

# Localization of SDGs: Approach, Strategies and Alignment with Local Development Priorities

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# Session Objectives

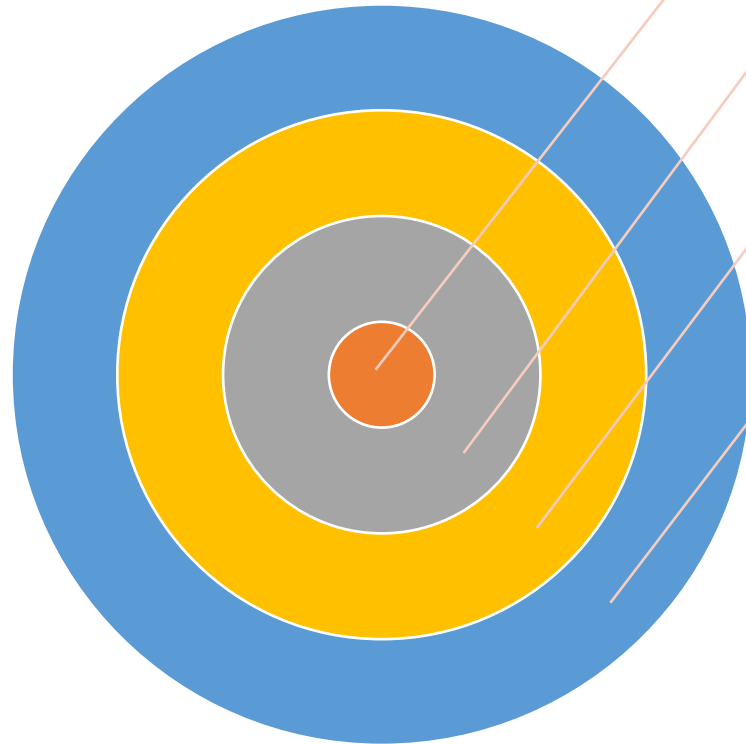
To understand the concept and importance of SDG localization in the context of national and sub-national development.

To explore key approaches and frameworks for localizing the SDGs.

To identify tools and strategies for integrating SDGs into local planning and budgeting processes.

To assess the institutional, financial, and capacity-related challenges in implementing SDG localization.

# Understanding Concepts



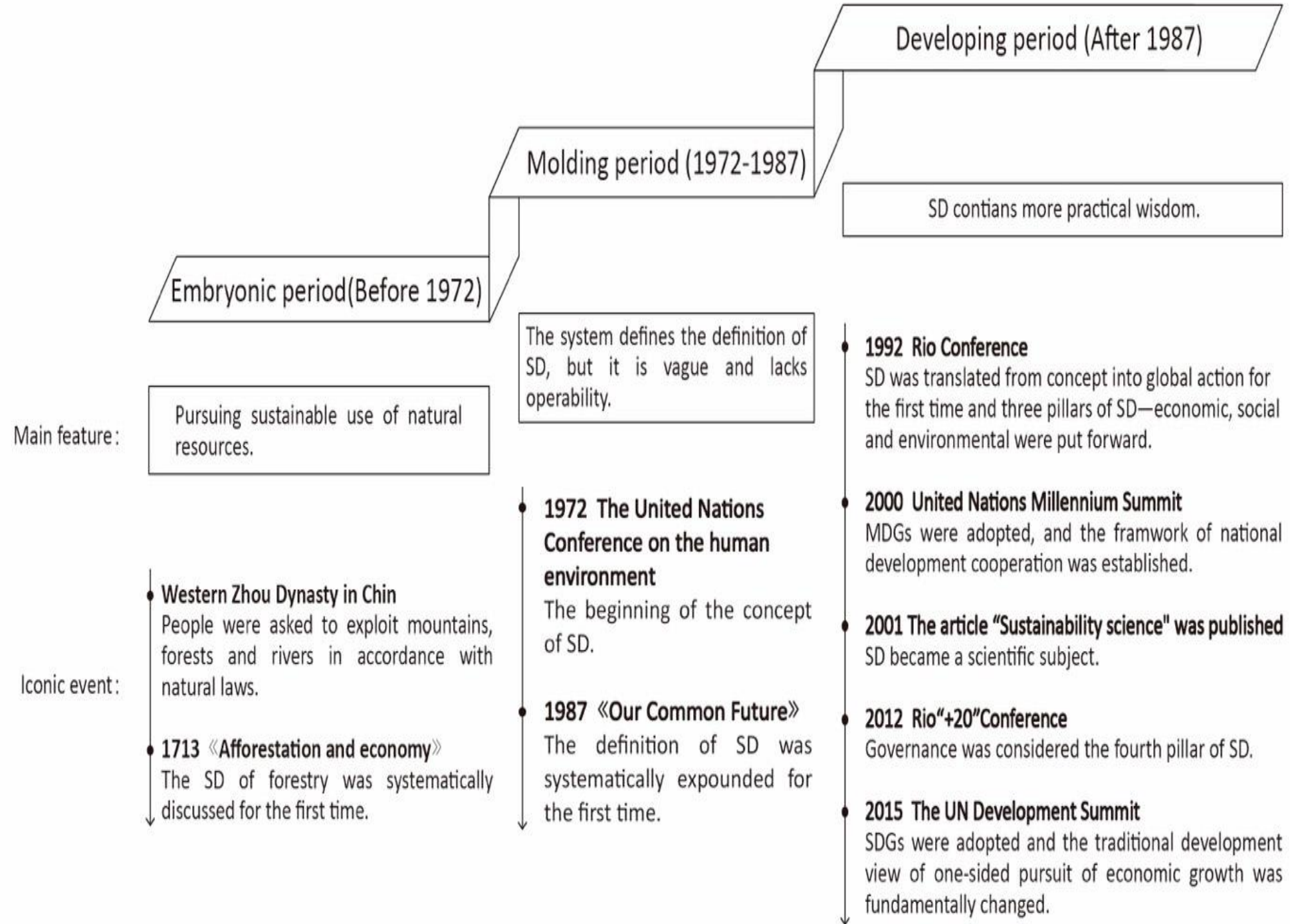
What do you understand by Sustainable Development?

What is the best description about SD?

Why Sustainable Development?

What is your perception about Evolution of SDGs?

# Evolution of SDGs Concept



# Agenda 2030

All member states have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals at 70<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

The declaration is titled as ***Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

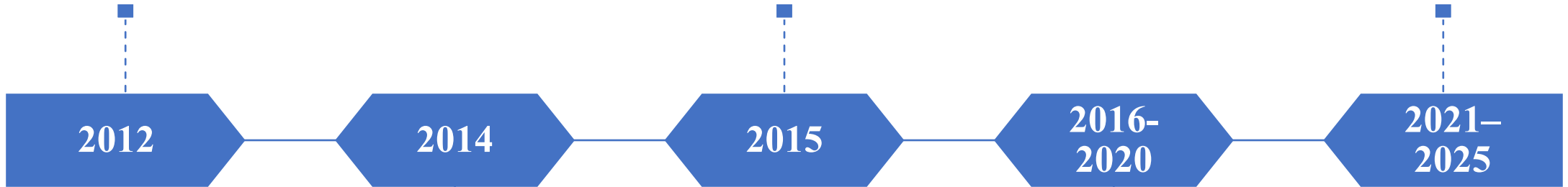
Powerful message is ***No one to be left behind***

The 193 member states have committed to work towards implementing the 2030 Agenda

17 Goals with 169 associated Targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the international development agenda over the next 15 years

# SDGs: Bangladesh Overview

1st round of National Post-2015 consultation process between November 2012-May 2013, led by GED. Bangladesh submitted its report in 2013, proposing 11 goals



