

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Jordan is a unitary parliamentary monarchy with a two-tiered subnational government system. The country is divided into 12 governorates at the regional level and 100 municipalities and the Greater Amman Municipality at the municipal level.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

Jordan launched a 10-year socioeconomic blueprint for the country, “**Jordan 2025: A National Vision and Strategy**”, aimed at achieving a prosperous, resilient, and inclusive economy while deepening reforms and inclusion. A **Roadmap for SDG Implementation** was presented by the country to diverse stakeholders as part of a consultation organized in 2016, engaging approximately 100 representatives from the government, NGOs, and women and youth representatives, setting the stage for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The government adopts **executive development programmes (EDPs)**, which are multi-year integrated national government development plans, to integrate and track development and sectoral plans and strategies under the “Jordan 2025”. Currently, there is a Government Indicative Executive Programme 2021-2024, adopted during the pandemic, that is also aligned with the SDGs and includes 72 SDG indicators.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Higher Committee for Sustainable Development**, created in 2002, is the body that oversees the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is headed by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) with membership from relevant line ministries, the private sector, CSOs, and representatives of women, youth, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and local communities. Moreover, a **coordination committee** with membership from ministries and stakeholders provides supervision and management during the EDPs preparation, ensuring mainstreaming of the SDGs within the implementation of national and local plans.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 and 2022 VNR processes were led by the **Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)**, with support from international cooperation. The **National Higher Committee on Sustainable Development** provided overall strategic guidance and supervision. Extensive consultations, several rounds of meetings, two national workshops (one to launch the preparation process and another to verify data and information with the task forces), and multiple webinars were held on the human rights approach to dealing with data. The process was made participatory and consultations involved civil society organizations, the youth, the private sector, workers’ unions, local councils and committees, academia, and science and technology communities. Special attention was paid to ensuring the inclusion of women, youth, children and people with disabilities. Representatives of Syrian and other refugee communities were also included and actively participated in the consultations.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation** is in charge of the reporting progress. Within the VNR preparation process and the efforts of the task forces, SDG-related data on the Jordan Development Portal (JDP) were analyzed, verified

1. See: <https://www.sng-wofi.org/country-profiles/>. Since 2015, the governorate councils’ members are partially elected, although the governor and executive council are still appointed. The municipalities are administered by a mayor and a municipal council elected every four years. According to the new Greater Amman Municipality law No. 18 that was ratified in 2021, the Greater Amman Municipality is divided into electoral districts based on the prime minister’s decision and is governed by a mayor appointed by the prime minister and a council composed of one-third of members appointed by the cabinet of ministers and the remaining members being elected.

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16289Jordan.pdf> (2017); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Jordan%20Report.pdf> (2022)

and updated. The **Department of Statistics (DoS)** established the Sustainable Development Unit, charged with collecting sustainable development data, and which acts as the focal point with national and international partners. Jordan will continue building the JDP database to strengthen the quality of data, especially with respect to sex, age and disability, and at different levels, including governorates and with respect to urban/rural divides.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs are engaged in consultation processes through national workshops, under the directions of the **National Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development** and MoPIC. The 2022 VNR takes on the 11 pillars outlined in the 2017 VNR while putting SDG localization as a priority. Over 130 public and private institutions, including governorates, municipalities and the Greater Amman Municipality (which has been present in all meetings³), participated in the task forces for the review of the SDGs for the 2022 VNR.⁴ Efforts were also made to hold local consultations and engage entities at the local level and governorates. This was done through a national workshop that included the heads of committees in Parliament, at both the House of Representatives and Senate, the elected governorate and municipal councils from across the Kingdom's governorates, experts from academia and representatives of local communities, unions and youth. The 2022 VNR also highlighted the close coordination with the VLR team in Amman, which was also part of the VNR process that assessed progress on SDG 11, in the preparation of the 2022 VNR.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Governorates and municipalities participated in the task forces for the review of the SDGs for the 2022 VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The national coordination mechanism includes multiple stakeholders including local communities.

