

During HLPF 2021, UN-Habitat was involved in [fourteen sessions](#), between side events, special sessions and the VLR-VSR Days. Through high level and extended presence, UN-Habitat worked to amplify the voice of local actors and local governments, addressing key issues related to the recovery from the pandemic and, specifically, the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The side event [Homelessness, SDG 1 and Sustainable Recovery from COVID19: Poverty left behind](#), co-organised together with the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), aimed at understanding to what extent the lack of standardized data collection methodologies on homelessness hampers the reporting process for all SDGs, specifically SDG1 – end poverty, and the sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. Discussion held during the event will feed into the work of the Global Homelessness Data Initiative, the first global project to support homelessness enumeration which has been jointly undertaken by UN-Habitat and IGH.

The side event [Territorial Approaches for Inclusive and Resilient Food Systems](#) sponsored by Uganda and Spain and co-organized by UNCDF, FAO, OECD, UN-Habitat and UCLG aimed to promote the global independent food systems dialogue held on 8 of July and an upcoming Food Systems Summit parallel session on July 23. This side event meant to bring innovative solutions that regions, countries and cities are applying to strengthen food systems and achieve SDGs at the local level.

The [VLR-VSR Days](#) were held virtually between July 14 and July 16. In partnership with UCLG, UN-Habitat organized 5 sessions (recordings below) with over 65 speakers and 470 participants, representing 29 countries, to discuss the future of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) as powerful accelerators of the localization of the SDG. The VLR-VSR Days were the occasion to also officially launch the [Second Volume of the Guidelines for VLRs](#) “Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link” along with the [VLR Communiqué](#). In addition, UN-Habitat presented the [new VLR website](#), which includes the main resources on VLRs, examples of technical cooperation and the complete list of available VLRs.

As part of its global effort to advance the localization of the SDGs, and along with the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) and UNDP, UN-Habitat coordinated the organization of the [Local 2030 side event Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery and SDG Localization Through Joined Up Local Action](#). Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohamed gave a keynote speech reconfirming the UN support to local actors and local action to the recovery and achieve the SDGs. Local 2030 is the UN-wide initiative on SDG localization and, as of September 2021, its secretariat will be hosted by UN-Habitat that will also co-chair the initiative with UNDP.

In case you missed them, here below the links to the recording of the sessions:

VLR-VSR Days

- [Launch of the second volume of the UN-Habitat-UCLG Guidelines](#)
- [Metropolises and VLRs](#)
- [Voluntary Subnational Reviews](#)
- [Data and Indicators in VLR and VSR processes](#)
- [Inclusion and Participatory Processes in VLRs and VSRs](#)

Official HLPF Side Events

- [Homelessness, SDG 1 and Sustainable Recovery from COVID19: Poverty left behind](#)
- [Territorial Approaches for Inclusive and Resilient Food Systems](#)

- [Local 2030: Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery and SDG Localization Through Joined Up Local Action](#)