

***Impact Evaluation of APPGM SDG Solution Project: Empowering Communities in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur Through Sustainable Urban Development***

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**Abstract**

Since the 1970s, the rapid urban expansion of Kuala Lumpur (KL) has transformed this city into a bustling metropolis. This rapid urbanisation, while creating economic opportunities, has also brought significant urban challenges, including overdevelopment and its associated social issues. Cheras, one of the largest districts in Kuala Lumpur, is home to a million residents and encompasses residential, commercial, and educational facilities. The high population density has intensified urban challenges, including traffic congestion, overdevelopment, inadequate infrastructure, and flooding issues. As the communities in Cheras were prompted to seek effective solutions, a solution project to resolve and mitigate these issues was initiated by the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia Sustainable Development Goal (APPGM-SDG, 2021). In 2022, APPGM-SDG and a Cheras-based resident association (RA) launched an intervention campaign that led to the registration of the KLRA+SD society. The initiative that began with five RAs eventually grew into sixty. The objectives of KLRA+SD were to facilitate dialogue among KL residents, members of parliament and government agencies about methods by which urban issues caused by overdevelopment and overpopulation in Kuala Lumpur can be mitigated and resolved. This paper examines how KLRA+SD highlighted urban issues caused by overdevelopment in Cheras and promoted sustainable urban development by fostering collaboration among stakeholders and engaging the public, encouraging communities to commit to continuous engagement, education, and advocacy to address urban challenges and build sustainable environments for the future.

Keywords: APPGM-SDG, Cheras, Community Empowerment, Kuala Lumpur, Sustainable Development Goals, Urban Development, TVET

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## Introduction

Founded in 1857 as a tin mining settlement, Kuala Lumpur (KL) has grown to become a significant hub for trade and commerce in Malaysia. Over the years, it evolved from a modest mining town into a bustling metropolis and was later designated as the capital of an independent Malaysia (Kozlowski et al., 2022). Strategically located on Peninsular Malaysia's western coast, Kuala Lumpur has always been a focal point for economic activity and migration. Its geographical location facilitated trade and connectivity, attracting settlers and investments from within and beyond Malaysia. Since its establishment, KL has consistently experienced population growth driven by a variety of factors, including urbanisation, economic opportunities, and the rapid development of infrastructure that supports its growth as a modern city (Wheeler, 2000).

Since 1950, Kuala Lumpur's population growth accelerated significantly, as highlighted in Figure 1. Today, the city is home to over 1.8 million residents spread across an area of 243 square kilometers. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) 2020 report notes that the urbanisation rate had reached a remarkable 75.1% by 2020, underscoring KL's role as a magnet for internal migration and urban expansion (Bernama, 2024). Its economy has become diverse and dynamic, driven by key industries such as finance, construction, electronic manufacturing, and tourism (ESCAP, 2020). These sectors have collectively contributed to Kuala Lumpur's prominence as an economic powerhouse in the region, attracting both skilled professionals and migrant workers seeking better livelihoods.

However, this rapid urbanisation and economic growth have not come without challenges. Kuala Lumpur now faces significant urban issues, including overpopulation, traffic congestion, pollution, and unchecked overdevelopment. These problems have escalated over the decades, making the city one of the most densely populated and highly congested urban centers in Southeast Asia. According to recent reports, KL has been ranked as Southeast Asia's fourth most congested city (Akhtar, 2024). The city's population continues to rise, with an increase of 193,906 people recorded since 2023, reflecting an annual growth rate of 2.25% (Shah & Iskandar, 2023). This sustained growth, while a testament to the city's economic vibrancy, also highlights the pressing need for more sustainable urban planning and infrastructural reforms to address the mounting challenges of living in a highly urbanized environment.

