



Country Profiles on SDG localization

Local and regional governments
stepping forward for achieving the 2030 Agenda



New 2023 edition!

With 44 new profiles and more updated

2023 UCLG

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INTRODUCTION: METHODOLOGY AND PURPOSE

The Country Profiles on SDG localization present a brief analysis of the national strategies, coordination mechanisms and reporting processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most importantly, they highlight the involvement and, in many cases, the leading role of local and regional governments (LRGs) towards the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These Country Profiles are an important complement to the reports that the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) presents each year since 2017 to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): [Towards the Localization of the SDGs](#). With a focus on the countries that prepared a Voluntary National Review (VNR), the GTF reports present first-hand information on the experiences shared by LRGs and their associations (LGAs) to localize the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the context of the COVID-19 recovery. These Country Profiles complete the analysis for all the countries that have produced VNRs since 2016.

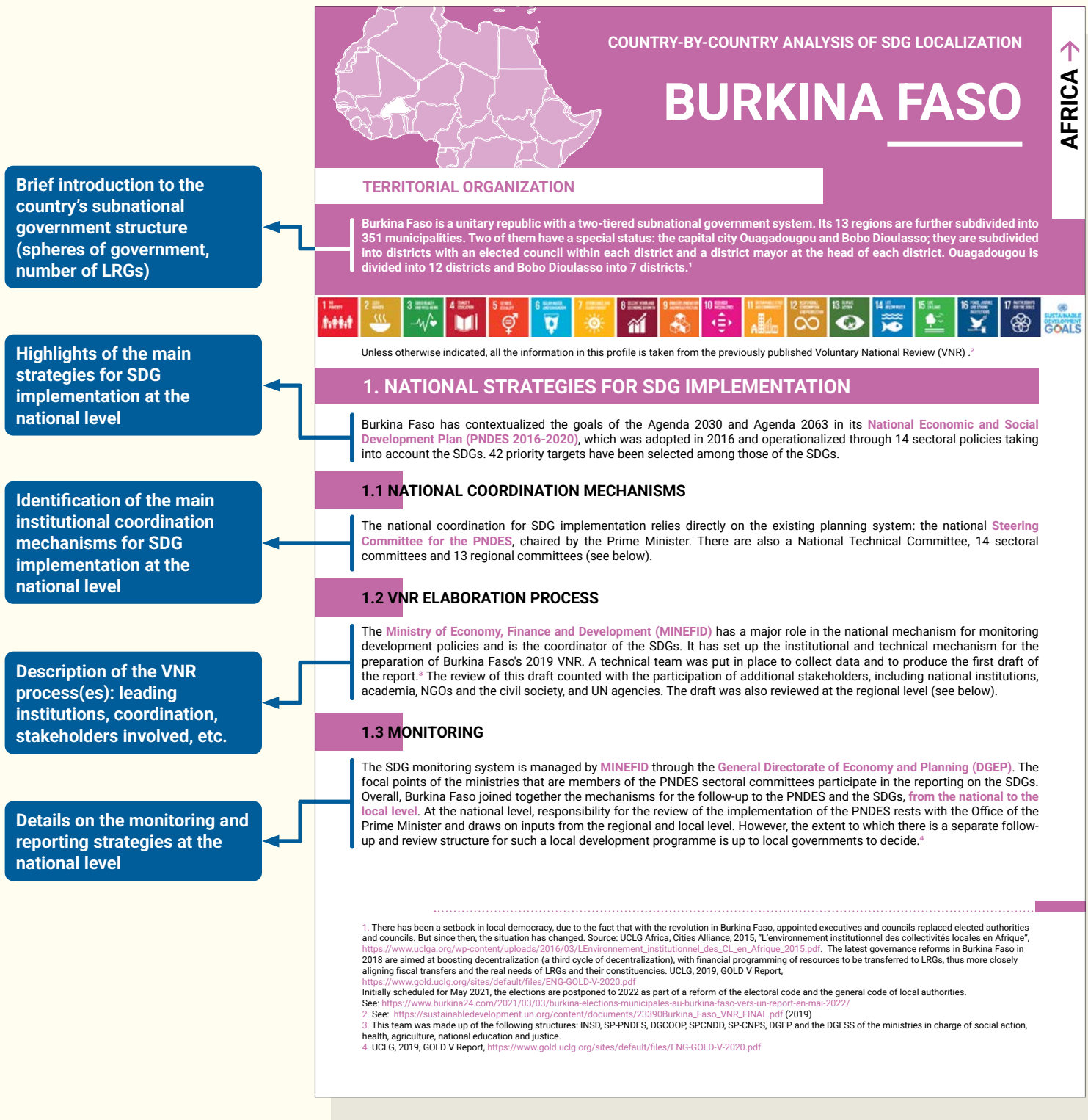
The profiles are based on the information extracted from the VNRs published during the 2016-2022 period. They also include very valuable information from LRGs' and LGAs' responses to the survey on their role in SDG localization, which the GTF has conducted yearly since 2017. The profiles reflect an analysis of research publications by UCLG and other institutions. Finally, they provide examples of local initiatives, in addition to SDG indicators related to subnational government responsibilities. Because they synthesize information from these specific sources, these profiles do not intend to be exhaustive, but rather to give an overview of the strategies and processes of SDG localization in the different countries and regions of the world.

