

City WORKS



A working aid for the implementation of global agendas at city level

BACKGROUND & RELEVANCE

In 2015 and 2016, the global community adopted five agendas that are vital for sustainable development: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Adopted and ratified by national governments, these global agendas need to be implemented by all levels in order to be effective. For instance, up to 65 per cent of the SDG targets depend on action by local governments. This puts cities under pressure, as they need to align their activities with global agendas, yet often lack the necessary support to do so, be it knowledge products, resources and capacities or political backing by national governments. Therefore, actors at the local level are in need of guidance to support them in implementing global agendas in cities in an integrated manner.

The toolbox City WORKS – a new approach for the integrated implementation of global agendas at local level – aims at addressing these shortcomings. City WORKS explains the relevance and impact of global agendas for cities, offers different tools to identify, prioritise and plan local action that is linked to e.g. the SDGs, and also addresses stakeholder participation and mobilising financing for implementation. In that way, City WORKS represents a compass for cities to overcome urban challenges and align local action with global agendas.

WHAT IS City WORKS?

City WORKS is a toolbox which follows a process-oriented approach to support vertical integration by implementing global agendas at the local level. It entails methodological as well as technical tools. City WORKS is designed around the universal principle of the 2030 Agenda to 'Leave No One Behind' and broadens it to the principle of Leaving No Place Behind. City WORKS thus aims at enabling municipal actors

- to recognise the relevance of global agendas for local development,
- to analyse and identify the specific needs for action at city level,
- to develop and prioritise clear options for action (urban development projects and programmes) and
- to identify and mobilise relevant actors and resources for implementation.

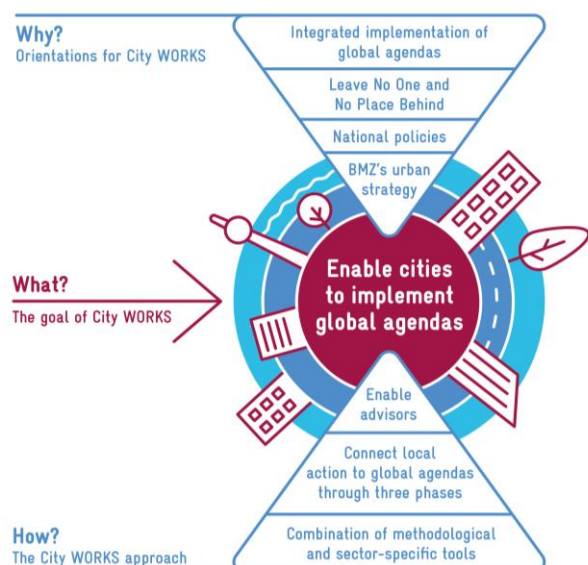


Figure 1: Localisation of Global Agendas

THE FUNCTIONALITY OF City WORKS

City WORKS aims to integrate already existing tools to make the most effective use of synergies and to combine them with further innovative methods. It provides explanations and information on the various global agendas and their relevance for cities - thus helping to „translate“ international agreements and targets to local realities. Moreover, it offers a process guide that helps advisors with targeted information and questions to design a process that fits their local needs. For this activity, the tool library is provided which contains templates, links and references, as well as additional information.

City WORKS proposes a standard sequencing along the categories but can also be applied according to the individual needs and demands of a city. In that sense, City WORKS can be applied both sequential or in a non-linear way. Currently, City WORKS is designed as a step-by-step approach targeted at development practitioners (such as advisors, urban planners, consultants) who accompany local governments in connecting local action to global agendas. In the long run, City WORKS shall be developed further so that it can be directly applied by local governments.



Figure 1: Step by Step approach

PROCESS

Phase I - Get started: Preparing the localisation process

This phase is about

- 1) Collecting relevant information.
- 2) Understanding the current needs of the program and identifying best entry points, the concrete tools and best mode of implementation.

Phase II – Dive deep: Connect global agendas to local action

This phase is about

- 1) raising awareness of main stakeholders about the details of each global agenda and how local governments are key in their implementation
- 2) getting an overview on where a city currently stands regarding social, economic and environmental issues by brainstorming and prioritising challenges and potentials as well as self-assessing and analysing urban relevant targets. This step is also about reviewing local plans and policies and gaining an understanding of the SDG indicators.
- 3) brainstorming and identifying concrete measures for implementing global agendas locally (along the different levels of governance: self-governing, governing by leadership, governing by enabling, governing by provision, and governing by authority).
- 4) Analysing the different measures in order to support evidence-based decision making and prioritization process.

Phase III – Turn words into action: Localise global agendas

This phase is about

- 1) becoming concrete about the prioritized measures, developing an action plan and / or mainstreaming measures into existing plans.
- 2) Establishing mechanisms to keep track of progress (of the localising process in itself and of the global agendas issues in the local context).

And about compiling a series of additional methodological, process and sectoral tools (GIZ internal and external) that can be further used by the main target group (local decision makers/technical officials) to implement additional processes with other relevant local stakeholders. Here an inventory of resources/tools is available.

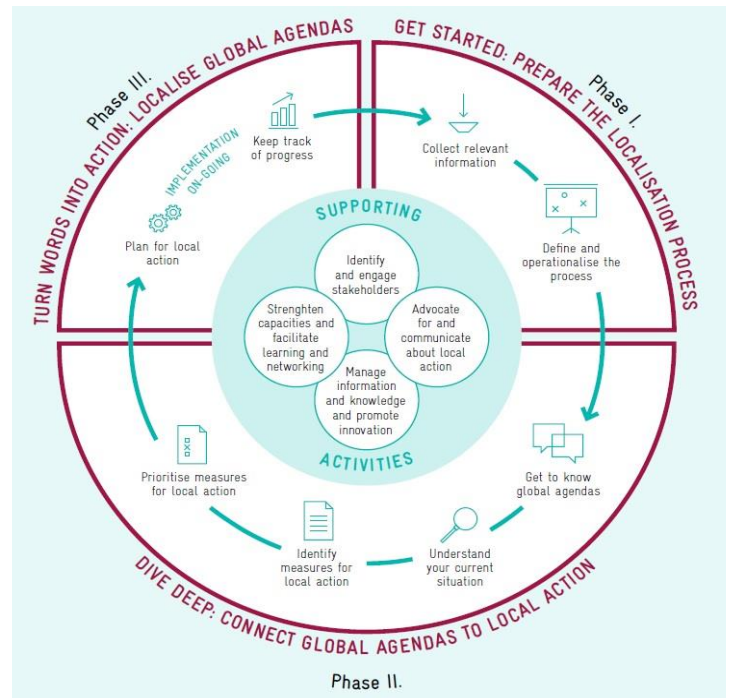


Figure 3: Circular Model of 3 Phases

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Experiences from pilot applications of some of its tools are already available from Ghana, Brazil, Egypt, the Palestinian Territories and Mauritania. Further applications are planned in India, Bangladesh and Guatemala. The results from these pilot applications feed back into the further tool development.

In addition, City WORKS is further developed to a user-friendly web-based solution, which you can find at www.localising-global-agendas.org. It gives users options to save tools and data and to upload their own tools, which they can share with others.

In order to strengthen the work on different global Agendas, two new thematic areas with a focus on Climate as well as on Resilience & Green Recovery have been integrated in City WORKS:



The Climate extension with a focus on the Paris Climate Agreement



The Resilience & Green Recovery extension with a focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

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