

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Uruguay is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 19 departments, and there are 125 municipalities (with 13 new municipalities having held their first elections in 2020) due to a regular increase in their number. Most of the territory is not divided into municipalities; instead, the departments cover the entire national territory.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs have been integrated into the main areas, programmes, and budgets for 2020-2021. In the 2021 VNR, the government made reference to a **Strategic Framework for Cooperation with the United Nations (MECNUD)** for the period 2021-2025, where four strategic lines were prioritized: 1) moving towards an economy that innovates, generates employment, and guarantees the sustainability of development; 2) transforming institutions to have an efficient state, which is present in the territory and accountable to citizens; 3) developing public policies that ensure quality education, social protection, and health for all people; 4) moving towards a society that promotes development and people's rights while leaving no one behind.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Office of Planning and Budget (OPP)**, represented by the General Coordinator of the VNR, coordinates national planning for the SDGs. This is done with the technical support of the Management and Evaluation Area (AGEV), and with the contributions of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI). AUCI is responsible for the coordination of international cooperation in support of SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The institutions involved in coordination mechanisms are the same ones that were in charge of the 2022 VNR. The OPP convened specific meetings for each SDG with different public institutions, with the participation of representatives of the INE and AUCI. As the 2017, 2018, and 2021 VNRs reported on the 17 SDGs, the 2022 VNR presented an update of the information contained in the previous VNRs on SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15, and 17.

1.3 MONITORING

A working group has been specifically created to address SDG indicators at the core of the National Statistics System within the National Institute of Statistics (INE). Uruguay identified 136 indicators that are regularly assessed, 59 indicators with irregular data collection, and 49 indicators that need to be redefined. For the last group of indicators, some complementary indicators have been identified.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments are not associated with the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. For the 2022 VNR, the OPP held a few consultation workshops and some local governments participated in the reporting process through a questionnaire, but they were not strongly involved. The local government association was not associated.

In 2017 the OPP developed initiatives for awareness building and dissemination of SDGs locally. By 2018, the OPP introduced a Strategy for the Localization of the SDGs. The SDG localization process started in nine departments: Flores, San José, Lavalleja, Rivera, Cerro Largo, Florida, Canelones, Río Negro, and Rocha. Within the framework of the agreement between the

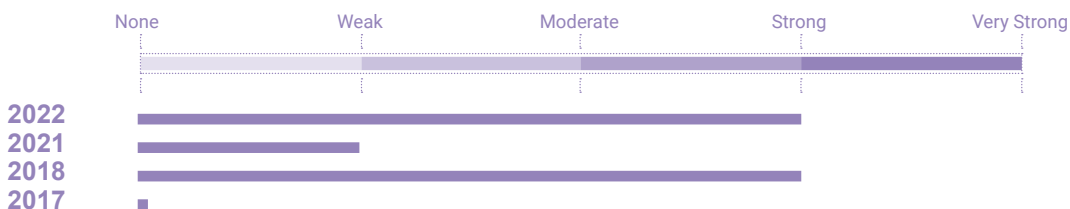
1. See: <https://www.sng-wofi.org/country-profiles/>

national government and UNDP Uruguay, a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) was implemented in 2018-2019 and again in 2021. This assessment aims to map the SDG objectives and targets, aligning them with the priorities of both the national and subnational levels, specifically in 11 departments. As a result of this coordination effort, specific studies have been carried out in certain departments.

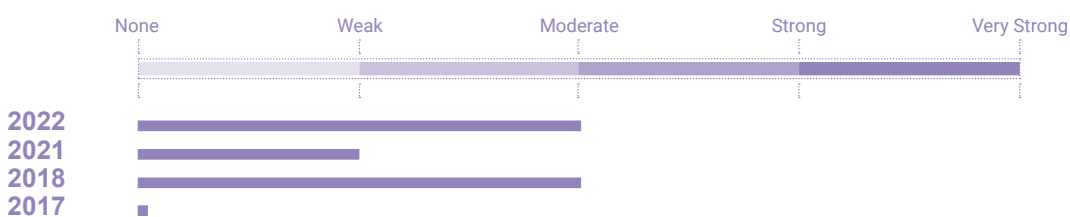
The VSR developed by the local governments association, **Congreso de Intendentes**, in 2022 indicates that awareness of SDGs at the local level is still limited and the coordination between national and local level on the SDGs is insufficient.