UN Global Agenda Adaptation by member countries

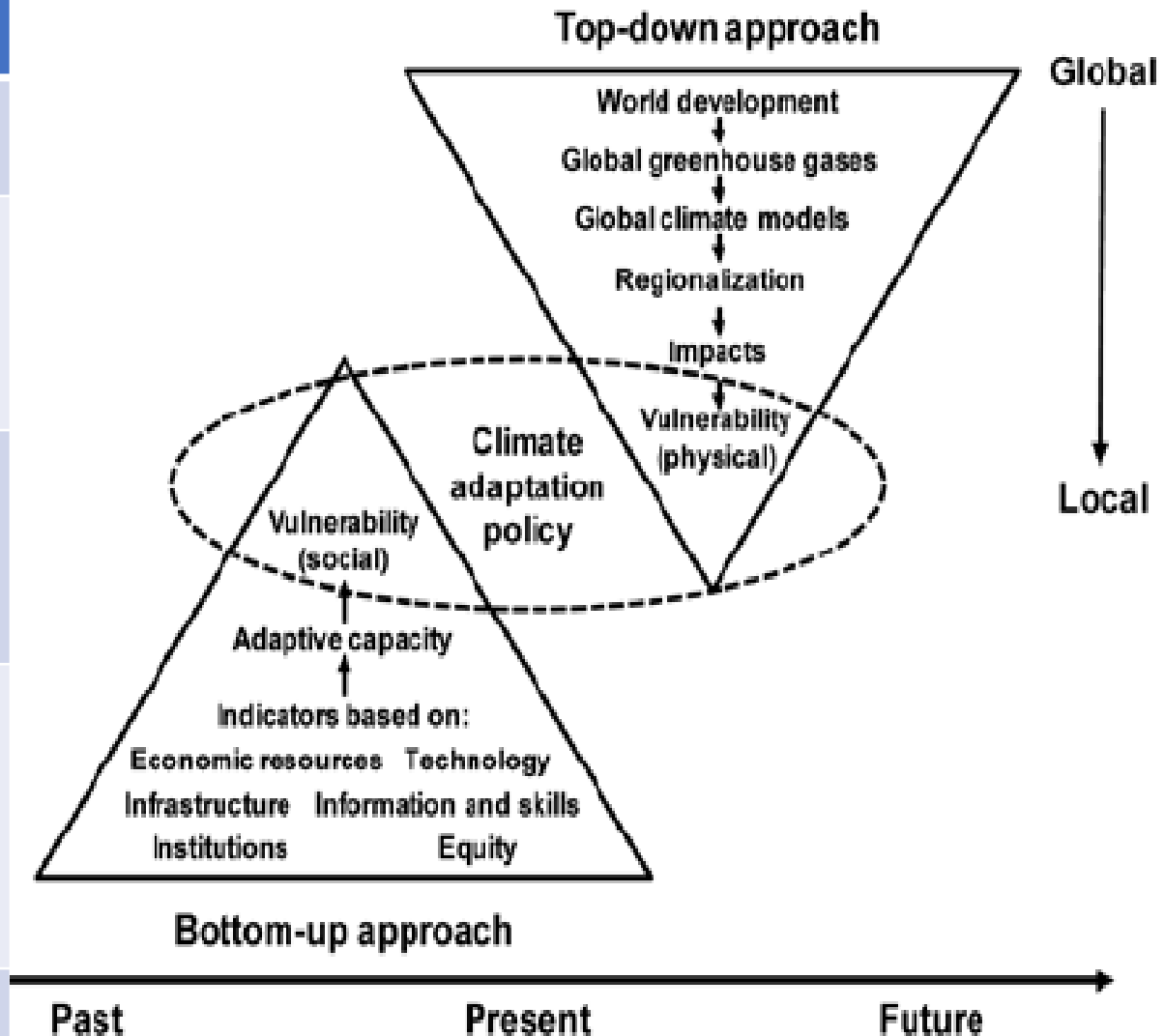
Bangladesh is currently implementing its 8th Fifth Year Plan where targets of SDGs are included

2nd round of post-2015 consultations, led by the UN Development Group (UNDG) took place in 2014 on the 'means of implementation' - Bangladesh investigated 'participatory monitoring for accountability'

Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP) for the period of 2016-2020 (56 SDG targets are directly reflected into 7th FYP, 102 targets are almost similar)

# Understanding Approaches

TOP DOWN	BOTTOM UP
Maximalist agenda	Minimalist agenda
Government-constructed centralized	Emphasize as the lobby of people influence the government for a change
A change within change	A grounds of communities of practices
A dialogue between the citizens and the government	A learning experience upon a framework for sustainability
For Instance: MDGs	For Instance: SDGs



# Ordinal list to Circular list Visualization

Top-down (achieving, controlling) from particular to general (inductive thinking).

Bottom-up (participation, collaboration) from general to detail (holistic thinking).

