



YAYASAN
HASANAH
 A foundation of Khazanah Nasional



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MALAYSIA

From Grassroots to Parliament

A journey towards **institutionalising** grassroots
community engagement into
national, state, and district level
POLICY SOLUTIONS

APPGM-SDG Malaysia case study.

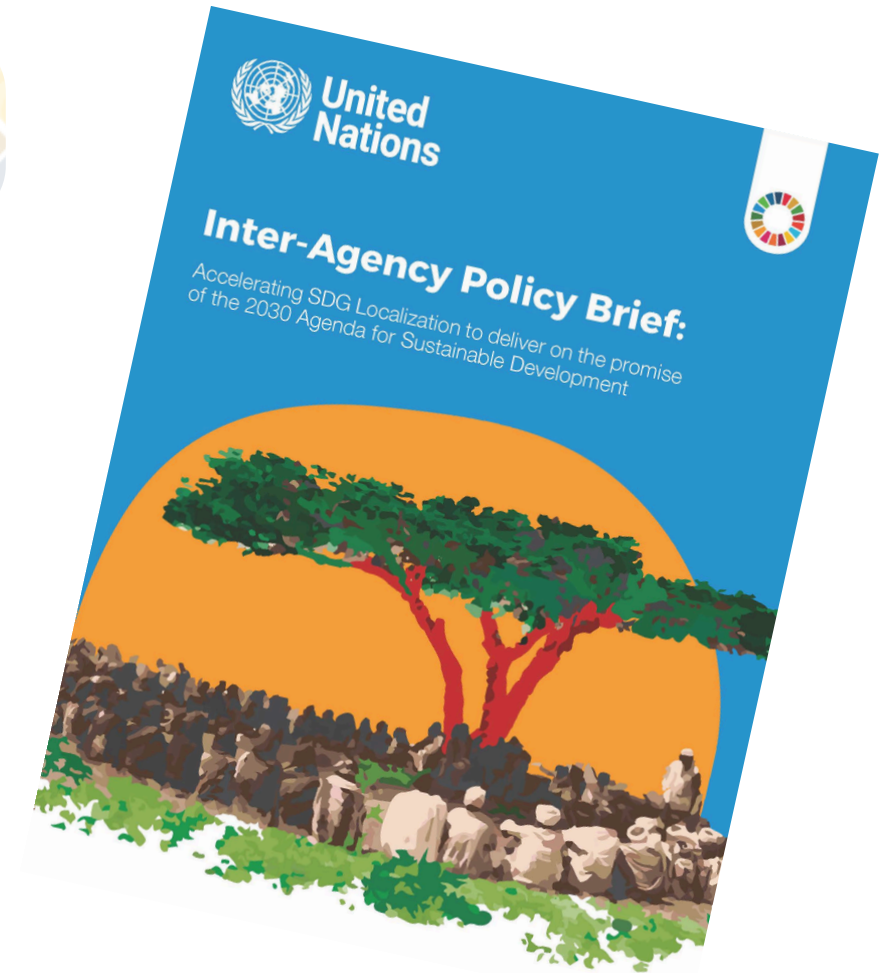
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INTRODUCTION



There are five types of freedom, one of which is **social opportunities** that enable people to live better lives. Poverty, lack of education, and poor healthcare, which distort social opportunities, are forms of unfreedom.