The Country Profiles share the ultimate goals of the GTF reports to the HLPF: to raise awareness of the critical actions undertaken by LRGs to achieve the SDGs; to shed light on the challenges they face in this endeavour in order to improve collaboration with national governments, among other efforts; and to underscore the opportunities that arise from a collective movement working hand-in-hand to accelerate action towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. These profiles seek to encourage action at the local, national and international levels by indicating both areas of progress and remaining gaps in the recognition of LRGs' role, based on the principles of subsidiarity and autonomy, and in their integration into decision-making and the implementation of the SDGs.

With the purpose of being a very hands-on and practical tool, the Country Profiles present the information organized by three main topics: (1) national strategies for SDG implementation, (2) LRGs' involvement in SDG localization, and (3) further relevant information. The following three pages, based on the example of the Burkina Faso Country Profile, show how to navigate these profiles.



HOW TO READ THE COUNTRY PROFILES?



2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Brief overview of LRG involvement in national strategies for SDG implementation, coordination mechanisms and reporting processes such as the VNR(s)

LRGs are involved in national mechanisms for SDG implementation. Under the national Steering Committee for the PNDES, sectoral committees (CSD) and 13 regional committees (CRD) are aimed to guarantee a regular dialogue at the territorial level, help to coordinate the implementation of the PNDES, and ensure the follow-up of regional and local development plans and annual assessments. The regional committees involve subnational tiers of government for vertical and horizontal policy coherence. Local governments may choose to prepare local development programmes that are aligned with the PNDES but focus on specific local priorities. At the regional level, implementation of the PNDES is reviewed every six months, by the regional committees that are chaired by the regional governor, with the participation of the president of the regional council, deconcentrated ministerial bodies, local governments, the private sector, civil society and other actors.⁵ In addition, regional workshops have been organized to disseminate the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for the benefit of regional committees. The objective was to enable them to take ownership of the two agendas in order to facilitate their contextualization in local development plans.

As part of the 2019 VNR process, four regional workshops were organized to review the draft report. The objective was to ensure on the one hand the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda and the VNR by the regional actors, and on the other hand, to take into account the regional dimension in the report so as to leave no one behind in implementing the SDGs. The participating stakeholders were representatives of the governorates, regional councils, urban municipalities; as well as representatives from CSOs, NGOs, the private sector and decentralized structures.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in reviewing the draft VNR through regional workshops.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are involved in national coordination mechanisms through the regional committees. Burkina Faso is committed to guarantee a regular dialogue at the territorial level.

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

Information on the references to LRGs and SDG localization in the VNR(s)

The 2019 VNR refers to LRGs (mostly to regions), and acknowledges their participation as it highlights the "real involvement of actors from central and decentralized administration, local authorities, civil society, academics, non-governmental organizations during the various prioritization and internalization processes of the SDGs" (see VNR, 2019, p. 12).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Examples of initiatives from LRGs and LGAs for SDG localization (extracted from the VNR(s) and the answers to the GTF annual survey)

► The Association of Municipalities (AMBF) has helped municipalities to draw up local development plans and to align them with both national development strategies and the SDGs. Overall, 13 intermediary cities will work on their respective master plans and the 4 regional capitals will revise their land use plans.⁶

► The new eco-city of Yennenga, which was being built in 2019, 15 km from the capital of Ouagadougou. It has been planned paying specific attention to the Harmattan winds, solar energy and the collection of rainwater.⁷

► Béguédo is strengthening and protecting its ecosystems and natural buffers to make them more resilient to natural hazards. The municipality is taking action on good governance of natural resources; adapting to climate change by implementing

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

6. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

7. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

Highlights on the reporting efforts of LGAs and LRGs through Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

Information on the means of implementation dedicated to SDG localization

Additional information, for instance, on specific characteristics of the VNRs or the decentralization process, etc.