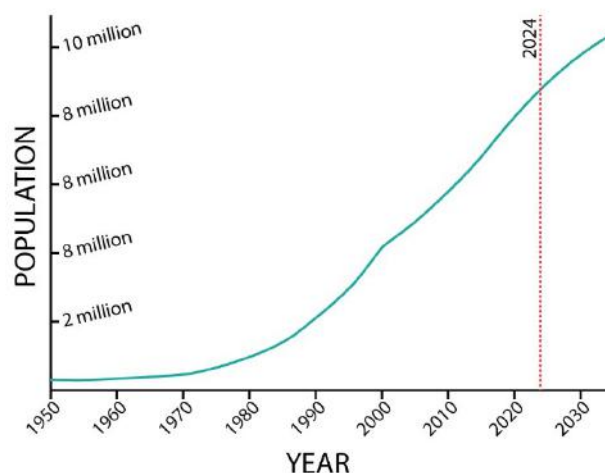


Figure 1: Kuala Lumpur Population 1950 – 2024  
Sourced from World Population Review (2024)

As one of eleven districts in KL, Cheras is a suburb located southeast of KL, adjacent to Ampang and Kajang (Bupalan, 2018). Like KL, Cheras has been experiencing overpopulation and overdevelopment issues such as increased high-rise property developments and population imbalance. Caused by internal migration, the issue of overpopulation and overdevelopment in Cheras has caused its residents to worry about how their livability and quality of life are threatened (Lim, 2022). The increase of high-rises in an already saturated Cheras suburb would also cause significant impacts on the ecosystem, increased traffic congestion, elevated flood and landslide risks, and the safety and security of its residents. As the increase in high-rise properties also increases population density, residents are doubtful if the current infrastructure can cope, thus affecting their quality of life. As the issue of overpopulation reaches its “tipping point,” authorities need to rethink urban development in Cheras (Ibrahim, 2022). Increased traffic congestion and high-density living within reduced open spaces have led to questions on whether proper social impact or traffic assessment studies have been conducted.

Recognizing the seriousness of the overdevelopment crisis in Cheras, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia Sustainable Development Goal (APPGM-SDG) approved a solution project proposed by a residents' association (RA) from Cheras (SP100). In 2022, SP100 launched the ‘Empowering Communities in Support of Sustainable Development in KL – Addressing Overdevelopment Issues’ project. The project addressed social and environmental issues related to overdevelopment in Cheras. The three-month project started as a grassroots intervention to create a coalition of residents and form a residents' association.

The association has grown from five to sixty RAs and is registered as KLRA+SD. KLRA+SD is a coalition comprising sixty RAs, one (1) non-governmental organisation, and one (1) higher education institution. Its objective is to invite KL residents to work with members of parliament, local councils, and other government agencies to create a sustainable city by contributing feedback and professional expertise. Despite the growth in numbers, their objectives remain unchanged: to address specific overdevelopment issues such as flooding, traffic congestion, and parking problems caused by overdevelopment within the KL area.

This paper employs the methods of document reviews and focus group discussions to evaluate the impact of the solution project using the framework of SDGs 11, 16, and 17, and to analyse the outcomes in six domains, namely Deep (Personal), Clear (Skills), Wide (Network), High (System), Gender, and SDG. This paper also discusses how KLRA+SD drives sustainable urban development through stakeholder collaboration and public involvement, and inspires communities to prioritise ongoing engagement, education, and advocacy for creating sustainable urban environments.

### **Sustainable Urban Development and KLRA+SD**

Urban development has a detrimental effect on the well-being of city residents, highlighting the importance of implementing sustainable urban planning strategies to enhance the overall quality of life (Yigitcanlar & Kamruzzaman, 2015). The construction of more malls, highways, and residential areas leads to urban sprawl. It promotes car dependency, leading to increased traffic congestion, longer commute times, higher greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and ultimately undermining environmental sustainability (Wheeler & Beatley, 2014). The challenges arising from extensive urbanisation in KL suggest the execution of green infrastructure and active community involvement in urban planning as potential solutions for conserving and enlarging green spaces (Sa'adu Danjaji & Ariffin, 2017). There

is, therefore, a pressing need for comprehensive sustainable urban planning in Malaysia, including inclusive planning methods aligning development with environmental sustainability (Behrang et al., 2019).

As Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) gains more focus, initiatives have simultaneously increased to develop indicators, assessment methods, tools, and rating systems to integrate sustainability into urban planning and development (Sharifi, 2021). SUD means development that satisfies community needs without jeopardising the ability of future generations to satiate their own needs, hence it prioritises sustainability in the social, environmental, and economic spheres. Consequently, sustainable cities are designed with a focus on long-term environmental and social outcomes, ensuring that residents can enjoy a high quality of life even as urban populations continue to expand. There are several strategic ways that cities can use to attain sustainable urban development. The first is through integrated urban planning, which entails coordinating activities from many sectors to satisfy local needs while taking environmental effects into account. By interacting with stakeholders, planning is guaranteed to represent the priorities of the community. The second is by integrating green infrastructure into urban planning to enable citizens enjoy recreational areas and manage environmental issues. Last but not least, is the addition of public education campaigns that increase knowledge of sustainability issues and promote community involvement, effective legislation that support sustainable practices must be implemented.