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

In the 2017 VNR, there are very few mentions of LRGs, while local councils and communities are mentioned in the consultation process. Yet, the report calls for greater engagement of local authorities in SDG implementation at the local level (see VNR, 2017, p. 64). The 2022 VNR has several references to local governments, including municipalities and governorates, although SDG localization and decentralization remain objectives that are yet to be achieved. The 2022 VNR only mentions some LRG experiences, while there is a very short subsection on SDG localization that sketches out future steps in integrating local stakeholders into the governance structure for the 2030 Agenda. Municipal and governance councils are expected to elaborate developmental plans linked to the SDGs (see VNR, 2022 p. 134).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Amman** has joined the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network. Furthermore, Amman's BRT system which was launched in 2021 to reduce traffic congestion and increase the use of public transportation, in conjunction with the Amman Climate Action Plan/Amman Green City Action Plan, the Resilience Strategy. Other projects led by Amman are: the Green Growth Programme, a safely managed sanitation services project, the BRT system, and the development of family-friendly, car-free and accessible parks and other public spaces. In 2020, Amman developed the Green City Action Plan (GCAP), which emphasizes the importance of improving the quality of life and addressing adverse effects of climate change in the city by increasing access to open, public and green spaces. In 2016 Amman set up a municipal committee dedicated to mainstreaming sustainable development initiatives within its business areas.⁵

3. Answer of the Greater Amman Municipality to the GTF Survey in 2022.

4. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/amman_2022.pdf

► The **governorate of Al-Mafraq** partnered with the city of Amsterdam and VNG International (VNGi, the cooperation branch of the Dutch local government association) to develop a Municipal Assistance Programme for the Al Za'atari Refugee Camp. VNGi also worked in Jordan, with funding from USAID, with the Cities Implementing Transparent Innovative and Effective Solutions (CITIES) programme. The project provides technical assistance to governorates and municipal stakeholders to translate administrative reforms into innovative and sustainable solutions for service delivery, participatory mechanisms and community cohesion and stability – to improve citizens' awareness, responsiveness and resilience.⁶

► The Rusaifa Ecological Park project in **Zarqa Governorate** seeks to rehabilitate the Phosphate Hills area into an ecological, sustainable, natural and vital area.

► The **Women and Girls Oasis** has been rolled out in 18 community centers in 11 governorates (**Amman, Zarqa, Karak, Tafila, Maan, Jerash, Ajloun, Salt, Madaba, Irbid, and Aqaba**). This provides opportunities for incentive-based volunteer work for the neediest and vulnerable women, as well as transportation subsidies and childcare services for their children. Women receive awareness sessions on prevention and protection from violence against women and gender-based violence.

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

The city of **Amman** published its first VLR in 2022.⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR specifies that Jordan considers tapping into and leveraging several sources of finances including debt swaps for green projects. It is also mentioned that the MOPIC works closely with all ministries and government institutions to align the SDGs with sectoral policies, ensuring that the most relevant SDGs targets and indicators are linked to specific projects and budget allocations.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Jordan has borne much of the brunt of the crises at its borders. Wars and conflicts in neighboring countries have resulted in waves of refugees and displaced persons, imposing serious economic challenges and fuelling an increase in poverty, unemployment rates and stresses on infrastructure and services.⁸

Furthermore, recentralizing trends have hindered competence devolution in Jordan over the past few years. Even though the current regulations of the Municipal Act do assign a diverse range of competencies to the local level, the central government has tended to either centralize or even privatize municipal competencies such as water and electricity provision, school and health systems. Joint Service Councils have been established by the Ministry of Interior to coordinate service provision in clusters of municipalities and villages, with the aim of achieving economy of scale and making certain services (waste management in particular) more efficient, such as in the Petra region or special economic zones (SEZs) like Aqaba. The gubernatorial level maintains coordination among local governments, and has the power to intervene in municipal affairs and decisions.

The Decentralization Act adopted in 2015 established the creation of governorate councils, whose members are partially elected, although the governor and executive council are still appointed. In 2021, the new Local Administration Law set the share of appointed members of the governorate councils at 40% and established that municipalities' elected mayors should also be members of the governorate councils.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Municipalities Law allocated 25% of the Municipal Councils' seats for women. By 2017, women made up 37.8% of municipal councilors. The 2022 VNR does not mention women participation at the local level.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/amman_2022.pdf

8. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

9. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf. The Local Administration Law was adopted in 2021, and the Local Governance Support Programme works on three main components: (1) improving service provision to citizens (2) institutional development and (3) enhancing participation and community cohesion through the establishment of local development units, in line with SDG 11. The country is preparing its first National Urban Policy.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		31.8 (2018)
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	84 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		23.4 (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)		33.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		25 (2019)

10. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>