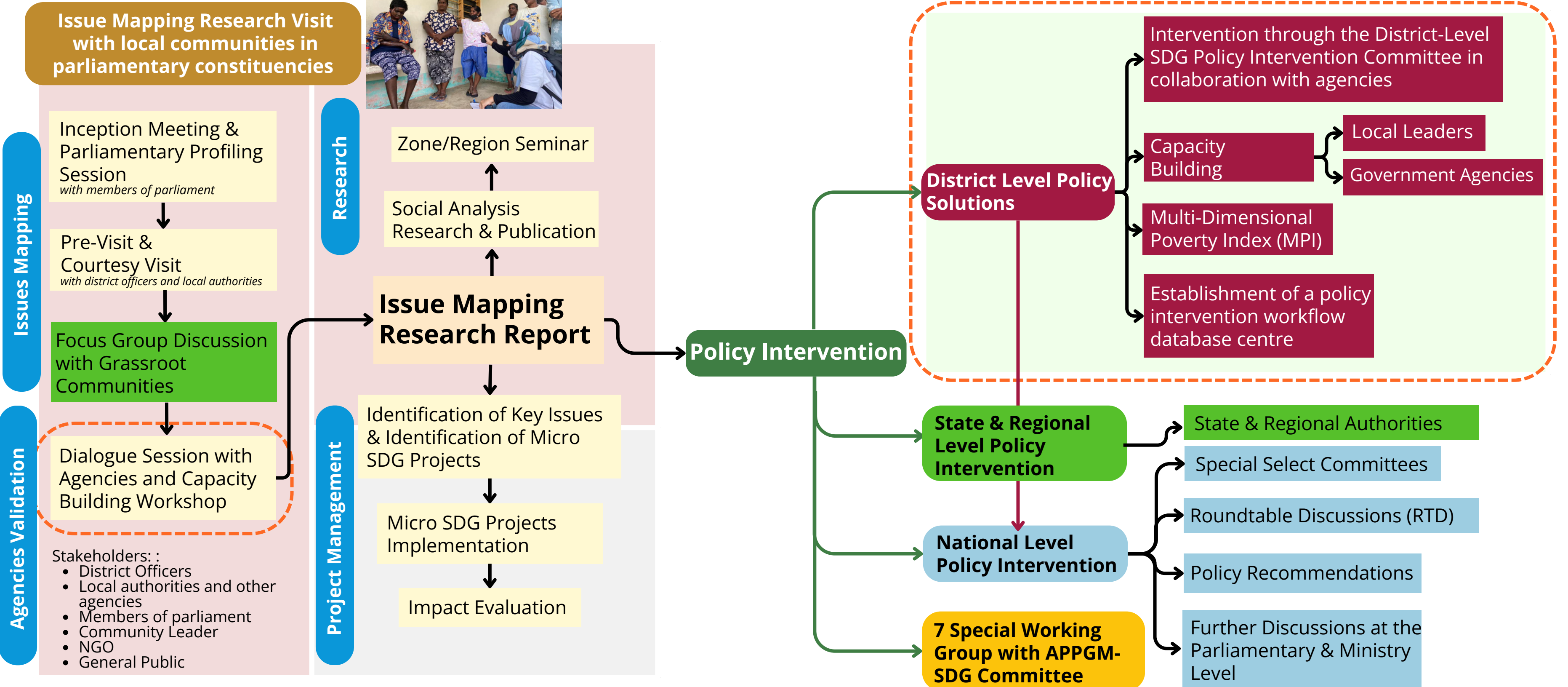
Amartya Sen
Development as Freedom, 1999