Despite the strategies mentioned, local initiatives are increasingly crucial to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), emphasising the need for localization. Despite the abundance of indicators, their ability to evaluate progress toward SDG11 research still needs to be improved (Thomas et al., 2021). It calls for future research to prioritise geographically disaggregated data collection to measure distributional equity effectively and establish locally relevant benchmarks and targets for urban sustainability indicators. SDG 11; ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’, is aimed at ‘making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.’ This goal recognizes the critical challenges faced by urban areas, particularly in developing countries, where issues such as extreme poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to climate change are prevalent. Among its targets, SDG 11 seeks to ensure adequate housing, promote sustainable transport systems, foster inclusive urbanization, protect cultural and natural heritage, manage natural resources efficiently, and provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green public spaces.

To tackle these challenges, KLRA+SD was established to provide essential oversight on projects and ensure that the government and local councils maintain proper checks and balances when approving projects or developing areas that directly impact residents. The aim is to create a more coordinated and responsible approach to urban development, addressing the root causes of these pressing issues. Other than that, it also plans to increase the involvement of local leaders in town planning through conferences, policy, and roundtable discussions. As such, with the funding provided by the APPGM-SDG, KLRA+SD have organised the KL Conference for Sustainable Cities (KL SDG2020) aimed at localising SDGs and creating a public narrative and awareness about the issue of overdevelopment in the city.

## **Methodology**

APPGM-SDG impact evaluators used the Impact Identification documents to comprehensively assess various dimensions of the project’s influence. This evaluation encompassed four key areas. First, personal skills, which involved identifying how the

project facilitated skill enhancement or capacity building for participants. Secondly, network systems, where the evaluators assessed the project’s effect on creating or strengthening connections among stakeholders, organizations, or institutions. Third, the contribution of the project to specific SDGs was evaluated. Lastly, the evaluators examined the project's impact on gender equality and inclusivity, including analyzing whether the project addressed or reduced gender disparities and promoted equal opportunities. To conduct this analysis, the evaluators meticulously reviewed three key sources of information provided by the Solutions Providers (SP), the project proposal, monthly reports, and the final report.

The next phase, Impact Verification which involved a focus group discussion (FGD) conducted in January 2024 at Cheras to gain in-depth participant insights. Four respondents, aged between 57 and 73 years, who are members of KLRA, attended the FGD. Impact verification is a key method to validate and refine the findings from the earlier evaluation phase. The FGD provided an interactive platform where stakeholders, including project participants, beneficiaries, and relevant partners, were brought together to share their insights, experiences, and feedback regarding the project's outcomes. The FGD questions were based on six domains: Deep, Clear, Wide, High, Gender, and SDG. Table 1 below provides a clear and concise overview of each dimension and its focus areas.

Table 1: The Six Domains Assessed During the Impact Verification Process

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Key Points</b>
<b>Deep Impact (Personal)</b>	Individual transformation in terms of knowledge, self-awareness, and behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge gained</li> <li>- Satisfaction with the project</li> <li>- Changes in self-awareness and behaviour towards SDGs</li> </ul>
<b>Clear Impact (Skills)</b>	Development and practical application of skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skills acquired through the project</li> <li>- Utilization of these skills to improve performance</li> </ul>
<b>Wide Impact (Networks)</b>	Creation and maintenance of new relationships and networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New connections (friends, mentors, agencies, etc.)</li> <li>- Relationship or partnership sustainability</li> </ul>
<b>High Impact (Systems)</b>	Broader organizational or systemic changes introduced by the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of systems (e.g., SOPs, organizational structures)</li> <li>- Effectiveness and challenges of these systems</li> </ul>
<b>Gender Dimension</b>	Contribution to gender equality and addressing gender-specific issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender inclusivity in project participation</li> <li>- Addressing gender issues (education, health, employment)</li> <li>- Metrics like women’s participation rates</li> </ul>
<b>SDG Dimension</b>	Alignment with and contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SDG knowledge imparted</li> <li>- Achievement of SDG indicators</li> <li>- Prominence of specific SDGs addressed</li> </ul>

