

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Colombia is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational structure, counting 35 departments, and 1103 municipalities. The municipal level includes 7 cities categorized as special districts.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 **CONPES Document 3918 “Strategy for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Colombia”** (2018), which constitutes the main framework to 2030, presents four lines of action: monitoring and reports, availability of information, territorial strategy, strategy of involvement and financing of other non-governmental actors. In the **National Development Plan 2018-2022 “Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity”**, an important advance was evidenced, as the SDGs were incorporated transversally (and not in a unique specific chapter as in previous plans). More than 98% of the indicators are associated with one or more SDG targets.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **SDG Commission** is chaired by the National Planning Department (DNP). This Commission established a Technical Committee as the operative body for the development of its activities, made up of representatives of the members of the executive level. In this space, the Commission materializes inter-institutional coordination on SDG matters within the government. The **Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES)** is the instance in the government where economic and social policy decisions are made for the whole country, through the study and approval of public policy documents.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 report was led by the Technical Secretariat of the SDG Commission. It counted with the participation of the Ministries and Administrative Departments that are members of the SDG Commission. Additionally, dialogues during the VNR process included other actors, through regional meetings, the development of a pilot for measuring the contributions of the private sector and the presentation of the document to different actors of civil society. The VNR includes the country's progress with respect to SDG 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15. The 2021VNR was also prepared by the **DNP**, and in particular, the **Technical Secretariat of the SDG Commission**. It includes contributions from governmental entities (ministries, administrative departments and agencies), as well as inputs from non-governmental actors (civil society organizations, private sector, academia, international cooperation, among others). Comments were received especially in the chapters related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigation, recovery strategy and actions for the fulfillment of the SDGs in Colombia. Workshops were organized based on public innovation methodologies. An online survey was conducted and published on the official website for the SDGs. Additionally, the VNR was presented through a national public event.

1.3 MONITORING

The 2018 VNR stated that SDG implementation policy at the national level established the development of a **Statistical Strengthening Plan**, led by the **National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)** to advance in the production of national statistics and strengthen their production at the territorial level. This had to be done by the entities that are part of the National Statistical System (SEN), the United Nations System in Colombia and the territorial entities within the framework of a five-year plan (National Statistical Plan). In addition, a web page was created, where citizens can access updated

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12644VNR%20Colombia.pdf> (2016);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20338RNV_Versio769n_revisada_31.07.18.pdf (2018);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282902021_VNR_Report_Colombia.pdf (2021)

information offered by national indicators on the country's progress with respect to the goals set and exercise social control.³ Within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group for the SDGs and the national government, plans for indicators have been developed, along with an innovative monitoring strategy called Barometer. In 2020, the production of eight new global indicators was achieved that will complement the national monitoring system for the SDGs. In addition, after the pilot presented at the 2018 VNR, Colombia now has a methodology to measure the contribution of the private sector to SDG implementation. Through the **SDG Corporate Tracker platform**, implementing partners have contributed more than 311 companies with information reports for 2018 and 2019. The CONPES 3918 includes a national SDG monitoring system made up of 161 indicators. Another important initiative is the **SDG Index report**, prepared by the SDGs Center (CODS) of the Universidad de los Andes. This index is based on 96 indicators and a specific methodology, measuring the overall performance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for each of the 24 Latin American and Caribbean countries.⁴

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **CONPES Document 3918** establishes the accompanying strategy for municipalities in the implementation of the SDGs at the territorial level. Both local and regional governments, as well as regional autonomous corporations, are therefore articulating with central government institutions to propose courses of action and work agendas on the SDGs. The CONPES also defined a **Multi-stakeholder Platform** under the need to “adopt an approach which involves all the actors of development (governments, representatives of other public authorities, international institutions, **local authorities**, ethnic groups, civil society, private sector, media and academic community and citizenry”.

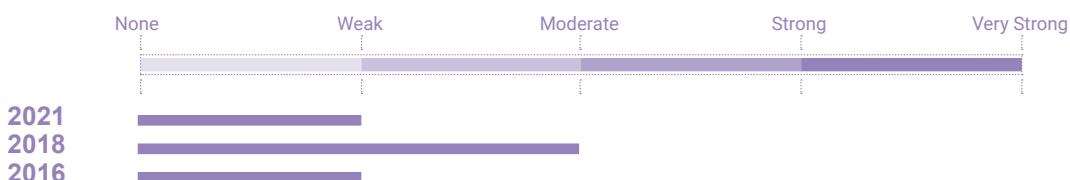
In 2019, the SDG Commission focused institutional efforts - in terms of territorialization - on the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in municipalities and governorates, taking advantage of the electoral situation defined by the territorial elections.