Actions as self-legitimated

From target to goals

Rational Process

Purpose as crucial

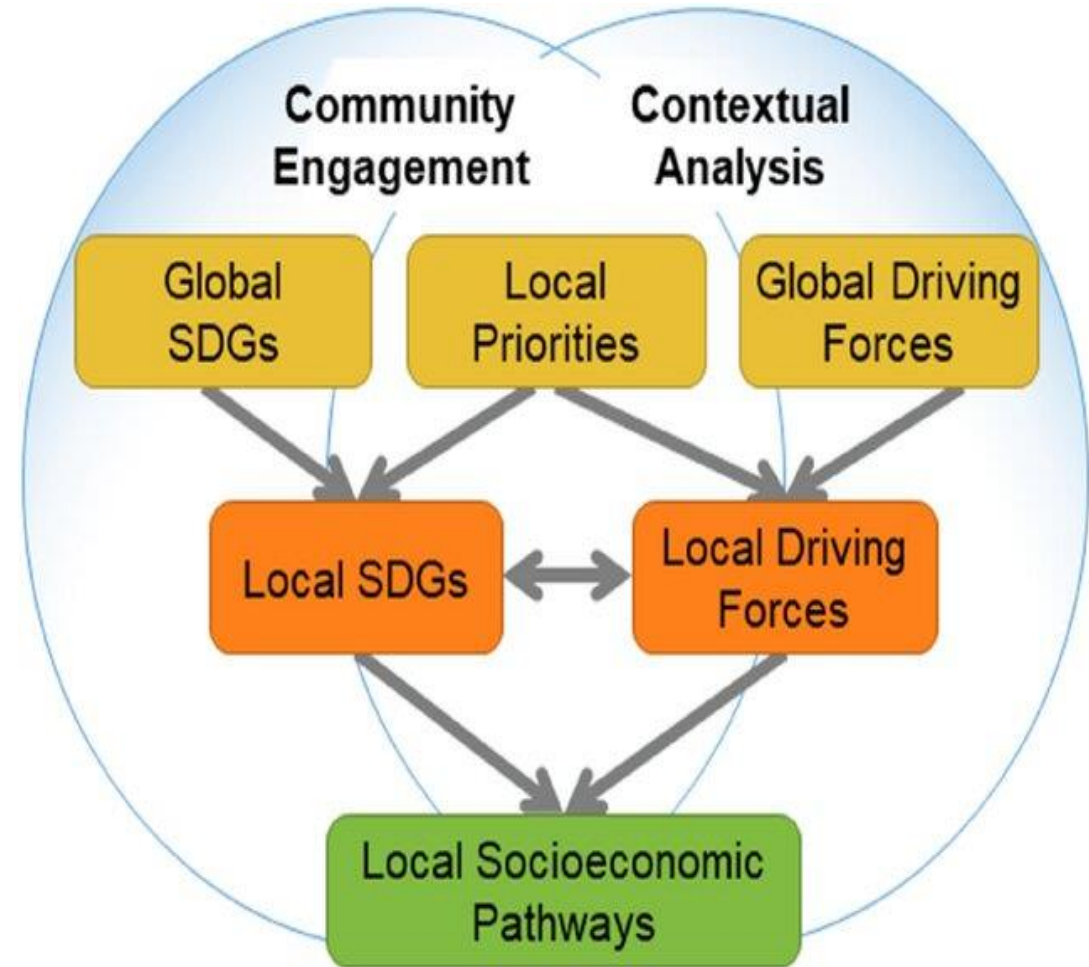
From final answer to actions

Adaptive process

# **Understanding Localization of SDGs**

# Understanding Localization Concept

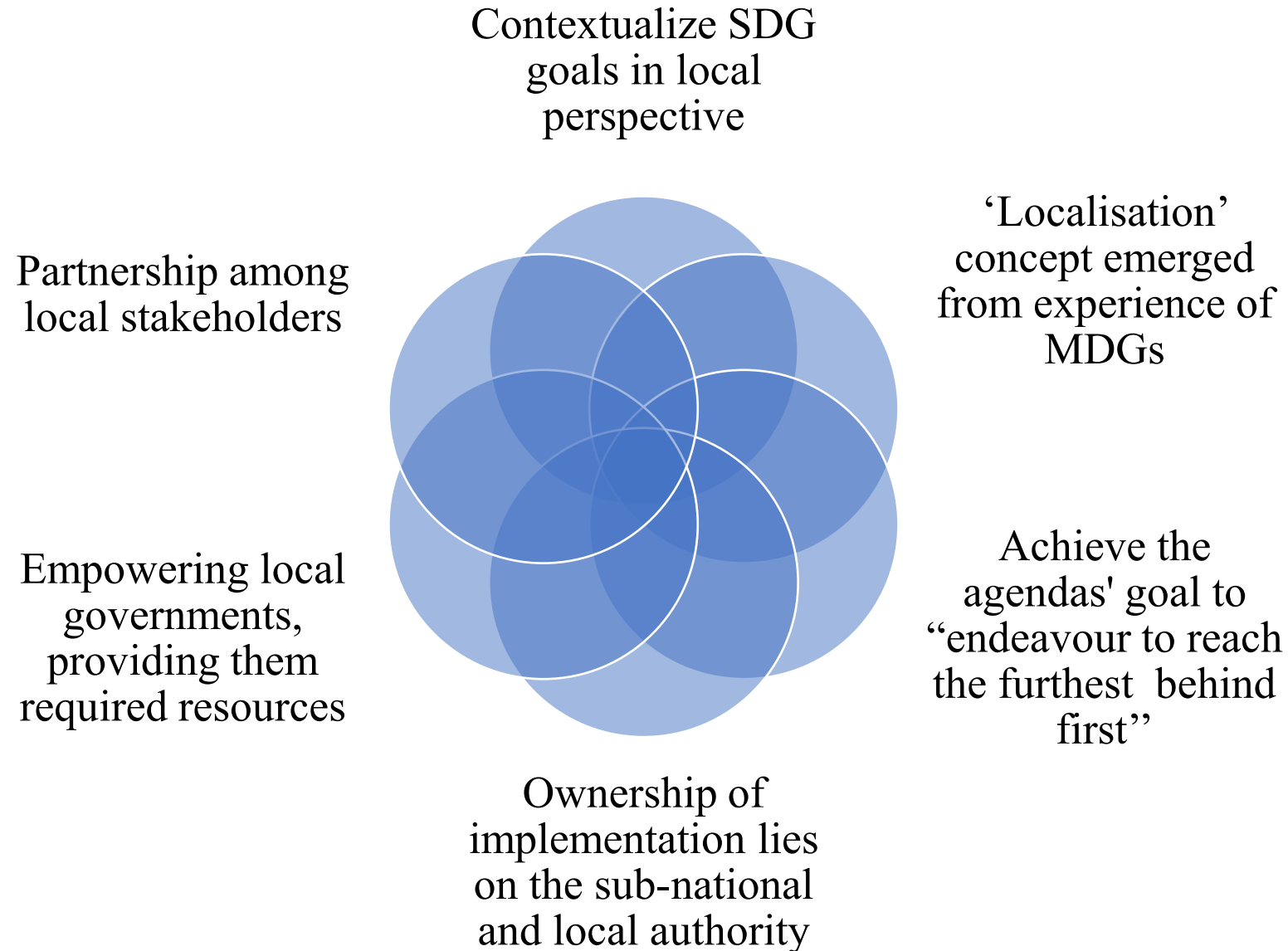
- Localization of SDGs
- Adapting global SDGs to local contexts
- Involving local stakeholders in decision-making
- Tracking progress on localized SDGs



# Defining Localization

- SDG localization refers to the process of **adapting and implementing SDGs** at the local level, meaning cities, regions, and communities take **ownership of achieving the global goals by tailoring them** to their specific needs, priorities, and context, often **involving collaboration** between local governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to address challenges on the ground.
- “the process of **defining, implementing and monitoring** strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and subnational sustainable development goals”.

# Defining Localization of SDGs



# Localization Process

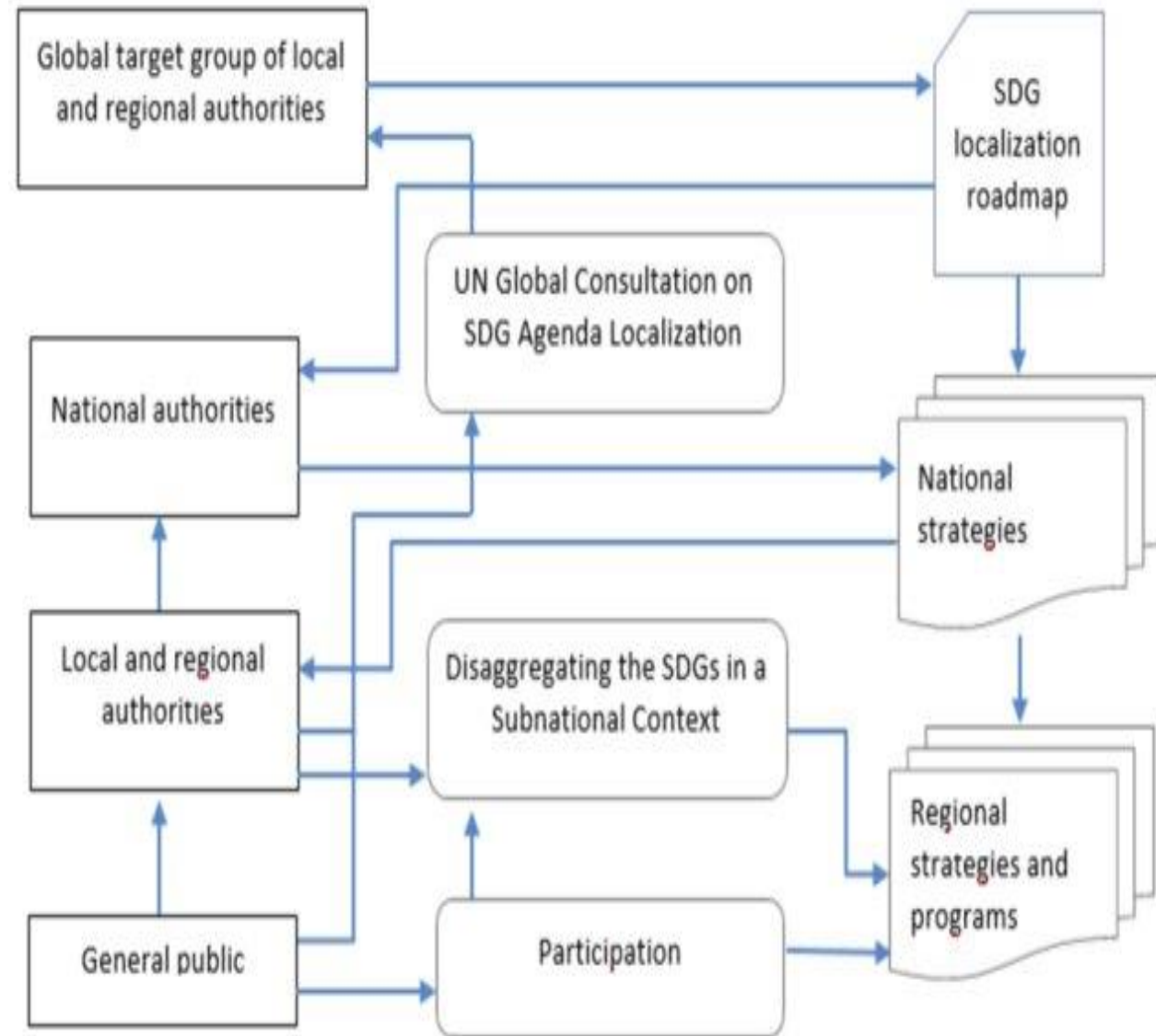
## Process of Localization

- Contextualizing (global-national-subnational)
- Implementation (Needs, Priorities and Context)
- Monitoring and Evaluation (tracking data)

## Actors of Localization

- Macro, Meso and Micro level Stakeholders

Collaboration between local governments, civil society, and other stakeholders



# Why does Localization of SDGs matter?

Translation of the global SDG targets into local policy options are **top-down, experts and elites dominated**

SDGs explicitly call for action by **local authorities**

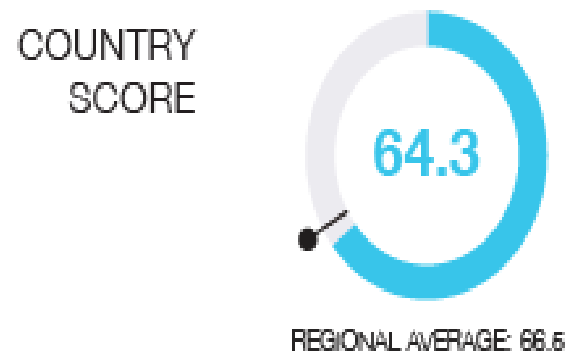
12 of the 17 SDGs (excepting 9, 12, 13, 14 and 17) **require integrated strategies** at the **community level**

To overcome the **interlinked challenges** of poverty, ill-health, social ills, poor governance