The FGD session was divided into three areas, (1) A fifteen-minute portion of the presentation covered program knowledge, attendance reasons, skills, and benefits; (2) a fifteen-minute portion of the presentation addressed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) knowledge, application, extra information, procedural adjustments, and feelings; and (3) a five-minute (5 minutes) portion of the presentation featured exit questions on keeping contact. The evaluators took photographs, made written records, and made audio recordings

to document the session. They then uploaded all of the documents to Google Drive and prepared a transcription of the session. Data pertaining to the impact were incorporated into a consolidated report.

## **Discussions and Analysis**

This paper uses the SDGs 11, 16, and 17 frameworks to evaluate how the solution project (SP100) addressed overdevelopment in Cheras. SDG 11 focuses on providing affordable and adequate housing while addressing urban living challenges, such as slum development and inadequate infrastructure (11.1) and to preserve cultural and natural heritage amidst urbanization and development (11.4). SDG 16 promotes governance and institutional accountability to ensure inclusivity and justice in decision-making processes (16.6). SP100 especially, had encouraged collaboration between residents, local councils, and government agencies, promoting transparency and accountability in urban planning decisions. It empowered communities to contribute their voices and hold institutions accountable for addressing overdevelopment issues. Lastly, SDG 17 focuses on mobilizing resources for sustainable development through effective taxation and revenue generation (17.1), promotes partnerships across sectors to achieve sustainable development goals (17.16), and emphasizes the role of collaboration between governments, private sectors, and civil society in sustainable development (17.17).

Several case studies from Malaysia have demonstrated both the positive impacts and challenges associated with initiatives focused on localising SDGs (e.g., Lee et al., 2024; Lee, Ab Rahman, & Tan, 2024; Puteh & Wan, 2023; Ab Rahman, Lee, & Tan, 2023; Rahman et al., 2023; Syahirah et al., 2023). This paper discusses how the SDGs localization frameworks were applied to empower local communities in Cheras, specifically in addressing issues of overdevelopment and improving the quality of life, ultimately contributing to the goal of transforming Kuala Lumpur into a more sustainable city.

### **SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Through SP100 Initiative Issues and Problems Encountered**

SDG 11 aims to create a sustainable city focused on creating a safe, harmonious, and liveable environment that future generations can inherit. However, the overdevelopment in Cheras posed a threat to the natural and built environment. Therefore, SP100 project advocated for a balanced urban planning approach to safeguard natural spaces and cultural identity, ensuring development does not compromise the area's heritage and ecosystem. The initiative sought to mitigate issues like flooding, traffic congestion, and infrastructure inadequacy that directly affect the quality of housing and living standards in the area. Through engaging residents and forming a coalition with other resident associations (RAs), the project emphasized sustainable housing developments and improving basic infrastructure with similar concerns about the increase in high-rise developments in Cheras. Furthermore, the RAs stated that overdevelopment has increased flash floods and landslides caused by a significant increase in high-rise properties over the past decade. This drive to increase demand for residential areas mirrors broader trends in other cities (Lim, 2023).

During the FGD, the beneficiaries also voiced their concerns regarding the increase in high-rise condominium constructions. They raised worries regarding the necessity of more condominium projects and inquired about a viable buyer market to support such developments. They expressed concerns about the potential surge in traffic resulting from the

vehicles of new residents, highlighting that the main roads in Cheras needed to be constructed to handle such a substantial increase in traffic flow. Additionally, they highlighted the problems of condominium owners with multiple cars but only owning one parking spot. As such, these owners park their other vehicles illegally outside the condominium premises. This increase in roadside parking would worsen the existing congestion.

### **Solutions and the Way Forward**

In line with the Target of SDG 11.8: vital national and regional development planning, SP100 also aimed to equip more residents with relevant skills and knowledge to advocate for the sustainable development of Cheras. This increase in numbers would ensure that stronger development planning at the national and regional levels has positive economic, social, and environmental links at the urban level to support sustainable development and improve the community's lives.

