGs سے متعلق سرگرمیوں کی پیشرفت کا اندازہ لگانے کے لیے کوئی (M&E) مانیٹرنگ میکانزم تیار کیا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 18: کیا آپ کے پاس اس بارے میں کوئی معلومات ہیں کہ حکومت اقوام متحدہ کے اعلیٰ سطحی سیاسی فورم پر SDGs پر رپورٹ پیش کرنے جاری ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 19: کیا آپ کے پاس رضا کارانہ مقامی جائزہ (VLR) کے بارے میں کوئی معلومات ہے جو CSOs کے ذریعے اقوام متحدہ کے اعلیٰ سطحی سیاسی فورم کو رپورٹ کرنے جا رہا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

سوال 20: آپ کے ضلع کے ترجیح پائیدار ترقی کے اہداف (Sustainable Development Goals) کیا ہیں؟ براہ کرم 3 کی فہرست بنائیں۔

.....:1

.....:2

.....:3

سوال 21: SDGs کو حاصل کرنے میں شہریوں کی شمولیت کی سطح کیا ہے،

(a) کوئی ضلعی کمیٹیاں بنائی گئی ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

(b) کیا ممبر شپ میں خواتین بھی شامل ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

(c) رکنیت میں معذور افراد شامل ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں

(d) رکنیت میں ٹرانس جینڈر یا اقلیتی گروپ شامل ہیں؟

ہاں  نہیں



سوال 22: کیا آپ SDGs کے حوالے سے کامیابی کی کہانی شیئر کر سکتے ہیں؟ براہ کرم وضاحت کریں یا کاپی شیئر کریں۔

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سوال 23: آپ کے خیال میں SDGs کی اوکلائزیشن کو حاصل کرنے کے لیے ضلعی لائن حکاموں کو کن اہم چیلنجوں کا سامنا ہے؟

1: 

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2: 

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3: 

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24: COVID-19 نے آپ کے متعلقہ SDGs کے پروگراموں یا پلان کے نفاذ کو متاثر کیا ہے؟

ہاں  نہیں

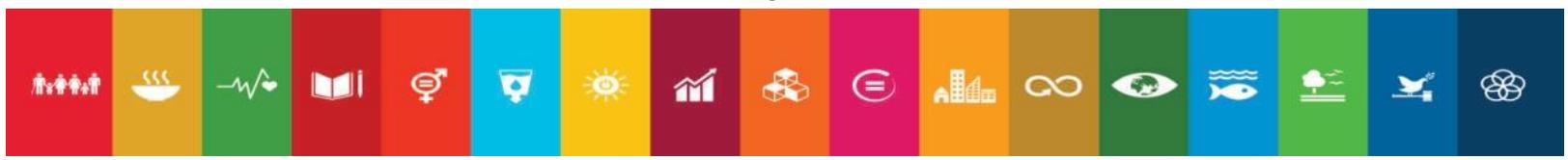
25: اگر ہاں تو براہ کرم متعلقہ چیلنجز اور ان کی وجہ سے ہونے والے بڑے اثرات کی فہرست بنائیں۔

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آپ کے قیمتی وقت اور معلومات فراہم کرنے کا شکریہ!



سوال نامہ برائے سول سوسائٹی آرگنائزیشنز (CSOs)

1- آپ کو ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) کی لوکلائزیشن کے بارے میں کیا معلومات ہیں؟

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2- آپ کے علم کے مطابق ضلعی سطح پر کوئی ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) فریورک بنے ہیں؟

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3- گورنمنٹ کے ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) کی لوکلائزیشن کے بارے میں کئے گئے تین اقدامات بتائیں؟

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4- کیا ضلع کی سطح پر ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) Gender Equality (Quality Education), 3(Good Health & Well-Being), 4(Zero Hunger) کے لیے کوئی خاص پراجیکٹس شروع ہوئے ہیں؟

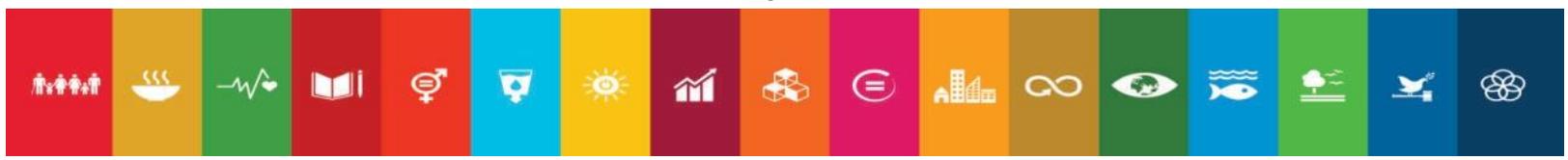
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5- کیا ان پراجیکٹس کا صرف اعلان ہوا ہے یا ان کے لیے بجٹ بھی مختص کیا گیا ہے؟

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6۔ ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) کی لوکلائزیشن کے لئے ضلع کے سطح پر کوئی افرمختص کیا گیا ہے؟

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7۔ ضلعی سطح پر ایس۔ ڈی۔ جیز (SDGs) کے پراجیکٹس کی مانیٹرنگ کا کوئی نظام قائم ہوا ہے؟

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Tharparkar

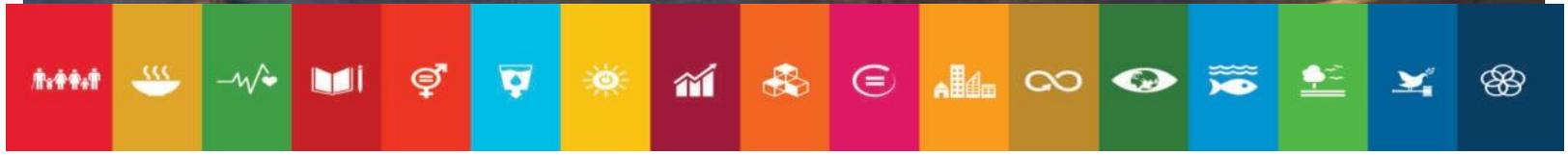




Queta



Islamabad



National Secretariat



Azad Jammu & Kashmir



Balochistan



Federal



Gilgit Baltistan



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Punjab



Sindh



National Secretariat at

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