TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Trinidad has 5 municipalities and 9 counties. All of them form the only tier of subnational government of the unitary Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Their councils are made up of both elected and appointed members. Tobago is a single ward, governed by the Tobago House of Assembly.[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 national development plan, **Vision 2030**, is committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda by ensuring that all SDGs are integrated and prioritized across national goals and policies. It is also hinged on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement, among other global agreements. Through this plan, the government ensures the integration of the SDGs into the national planning, budgetary and development financing processes. For the years to come, a **Roadmap for SDG Implementation** was adopted in 2019. It proposes five main actions, referred to as accelerators (see VNR, 2020, p. 75-76). The thematic areas of Vision 2030 are: (1) Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset; (2) Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence; (3) Quality Infrastructure and Transportation; (4) Building Globally Competitive Businesses; (5) Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development.[3]

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning and Development** has the role to set, coordinate and monitor the implementation of Vision 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Together with three external consultants recruited with support from the UN Country Team, the **Ministry of Planning and Development** spearheaded the 2020 VNR process, and established a **Steering Committee** to provide technical oversight and guidance. The report focuses on progress toward eight of the SDGs (3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17), through a total of 68 indicators. In the engagement process towards the development of the report, many stakeholders participated in workshops on the SDGs: ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, women's groups, academia, experts and the general public. Consultations also catered for groups at risk of being left behind: the poor and vulnerable, women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, persons living with HIV/AIDS, ex-prisoners, deportees, and the socially displaced. Methods of consultation included in-person interviews, focus groups, and an online survey. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) also contributed to the report.

1.3 MONITORING

According to the results of UNDP's Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) from 2017, Vision 2030, the NPF and sectoral policies are in alignment with 81% of the relevant SDG targets. The **National Performance Framework (NPF)** is intended to systematically collect, analyze and report on the implementation of Vision 2030 and the SDGs. Besides, the government plans to conduct Trinidad and Tobago's sixth **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)** to collect data on the situation of women, children, adolescents, and households. It will allow to identify inequities and disparities that will enable evidence-based policy-making, aimed at social inclusion. This data will also help monitor Trinidad and Tobago's progress in achieving the SDGs and Vision 2030.

1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Trinidad_and_Tobago.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26730VNR_2020_Trinidad_Report.pdf (2020)
3. See the thematic areas and the corresponding SDGs in the VNR, 2020, p. 15, and more details on the five themes p. 29.
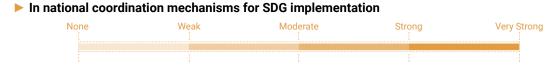
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local elected officials have been engaged in the government's strategies to encourage the national community to embrace Vision 2030 and the SDGs, along with many other stakeholders. The **Trinidad and Tobago Association of local government authorities** presented a specific contribution to the 2020 VNR.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► **In the VNR process**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2020

Comments: Trinidad and Tobago Association of local government authorities states it presented its own contribution to the report (GTF Survey 2020).

► **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2020

Comments: Neither LRGs nor their association are members of the National Coordination Council.

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 almost no references to local governments in the 2020 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2020 VNR only mentions **Tobago**'s Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDP 2.0) 2013-2017, the policy that focused on sustainable development in Tobago. It shares fundamental principles, goals and objectives with the country's Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. A successor plan that would guide achievement of the SDGs in Tobago is yet to be agreed.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government committed to mainstream Vision 2030 and the SDGs into the public sector annual budgetary, financial and investment processes. Further refinement of the budgetary submission requirements was made with the introduction of a Project Screening Brief (PSB) for new projects being considered for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Gender focal points have been established across all government and public sector activities to advance the consideration of gender-related issues. The National Policy on Gender and Development also includes measures on the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting and gender audits in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national budgetary process. In the appendices of the 2020 VNR, among SDG indicators, it is indicated that 36,7% of seats in local governments were occupied by women in 2019.

3.2 COVID 19

The multi-dimensional approach and policies of the country's response to the health crisis are detailed at the beginning of the report (see VNR, 2020, p. 11-13). No reference to local initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS[4]

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 (%)		5.4 (2018)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		-
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)