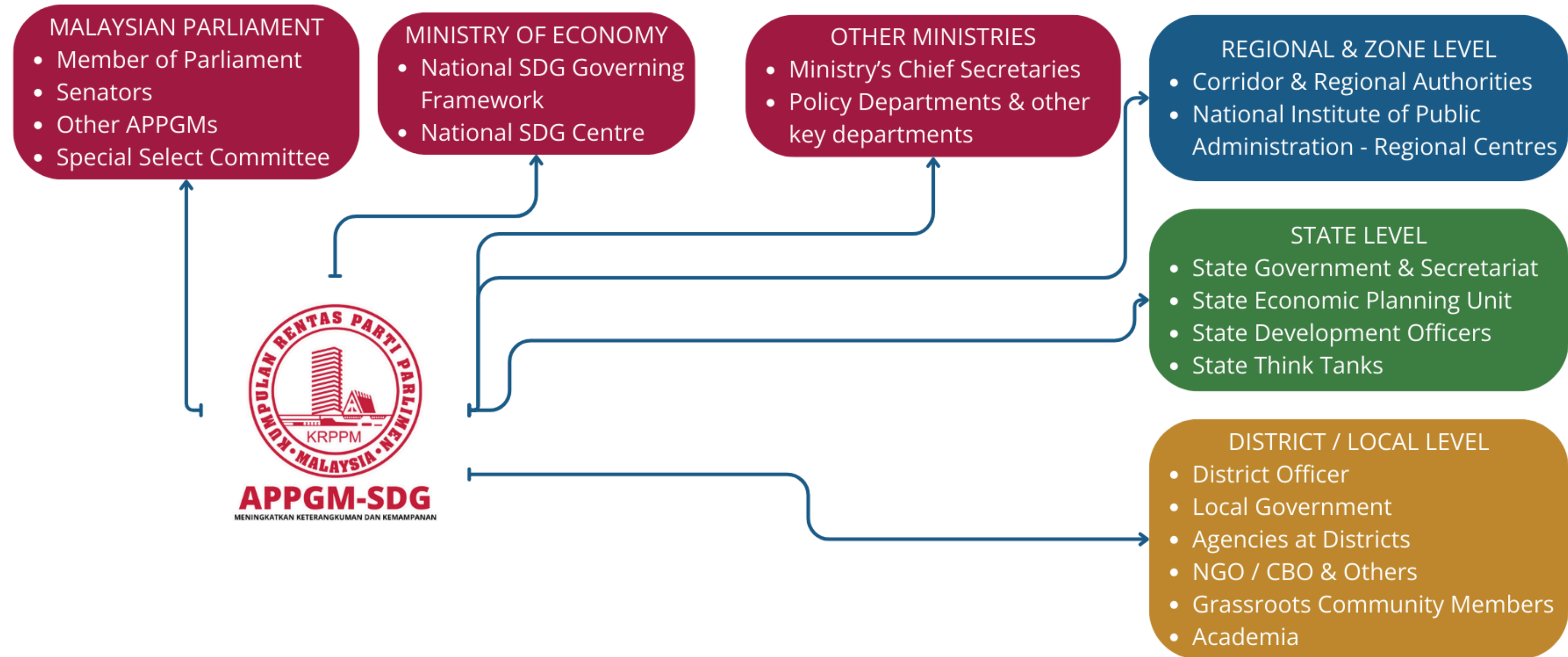
65% of the SDG targets are linked to the work and mandates of local and regional governments, underscoring the need to collaborate with and empower grassroots communities as partners in nation-building

UN Inter-agency Policy Brief, 2024

APPGM-SDG BOOTOM UP RESEARCH METHOD & POLICY SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE



5-TIER POLICY ENGAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA



APPGM-SDG's multi-level policy engagement and policy solutions efforts.

APPGM-SDG PARTNERS



Solution Partners (NGO/CBO)

Local organizations that implement micro-projects, youth camps, and related development initiatives within their respective areas.

**1009
Local
Organisations**



Local Coordinators

Appointed to coordinate the implementation of policy intervention initiatives and to carry out work related to policy development, policy documentation, research, and capacity building.

**55 Local
Coordinators**



Neighbourhood Leaders

Neighbourhood committees established specifically under a local organization to implement community strengthening and local leadership development programmes.

**460
Neighbourhood
Leaders**



Youth SDG Agents

Youth empowerment programme through the SDG framework and youth engagement in the core pillars of APPGM-SDG to ensure sustainable youth development.