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 2018 VNR featured a dedicated section on local government actions in SDG localization.² However, the 2021 VNR merely mentions LRGs but without providing specific subsections or concrete examples of their role and initiatives in SDG implementation. In the 2022 VNR, there are limited references to local governments.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- In **Canelones**, the Strategic Plan 2030 is an example of local policy alignment with the SDGs.
- **Salto** improved waste management and created a free space for food for people in need.
- **Colonia** improved its public spaces and promoted urban agriculture community spaces.
- **San José** developed community gardens, in line with the protection of the urban nature reserve in the city (Quinta del Horno - Arroyo Mallada). It also created a space conducive to environmental education and a technological hub for innovation.
- Improvements were made in waste management and the development of public spaces and social activities in **Rocha**, with a focus on equity, gender, and diversity.
- **Lavalleja** created neighborhood centers for greater decentralization of community services, improved public spaces and strengthened the entrepreneurial system.
- **Florida** strengthened its waste management system, improved its public spaces, and increased citizen participation in planning and fostered youth employment.
- **Maldonado** developed its own housing policies, improved waste management, and promoted care and recovery of different ecosystems.
- **Cerro Largo** organized events and seminars between 2017 and 2021, involving more than 70% of the municipalities of the department. With the support of a project of the European Union, municipalities received technical assistance in order to include the SDGs in plans and projects.

2. It is worth noting that the National Report 2019 (not presented to the UN) dedicates a full section to the "Strategy for the Localization of the SDGs". The report presents the methodology and the evolution of the alignment between the SDGs and local plans in six local governments (departments), as well as the programmes developed by the national government to support the process. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

► **Treinta y Tres** developed various projects on education, agriculture, and water protection for rural women in vulnerable conditions.

► **Paysandu** developed projects on waste management, environment protection, access to drinking water for all, agriculture, and capacity building for rural women and entrepreneurs.

► **Durazno** developed the Technological University of Uruguay in 2016 and increased the quality of its human resources. The Central Region Program contributes to housing policies, productive capacities, and generating educational or employment opportunities.³

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

Montevideo published two VLRs in 2020 and 2022.⁴ The 2020 VLR assessed SDGs 5, 6, 10, and 11, stressing the initiatives undertaken for health, gender equality, sanitation, and social inclusion. It underlined the alignment of the Strategic Plan with the SDGs. The 2022 VLR assessed the progress made towards SDGs 4, 5, 14, and 15 and emphasized the actions developed by the municipality to face the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel to the Strategic Plan, the new mayor developed a “Roadmap 2021-2025” to accelerate the localization of the SDGs.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs have been incorporated into the budget cycle and planning, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms of the National Budget results. In 2018, the OPP made progress in estimating the cost of SDG implementation. This involved analyzing all public investment allocated by the country to achieve each of the SDGs. The breakdown of the National Budget by SDG from 2017 to 2020 is presented at the beginning of the 2021 VNR, along with an assessment of the SDGs covered in the 2022 VNR.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2019, it was reported that the 19 departments of the country had some level of protocolization of the response to emergencies. In the same year, the validation of the 19 Departmental Emergency and Disaster Response Protocols was completed by the 19 Departmental Emergency Committees, available on the SINAE website and their update is scheduled for the second semester of 2021. It should be noted that only two departments, **Montevideo** and **Canelones**, have approved Comprehensive Risk Management Plans for emergencies and disasters and are entering the implementation process (January 2020 and October 2019). In the first months of 2020, a first approach to the state of Comprehensive Risk Management for emergencies and disasters was systematized at the municipal level, which constitutes the third level of government.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The number of women elected as mayors decreased from 15.8% between 2010-2014 to 10.5% between 2020-2024.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR included specific sections addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on each SDG. The VSR underlines the involvement of LRGs in the localization of several national initiatives. These initiatives monitor the implementation of health protocols and support poor communities without access to revenues as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. Montevideo put in place a basic support plan for its citizens, which ensured food security, deployed mobile health teams, utilizing public spaces for recreational activities, providing support for women victims of violence, and creating 2000 transitory jobs.

3. All initiatives mentioned above were collected among the answers to the GTF Survey.

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/montevideo_2020.pdf;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/montevideo_2022.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		31.7% (2021)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	95 (2020)
	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)		10 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

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