Information on women's representation in local government

Highlights on LRG involvement in national responses to COVID-19 and recovery strategies (only applicable when VNRs were published after the COVID-19 outbreak)

Table based on the UN SDG indicators related to LRG responsibilities

best practices, such as mapping the protected areas, and working with the community to show how they can improve their livelihoods while reducing disaster risk.

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

At the national level, financial difficulties are highlighted as an obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2020 VNR highlights the need of local and regional governments for technical and financial support to achieve their objectives in terms of sustainable development.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2019 VNR states that the SDGs are implemented through the PNDES, whose financing plan for 2020, estimated at FCFA 15,395.4 billion, is made up of 63.8% of own resources and 36.2% of external financing (5 570 billion FCFA) over five (5) years. More information in the VNR, 2019, p. 93-95. There is no information on SDG means of implementation at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Highlighting the difficulties encountered (finances, statistics, etc.), the 2020 VNR acknowledges the challenges and main points of vigilance for the country to implement the SDGs. The conclusion of the report gives several recommendations for the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda, the programmatic framework, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, reforms and public policies, financing and resource mobilization.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR mentions the advances and challenges in terms of women's access to decision-making bodies. DRC has a law on women's rights and parity which promotes equitable representation between men and women in national, provincial and local institutions. The co-option of women among customary authorities in Provincial Assemblies has also been introduced into the legislative framework since 2017. But this law requires a proactive approach in its application to guarantee the expected progress.

3.2 COVID 19

The government has set up an emergency multi-sectoral program to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 (PMUAIC-19) in order to preserve the country's progress towards sustainable development. Concerning the local level, the 2020 VNR only refers to isolation and quarantine measures taken by some provinces, without further details.

4. SDG INDICATORS

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	40 (2020)
	Rural	1 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	15 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		77.5 (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)		42.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

AFRICA



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is a unitary country. Since the last reform in 2019, Algeria is divided into 58 provinces (wilayas) and 44 delegated provinces.¹ They have their own elected people's assemblies and executive councils, and are governed by provincial governors appointed by the president. Moreover, the 1541 municipalities are headed by the president of the municipal people's assembly and an appointed executive selected by a proportional representation system.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR) .³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2016, constitutional provisions that explicitly refer to the concept of sustainable development and its key principles were adopted. Sustainable development was referred to in the 2014 and 2017 Government Development Plan. The most transversal strategy is the **National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (SNEDD 2019-2035)** and its **Action plan (PNAEDD 2019-2022)**. The SNEDD's seven axes focus on improving health and quality of life, preserving natural and cultural capital, developing a green and circular economy, increasing resilience in the face of desertification, improving resilience to climate change, food security and environmental governance.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **Interministerial committee** was established in 2016. It is coordinated by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, and brings together the ministries with the mission of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs in Algeria. The two chambers of parliament, the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), the National Statistics Office (ONS), the **National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)**, the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL) and the National Institute of Cartography and Remote Sensing (INCT) are also represented in it. This Committee is structured around six **thematic working groups** which bring together one or more SDGs.⁴ In addition, **sectoral committees** were established within different ministries with the prerogatives of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Interministerial committee** was responsible for the 2019 VNR process. The elaboration of the report was made possible thanks to the contributions of the ministerial departments involved in the achievement of the SDGs. It has been nourished by consultations with elected officials, civil society organizations and the private sector, particularly during awareness-raising workshops on the SDGs organized in partnership with the United Nations. A national expert was also attached to the committee, to provide technical expertise on the SDGs and assist the committee members in the production of the VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The National Statistical Information System (SNIS) is made up of the **National Statistics Office (ONS)**, observatories, agencies, research centers as well as the statistical services of the ministries with their territorial departments. At the end of 2018, 71 indicators produced from national sources were available, representing 30% of the total of 232 indicators for achieving sustainable development targets. The ONS, the ONEDD, the ministerial statistical services as well as several scientific research institutions have started a process of reflection on the framework for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the

1. From the last reform in 1984 to 2019, there were 48 wilayas. See a critical point of view on the reform here:

<https://www.algerie1.com/focus/de-l-organisation-territoriale-du-pays>. The next local and regional elections are scheduled on November 27th, 2021.

