Malaysia
SDG CITIES
The Malaysia SDG Cities is developed by Urbanice Malaysia, a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia. Urbanice advocate the agenda for a sustainable urban nation for Malaysia and its aim is encourage all Malaysian cities to prepare its own sustainable development roadmap and action plans to meet their local needs and challenges. Urbanice also promotes the development of integrated urban solutions to create livable cities by focusing on: a) Providing various platform for knowledge sharing and pooling of resources from all partners on sustainable solutions; b) Providing advisory services on related urban planning, urban development and urban management agenda to the various stakeholders; and c) Collaborations and partnerships to implement projects and programs by bringing diverse expertise and resources together to address current and future urban challenges in Malaysia.
The Sustainable Agenda in Malaysia

Malaysia’s sustainable development agenda has been implemented since the 1970s, with the emphasis on eradicating poverty, improving the people’s well-being, providing universal access to education as well as caring for the environment. This has been clearly reflected in our five-year national economic and spatial development plans where institutional frameworks has been strengthened to improve coordination for effective implementation.

Malaysia has also set an overarching philosophy of development for all through its Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, with specific thrusts to address wealth and income disparities that in turn will achieve the objectives of equitable growth to create a united, prosperous and peaceful nation.

However with continued challenges of growth and 77% urbanisation rate, Malaysia is challenged by the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change and as such will also focus on the right balance between growth and measures needed to address these rising environmental issues.

Hence the SDGs will be embed in Malaysia’s medium term development plans and its Shared Prosperity Vision 2021-2030. The 17 Goals and 169 targets will be realised by ensuring that it further infiltrates to all levels of implementation systems and these include local, state and regional. Action plans and initiatives need to be amplified and the Malaysia SDGs Cities is an initiative that will assist to accelerate the localisation of the SDGs. The New Urban Agenda will also be used as key thrust to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is transformative and effective.

**Malaysia’s Urbanization Rate**

- 33.5% (1970), 71% (2010), 77.2% in 2020 and 85% by 2040

**Population Malaysia**

- 32.7 million (2020), 41.5 million (2040)
Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 is a commitment to make Malaysia a nation that achieves sustainable growth along with fair and equitable distribution, across income groups, ethnicities, regions and supply chains. With the aim to provide a decent standard of living to all Malaysians by 2030, the vision 3 objectives are: development for all, address inequality and to attain a united, prosperous and dignified nation.
Malaysia Sustainable Urbanisation Framework

The Malaysia sustainable urbanisation framework aims to achieve a Sustainable Urban Nation by advocating a single universal agenda that links the SDGs with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) to address specifically the means and approaches on how cities need to be planned, designed, managed, governed and financed to achieve the 17 SDGs and its 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The framework leverage on NUA’s five key trust focusing on three transformative commitments: Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty; Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All; and Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development: and two effective implementation that emphasize on the importance of governance structure and its spatial development. And to achieve its commitment, development enablers which include National Urban Policies and Urban Economy and Municipal Finance are crucial, while operational enablers which involve urban design and urban planning, rules, regulations and urban legislation and local implementation plays a significant role in this commitment. Hence, the framework reaffirms the importance of cities in achieving and contributing to the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 goals and target.

Source: Urbanice Malaysia, 2019
About Malaysia SDG Cities Roadmap

The Malaysia SDG Cities recognizes that cities and communities are crucial in determining its own set of priorities and decides on the means of implementation to ensure that the SDG Goals and targets are met.

The framework is set to encourage a bottom-up approach in developing local action plans that will accelerate the SDGs achievements for Malaysia where the 17 SDGs and its 169 targets of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda must be achieved. Localizing the global goals at cities and urban areas is important for an urban nation like Malaysia and the Malaysia SDG Cities will ensure that vertical integration between national and state policies at all levels are aligned to the SDGs by realizing the aspirations and ensuring of its effective implementation locally.
Why Malaysia Need SDG Cities Roadmap

1. Raise local government awareness, commitment and capacities towards sustainable agenda.

2. Set local priorities and focus attention on urgent urban challenges to harness future opportunities.

3. Creates a platform for Partnership to mobilize and empower stakeholders to identify practical integrated and innovative Solutions.

