

SOLOMON ISLANDS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Solomon Islands is a unitary monarchy with two tiers of subnational government: provincial and local. The head of state is H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, represented by a governor-general recommended by parliament. Honiara is currently the only established local government at the municipal level.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's **National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016–2035** is aligned with the SDGs and adapts them to the national context. The NDS principal objectives could be summarized as the following: economic growth, poverty alleviation, quality health and education, environmentally sustainable development and good governance. A rolling **medium term development plan (MTDP)** translates the NDS 2016-2035 into actionable programmes and projects linked to the Development Budget.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

No permanent institutional coordination mechanisms could be found in the 2020 VNR. Some national institutions such as the National Parliament and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) have played an important role in SDGs implementation.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Under the leadership of the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination (MNPDC), the **VNR Coordination Committee** coordinated and oversaw the preparations of the 2020 VNR, from data collection, consultations and drafting of the report. Coordination committees were established for minority groups (women, youth and children). The MNPDC coordinated a sectoral review to identify, for each sector: the policy environment; the progress against the NDS 2016-2035 objectives; existing institutional mechanism and the means of implementation.⁴ It is worth mentioning that consultations on the SDGs and progress against the NDS 2016-2035 were to be conducted with local representatives. Nevertheless, due to the State of Public Emergency declared by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic, these consultations were cancelled.

1.3 MONITORING

The Solomon Islands' **National Statistics Development Strategy 2015-16 to 2035** was adopted in 2015, with a view to "revitalize and reform the country's national statistical system and its linkages with economic and social development policies and plans".

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There exists a **Provincial Governance Strengthening programme (PGSP)** in order to improve governance at provincial level. The PGSP have strengthened the institutional capacities of provincial governments in the areas of public expenditure management and financial management and budgetary process, leadership training and delivering small socioeconomic infrastructures and technical assistance to provinces.

1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Solomon_Islands.pdf

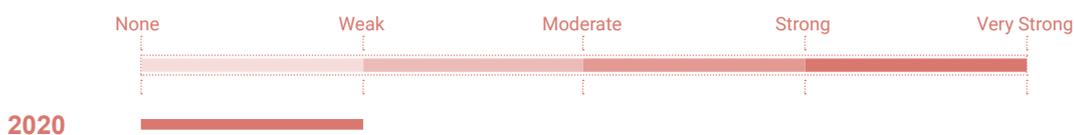
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26795VNR_2020_Solomon_Report.pdf (2020)

3. In 2018, the OAG assessed the country's preparedness to implement the SDGs, regarding the integration of the 2030 Agenda into the national context; the resources and capacities for implementing the SDGs, as well as the review and report progress against the 2030 Agenda.

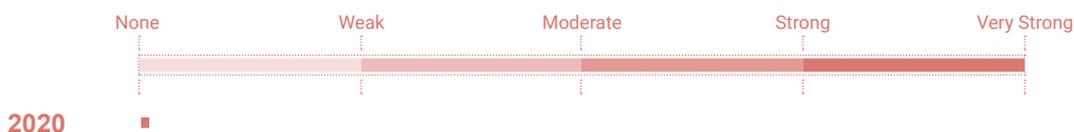
4. As part of this review, the MNPDC issued and circulated consultation guidelines with 15 questions addressed to government entities, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to answer.

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

The 2020 VNR does not have any special section dedicated to provincial and local governments. Some of their actions are mentioned regarding specific projects involving the provincial level. For example, regarding health services, the report affirms that the decentralization of resources by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) will require a stronger partnership at that level with other parts of government, churches, businesses, and CSOs. It mentions that provinces will develop a provincial health plan and this will be the opportunity to engage with all the health stakeholders in a province, and develop a coordinated approach to health.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2020 VNR highlights the fact that the **Provincial Government of Isabel** achieved a clean audit report 2017/18. It is the first time a government agency clinches such an excellent audit report since independence in 1978.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF)** is a facility which funded the PGSP. It is managed through performance based grants and requires provinces to meet minimum conditions related to financial management and administrative capacities to qualify for the Annual PCDF allocation. Solomon Islands became one of the very first few countries to have a development finance assessment (DFA) which led to the formulation of the Solomon Islands Integrated Finance Framework (SIIF) which helps concretize specific priority areas towards mobilizing public and private finance toward the NDS 2016-2035 and SDGs implementation. Since 2011, a substantial part of the national budget has been dedicated to rural development and infrastructure.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Some of the major challenges in SDG implementation are mentioned at the end of the 2020 VNR. They include the institutional capacity and effectiveness to manage the rapidly changing development context, including through population growth, socio-cultural and environmental change and global economic systems; a deeper integration of legislation, policies, plans, budgets and activities for transformative change. Finally, unlocking the needed means of implementation and ensuring durable and genuine partnerships is acknowledged as very important to the effective implementation of the SDGs.

The following information regarding local governments comes from different external sources that were consulted. This information is not in the 2020 VNR but helps to understand how local governments are perceived:

► There is no association of local government in the Solomon Islands. At the national level, however, the premiers and CEOs of the 9 provinces have an annual conference to debate subnational issues of mutual interest.

- ▶ Provincial governments are required to account to the Ministry of Provincial Government on how they have spent funds received from the national government via the ministry, and also for their budgets. The provincial governments are required to elaborate detailed and real budgets and annual work plans and are obliged to execute them in an accountable way.
- ▶ Provincial governments have access to four different sources of financement: service grants (external), the Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF), national capital project funding, and the Rural Constitutional Development Fund (RCDF). Funds are received from the national government on a quarterly basis, upon submission of satisfactory accounts for the previous quarter.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2014, the minister appointed one woman councillor to **Honiara City Council**, who was nominated by the Solomon Islands Council for Women. This is up from none following the 2006 and 2010 elections. At the 2014 provincial elections, 1.9% of councillors were female (two out of 107 provincial council members). Moreover, both Honiara City Council and provincial councils undertake gender-based budgeting. Additionally, since 2010, core provincial and council officers have received gender-based training. Since then, women's divisions have been set up. Also, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Ministry of Public Services (MPS) have worked together to develop the Public Service Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

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	-
	Rural	-
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)		11.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		80 (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/slb>