Regarding the elections, see also: <https://www.aps.dz/algerie/126966-anr-les-prochaines-elections-locales-consacreront-l-edification-institutionnelle> and <https://www.liberte-algerie.com/contribution/mettre-la-societe-au-centre-de-la-gestion-locale-364587>

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

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23441MAE_rapport_2019_complet.pdf (2019)

4. See the different groups and their participants in the VNR, 2019, p. 22.

SDGs with the aim of: (i) broadening the coverage of SDG indicators, (ii) better master the methodologies for calculating a number of indicators and (iii) lay the groundwork for a centralized integrated statistical platform of national statistical data on the implementation of the SDGs. One of the challenges mentioned by the 2019 VNR is to **territorialize and disaggregate sustainable development indicators** in order to better account for and deal with development gaps between population groups and between territories. **Thematic, scientific and technical groups (GTST)** are being implemented in relation with the Interministerial committee, as well as a **national platform** for monitoring the SDGs.

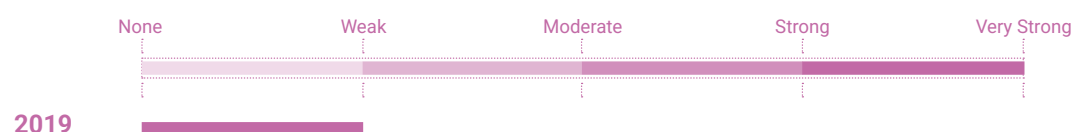
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of provincial and local governments' participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, nor in the 2019 VNR.

The Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women organized awareness-raising actions on the SDGs for the benefit of guidance and listening units at the provincial level.

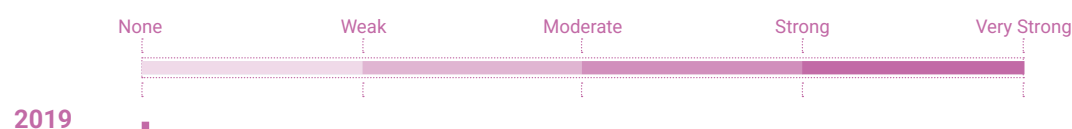
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs are mentioned a few times in the VNR, without reference to specific roles or initiatives for SDG implementation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of any LRG participation.

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 a few references in the 2019 VNR to LRGs' role in implementing the SDGs. This is very briefly mentioned once in the conclusion (see VNR, 2019, p. 159).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► To cope with floods, the Algerian government has made massive investments for the protection of people and property in the most threatened territories and cities. The Five-Year Program 2010-2014 had devoted an envelope of more than 100 billion DA to the realization of major works for the protection of agglomerations exposed to this risk. This program mainly concerned 15 agglomerations in the North, 3 towns of the Hauts-Plateaux and 4 towns in the South, that have experienced catastrophic flooding in the past. Today's approach to fighting flooding is part of a process which aims for sustainability in order to reconcile the development of watercourses, the management of floods to secure local populations, the management of natural environments to restore their biodiversity, and the management of the groundwater to promote its replenishment and good quality.

► In view of the critical level of exposure to several major risks (floods, earthquakes, landslides, etc.), the *wilaya* of **Algiers** launched the Urban Resilience Master Plan (PDRU) as a pilot project to be replicated on other major Algerian cities.

