

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Samoa is a unitary republic which comprises 11 political districts (*itūmālō*), which are further subdivided in 51 *faipule districts*. At the local level, there are 265 villages. Nonetheless, **there is no elected local government as such**. Local administration is based on traditional structures.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 **Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016-2020 (SDS)** has integrated the SDGs' approach as an important point of the national planning strategies. The SDS focuses on four priority areas of Economic, Social, Infrastructure and Environment.³ It is also linked to the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Pacific Framework for Regionalism, the Human Rights, Disarmament and Environmental Conventions.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Samoa's **SDGs Taskforce** and the **National Mechanism for the Implementation (NMIRF)** are key in the process of SDG implementation in the country. The National Policy Coordinating Committee, consisting of chief executive officers of government and public enterprises, guides overall policy advice to the government through the Cabinet Development Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, including SDG-related policies.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2020 VNR, the process started by institutionalizing stakeholder engagement for the SDGs through the SDS and sector reporting and review mechanisms. This had also the objective of working in a **participative approach**, involving representatives of all government ministries, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and public institutions, civil society, NGOs, private sector, academia, community representatives, regional and international organizations including the UN and development partners. Additionally, briefings and consultations were coordinated by the SDGs Taskforce with other important stakeholders. After this, separate meetings were held for the academia, media, and the private sector; followed by meetings with the UN Agencies, development partners and diplomatic missions present in Samoa.

1.3 MONITORING

Samoa developed a **roadmap** for review and reporting on the Human Rights Conventions and processes with the SDGs and its sustainable development sectors to help also with planning and coordinating related processes. This includes using the **Samoa Database on Human Rights Recommendations (SADATA)** to mine data for SDGs monitoring. Overall, a National Statistics Development Strategy has been set up in order to improve monitoring and data management systems. This strategy is accompanied with regular national surveys and significant administrative data, annual sector reviews, SDS progress tracking management and sharing of government data among government ministries. Monitoring has been improved with an important investment in the Samoa Bureau of Statistics. Since 2016, Samoa has also been the Pacific's representative on the Inter-Agency Experts Group on the SDGs Indicators Framework and has built capacity in developing indicators specifically on monitoring SDG indicators.

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

See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Samoa

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=872&type=12&menu=1807&template=1042&play=3121> (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26429Samoa_Samos2ndVNR2020reduced.pdf (2020)

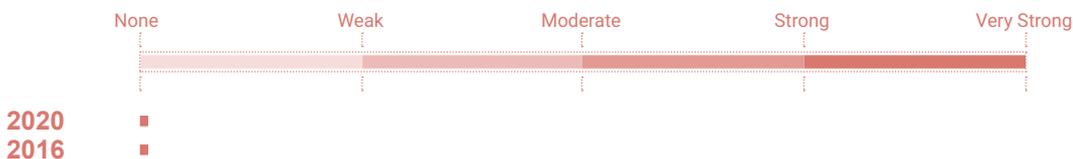
3. SDGs implementation is linked to the 14 sector plans and their existing Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and more importantly to the key development financing and projects for each sector and SDG.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

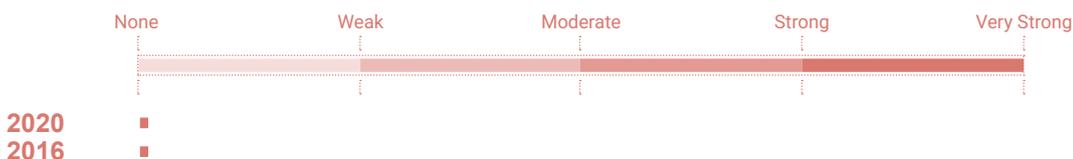
No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for 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

Information regarding the actions at the subnational level is found aleatory through the 2020 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 'City Development Strategy' is a key example that contributes to making **Apia**, the capital city, and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as specified by SDG 11. There are also existing community level development and environment plans based on stake-holder consultations.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2020 VNR mentions that Samoa's national planning, public financial and aid management systems are well regarded globally and within the Pacific region with some good practices replicated in other Pacific Island countries. Samoa has a sector wide approach to development budgeting and reporting, enabling a multi-sectoral, cross sector approach engaging multiple stakeholders. There is no reference to advantages for local governments through this approach.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: One of the main initiatives involving the deconcentrated administrations are the **District Development Plan (DDP) programs**, a platform for districts and community leaders to guide, plan and coordinate their own inclusive sustainable development. The development plans are the basis for the development in the villages and districts, enabling coherent support by the government and all stakeholders. As of January 2020, 48 out of 49 districts have District Development Plans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Governance at the community level is led by the village councils supported by other village level committees such as the

4. More information is available at: https://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/projects/samoa/detail01_en.html

women village committees. The local government is represented by the *Sui o le Nuu* (village male representative) and *Sui o tamaitai* (village women Representative) who work closely with the government on community development. In 2016, 121 out of 372 (32.5%) village representatives were women and in 2020, this number increased to 171 out of 390 (44%).

3.2 COVID 19

In April 2020, the government launched the first phase of its Stimulus Package totalling SAT\$66.3 million focusing on health, private sector, food security in the agriculture sectors, securing the purchasing power of people; and a multisectoral programme. In May, the second phase of the Stimulus Package was announced totalling SAT\$32 million with more targeted support for social protection measures to the vulnerable groups. These packages do not specifically mention the role of the local governments. Nevertheless, the 2020 VNR highlights that during the measles epidemic, the village community networks enabled the government and the development partners to undertake the two-day mass immunization for Measles (2019) resulting in the now 95% coverage achieving herd immunity in Samoa. Similarly, the government-community partnership networks have facilitated an extensive outreach program for public awareness of the preventative and preparedness measures for COVID-19.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| 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 | 37 (2020) |
| | Rural | 50 (2020) |
| 11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%) | | - |
| 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) | | 10.8 (2016) |
| 11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%) | | 50 (2020) |

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/wsm>