4. Develop an Action Plan to match the SDG and synchronized and align with National, State and Local development agendas.

5. Facilitate local government access to funding resources and develop business models to finance SDGs actions.

6. Strengthen role of Local Governments to monitor, evaluate and report SDG progress to national and state level.

7. Enable Local Governments and communities to be the catalyst of local change.
What Malaysia SDG Cities Mean for Different Stakeholders?

**National Government**
The Malaysia SDG Cities will provide important inputs needed to report on Voluntary National Review for SDGs, establish coherent national policies to address important urban issues and promote necessary regulatory frameworks.

**State Government**
The SDG Cities will allow States to measure the performance of their State in SDG implementation. Provide an opportunity to facilitate state wide planning to address challenging issues and coordinate state multiple sectoral interventions.

**Local Government**
The SDG City Report will provide a good opportunity for Local Actions that translates the Global Agenda to overcome local issues and to streamline State and National Polices. It will also lead to encourage Local Governments to prepare its Voluntary Local Review.

**Private Sector**
The SDG Cities roadmap will include the role of private sector to promote the financing and delivery of infrastructure, goods, and services; adopt new technologies to strengthen measures to achieve the SDGs targets.

**Civil Society**
The SDG Cities roadmap will open up space for engagement and participation in local decision-making and enable civil society to understand on their role and responsibilities to effect change to the SDG implementation.
Localising SDGs and its integration

In localizing the SDGs, the Malaysia SDG Cities will adapt, implement and monitor the SDGs’ goals and targets at the local level. This will accelerate the localization process where almost 60% of the SDGs targets will depend on local government actions in Malaysia. SDG II in particular is the role of our local government to implement and ensure that our cities and urban areas are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. And with 25 million urban dwellers, our local government key role is to ensure it meets the needs of the growing city and its communities.

Aligning To National & State Policies and Plans

To implement the National SDG Roadmap for Malaysia, the need to align local SDGs programs and initiatives with State and National is important. This will support a bottom-up process, where the City Roadmap and Voluntary Local Reviews by Local Governments will provide the mechanism for implementation and monitoring.

This vertical integration is challenging but necessary to ensure that Malaysia VN2 makes localization of SDGs as an essential part of national and state strategies and supports local governments efforts through technical support and funding.

Localising, mainstreaming and promoting ownership and partnerships to all our cities

| 154 | Local Governments |
| 314 | Urban Centres |
| 25 million | Urban Population |
| 98 people | Density per sq.km. |
MALAYSIA reports on 8 SDGs in 2017

The VNR states Malaysia current status, success factors, achievements and sets the direction for the remaining priorities to be addressed.
Malaysia Governance for SDG Roadmap

**Goals**
- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 3: Good Health & Well-being
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 6: Clean Water & Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable & Clean Energy
- Goal 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

**Steering Committees**
- Formulate SDG Roadmap, monitor progress of targets, identify issues and report to National SDG Council

**National SDG Council**
- Chaired by EPU
- Establish direction for SDG implementation, set national agenda and milestones and prepare reporting to UN High Level Political Forum

**Working Committees**
- Identify indicators for each goal of SDG, develop and implement programmes and report progress to Steering Committees

**UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**
- National SDG Council
- Establish direction for SDG implementation, set national agenda and milestones and prepare reporting to UN High Level Political Forum
Malaysia SDG Cities Roadmap Through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals

- Provide quality basic services for all Malaysians
- Promote measures that support green & clean cities
- Improve connectivity and promote safe and accessible cities
- Ensure respect on the rights of urban dwellers regardless of their social profile and status
- Take action to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in cities
- Bring together variety of partners to deliver shared objectives
- Encourage the participation of communities in implementing and delivering the sustainable agenda
- Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and impact from disasters
- Enhance local economy to reduce disparities, foster social cohesion and generate job opportunities
Measuring the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Cities

In measuring the successful implementation of the SDGs in Malaysian cities, the 17 Goals and its targets has been aligned to 3 key factors that are reflects the guiding principles of Malaysia’s Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 and the commitment towards carbon reduction emission.