► A joint programme of the Ministry of the Interior, the EU and UNDP has been launched, called the **Capacity-building Program of Local Development Actors (CapDel)**. This initiative benefits from a new law on local government adopted in 2018, seeking to foster the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. As part of it, ten pilot municipalities are currently working on the adoption of a participatory approach to local development planning and the integration of the SDGs into the planning, implementation and monitoring of local strategies. In this context, the municipality of **Ouled Ben Abdelkader** has made important efforts to adopt a participatory approach through the inclusion of local residents into a Consultative Council for Development.⁵

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

See also: <https://www.local2030.org/index.php/story/view/90> and <https://www.local2030.org/index.php/story/view/252>.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

At the national level, the examination of the Ministry of Finance's draft **Vision 2035** for economic and institutional governance ("December 2017 version") reveals a large number of actions converging on the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The national government held special regional elections to address underrepresentation of Berber interests in regional and local assemblies. However, local autonomy remains weak and regional governments are still a mix of appointed executive and elected councils (with limited powers).⁶

The excessive littoralisation, which resulted in a concentration of 63% of the population on 4% of the territory with a pressure on the resources and an increase in the vulnerability of the territories, was one of the factors which led the Algerian government to implement a new urban policy. In addition to the overhaul of the legal framework for development and town planning, the government has undertaken actions to upgrade some cities and launched the creation of new ones. Indeed, the government, based on the **National Land Use Planning Plan for 2030**, has undertaken the creation of new towns and new urban centers. These are the new towns of **Sidi Abdellah, Bouinan, Bougezoul, El Ménéaa** and **Hassi-Messaoud**.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Algeria adopted an Electoral Law in 2012 that includes the quota of women candidates at 30% or 35% for the regional elections (depending on the size of the region). This law aims to "increase the chances of women having access to representation in elected assemblies, thus breaking the glass ceiling" (see the VNR, 2019, p. 73). The number of women elected to the People's National Assembly rose from 30 women in 2007 out of 389 deputies (i.e. 7.7%) to 146 women out of 462 deputies (i.e. a rate of 31.6%) in 2012 and 29% in 2017. With regard to local elections, the representation of women in the Communal Popular Assemblies rose from 0.8% in 2007 to nearly 17% in 2012.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		17.6 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	74 (2020)
	Rural	69 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	16 (2020)
	Rural	23 (2020)
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 (%)		80 (2009, Algiers)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		35.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

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

7. 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/dza>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Angola is a unitary country without elected local governments. The country has 18 provinces, divided in 163 municipalities, which are in turn divided into 532 communes. Provincial and municipal governments in Angola are deconcentrated state entities, as there are no local elected councils, no community participation, and no representative body or mechanisms in place for voicing citizen's concerns.¹ The move to democratically elected, accountable, and fiscally autonomous decentralized subnational government is still ongoing. Promises were given in 2018 to hold local elections in 2020. These were not organised, however, partly because of the health crisis.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **Long-Term Strategy for Angola in Horizon 2050**, currently in the pipeline, will be the main document of the global vision for Angola and its role at the international level. So far, Angola 2025 is the main long-term strategy. It is organized around five strategic policy options and six strategic axes. The **National Development Plan 2018-2022** (NDP 2018-2022) materializes the **Angola 2025**, integrating several specific policies, organized into action programs, implemented through activities and projects. NDP 2018-2022 programs are aligned with 52% of the SDGs and comprehends the principle of leaving no one behind.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Under the leadership of the Presidency of the Republic and coordinated by the **Ministry of Economy and Planning**, in articulation with the United Nations System in Angola, a Platform for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, abbreviated as the **SDG Platform**, was established in 2020.⁴ It is composed of representatives of the Angolan government, at central, provincial and local levels, the National Assembly, the Court of Auditors, the National Institute of Statistics, agencies of the United Nations system, international development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, as well as academia. At the beginning of 2021, the organization of the Platform's **Working Groups** was revised, and their composition was distributed by areas: Economy and Production, Democracy and Stability, Social Welfare, and Environment. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Economy and Planning and in articulation with the Coordination of the United Nations System in Angola, a **Technical Group** was also established in 2020 for the creation and management of the SDG Platform and for the elaboration of the VNR.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The elaboration of the VNR was coordinated by the **Ministry of Economy and Planning**, in coordination with the United Nations in Angola, involving governmental and non-governmental actors, members of the **SDG Platform**. The process of preparation and drafting of the VNR involved different levels and sectors of government and non-government, which contributed to data collection and review throughout. Thus, it was intended to engage actors as the National Assembly, national oversight or human rights bodies, civil society (national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, youth, and business sector), the United Nations team, the European Union Delegation, and other multilateral and bilateral organizations present in the country.

