

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Georgia is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, made up of 72 municipalities: 5 cities and 67 communities, with directly elected mayors and councils. In addition, the country has 2 autonomous territories: the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.<sup>1</sup>



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

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a **Strategy for Supporting and Monitoring of the Implementation of the SDGs** in the country. Also, the State Audit Office of Georgia (SAOG) assessed the national preparedness for SDG implementation and issued recommendations based on the audit results.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The key coordination body for implementation of the national SDG targets is the **Sustainable Development Goals Inter-Agency Council (SDGs Council)**<sup>3</sup>, chaired by the head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG). Besides, the **Policy Planning Unit** of the Policy Planning and Coordination Department at the AoG serves as the secretariat to the SDG Council.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The AoG closely worked with all line ministries and the National Statistics Office of Georgia. The 2020 VNR process was conducted in cooperation with the **SDGs Council Thematic Working Groups**, composed of representatives of various state institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, private sector and academia. The draft report has been shared within an existing institutional framework consisting of CSOs, international organizations, think tanks, academia, development partners and private sector. It has also been made available on a dedicated website.<sup>4</sup>

### 1.3 MONITORING

The **Policy Planning Unit** monitors the implementation of the national SDGs through a special electronic system.<sup>5</sup> The “**National Document for the Sustainable Development Goals**” was elaborated through wide consultation both within the government and with civil society stakeholders and it describes the nationalized targets (93) and indicators (200) and sets out the institutional and procedural structure for monitoring of their implementation.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

An action plan for effective localization of the SDGs was prepared, in line with the **Decentralization Strategy of the Government** adopted in 2019. Furthermore, an updated Statute of the SDGs Council ensured that deputy mayors of municipalities had become members of the council.

1. See: [https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI\\_2019\\_report\\_country\\_profiles\\_DEC2019\\_UPDATES.pdf](https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf)

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10680SDG%20Voluntary%20National%20Review%20Georgia-.pdf> (2016); [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26389VNR\\_2020\\_Georgia\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26389VNR_2020_Georgia_Report.pdf) (2020)

3. The Council has 4 thematic working groups on: Social Inclusion; Economic Development; Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection and Democratic Governance.

4. See it here: [www.sdg.gov.ge](http://www.sdg.gov.ge)

5. See: <http://sdg.gov.ge>

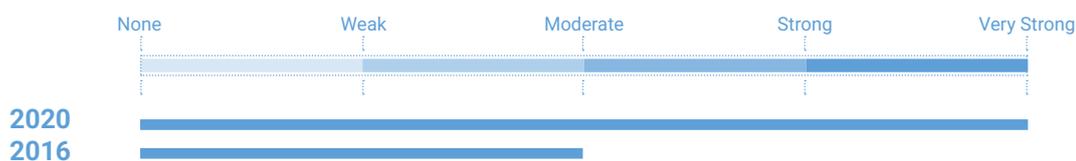
## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report. However, the [National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia \(NALAG\)](#) states that its participation in the elaboration process has only been in a consultative mode (GTF Survey 2020).

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participation at consultative level (GTF Survey 2020).

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

Even if the 2020 VNR does not dedicate a subsection for LRGs' actions or strategies, it does remark the need of decentralized development, as identified in the Decentralization Strategy of the Government. It also mentions that this process should be supported by locally-defined development priorities built on strengthened local institutions.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The [National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia \(NALAG\)](#) defends the interests of local self-government bodies at the national and international level, promotes development of local democracy in Georgia and cooperates with the national government on decentralization issues.<sup>6</sup> NALAG has developed projects like the "Networking for Efficiency and Development" (N4ED) in order to promote inclusive policy making in local authorities to ensure active participation of citizens in local public affairs.

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

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A unified digital municipal service platform will be introduced for all 63 municipalities. It will capture 17 modules including project cycle management, spatial planning and asset management and thus will enable LSGs to manage their capital investments and fixed assets efficiently and transparently.

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** The country has adopted a [Decentralization Strategy for 2020-2025](#) (accompanied with a two-year action plan). This policy document aims to strengthen local self-government with additional powers, and build its material and financial capacity, as well as develop reliable, accountable, transparent and results-oriented local governance.

The 2020 VNR mentions that "Russia's occupation of the Georgian territories continues to represent an existential threat to Georgia's statehood. While the government is committed to seeking peaceful solutions, stronger international involvement is needed to achieve lasting peace and security, including through creation of the international security and human rights mechanisms on the ground, and addressing the plight of those communities that are left behind the division lines".

6. More information about NALAG work and projects is available at: <http://www.nala.ge/ka>

7. See: <https://eu4georgia.ge/networking-for-efficiency-and-development-n4ed/>

## 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR presents the challenges of gender equality, as well as the progress made in refining the national legislative framework and institutional mechanisms. There are efforts on the part of the government to implement policies to better protect LGBTQ+ women, women with disabilities, rural women and / or ethnic minorities, who face multiple levels of discrimination. In politics, at both national and local levels, women's participation remains insufficient. Though their proportion increased by 2% in 2017 (11.4% in 2014 and 13.4% in 2017), women's representation in local self-government assemblies is still very low. However, a financial incentive for political parties was introduced in 2011, to encourage them to include women on their electoral lists (at least 2 women out of 10 candidates, and since 2013, 3 women). In 2016, the creation of gender equality councils was made mandatory at local elected councils, as was the appointment of a gender advisor at each local executive's office.<sup>8</sup> Since then, most municipalities have complied with these obligations.

## 3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR presents various measures taken by the national government to contain the spread of the virus in the country and to cope with its social and economic impacts. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been coordinated through the AoG, which is also responsible for mainstreaming and coordinating the SDGs. The report does not mention local initiatives regarding the health crisis. However, the local level is mentioned in relation to the deficiencies in social protection for the most vulnerable groups. The government plans to revise the national social protection system and to include social assistance programs provided at the local level.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>9</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		13.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	84 (2020)
	Rural	40 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	28 (2020)
	Rural	48 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		34.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		95 (2007, Tbilisi)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2018)

8. The 2020 VNR mentions the publication by the Public Defender's Office of an assessment of gender policy at the local level, which highlights the role of these councils. See: <https://www.ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2020061711084244176.pdf>

9. 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/geo>