The municipalities counting with one of the 16 **Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET)**⁵ have incorporated the SDGs in their municipal development plans.

The Strategic Agenda for local governments 2020-2024 of the **Colombian Federation of Municipalities** has a section on “the **Territorial Associative Schemes** and their role in local development”. These schemes are designed as instruments for the efficient construction of alliances between territorial entities, achieving economies of scale, articulation of the territory and a collective use of individual strengths. They promote associativity as one of the best current mechanisms for territorial entities to generate innovation experiences and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The Federation is committed to the strengthening and integration of the territories, as a measure to promote sustainable development at the municipal level.

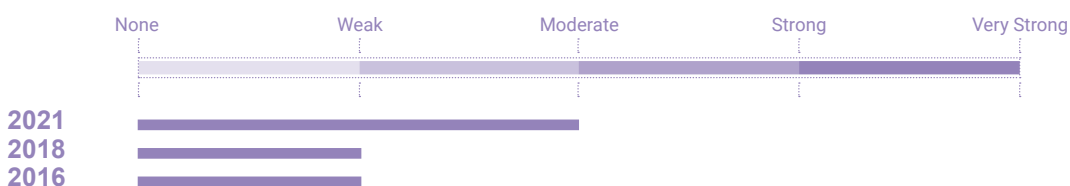
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No or very limited participation (GTF Survey 2021).

► 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.

3. See: www.ods.gov.co

4. More information available at: <https://cods.uniandes.edu.co/indice-ods/>

5. The Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET) are a special 15-year planning and management instrument, which aim to stabilize and transform the territories most affected by violence, poverty, illicit economies and institutional weakness, and thus achieve the rural development required by 170 municipalities. More details here: https://www.renovacionterritorio.gov.co/especiales/especial_PDET/

6. The first phase was focused on disseminating the contents of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs to the candidates for territorial elections (governorships, mayorships and collegiate bodies), with the aim of including the SDGs in their government plans and legislative control. The second phase consisted of encouraging the new elected authorities to include the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their PDTs. For this purpose, the national government relied on the Territorial Planning Kit (KTP), a tool created to support the new governments, a tool created to support municipal and departmental governments in the construction of their PDTs. The third phase corresponded to the evaluation of the inclusion of the SDGs in the TDPs.

7. The online tool is available at: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/juanmora/viz/ODS-definitiva_15869683338170/ODS

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

A special subsection of the VNR 2021 is called “**Territorial strategy**” and explains the territorial strategy of the Technical Secretariat of the SDG Commission for the effective appropriation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level, which has 3 phases: electoral stage with candidates, an accompanying stage in formulation and a third stage of evaluation of the plans.⁶ This subsection also explains the initiative from the Corona Foundation and the Red de Ciudades Cómo Vamos (RCCV) called “**Territorializing the SDGs in the cities of Colombia**” that prioritized territorialization of the SDGs as their main strategy for advocacy and monitoring of local public policy and management. The tool is based on a battery of 46 indicators, both objective and subjective, aligned to the 17 SDGs. These come from official national and local sources, such as DANE and municipal governments, and perception indicators produced by the RCCV.⁷ Finally, the VNR has a special section dedicated to the **VLRs Guideline** elaborated by RCCV, the Corona Foundation, PNUD and the DNP.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

▶ The **Colombian Federation of Municipalities** promotes various projects which, although they are not specifically focused on the SDGs, contribute to different goals (e.g. strengthening public accountability ‘Gobernanza ConSentido Público’, gender equality, peace, justice and stable institutions to contribute to SDG 16), as well as to encourage the organization of meetings to disseminate the SDGs (on local data, with the Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) and universities). The **Colombian Association of Capital Cities (Asocapitals)** has organized SDG dissemination workshops (e.g. in Medellín in March 2019).

▶ Several municipalities are promoting local projects that are not always labelled as SDG-related, but are contributing directly to them, especially on non-polluting affordable energy for transport and public lighting (**Bucaramanga** and **San Jeronimo**), sanitation (**Armenia**), environment (terrestrial ecosystems, **Barranquilla**; reforestation, **Ibague**, and protection of underwater life, **Cartagena**), waste management and climate change (**Bucaramanga**, **Cartagena**, **Cali** and **Villavicencio**) and open data and disaster prevention (**Cartago** and **Chinchina**).