The 3 key outcomes are:

- Ensure inclusive growth and development for all
- Enhance access to quality services to address disparities
- Promote environmental sustainability to mitigate climate change
| 1  | NO POVERTY | End Poverty in all its forms. |
| 2  | ZERO HUNGER | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. |
| 3  | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. |
| 4  | QUALITY EDUCATION | Ensure quality education and learning opportunities for all. |
| 5  | GENDER EQUALITY | Achieve gender equality. |
| 6  | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | Ensure availability, and sustainable management, of water and sanitation for all. |
| 7  | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | Ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all. |
| 8  | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | Promote sustainable growth, and productive employment and decent work for all. |
| 9  | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | Promote resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. |
| 10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | Reduce inequality within and among countries. |
| 11 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | Make cities and human settlements resilient and sustainable. |
| 12 | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. |
| 13 | CLIMATE ACTION | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. |
| 14 | LIFE BELOW WATER | Conserve and sustainably use marine resources. |
| 15 | LIFE ON LAND | Promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. |
| 16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, with access to justice and accountable institutions. |
| 17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | Strengthen implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. |
Developing the City Roadmap and Action Plan

To accelerate the Malaysia SDG Cities, Urbanice Malaysia has drawn up a 3 + 1 step process as a guiding framework to support cities and regions to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The process is to encourage cities to establish its roadmap and action plans that covers a range of strategies, programs and initiatives that is aligned to the SDG goals and targets.

Malaysian cities are also encouraged to prepare its Voluntary Local Review to record and share its commitments, strategies and roadmap. This VLR can be tabled and shared at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainability.

- **VLR** is a process in which local government voluntarily assess the progress of their plans, projects and policies using the 2030 Agenda - its goals, targets and indicators as parameters for monitoring and evaluation.

- **VLR** allows local governments to progress on SDGs,
  - Highlight challenges, experiences and lessons learnt,
  - Form partnerships to achieve the local visions,
  - Strengthen social accountability and cities participation for more adaptive governance.
City Profiling & Diagnostic

1. City Baselines
   - City Database
   - Stakeholder Mapping
   - Key Challenges & Opportunities

2. City Planning and Development
   - Existing Blueprints
   - Existing Policies, Strategies, Programs and Initiatives
   - Status and Phase of Implementation

3. Mapping and Alignment
   - Map and align city planning and development with
     SDGs and NUA and recognized efforts that are already
     in place with 2030 agenda.

Gap Analysis
   - Identify Gaps between Plan, issues and programs.

City Visioning

1. Key Stakeholders Engagement
   - Understand issues faced and priority areas of
     concerns.
   - Collective review of current city’s policies and
     strategies.

2. Setting Priorities
   - Collective View on priority SDGs for implementation
     and best approaches to accelerate progress and
     initiatives.

3. Revisit City Vision, Setting Goals and Key Targets
   - Revisit current visions and align to the SDGs.
   - Set a Shared Vision approach.
   - Set achievable goals and targets for the city.

City SDG Local Actions and Roadmap

1. SDG Local Actions
   - Develop action plans according to city’s vision, goals
     and priorities that match to the SDGs.

2. Integrate and Synchronize
   - Vertical integration or synchronization between local
     and national development agendas.

3. Roadmap and Model
   - Develop timeline and implementation model for the
     local actions
   - Identify partners for implementation
   - Identify key outcomes for City Programs and Projects

4. Monitoring and Accreditation
   - Develop a reporting system for monitoring
   - Local accreditation for SDG localization.

City Voluntary Local Review

1. Commitments for VLR
   - Identify Local Commitments to SDGs that is shared for
     VLR.

2. Mapping local needs to global goals
   - An opportunity to share city’s programs, initiatives and
     achievements with global cities.

3. Setting up formal/ informal mechanism for continued integration of SDGs
   - Highlights specific local challenges and how the
     actions overcomes them.
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Local governments are in the ideal position to identify people living in poverty on the ground, and to target resources and services to help them escape it. Their responsibilities for local basic services, such as water and sanitation, make us key partners in the achievement of SDG1. Local governments can also play a role by developing local economic development strategies to create jobs and raise incomes, and by building the resilience of our communities to shocks and disasters.