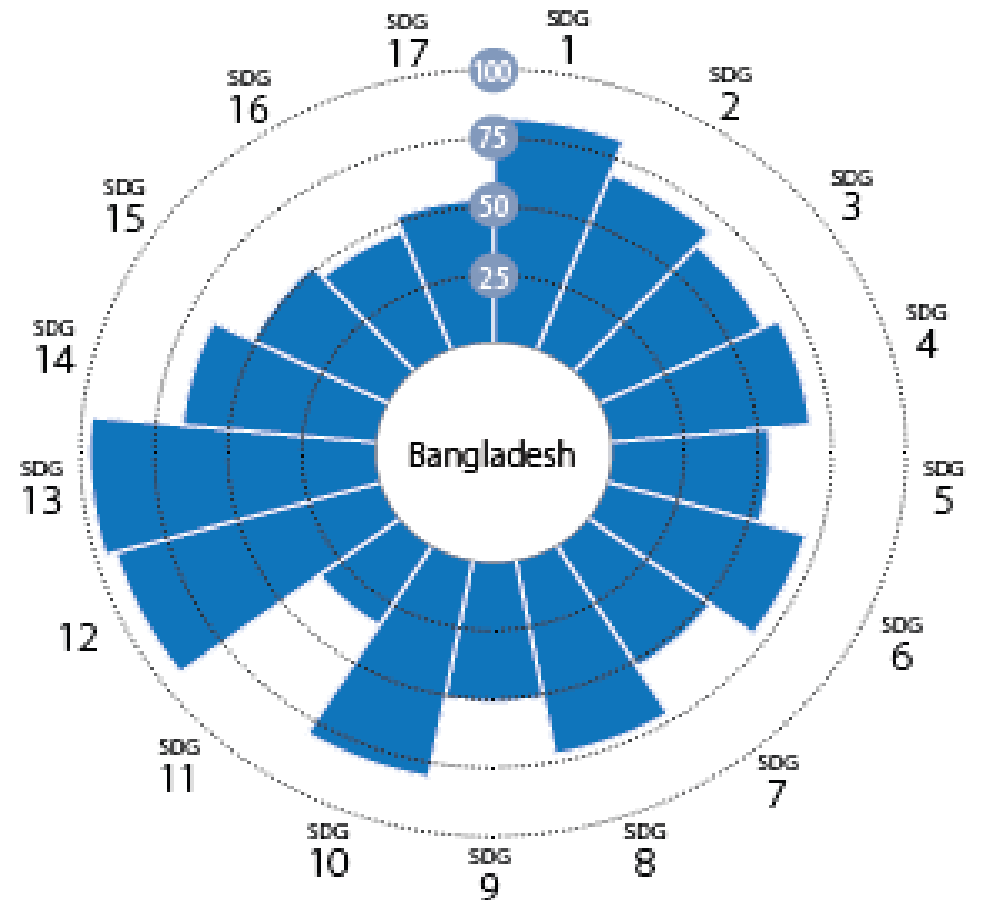
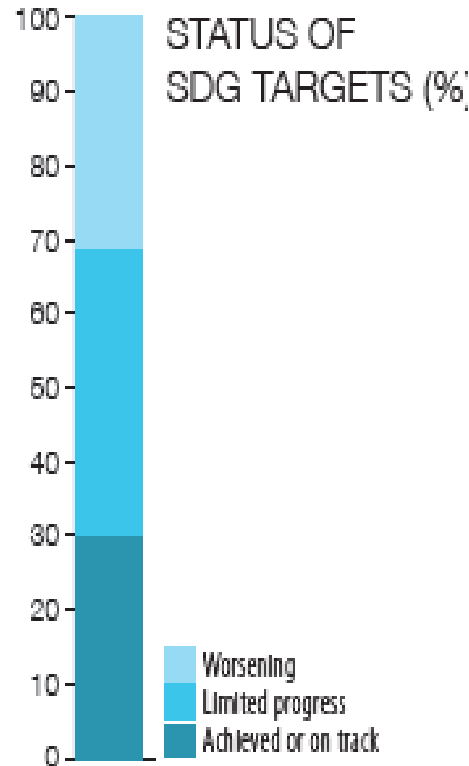
**Preparation and implementation** of plans relating to **public services and economic development** at the level closest to the people

# SDGs Progress: Bangladesh-2024

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE



## AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



# SDG Dashboards and Trends-2024

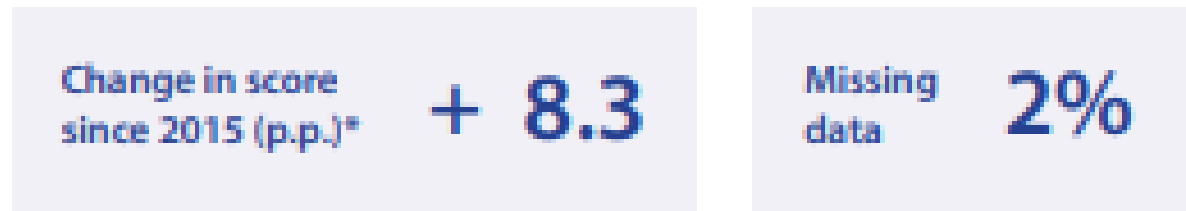
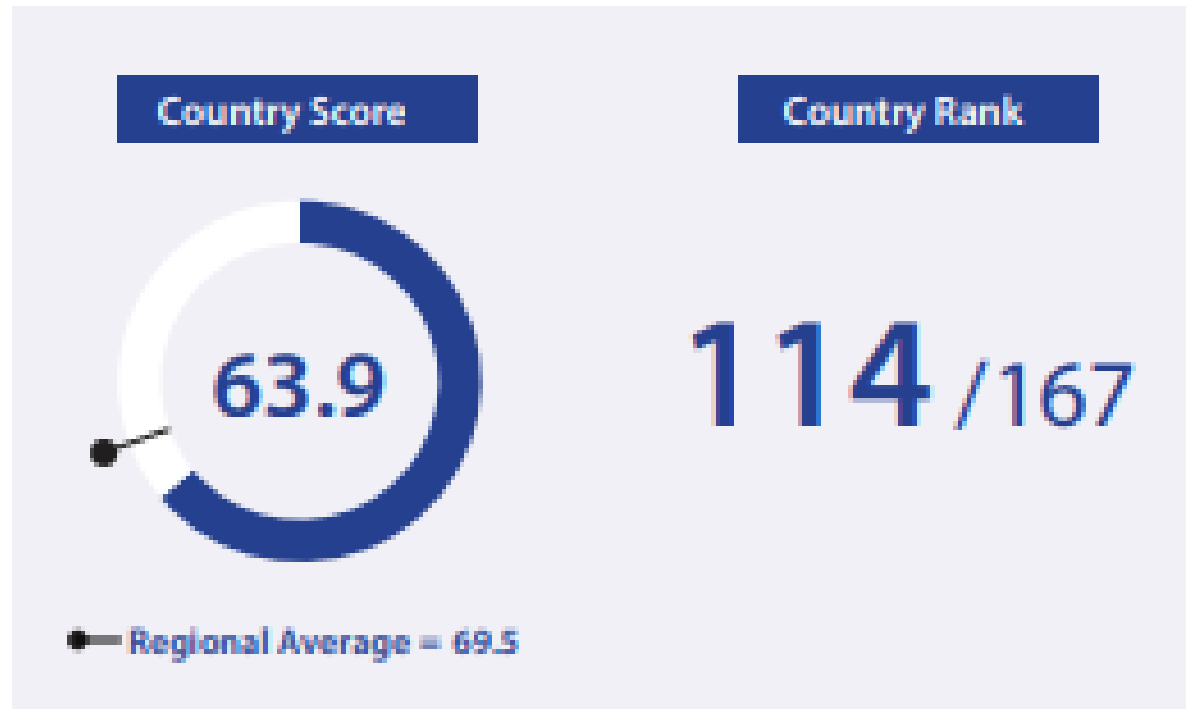


- Major challenges
- Significant challenges
- Challenges remain
- SDG achieved
- Information unavailable
- Decreasing
- Stagnating
- Moderately improving
- On track or maintaining SDG achievement
- Information unavailable