The beneficiaries mentioned that the “massive developments” are not sustainable development projects that would benefit the residents of Cheras as these projects would increase traffic congestion, parking issues, and pollution. Their main concern concerns the disruption of their communities and facilities' established systems and functions and its impact on the environment caused by landslides, soil erosion, and flash floods.

### **SDG 16: Promoting Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Empathy and Community Engagement Emerging Issues**

To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the beneficiaries highlighted the pressing need for greater public participation in decision-making processes related to development projects in Cheras. They emphasized that inclusive community engagement is not merely a token gesture but a pivotal strategy for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This has been demonstrated by the positive outcomes in Malaysian communities where active participation has led to better governance and more sustainable urban solutions (Salleh et al., 2023). Through meaningful involvement, communities can voice their concerns, contribute ideas, and play a critical role in shaping the development projects that directly impact their living environments.

The SP100 project stands as a prime example of this approach, having actively encouraged collaboration between residents, local councils, and government agencies. This collaborative framework promoted transparency and accountability in urban planning decisions, ensuring that stakeholders across all levels had the opportunity to engage and contribute. By empowering communities to raise their voices, the project enabled them to hold institutions accountable for addressing critical overdevelopment issues. This empowerment is not only about participation but about ensuring that decisions are fair, inclusive, and responsive to the real needs of the people affected.

Furthermore, the increased focus on public participation has the potential to shift societal attitudes, fostering public empathy in place of public apathy. When people are actively engaged in planning and decision-making for their communities, they develop a sense of ownership and responsibility. This, in turn, reduces the disconnect often seen between policymakers and residents. Empowered communities can communicate their feedback more effectively, providing valuable insights that ensure development projects align with the needs, priorities, and values of the local population.

By fostering a culture of inclusion and accountability, projects like SP100 demonstrate that sustainable urban development is achievable when communities are given the tools and opportunities to take part in shaping their futures. This approach not only enhances trust and collaboration among stakeholders but also lays the foundation for creating vibrant, resilient, and sustainable urban environments for generations to come.

### **Strategies for Progress and Future Directions**

When the solution project started, public participation in the discussions of approvals for new developments in KL needed to be improved. To ensure that KL residents have equal access to resolving disputes and that individual rights are protected, public involvement in the planning of development projects in KL will ensure better checks and balances. To ensure that elected officials are held accountable and transparent, the public's opinion regarding the matter of development in Cheras would ensure that good governance is practised.

During the FGD, the beneficiaries mentioned that local authorities should invite KLRA+SD to provide input and suggestions. According to them, this is “in line with the law, for citizens' input is required before matters proceed.” To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, input from the Cheras community is needed to ensure that Kuala Lumpur becomes a liveable city for future generations.

Target 16B encourages promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. The increased participation of Cheras residents in public affairs directly ensures that their rights to a standard of living are met. Therefore, KLRA+SD has become the platform for inter-governmental agencies, local governments, and resident associations to discuss and understand sustainable development.

### **SDG 17: Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development Current Challenges**

In line with SDG 17, the various activities planned throughout the solution project were conducted so that the government agencies would better understand the roles, contributions, and efforts of the RAs in building a sustainable community in Cheras. Despite being inexperienced in advocacy or managing NGO-funded projects, SP100 and the RAs collectively objected to constructing four large-scale housing development projects planned in Cheras. One such project was a high-rise and high-residential condominium to be built on steep slopes (Lim, 2023). Although not directly focused on tax or revenue collection, SP100 highlighted the need for efficient resource allocation in urban planning. The emphasis on sustainable development encouraged responsible financial practices and resource mobilization for long-term solutions. In addition to that, their efforts started with building awareness and coalitions among the resident associations in Cheras, eventually leading to the establishing a coalition of resident associations and task forces in KL. This became a platform for collective action towards a sustainable KL city by pushing for local council elections for councillors and the mayor. The project exemplified this target by fostering partnerships among residents, NGOs, local authorities, and educational institutions. This collaborative approach ensured that diverse expertise and resources were leveraged to address overdevelopment challenges effectively.