1. Subnational authorities at the commune level are not elected but instead are nominated based on the Provincial Governor's suggestion. At the municipal level, municipal administrators are also appointed.

2. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/286012021_VNR_Report_Angola.pdf (2021)

4. The objectives are to (i) engage in dialogue to accelerate and prioritize the SDGs; (ii) consult and address the strategies, instruments, actions and programs to be adopted for the implementation of the SDGs; (iii) track and monitor the SDGs, including periodic reporting; (iv) disseminate the SDGs; (v) and mobilize financing for the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

As a system of data collection and compilation, the **SDG Platform's Working Groups** organized themselves around specific selected SDGs and developed systems for sharing information and discussing and monitoring progress. In 2020, a review of the SDG indicators aimed to reformulate, eliminate and/or insert new indicators and followed on from the 2020 global review. The framework includes 247 global indicators, including 231 unique indicators. Regarding the Angolan statistical system, the VNR states that the need remains, not only to improve the alignment of data production with the 2030 Agenda, but also to study how to harmonize the systems for collecting, compiling and sharing data from different sectors. The VNR intends to be the starting point for regular follow-up and monitoring of the performance of the indicators, supported by efficient systems to be developed with this initiation of the process, and until 2030. The elaboration of this report is referred to as an opportunity to reflect on best practices to improve statistical information and data on development and thus strengthen robust and efficient systems.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The process of **public administration decentralization**, which is transferring greater competencies to local government bodies, is also an opportunity to improve data collection, analysis and publication of the SDGs at the provincial and municipal level and to strengthen capacities and efforts for SDG implementation.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Municipalities and provinces are referred to throughout the 2021 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Integrated Plan of Intervention in the Municipalities (PIIM)** is a national programme for reinforcing local development. For instance, PIIM has actively contributed to the expansion of the school network in all provinces of Angola, allowing more children, youths and adults to access the education system. Under PIIM, 811 new schools are being built.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2021 report was prepared in a context in which important national reforms are taking place in Angola, especially regarding the diversification of the structure of its economy, the strengthening and decentralization of public administration, the fight against corruption, and the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2013, the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity (approved by Presidential Decree 22/13), is a multi-sectoral instrument aimed at accelerating the participation of women and men in the political, economic-social and family domains at all stages. The Law on Political Parties (Law 22/10) provides for the statutes and programs of political parties to include mandatory rules that encourage the promotion of equal opportunities and equity between men and women, as well as gender representation of not less than 30%. Currently, women are represented in 29.6% in Parliament; 39% in Central Government, 12% are State Secretaries; 22.2% Provincial Governors, 19.5% Vice-Governors, 25.6% lead Municipal Administrations.

3.2 COVID 19

The preparation of the VNR was directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the internal restructuring process of government institutions that started at the same time. Data collection for a nationwide survey (the IIMS) was scheduled to take place in July 2020, but was postponed to 2021 given the context of constraints imposed by the pandemic.

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 (%)		48.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		23.1 (2011, Windhoek)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		38.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		44.4 (2018)

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/ago>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Benin is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, composed of 77 municipalities, whose councils are elected by universal suffrage. Three of them have a special status: the political capital Porto-Novo, the economic capital Cotonou and Parakou.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 **National Development Plan** and the **Growth Programme for Sustainable Development (PC2D)** integrate the SDGs, and have been operationalized through the Programme for Government Action (PAC), supported by the 3rd National Strategy for the Statistic Development (SNDS-3) and the Ten-year framework of actions for the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs (**CDA-SDG**) 2021-2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs (DGCS-ODD)** is supervised by the Ministry of Planning and Development. Institutional coordination for SDG implementation in the country includes five mechanisms: i) Orientation Committee, ii) Steering Technical Committee, iii) Coordination Framework Government-Municipalities (see below), iv) Concertation Framework with CSOs, v) Group for Research and Studies on Sustainable Development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2020 VNR preparation, the country developed a broad consultation process. The preparation process was defined by several national workshops at the level of state actors, municipalities and civil society and it benefited from the country's participation in regional and international experience-sharing workshops with other countries of the region.

