

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of Moldova is a unitary country with a two-tiered subnational structure. At the regional level, it counts 32 districts and an autonomous territory. At the municipal level, it has 56 cities, which include 13 cities with municipality status, and 869 communes and villages. Chisinau and Balti are two municipalities with both municipal and regional responsibilities.¹



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

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The government of the Republic of Moldova developed a strategic vision document, based on a large-scale participatory process: the **National Development Strategy 'Moldova 2030'**. It is intended to contribute to the fulfillment of the commitments assumed by the country for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2016, to create an institutional framework and ensure a participatory and transparent process to implement the SDGs, the **National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development** was established, led by the Prime Minister. Other important elements of the mechanism for coordinating the sustainable development policies include: the **Inter-Ministerial Committee for Strategic Planning (ICSP)**, the State Chancellery, and the sectoral subdivisions (PAMES) within the central specialized public authorities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR process was conducted following an action plan approved by the national government, under the supervision of the **Joint Steering Committee**, including national and local public authorities, civil society, private sector, press and academia. The report was drafted with analytical and informational support from the ministries and other public authorities, United Nations agencies and the National Bureau of Statistics, which supplied the statistics needed. The whole process was coordinated by the State Chancellery. A broad **stakeholder consultative process** was organized, including online and offline consultations with actors from civil society (youth, human rights organizations), the private sector, academia, development partners and all levels of government. In addition, the **leave no one behind approach** entailed focusing the analysis from the perspectives of multiple groups (gender, age, income, rural/urban, disability, ethnicity) to identify and take into account inequalities and diverse forms of exclusion and marginalization.

1.3 MONITORING

The Republic of Moldova was one of the first countries to adjust the 2030 Agenda's goals, targets and indicators to its national context. This process involved all stakeholders: national and local public authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners. However, the results of the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of the national policy framework show that the policy agenda is only partially aligned to the SDGs, and a third of the SDG targets are not included in any national policy papers. Besides, the 2020 VNR acknowledges that the SDG implementation monitoring and evaluation system is compromised by a lack of data for about a quarter of the nationalized SDG indicators, and by a shortage of disaggregated data for over 30% of the indicators. The data collection is delayed by the limited capacities of national and territorial institutions to prepare quality data and by their reluctance to provide them to the National Bureau of Statistics for validation.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOF12019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26344VNR_2020_Moldova_Report_English.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The government strengthened its dialogue with local public authorities, including during the negotiations on decentralization and in the cooperation process for SDG implementation. The latter involved the **Congress of Local Authorities from the Republic of Moldova**. However, LRGs are not mentioned in the national strategic framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.³ Local public authorities participated in the **Joint Steering Committee** during the 2020 VNR process.

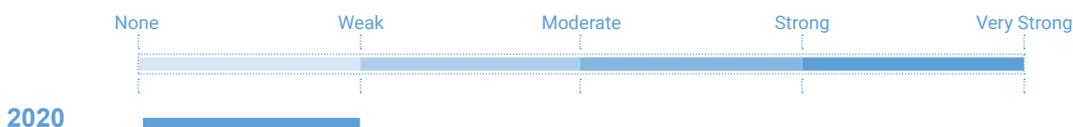
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in the Joint Steering Committee.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Congress of Local Authorities from the Republic of Moldova was consulted. No mention of LRGs participation in national coordination mechanisms.

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

There are some references to the district and municipal levels in the 2020 VNR, but no specific section on LRGs and their role in implementing the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► With the highest urban population of the country, the municipality of **Chisinau** is also the main waste generator. But its waste management infrastructure is much more advanced than in other localities, including some recovery of fractions of municipal waste for recycling (eg. plastic, paper, glass, metal).

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF)** sets medium-term financial priorities for the country. However, this process is not linked to policy planning. There is no reference in the 2020 VNR to funds allocated to LRGs regarding SDG implementation. However, the report mentions the project called 'Supporting local public administration of the Republic of Moldova in implementing the National Regional Development Strategy for 2016-2020 through integrated and sustainable urban development for 2017-2019'. The corresponding example concerns programmes for the revitalization of degraded urban areas.⁴

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

4. For more details, see VNR, 2020, p. 98.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2016, the National Network of **District/Municipal Youth Councils** was created, which by 2019 had expanded to 23 districts/municipalities. Overall, the National Assistance Programme for the consolidation and development of the District/Municipal Youth Councils created conditions for participation of young people in community life. As a result, 54.6% of local authorities involve young people in decision-making processes.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Measures to encourage women participation in politics were adopted for the parliamentary elections as well as for the local elections in 2019: a **40% quota**. It resulted in the increase of the proportion of women standing and being elected. Moreover, the 'Women in Politics' programme implemented by UNDP and UN Women fostered a **higher participation rate for women from disadvantaged groups**. At the local level, 39 Roma women and 43 women with disabilities were encouraged to run for election. As a result, 6 women with disabilities and 7 Roma women were elected as local councillors.

3.2 COVID 19

The measures taken by the national government are detailed in a specific section (see VNR, 2020, p. 152-160), linking them to corresponding SDGs. **Transfers to local budgets** were increased to partially cover lost income due to the crisis.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		35.6 (2019)
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	79 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		59.2 (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)		13.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. 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/mda>