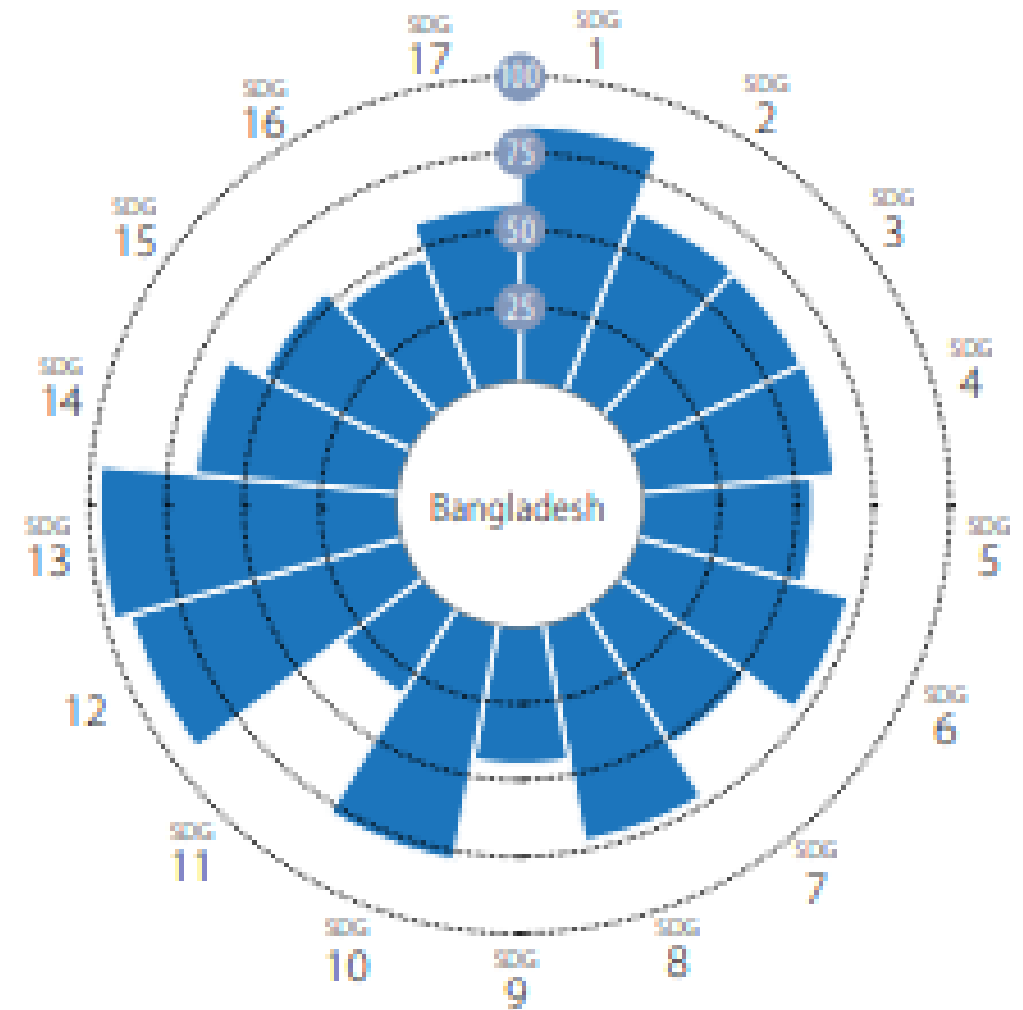
Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org>

# SDGs Progress: Bangladesh-2025

## Overall Performance



## Average Performance by SDG

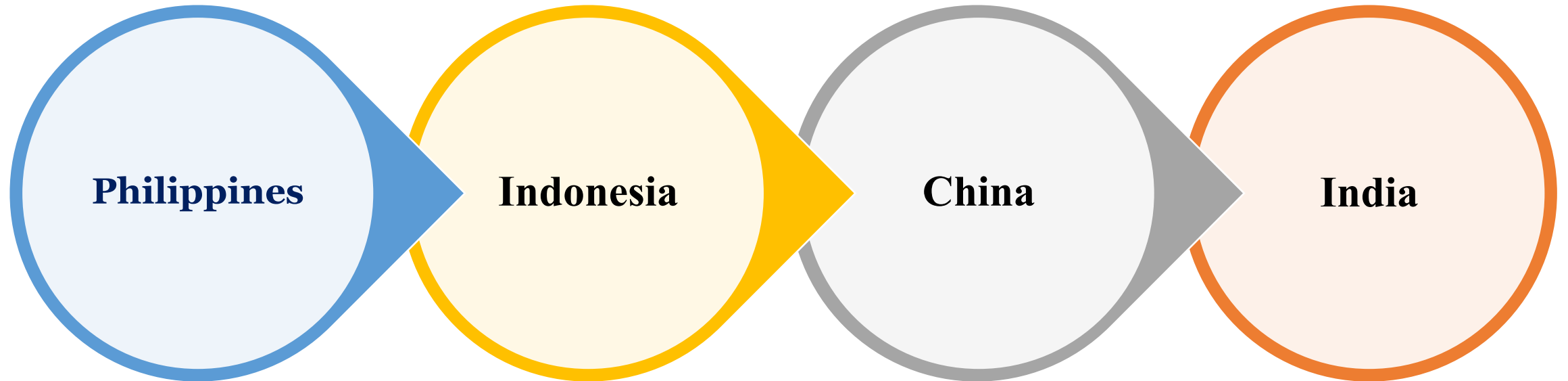


# SDG Dashboards and Trends-2025



- Major challenges
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# Asian Country Experiences



# Localization Approaches and Local Level Planning



The government of Bangladesh has involved various stakeholders in the process of implementing the SDGs with a **whole-of-society approach** to localize SDGs.



Towards a transformational growth, with the commitment of "**leaving no one behind**", as an **inclusive approach**.



A **community-led development** approach as **bottom-up approach** is the core strategy for localising SDGs.

# SDG Localisation Framework

'SDG Localisation Framework' formulated by GED , Planning Commission

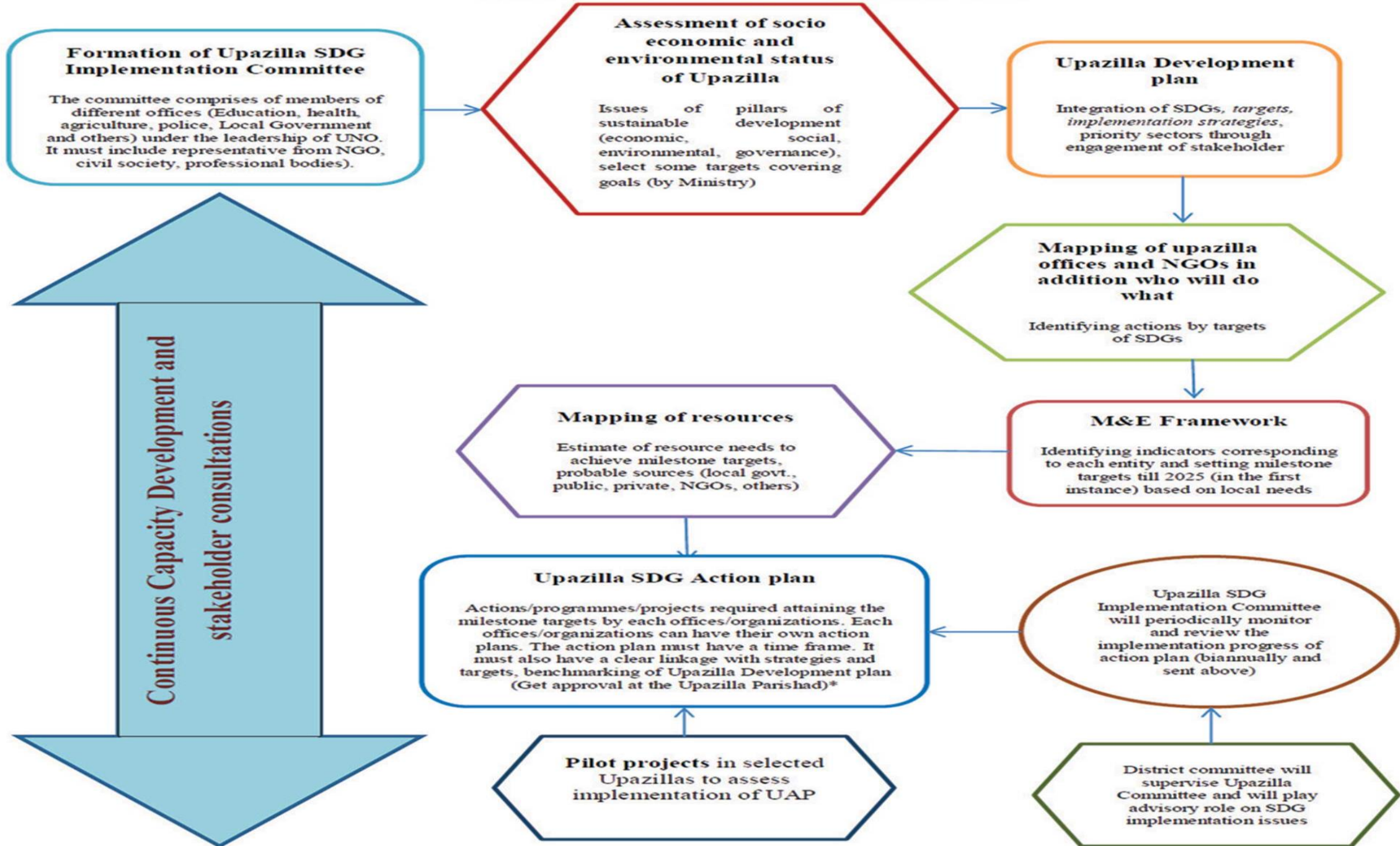
Formulation of an SDG-centric local annual and five-year plans at the upazila.