**143 Youth SDG
Agents**



Partnering Organisations in Acceleration SDG

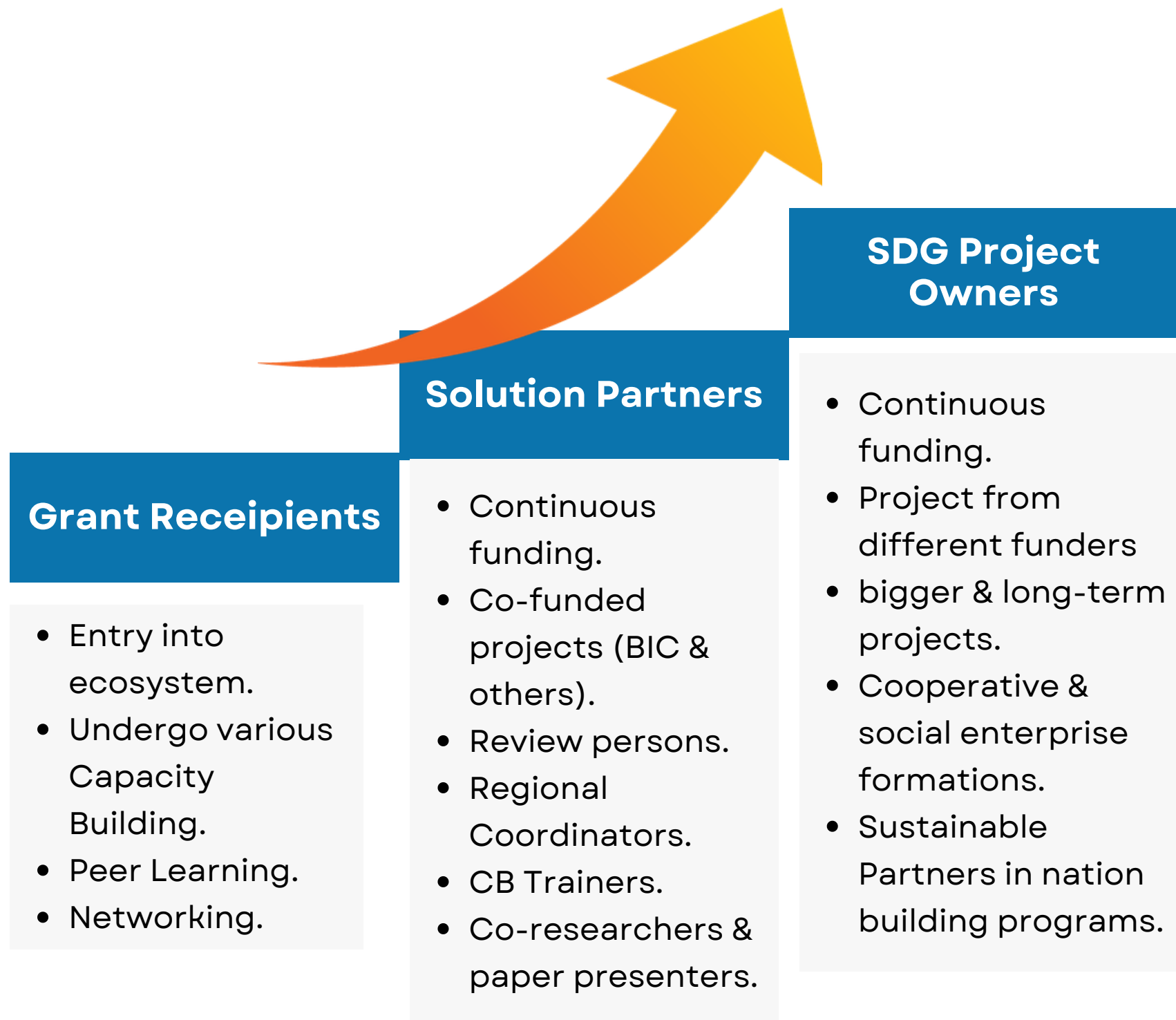
Network National Organizations, Foundations and national-level educational institutions collaborating in knowledge and resource for the localization of the country's SDGs.

