Going local with global policies: Understanding the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana

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The 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include an overarching commitment to 'leave no one behind', a pledge to end extreme poverty in all its forms. Fewer than ten years to the end line of the framework, a billion people still experience extreme poverty and inequality worldwide. Since essential services relevant to the SDGs are delivered by local governments, successful implementation of the SDGs will require local actors to adapt global goals to fit their local context. Therefore, this study examines local government implementation of the SDGs in Ghana to understand ‘If and how localization can enhance the implementation of the SDGs’ commitment to leave no one behind?’. Using PhotoVoice, my research enables resource-poor women to reflect on their reality and express their perspectives on local policy priorities. The lessons generated will feed into policy action to support local level development planning for the remaining timeline of the SDGs.