▶ The rural municipality of **Toribío** has adopted a development plan (‘2016-2019 Plan: Walking together for territorial peace’) merging the needs of its indigenous Nasa residents for environmental protection and preservation of their culture and identity, with a long term strategy to seek peace and align with the SDGs.

▶ The mayor’s office of **El Peñol** worked with 30 families experiencing displacement, vulnerability and extreme poverty to improve rural sector productivity as part of the project ‘Mi Finca, Mi Empresa’.

▶ In the department of **Caquetá**, the project ‘Sustainable Caquetá Territories for Peace’ aims to consolidate a stable and lasting peace in Colombia by enhancing production dynamics with competitive potential, at the same time incorporating environmental sustainability and social inclusion into the process.

▶ **Medellin** has created its own system of indicators to demonstrate how the city is fulfilling the various goals linked to the SDGs. Its 2016-2019 Development Plan contained innovative elements for monitoring, evaluation and accountability. Other cities (**Cali**, **Florencia** and **Montería**) and some departments (**Caqueta**, **Nariño** and **Quindío**) have also made progress in measuring goals.

▶ In partnership with the private sector and civil society, 36 Colombian cities use civil society observatories on quality of life to oversee development plans (e.g. Bogota: ‘How are we doing?’).⁸

▶ “Valle Por & Para Todos” is a business platform managed by ProPacífico that brings together the companies and foundations of **Valle del Cauca** with the mission of articulating efforts to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Currently, the SDG Route is working in 10 municipalities (**Buenaventura**, **Yumbo**, **Candelaria**, **Palmira**, **Cali**, **Florida**, **Santander de Quilichao**, **Jamundí**, **Zarzal** and **Tuluá**) in the departments of Valle de Cauca and Cauca. They worked with local governments to provide training and technical support in the formulation of SDG-focused Territorial Development Plans (PDTs). Workshops were held in 17 municipalities and knowledge transfer one-on-one for the effective inclusion of the SDGs in the PDTs. An evaluation after the formulation of the plans showed a broad inclusion of SDG indicators.

▶ The **National Association of Mayors of Municipalities with Afrodescendant Population (Amunafro)** is developing a project to bring the SDGs closer to the local governments of 10 municipalities with Afro-descendant populations.

▶ **Manizales** aims to lead the implementation of the SDGs in Latin America. The city recently released its strategy to accelerate the efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. The program is a component of the Public Innovation Lab promoted by the local administration, and is built together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Colombia and other local actors that guarantee an active engagement with communities and citizens.⁹

8. All examples mentioned above, including this one, are extracted from UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

9. See: Laboratorio de Innovación Pública (manizales.gov.co)

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

Bogotá, Manizales and Pereira published their first VLRs in 2022.¹⁰

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Colombia is making progress in the structuring of the Financing Framework for the SDGs (Joint Programme Roadmap for an Integrated National Financing Framework in Colombia (INFF)), which is a medium-term strategy focused on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, supporting the national government in defining a financing and resource mobilization model, from different sources.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Through the information from the **SDG Corporate Tracker (SDG CT)**, Colombia is reporting for the first time results of the measurement of the contribution of more than 300 companies to the fulfillment of the 17 SDGs. The SDG CT is a multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to measure the private sector's contribution to the fulfillment of the SDGs through an online platform, using international standards as a reference. The SDG CT allows companies to register, answer the questionnaire and visualize their input through a report that identifies their contributions to each of the SDG targets.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Under the coordination of the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, through the political leadership schools, 3,449 women were trained to promote their participation in the 2021 elections. UN Women is one of the UN organizations that are part of INFF in Colombia, and its specific actions include the following: a mapping of public and private investments with a gender perspective and the identification of accelerators to close current gender gaps. Additionally, the INFF program will include gender-specific recommendations within the national SDG financing strategy.

3.2 COVID 19

Colombia adopted the Policy for Reactivation, Repowering and Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: New Commitment for the Future of Colombia. It seeks to promote access to adequate housing, reduce the deaccumulation of human capital, encourage capital accumulation, foster sustainable economic growth, strengthen the institutional capacity, improve the population's trust in institutions, and strengthen universal digital conditions. To identify the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs in the country, the SDG Commission carried out an analysis of the possible effects - positive and negative - on the SDGs based on available information.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹¹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		17.8 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	80 (2020)
	Rural	40 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	17 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		27.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		80.6 (2015, Medellín)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		18.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		77.7 (2020)

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/bogota_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/manizales_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/pereira_colombia_2022.pdf

11. 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/col>