Ensure quality education and learning opportunities for all

Local governments and relevant agencies can integrate technical and vocational training programmes into local economic development strategies, making sure that training takes into account the labour market opportunities. Local governments are particularly well-placed to reach out to vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities and to ensure they have access to education and training that meet their needs. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Local Government management of natural resources and bio-diversity will help to ensure sustainable agriculture for local food production remain an important use and activity especially in sub-urban and rural areas, and by also encouraging the use of technology to help improve agricultural productivity. Cities and urban areas can also play a role in ensuring food security by allowing urban farming activities in neighbourhoods and on less productive land.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Local Government can play an important role to promote a healthy city environment for its population by increasing access to quality basic services especially access to health care facilities and creating an efficient city living to reduce stress and illness. It is also in the capacity to ensure that the environmental quality of its area is well taken care off to avoid fatalities from any of form of air and water pollution.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Local governments can act as a model for gender equality and the empowerment of women through non-discriminatory service provision to citizens and fair employment practices. They are on the frontline of identifying and tackling violence and harmful practices against women. Local governments can mainstream gender equality across all areas of their work in order to tackle the multiple barriers to women’s empowerment.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Local Government can ensure access to clean water and sanitation through good local & development control, natural resource management, and urban services. Local governments have a role to play in improving water quality through environmental protection measures, improvement of local infrastructure and adopting sustainable solid waste management.
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy**

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Local Government can help to ensure that all of its local population has access to electricity. It can also encourage the use of technology and design for better energy efficiency in buildings as well as facilitate the local production of modern, clean and renewable energy to help the environment.

8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth full and productive employment and decent work for all

Local Governments can generate growth and employment by harnessing on the local unique resources to increase opportunities for local businesses, enhance tourism, agricultural and small enterprises that will provide decent work for all.

11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Local government is in the best position to ensure people living in cities are able to advance socially and economically. Efficient urban planning and management practices that provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.

12. **Responsible Consumption and Production**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Local governments has a role in promoting sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources that can be leverage for sustainable tourism. They are also in the position to ensure sound management of all waste throughout its life cycle and enforce the reduction of waste generation.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

Local governments are essential to the reduction of inequality within cities. It will be vital to channel resources to local governments in the most deprived areas, and to build our capacities to identify and tackle poverty and exclusion. Local governments can implement best practices in terms of equality and non-discrimination in our own institutions and operations, as well as making these criteria in our procurement of goods and services.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Local governments are particularly important in developing and maintaining infrastructure to serve urban areas and to link them up with their surrounding territories. Local governments and relevant agencies can assist in the promotion of small-scale industry and start-ups in their local economic development strategies, considering local resources, needs and markets. They can identify gaps to access the ICT for our communities and take steps to bridge them.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Local government can integrate climate change measures into local planning policies and strategies. It must strengthen its institutional and individual capacity to effectively implement climate mitigation, adaptation to reduce impacts to the city and its community.

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Local government and cities has the ability to reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular through discharge of sewage, industrial effluent and other waste water and solid waste into rivers, coastal waterways and ocean to achieve a healthy and productive marine resource.
Promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

Local government and cities play an important role to protect our forest and its biodiversity through local planning development process. It has the ability to create public awareness on its importance and provide the required incentives and mechanisms to manage and preserve its ecosystem.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies with societies, with access to justice and accountable institutions

Local government and cities can ensure that the city is peaceful and inclusive. It can encourage locals to participate in planning for the future needs of the city and implement a gender responsive participatory budgeting and planning process.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Local governments are in the ideal position to encourage and facilitate partnerships between public bodies, the private sector and civil society to share the vision and responsibility towards an economically, socially and environmentally sound city. Reliable local data will be an essential tool to monitor sub-national variations in progress and in targeting resources to make sure that no one is left behind. Cities’ cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships locally, nationally and internationally will contribute to this goal.