Formulation of plans at broad-spectrum district and divisional levels to achieve local targets in a coordinated manner

A committee on the implementation and coordination of SDGs has been constituted at the upazila, district and divisional levels

Responsibility of the committee is to adopt the action plan, implement, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of the SDGs

# GED Localisation Framework



# Natore SDG Localisation Framework

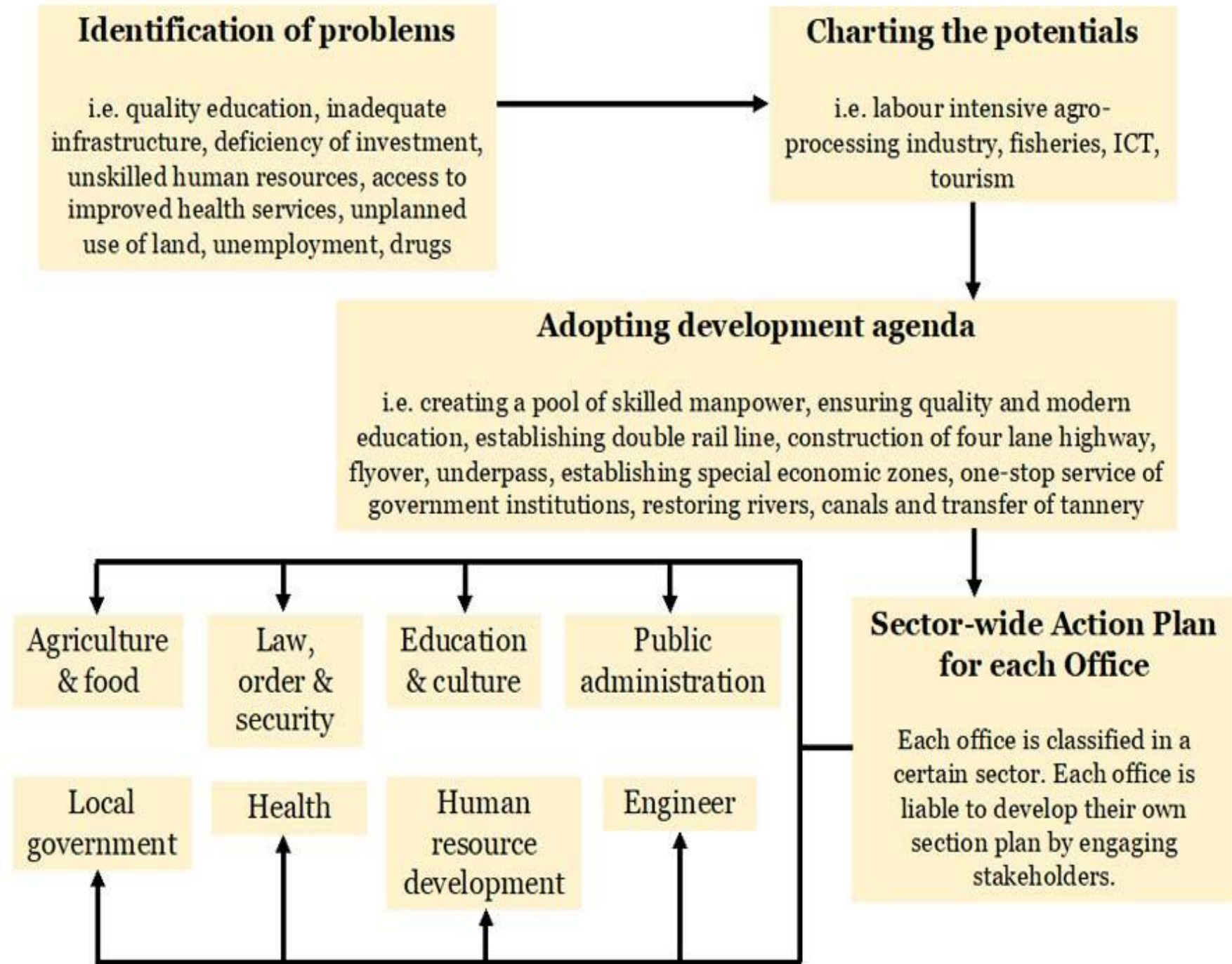
Localization of SDGs has been undertaken in Natore at the district level with the help of the existing committee for SDG localization.

The "Natore SDG Localisation Framework" was developed with technical support from a donor agency.

The plan addresses the identification of local problems, potentials, adoption, resources mobilisation, database preparation, responsibility-sharing among government departments, civil society organisations, and the private sector.

Empowering the local people to participate in the accomplishment of the SDGs in their daily lives.

# SDGs Localisation Framework: Natore Model



# An Innovative Community-led Approach

NGOs have taken initiatives to localise SDGs at the union level.

The Hunger Project to achieve the SDGs and formulate local level planning in the Saharwati Union Parishad under Gangni upazila of Meherpur district which can be taken as a case.

The Hunger Project signed an agreement with the Saharwati Union Parishad of Gangni in 2016 to build it as a model 'SDG union'.

A community-led development approach is the core strategy of the Hunger Project for localising SDGs.

The SDG localisation structure is mainly upazila-centric, but the Hunger Project's SDG implementation of Saharwati Union in Gangni upazila of Meherpur is union-centric.

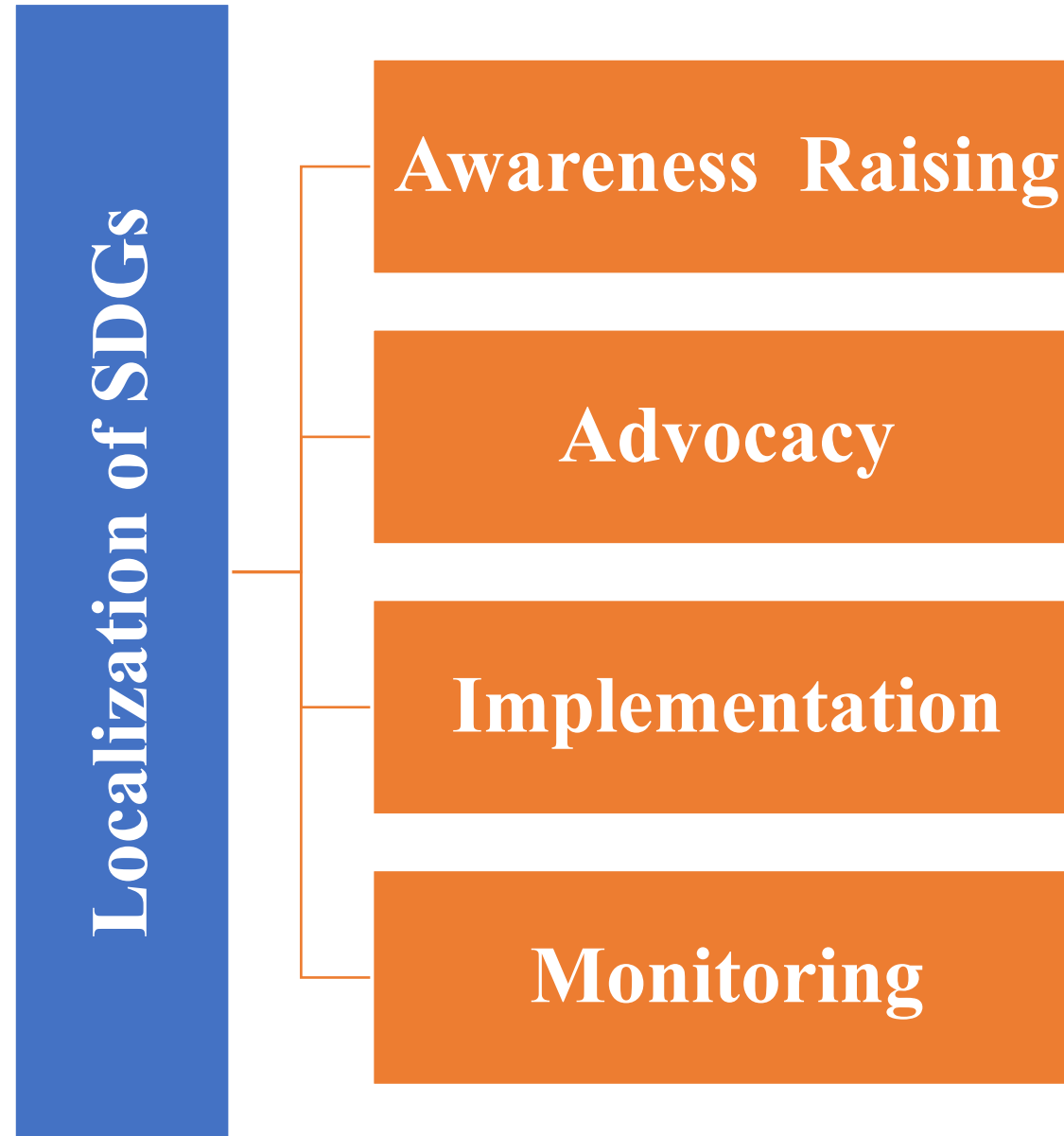
# SDG Model/Functional Union Parishad



# 39+1=Bangladesh Model

Level/serial of Priorities	Total Priority Indicators	New Indicators	Percentage
<b>National Level Priority Indicators</b> (Education, health, decent work, gender equality)	39	10	25%
<b>District Level Priority Indicators</b> (sustainable agriculture & economic growth, education, decent work)	64	30	45%
<b>Sub-district level Priority indicators</b> (sustainable agriculture, education, decent work & economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure)	392	284	57%

# SDGs Implementation through:



# Awareness Raising

- Critical to raise awareness about the importance of the SDGs and their relevance to local communities
- Local governments and authorities are aware of the global and national development strategies and link them with local priorities
- Awareness-raising is not only about letting citizens know but empowering them to participate in the achievement of the SDGs.