**21 National
Organisations**

1688 PARTNERS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MODELS- RELATIONAL APPROACH

Solution Partners Empowerment Model

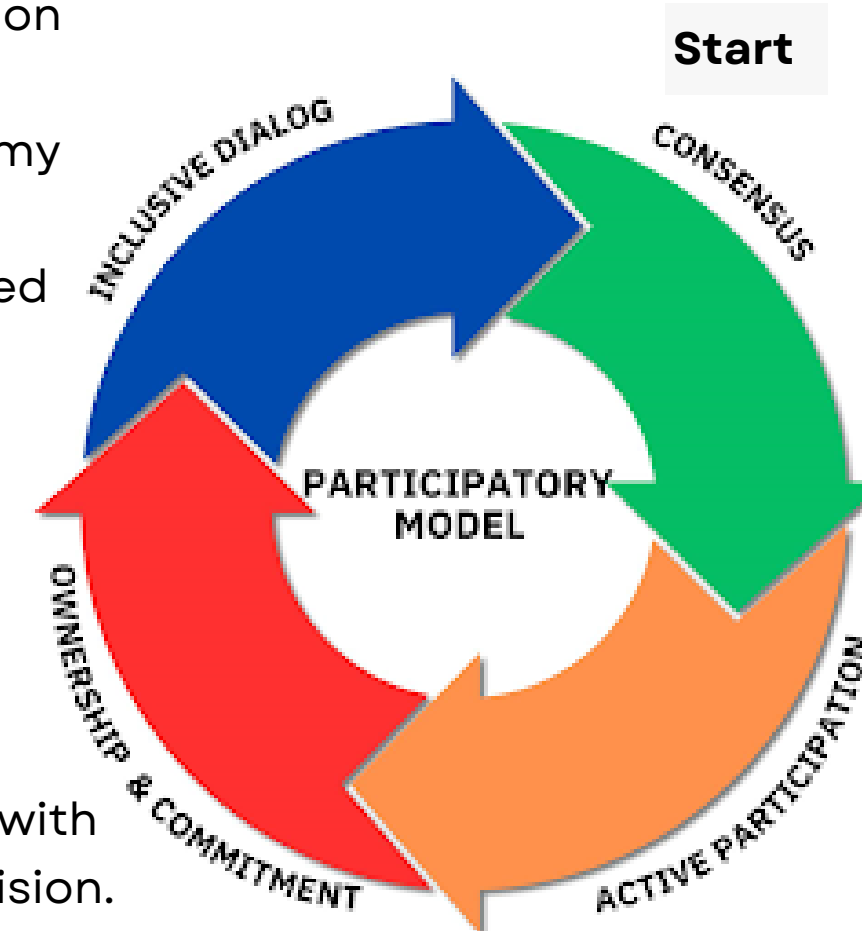


Community Participatory Model

- Multiskakeholders engagements in local administration decisions.
- Collective economy thinking.
- Collective & shared values.

Progressive neighborhood

- Independent empowerment with minimal supervision.
- Takes years to build.
- Community resilience.
- Multiple opportunities & enagements.



- Participatory decision.
- Formal & informal leader.
- Women's participation.

- Involve community in project leadership.
- Develop local organisational leadership.
- Unity.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT TOOLS TOWARDS EFFECTIVE POLICY ENGAGEMENT



Capacity Building in SDG & Policy Advocacy on effective engagement with government agencies



Capacity Building on Building Inclusive Communities



Capacity Building on Citizen Rights & Knowledge on 13th- Malaysian Plan

Monitoring RMK-13



Multi-dimensional poverty study (MPI) with 5 dimensions to measure deprivations & curate micro intervention & macro policies



Neighbourhood Development Program with specific themes to address unity among community members which can be developed as policy implementation partners

FORMATION OF SDG COMMITTEES AT DISTRICTS & STATES

SDG Multi-stakeholders Committee

- *Formation of SDG Multi-stakeholders Committees chaired by District Officer at the district level & Chief Minister at State Level.*
- *Participated by various government agencies, district office staffs, local government leaders & communities.*
- *Facilitated by APPGM-SDG Local Coordinator.*
- *Purpose is to discuss identifies issues and finding solutions to the issues at district level.*
- *Critical focus on systemic issues with no straightforward solution.*



CASE STUDY ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES & POLICY SOLUTION

Case Study : Multi-stakeholder engagements at the district level and journey towards national policy impact

