

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Fiji is a unitary republic with two spheres of government. The country comprises 14 provincial councils and 13 municipal councils (2 city councils and 11 town councils). **There are currently no elected councillors** (councils have been suspended and elections postponed since 2009).<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Launched in 2017, **Fiji's 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plans** embody the key goals and principles of the SDGs.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economy** is the government agency responsible for national development planning and thus the sustainable development agenda. The Ministry is also the convener of the SDGs Taskforce that is charged with the responsibility of overseeing SDG implementation in the country.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economy** led the 2019 VNR process. The development of the VNR started with a detailed data and information review exercise, followed by a comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder consultation process via various platforms. The latter included a call for submission from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and philanthropy on programmes or initiatives that are being implemented by these stakeholders to support the achievement of the SDGs. Also, the Fiji Civil Society Organisation Voluntary Review Taskforce organized a forum to assess and report on civil society organizations' contributions to SDG implementation.

### 1.3 MONITORING

As part of the VNR process in 2019, and with the support of UNDP, a comprehensive data collection process was started in 2018 to establish the SDG baseline status in Fiji and an SDGs monitoring and evaluation system.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any involvement of the provincial and local councils in the 2019 VNR process nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

1. See: [https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country\\_profiles/Fiji.pdf](https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Fiji.pdf). Traditional leaders head the 14 provincial councils elected by the indigenous Itekei people, while local administrations have been appointed since the military coup in 2006. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019\\_EN.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf)

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25011Fiji\\_VNR\\_2019\\_final.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25011Fiji_VNR_2019_final.pdf) (2019)

3. The exercise revealed concerns on data availability for SDGs 11, 12, 13 and 14, and explored proxy national indicators for these SDGs. The assessment also highlighted indicators that have yet to be mainstreamed into the 5-Year and 20-Year NDP and suggested a number of indicators that needed to be adapted to the Fijian context.

## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



2019

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

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

## 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are very limited references to local councils in the 2019 VNR, and no example of local initiatives for SDG implementation.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2019 in **Nadi**, the 5th Pacific Urban Forum was held in partnership with the national government, UN-Habitat, UNESCAP and other partners. It concluded with voluntary commitments to support cities in localizing the 2030 Agenda as well as a declaration for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to support the institutionalization of local government concerns in the region.<sup>4</sup>

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

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To achieve SDG ambitions through the 5-Year and 20-Year NDP, Fiji requires significant mobilization of both public and private sector finance. Also, as a country on the frontlines of climate change, Fiji is well placed to explore the wider use of international climate finance for adaptation, resilience building and mitigation purposes. Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) developed with technical assistance from the World Bank highlights that the Fijian Government must make interventions in five key areas to reduce vulnerability.<sup>5</sup>

# 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** The 2019 VNR stresses the threat posed to the Fijian people by the reality of climate change. Whether it's more frequent and more severe cyclones, the rising seas, ocean acidification or changing weather patterns, the report acknowledges that Fiji faces extreme vulnerabilities that will require funding from within and beyond our borders to adequately address.

## 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the last local government elections in 2005, 13.3% (21 out of 158) women were elected countrywide. Currently there are no elected councillors and none of the special administrators are women.<sup>6</sup> The 2019 mentions the iTaukei traditional social structure: women hold 7% village chief positions.

4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

5. The interventions are (i) Building inclusive and resilient towns and cities; (ii) Improving infrastructure services; (iii) Climate smart agriculture and fisheries; (iv) Conserving ecosystems; and (v) Building socioeconomic resilience. Furthermore, the CVA is particularly impressive in its use of innovative analyses and methodologies. For instance, it investigates the impact of natural disasters on poverty and inequality, so that the Fijian Government can make risk management decisions that are informed by poverty impacts and not just based on aggregate costs.

6. See: [https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country\\_profiles/Fiji.pdf](https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Fiji.pdf)

## 3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>7</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		-
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 (%)		11.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

<sup>7</sup> 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/fji>