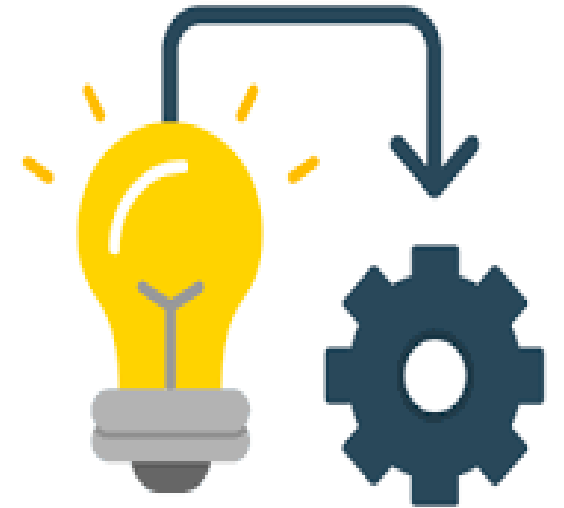
# Advocacy

- Promoting local ownership of national strategies is vital
- Critical to ensure that the process is bottom-up, and that local needs, priorities and expectations frame national strategies
- Elements of an enabling environment
  - A legal and political framework
  - To make financial transfers
  - Capacity building
  - To monitor and assess the performance
  - A national strategy to adopt localization



# Implementation

- Conduct a needs assessment to define priorities and localize the SDGs
- Engage in cooperative governance to establish shared priorities
- Mobilize local resources
- Build capacities for effective and responsive leadership
- Promote ownership and co-responsibility for the implementation of strategic projects
- Participate in development cooperation and peer-to-peer learning



# Monitoring

- Evaluating and learning from our experiences
- Develop a set of localized indicators
- Ensure that the information gathered by the local governments is used in national monitoring and reporting
- Enable the participation of local governments and stakeholders in the review of national plans
- Ensure that local achievements are recognized and part of the national SDG progress reports



# Strategies for Aligning with Local Development Priorities

## Developing Localization Strategies

- Identifying local needs and priorities
- Setting realistic and achievable targets