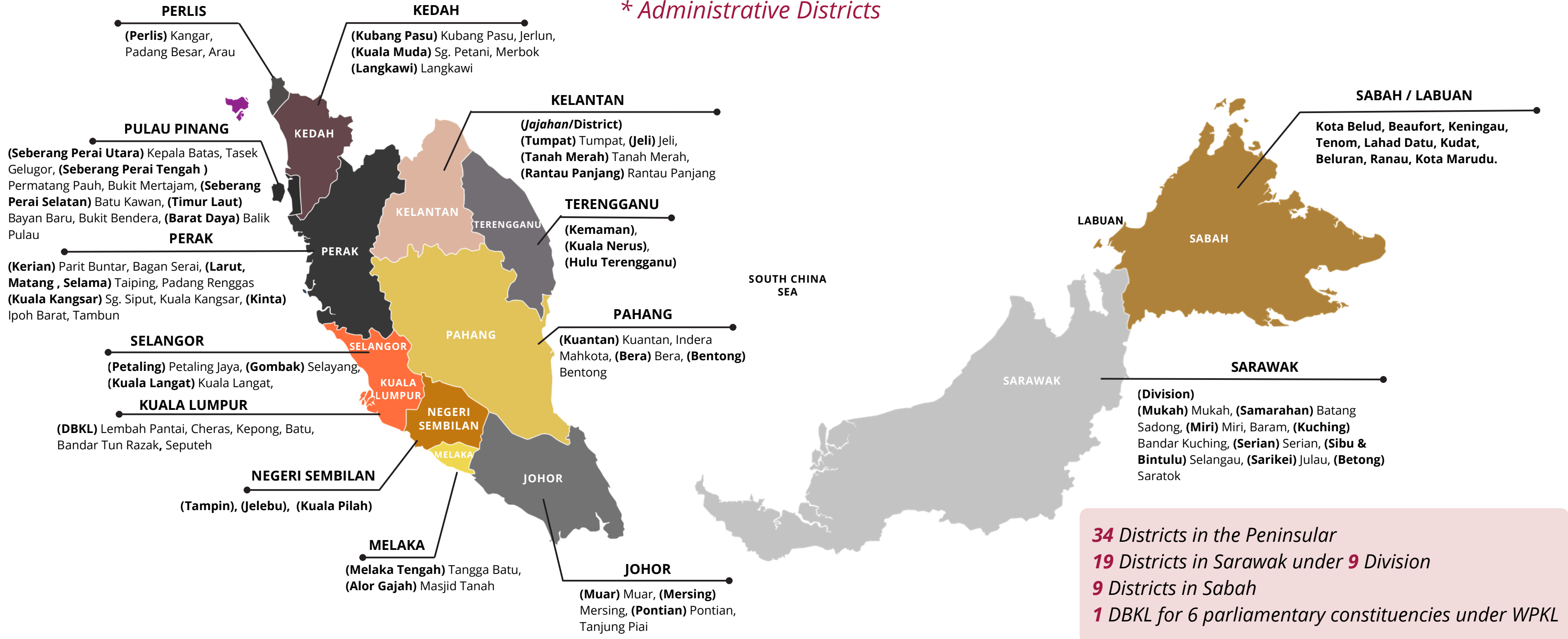


- *APPGM-SDG Issue mapping identified structural issues affecting the indigenous communities, mainly on their relocation to new land, land tax payment and alternative rubber tapping income activities.*
- *The unresolved issue on land tax were solved in APPGM-SDG multi-stakeholder engagement with the district office & interagency.*
- *Rubber tapping activities required inter-agency meeting involving state level and process is underway to find solution.*
- *Local Administrative Officers welcome this move as they now have broader power to engage.*
- *APPGM-SDG as a policy bridge between the district and federal.*

63*

DISTRICTS INVOLVED WITH POLICY SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

* Administrative Districts



34 Districts in the Peninsular
 19 Districts in Sarawak under 9 Division
 9 Districts in Sabah
 1 DBKL for 6 parliamentary constituencies under WPKL

The grounded process towards policy solutions recorded in government document

*The initiative was
included in VNR
2025 presentation in
HLFP, UN by
Malaysian Govt as
solution in
implementation*



In order to enhance policy effectiveness and partnerships across the different levels of society in Malaysia, APPGM-SDG has implemented five key initiatives in addition to its ongoing work. These include:

1. **Parliamentary focus groups** to tackle persistent issues such as poverty, welfare and food security, resulting in eight policy reports.
2. **District-level policy solutions** supported by the MOF which address local challenges through cross-sector collaboration in 55 districts across the country.
3. **Strengthened collaboration with sub-national governments** through structured coordination with District Offices and government agencies to support SDG assessment and implementation.
4. **Capacity building and knowledge sharing** through training for local stakeholders and publications to support evidence-based policymaking.
5. **Enhanced implementation support through decentralised operations** in Ipoh, Kota Bharu and Petaling Jaya and strengthened presence in Sabah and Sarawak.

