

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Benin is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, composed of 77 municipalities, whose councils are elected by universal suffrage. Three of them have a special status: the political capital Porto-Novo, the economic capital Cotonou and Parakou.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Development Plan** and the **Growth Programme for Sustainable Development (PC2D)** integrate the SDGs, and have been operationalized through the Programme for Government Action (PAC), supported by the 3rd National Strategy for the Statistic Development (SNDS-3) and the Ten-year framework of actions for the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs (**CDA-SDG**) 2021-2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs (DGCS-ODD)** is supervised by the Ministry of Planning and Development. Institutional coordination for SDG implementation in the country includes five mechanisms: i) Orientation Committee, ii) Steering Technical Committee, iii) Coordination Framework Government-Municipalities (see below), iv) Concertation Framework with CSOs, v) Group for Research and Studies on Sustainable Development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2020 VNR preparation, the country developed a broad consultation process. The preparation process was defined by several national workshops at the level of state actors, municipalities and civil society and it benefited from the country's participation in regional and international experience-sharing workshops with other countries of the region.

1.3 MONITORING

Benin has carried out work relating to the prioritization of SDG targets and their contextualization, which has made it possible to select a set of 49 priority targets. This was followed by the establishment, with the support of UNDP, of a task force made up of experts from the General Directorate for the Coordination and Monitoring of Development Goals and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE). The objective is to improve the level of regular reporting of indicators and to effectively monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Coordination Framework Municipality-Government** is composed of the mayors of the 77 municipalities in the country or their representatives and members of the government. Through this Government-Municipalities coordination framework on SDGs, a **technical commission on SDGs** has been set up within the **National Association of Municipalities of Benin**. This framework for exchange and discussion allows the mayors and the National Coordination of SDGs to study the SDGs path of the municipalities and assess the progress of the municipalities. It acts as an advocacy mechanism for SDG actions in the municipalities. It meets once every trimester.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15901Benin.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19366Benin_VNR_2018_BENIN_French.pdf (2018);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26282VNR_2020_Benin_Report.pdf (2020).

The national government organized technical workshops to support the municipalities in order to strengthen their capacities to integrate the SDGs into their local development planning documents. In a participatory and inclusive approach, Benin led a process of “spatialization/localization” of the SDG prioritized targets in the 77 municipalities. Yet, there are great disparities in the inclusion of SDGs in municipal development plans.

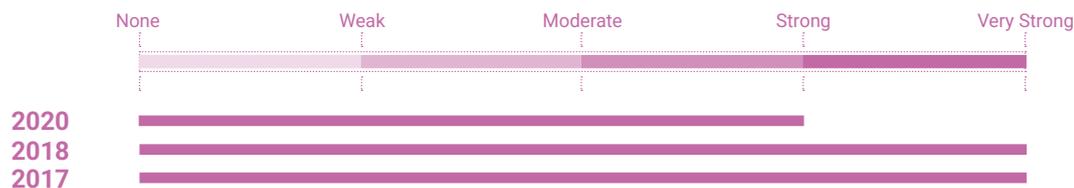
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The ANCB was invited to contribute to the 2020 VNR and to revise a preliminary version.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Coordination Framework Government-Municipalities is composed of representatives of the 77 municipalities. The National Association of Municipalities of Benin is also involved in SDG implementation.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments’ annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2020 VNR acknowledges the municipalities as “levers for achieving the SDGs”. There is a subsection called “spatialization of SDG priority targets” describing all strategies for monitoring and localizing the SDGs (see the VNR, 2020, p. 5).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National Association of Municipalities of Benin (ANCB)** in collaboration with the General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring has initiated, with the support of its network of partners, the "**Local Agenda 2030 Contest**". The initiative rewards the best local projects that constitute good practices of SDG implementation at the level of the 77 communes based on the initiatives being implemented in the territories.