## **Advancements and Future Perspectives**

To push for open governance and empower the community, SP100 emphasized their adoption of best practices from other SDG groups as a key strategy. One notable example is their engagement with a Korean SDG group, from which they gained valuable insights into shaping policies and collaborating effectively with municipal councils. This collaboration allowed them to understand how strategic policy-making processes can be enhanced through cross-learning. Similarly, SP100 drew inspiration from an SDG group in Singapore, where they learned practical approaches to initiating and achieving policy changes. These learnings were instrumental in helping SP100 refine their methods and establish a stronger foundation for community engagement.

To further their goals, SP100 now holds regular monthly meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) and local councils. These meetings aim to consolidate efforts and build a formidable coalition that serves as a strong voice for the community. In addition, SP100 has worked closely with local councils to address pressing carbon-related issues by developing and sharing baseline information on low-carbon plans. By doing so, they have actively contributed to the development of sustainable urban strategies that prioritize environmental concerns. Furthermore, SP100 organized a voluntary local community review, which included a multilateral session bringing together local authorities, local communities, NGOs, and a private university. This session fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders, strengthening their collective commitment to sustainable development.

The impact of these efforts was evident in the expansion of the beneficiary base, which initially began with five resident associations and eventually grew to nine and later to sixty associations. Despite this rapid growth, SP100 maintained consistent communication with all members, leveraging social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Instagram to ensure seamless connectivity and coordination. Over time, these efforts culminated in the formation of KLRA+SD, a resident association formally recognized by the Registrar of Societies. KLRA+SD is managed by an executive committee (exco) and has established an online presence through its official website, [KLRAplus.org](http://KLRAplus.org), as well as active social media accounts on Facebook and X. The creation of KLRA+SD marked a significant milestone in institutionalizing public participation, ensuring that local authorities actively seek input and suggestions from the public before implementing further building and development plans.

In alignment with Target 17.17, which emphasizes the importance of fostering partnerships between public, private, and civil society actors, the institutionalization of public participation is a crucial step toward advocating for sustainable development. This approach encourages the establishment of effective collaborations that build on the collective experience and resource strategies of various stakeholders. Beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the recognition they have received from local councils, state authorities, the Federal Government, and other resident associations across Kuala Lumpur. They view this recognition as a testament to their efforts and remain committed to working collaboratively to sustain Cheras and KL as thriving urban areas. By maintaining strong partnerships and open communication channels, they aim to enhance the quality of life for their communities.

The formation of this partnership not only addresses immediate urban challenges but also ensures long-term objectives, such as educating the public about the significance of good city planning and sustainable development. By fostering awareness and advocating for liveable

cities, they hope to create environments that are better suited for future generations, ensuring that sustainability and inclusivity remain central to urban development.

## **Conclusion**

Through public participation, meaningful discussions with the local authorities and city council, and empowering local authorities, the SP100 solution project has demonstrated its effectiveness in empowering the Cheras and KL communities to promote sustainable urban development. Moving forward, it is essential to maintain ongoing public involvement through workshops, community meetings, and educational and awareness programs. The success of SP100 and KLRA+SD should be a model for other communities nationwide. More collaborations between NGOs, educational institutions, and the private sector can diversify expertise and resources in discussing overpopulation and overdevelopment. Community engagements have been pivotal in achieving SDGs, as evidenced by the positive outcomes in several Malaysian communities (Salleh et al., 2023).

Education and training are crucial in addressing the challenges of rapid urbanisation in Kuala Lumpur. As the city grows, there is a growing need to educate residents, urban planners, and policymakers about sustainable development. Education can raise awareness about environmental conservation, sustainable urban planning, and the value of community involvement. Training programs for local leaders and government officials are essential to enhance their ability to implement effective policies that promote sustainable growth. Investing in education and training empowers KL residents to actively participate in shaping the city's future and fosters a shared responsibility for building a resilient and sustainable urban environment.

The experience gained from this solution project proves that the cohesive involvement of the public and collaborative effort from relevant stakeholders is essential to achieving the SDGs. The valuable opinions from the project beneficiaries emphasise the importance of meaningful collaborative efforts involving public engagement and continuous advocacy efforts to ensure a more livable and sustainable city for future generations. On a broader scale, the project paints a picture of how the SDG-based approach can be suited to better the quality of life in urban communities while emphasising the importance of bringing public awareness and preparing continuous education to smoothen inclusive and sustainable urban development.

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## **Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process**

Authors declare the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process.

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