APPGM-SDG connects national SDG priorities with local realities, advancing inclusive, community-driven development in localising the 2030 Agenda.

Reference : VNR 2025 Malaysia, page 157

APPGM-SDG PARTICIPATORY POLICY IMPACT MODEL



APPGM-SDG
HRBA
Methodology
& integration
with SDG, SSE &
SW
frameworks.



1688 APPGM-
SDG **Partners**
engaged &
empowered,
journeying from
2020-2026.



**Empowerment
Models**
implemented to
strategically
build long term
resilient
grassroots
communities
and leaders.

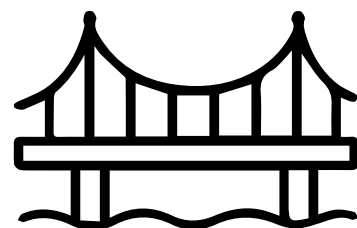


**Capacity
Building** of
communities
towards policy
advocacy & **MPI**
as validation to
deprivation
recorded in
communities.



**Formation of SDG
Multi-stakeholders
committee** with govt
agencies as enabler
of policy solutions at
5 levels.

**Multi-level policy
solutions efforts are
ongoing.**



**APPGM-SDG as a bridge in achieving the
“From Grassroots to Parliament” Agenda**

Journal Articles

Strengthening district-level administration through multi-stakeholders SDG initiative: From vision & mission to implementation, the APPGM-SDG experience.

Paniirselvam Jayaraman

Director of the Policy Solutions Unit of the Secretariat of All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia for Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54313/journalmp.v5i.147>

Keywords: district office, local government, VNR, multi-stakeholder, policy solutions

ABSTRACT

Leaving no one behind is the key slogan of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the formation of APPGM-SDG, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia for Sustainable Development Goals, has laid the foundation for implementing sustainable solutions towards ground needs. APPGM-SDG adopted a grounded research methodology, and through its issue-mapping process in 115 parliamentary constituencies from 2020 to 2024, it identified a strong need to strengthen local administration and adopt sustainable solutions involving multiple stakeholders. This paper focuses on the journey toward finding effective approaches for local administration and the implementation of the initiative in 2024. The district-level administrative offices, namely district offices and local governments, are the focal points in delivering sustainable solutions on the ground. These offices have been prominent since



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SDG Innovations & Impact: Relational Approach in Enabling Innovative Solutions and Impact Creation at the Grassroots

Paniirselvam Jayaraman

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54313/journalmp.v4i.126>

Keywords: SDG innovation, Relational approach, APPGM-SDG, solution projects

ABSTRACT

SDG localisation is a primary goal of APPGM-SDG, and solution projects are the key component of this effort. Formed in 2019, mirroring the UK Parliament setup, the APPGM-SDG Malaysia has been the forefront organisation in localising SDGs in parliamentary constituencies. Despite Covid-19 and other practical challenges. The grounded research approach undertaken by APPGM-SDG paved the way for innovative grassroots solutions designed and undertaken by local organisations targeting vulnerable communities in their own localities. From 2020 to November 2023, APPGM-SDG has undertaken targeted solution projects at an unprecedented level, with 664 SDGs solution projects in 4 years and 364 solution providers around the country. These innovative solutions are developed through a unique relational approach between multiple stakeholders and engagements in multiple processes in the making. This approach has been the key framework in designing solution projects that have proven to have a much greater impact towards the community as a whole and personally on the livelihoods of the participants involved. This is also evident in



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[Journal of the Malaysian Parliament](#)

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