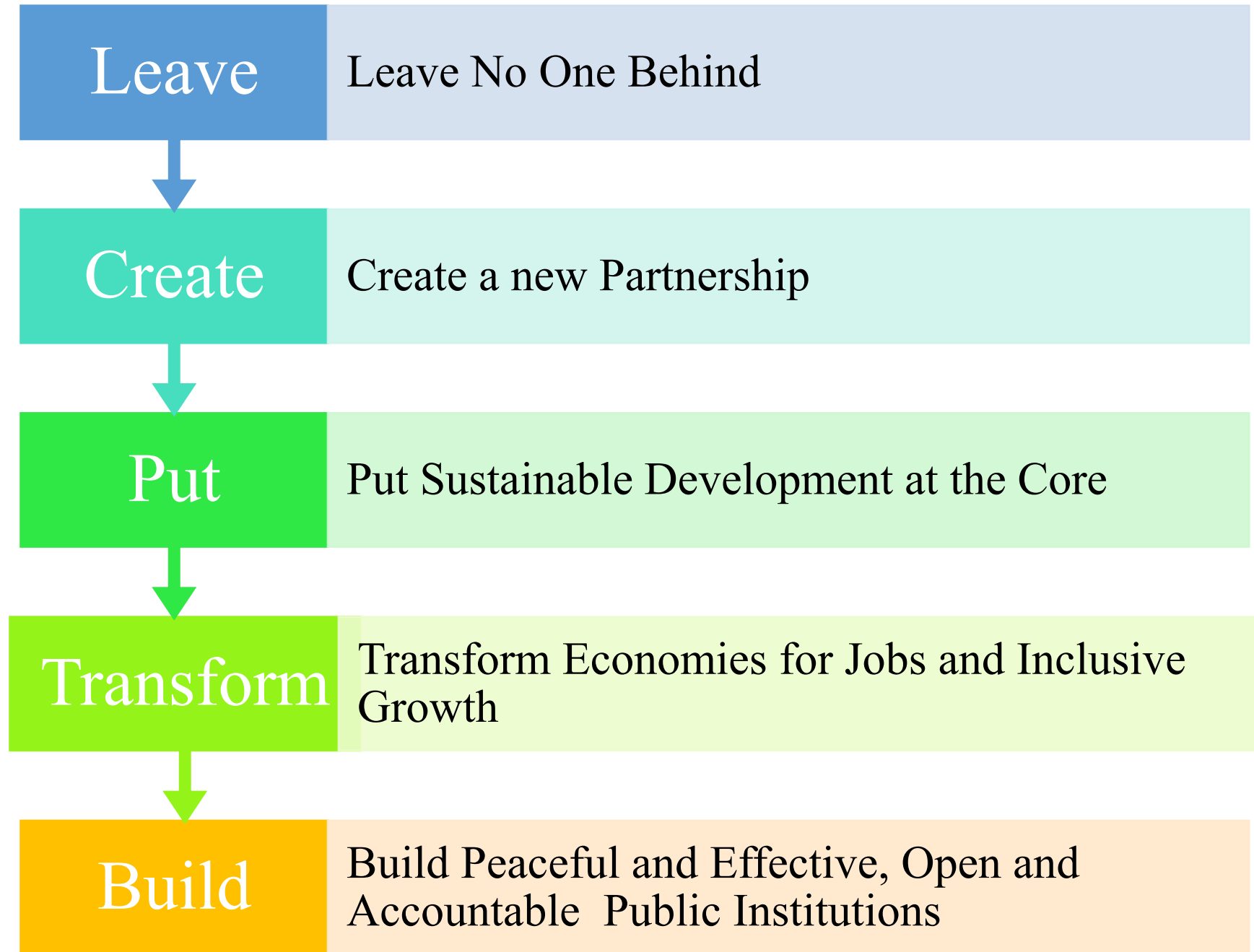
## Strategic Planning Process

- Situation analysis and stakeholder consultations
- Resource Mobilization

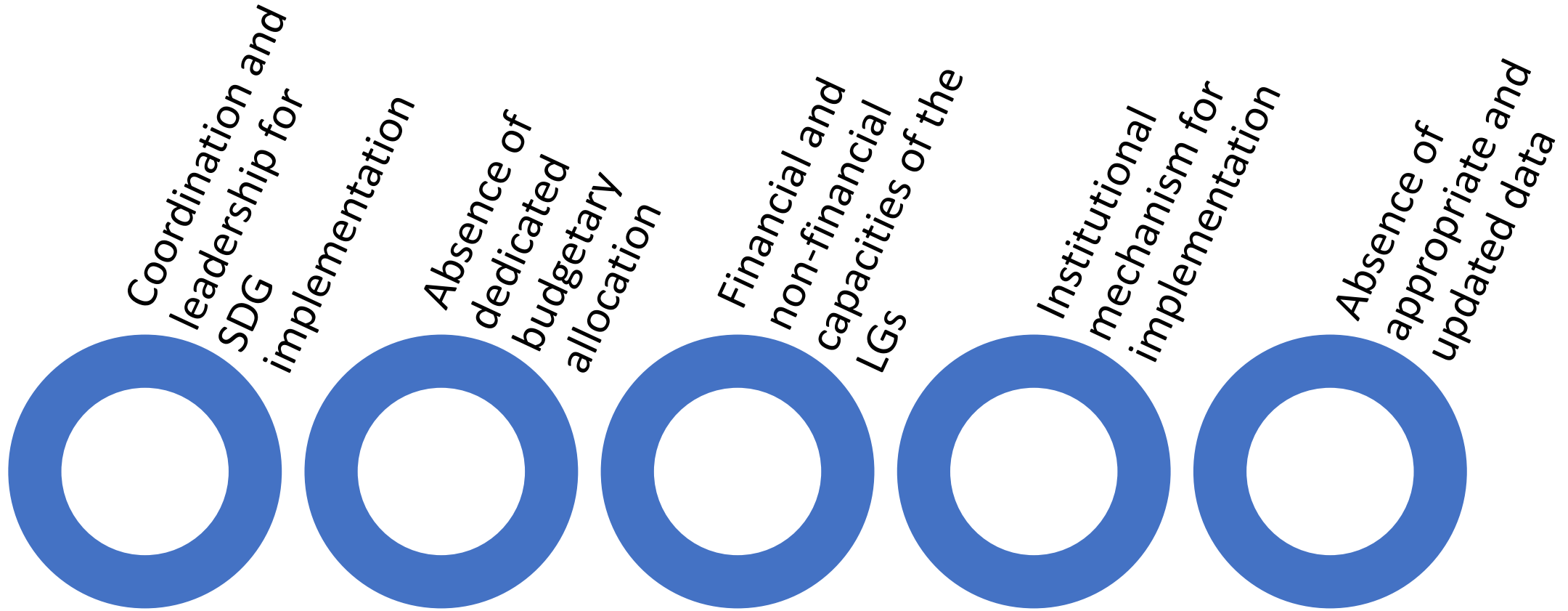
## Innovation and Adaptation

- Leveraging technology and local knowledge
- Adaptive strategies to meet local challenges

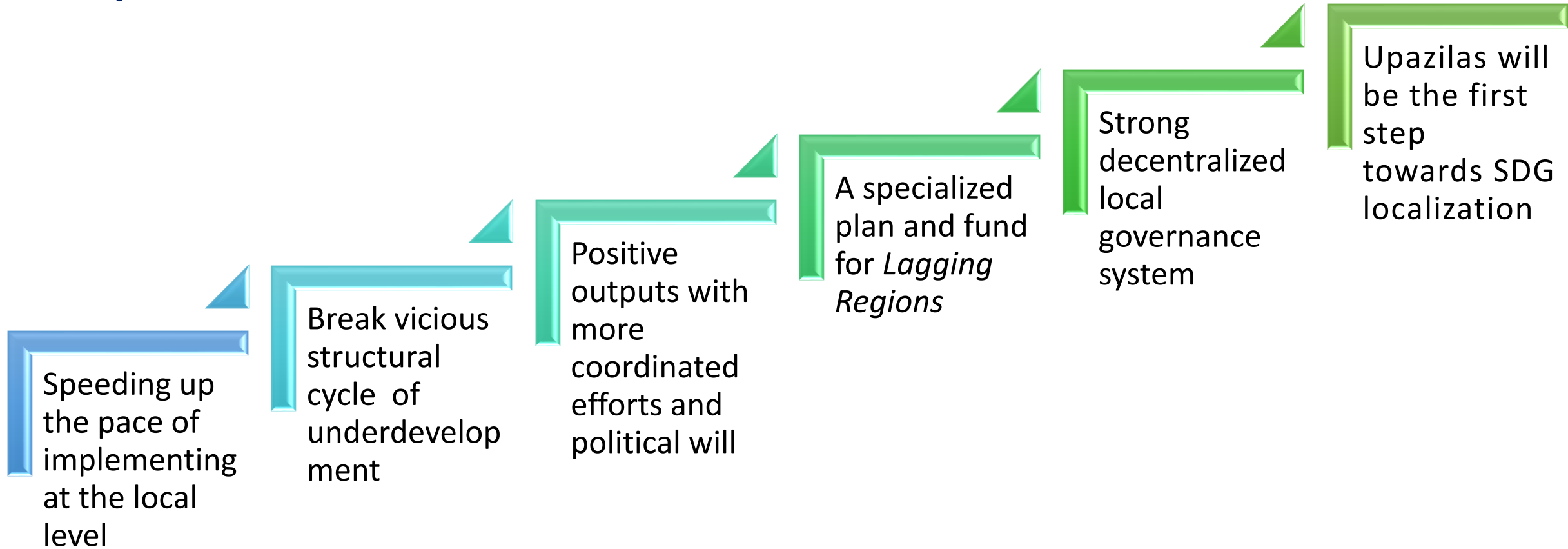
# Incorporate Five Transformative Shifts



# Localization Challenges



# Way forward



**1. What does “localization of SDGs” primarily refer to?**

b) Translating global SDG targets into local contexts and actions

**2. Which of these strategies is crucial for effective SDG localization?**

b) Strengthening local governance and institutions

**3. Why is stakeholder engagement critical in localizing SDGs?**

c) It promotes inclusive decision-making and shared ownership

**4. What is a major challenge to localizing SDGs in developing countries?**

b) Weak local institutions and insufficient financial resources

**5. What is a critical tool for tracking progress in SDG localization?**

b) Localized data collection and monitoring systems

**6. Which of the following is an example of aligning local development priorities with SDGs?**

b) Integrating SDG targets into local development plans and budgets

# Group Exercise

Stakeholders are crucial for the effective localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because they bring diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise that enhance the inclusiveness and sustainability of development efforts. Engaging stakeholders ensures that local initiatives are well-informed, appropriately resourced, and widely supported, fostering greater accountability, transparency, and community ownership. Their involvement helps identify specific local challenges, tailor interventions, and advocate for policy changes that align with the SDGs. Additionally, stakeholders play a key role in raising public awareness, monitoring progress, and fostering social cohesion, ultimately driving more effective and impactful implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

Task: Identify a local priority relating to SDGs. Who are the key stakeholders? What are the main obstacles to engaging them in the implementation process? What methods and tools can be used to effectively engage them based on influence and interest?

# Concluding Remarks



**Wrap up**



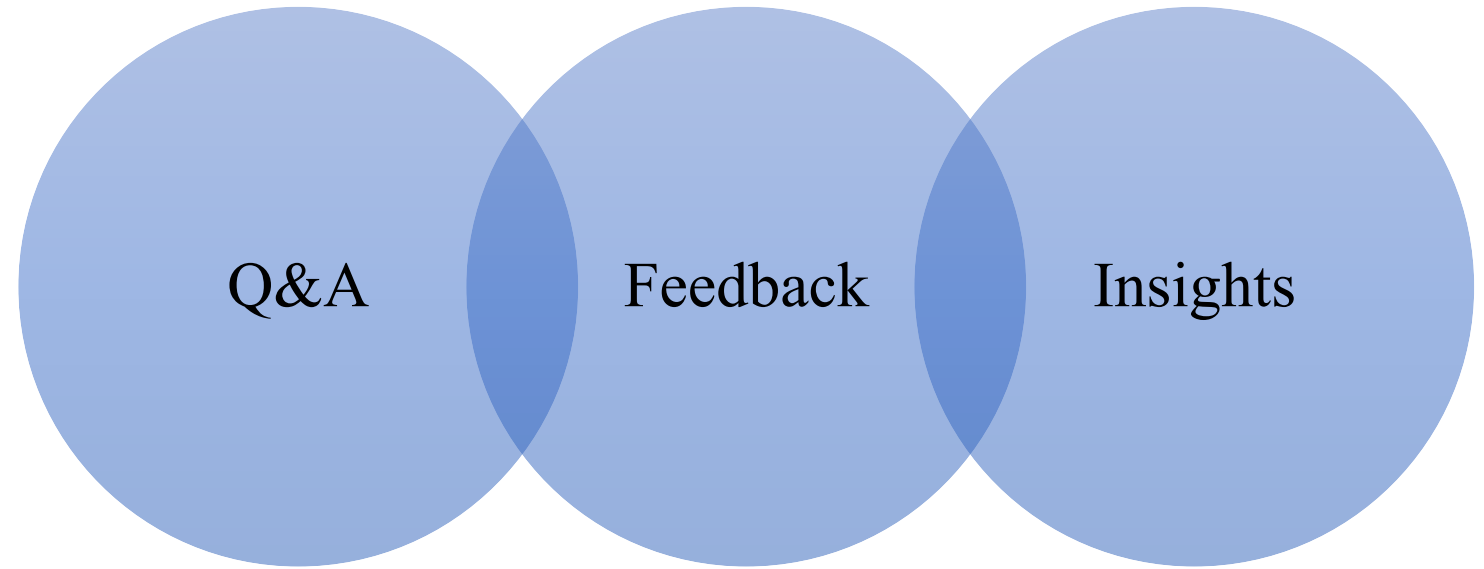
**Know, Challenge,  
Change, Feel**



**Take aways**



# Thank You



**The way of greener, safer  
And better tomorrow!**