► There is also a Local Climate Change Adaptation Project (LoCAL Initiative)³ in the municipalities of Toucountouna, **Boukoubé, Copargo, Malanville, Karimama and Banikoara, Colby, Ouaké and Maté.**

► The government has launched a 20,000 housing program and has set up a rainwater sanitation program for **Cotonou** and secondary cities: (i) the rehabilitation and development of primary, secondary and tertiary roads; (ii) the Urban Development and Decentralization Support Project; (iii) the sustainable cities program; (iv) the socio-community infrastructure construction project under the supervision of other sectoral ministries; and (v) the administrative buildings and socio-community infrastructure construction project.

► In order to improve digital connection, the government has set up community Digital Points in 40 communes and 14 high speed internet access points in post offices. Today, we can see the implementation of free WIFI in public places in the forty communes that have benefited from the community digital points.

3. The Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) is a funding mechanism implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with the goal of promoting climate change resilient communities and economies by increasing financing for and investment in climate change adaptation at the local level in least developed countries. For more information, see: <https://www.uncdf.org/local/benin>

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The **Benin Local Authorities' Committee** elaborated a VSR in 2020, presenting the state of progress achieved in the localization process of the SDGs.⁴ It initiated the mission for the localization of the SDGs next to the 2020 VNR. This initiative aimed at revealing the efforts made by the municipalities and has been a catalyst for strengthening the essence of decentralization, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a tool for advocacy and resource mobilization.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Benin conducted a study on the costing of the SDGs which revealed financial and technological resource needs that represent about 60.8% of GDP (\$74.5 billion between 2018-2030, i.e. \$5.7 billion/year) while domestic fiscal resources barely reach 18% of GDP per year. The mobilization of the estimated volume of resources has led to the design of a program called the "**Leave No One Behind**" **special initiative**, which aims, through the organization of sectoral roundtables and forums, to capture the resources needed to achieve the SDGs. However, the resource mobilization strategy is not satisfactory and the monitoring and evaluation system in place does not provide complete data. The government proposes to strengthen the current institutional framework for implementation in order to improve synergies and facilitate the involvement of actors (financial partners, civil society organizations and local authorities), as well as to improve resource mobilization. There is a transfer of **FADeC funds**⁶ to the 77 municipalities in Benin, which has enabled the construction of socio-community infrastructures.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Some next steps mentioned in the 2020 VNR are specifically dedicated to the local level: strengthening the integration of priority targets in development policies and strategies at all levels; continuing to strengthen the statistical information system; successful implementation of the SDGs at the local level; and strengthening the institutional framework for coordination and monitoring. Specifically, the next steps will be part of the development and implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Actions for Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs and the methodological guide for integrating international agendas into national planning frameworks.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR makes very little reference to local government initiatives on gender issues. Nevertheless, the report mentions some capacity building of Beninese municipalities with regard to the protection of human rights, including gender-based violence. In addition, in 2019 33% of municipalities had a budgeted plan dedicated to the protection of vulnerable social groups and the identification of violence, including gender-based violence, compared to only 10% the previous year. It also mentions that in 2019, Benin joined the SWEED regional initiative focused on women's empowerment⁷ and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel. In 2019, 23% of communes have strengthened their capacity to promote and protect human rights and combat exploitation, abuse and violence, including gender-based violence, compared to 22.08% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 VNR only mentions national initiatives (mainly related to the economic effects of the crisis).

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_benin_2020.pdf

5. The VSR is available at: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_benin_2020.pdf

6. The FADeC was set up in 2008 as a Municipal Development Fund and transfer mechanism to allocate national resources to cover operational and investment costs of the communes, as part of the national decentralization process.

7. The initiative plans, among other things, to accelerate the demographic transition in order to trigger the demographic dividend and reduce gender inequalities in the countries concerned and one its main actions is the strengthening regional capacities to improve the supply of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and nutritional health products. Here, LRGs have an important role.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		4.6 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		58.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		36.7 (2011, Cotonou)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		58.4 (2020)

⁸ The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/ben>