

# Health and well-being in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: assessment of 18 voluntary national reviews

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## Objectives and Methods

**SDG3 is a key indicator and evidence of success in meeting the 2030 Agenda.**

### Objectives:

Review Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by countries in the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region from 2016 to 2022 to assess

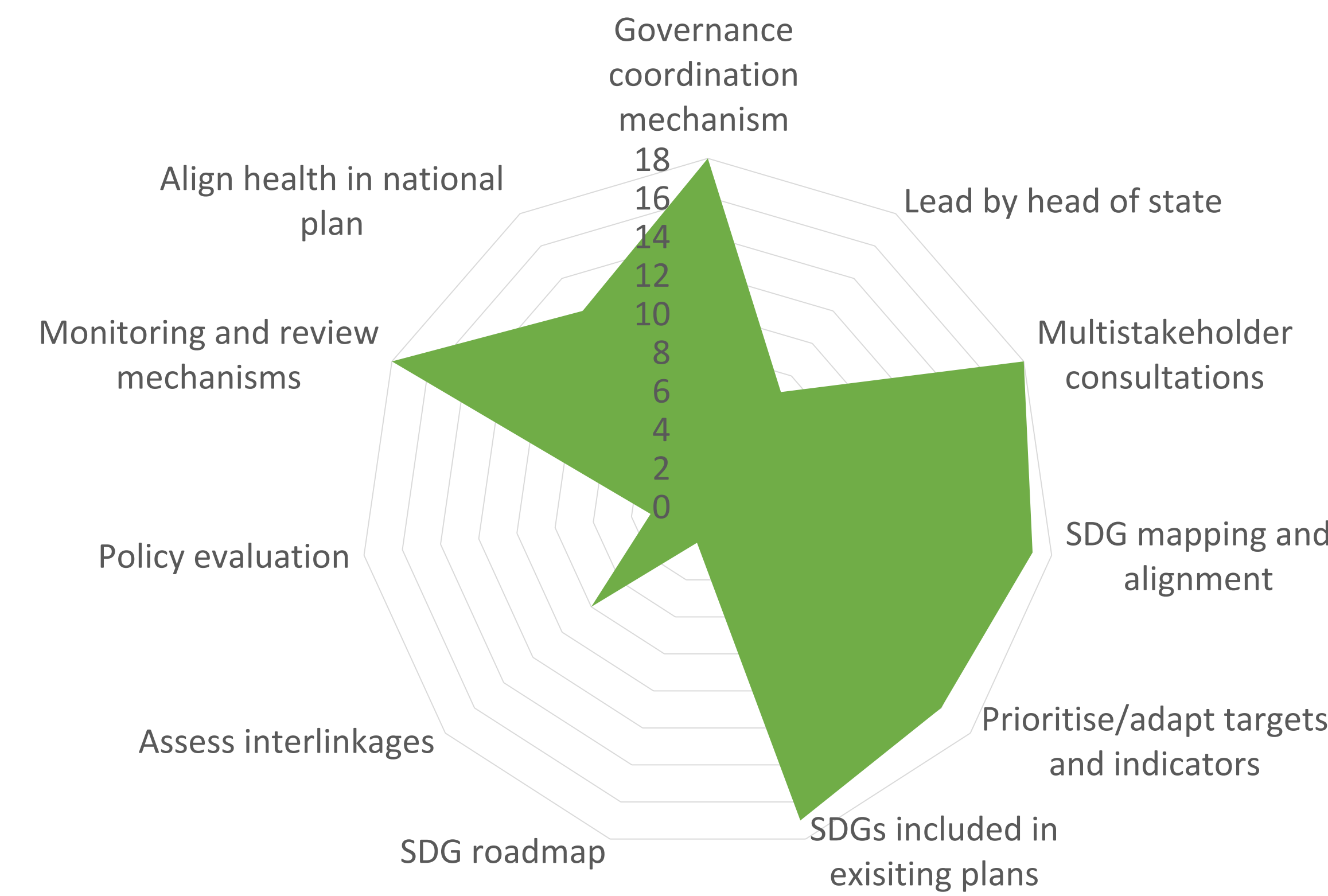
- progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation
- VNR preparation process
- how health is positioned and framed and
- identify priorities for accelerating progress on the health-related SDGs.

### Methods:

- Assess SDG implementation in 10 areas proposed by Allen and colleagues [1]
- Assessed adherence to UN voluntary review guidelines [2]
- Use public health lens in above steps and identify how health is discussed in SDG3 [3].

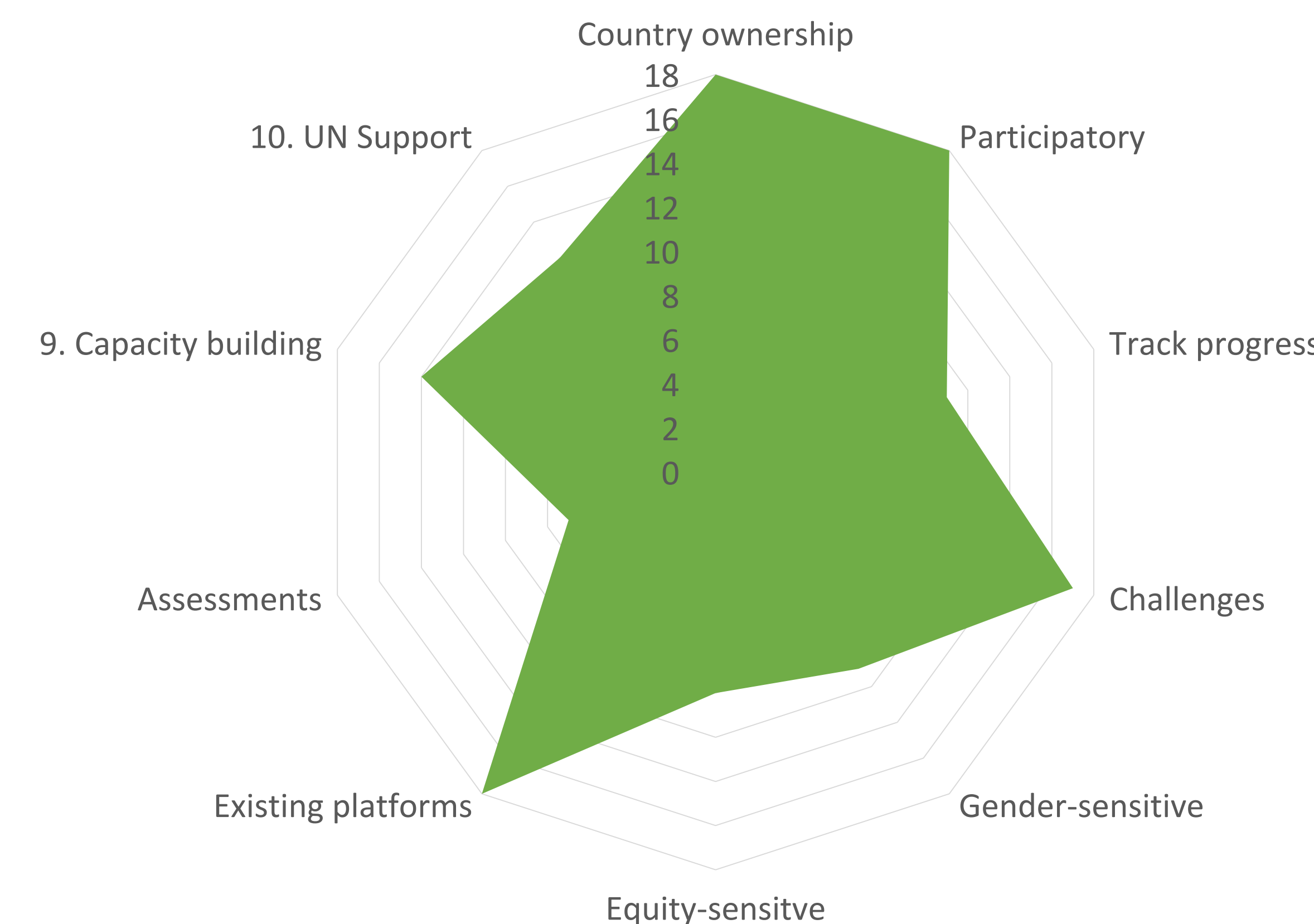
## Results

Figure 1. Progress on SDG Implementation (N=18)



- Good progress on SDG implementation BUT limited assessments on SDGs interlinkages or policy evaluations (Figure 1)
- Good adherence to VNR guidance but limited analytics (data trends, gender and equity analysis, policy assessments) and UN support (Figure 2)
- Top SDGs: All countries prioritized SDG3 health and SDG8 economy, 17 prioritized SDG16 peace

Figure 2. Voluntary National Review preparation process (N=18)



- SDG3: Health framed as biomedical approach with focus on health care delivery with limited linkages to societal inequities, determinants of health and structural challenges.

## Conclusion

- Progress made in SDG implementation, however, synergies between SDGs not well reflected
- Greater efforts needed to integrate SDGs like using Health *for all* policies [4] and/or One Health approach
- Public health professionals, as champions for health, should
  - encourage stronger governance mechanisms to address upstream issues [5]
  - advocate multisectoral actions,
  - promote systems analysis approach
  - promote political solutions for peace and right to health [6]
- Limitation: VNRs highly formalized reports provide comprehensive strategic review so text can be vague, lack evidence and details

### References

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