1.3 MONITORING

Benin has carried out work relating to the prioritization of SDG targets and their contextualization, which has made it possible to select a set of 49 priority targets. This was followed by the establishment, with the support of UNDP, of a task force made up of experts from the General Directorate for the Coordination and Monitoring of Development Goals and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE). The objective is to improve the level of regular reporting of indicators and to effectively monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Coordination Framework Municipality-Government** is composed of the mayors of the 77 municipalities in the country or their representatives and members of the government. Through this Government-Municipalities coordination framework on SDGs, a **technical commission on SDGs** has been set up within the **National Association of Municipalities of Benin**. This framework for exchange and discussion allows the mayors and the National Coordination of SDGs to study the SDGs path of the municipalities and assess the progress of the municipalities. It acts as an advocacy mechanism for SDG actions in the municipalities. It meets once every trimester.

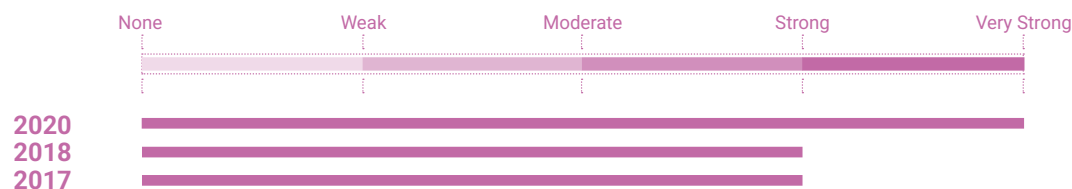
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15901Benin.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19366Benin_VNR_2018_BENIN_French.pdf (2018);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26282VNR_2020_Benin_Report.pdf (2020).

The national government organized technical workshops to support the municipalities in order to strengthen their capacities to integrate the SDGs into their local development planning documents. In a participatory and inclusive approach, Benin led a process of “spatialization/localization” of the SDG prioritized targets in the 77 municipalities. Yet, there are great disparities in the inclusion of SDGs in municipal development plans.

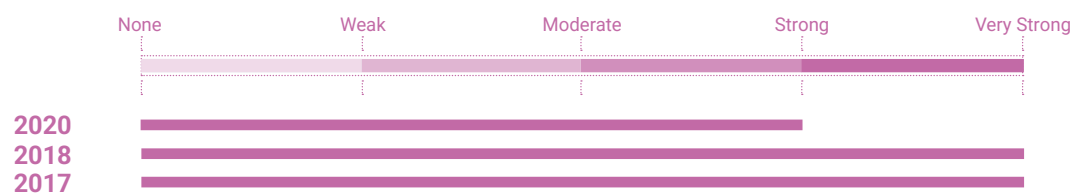
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The ANCB was invited to contribute to the 2020 VNR and to revise a preliminary version.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Coordination Framework Government-Municipalities is composed of representatives of the 77 municipalities. The National Association of Municipalities of Benin is also involved in 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 acknowledges the municipalities as “levers for achieving the SDGs”. There is a subsection called “spatialization of SDG priority targets” describing all strategies for monitoring and localizing the SDGs (see the VNR, 2020, p. 5).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National Association of Municipalities of Benin (ANCB)** in collaboration with the General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring has initiated, with the support of its network of partners, the “**Local Agenda 2030 Contest**”. The initiative rewards the best local projects that constitute good practices of SDG implementation at the level of the 77 communes based on the initiatives being implemented in the territories.

► There is also a Local Climate Change Adaptation Project (LoCAL Initiative)³ in the municipalities of Toucountouna, Boukoubé, Copargo, Malanville, Karimama and Banikoara, Colby, Ouaké and Maté.

► The government has launched a 20,000 housing program and has set up a rainwater sanitation program for Cotonou and secondary cities: (i) the rehabilitation and development of primary, secondary and tertiary roads; (ii) the Urban Development and Decentralization Support Project; (iii) the sustainable cities program; (iv) the socio-community infrastructure construction project under the supervision of other sectoral ministries; and (v) the administrative buildings and socio-community infrastructure construction project.

► In order to improve digital connection, the government has set up community Digital Points in 40 communes and 14 high speed internet access points in post offices. Today, we can see the implementation of free WIFI in public places in the forty communes that have benefited from the community digital points.

3. The Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) is a funding mechanism implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with the goal of promoting climate change resilient communities and economies by increasing financing for and investment in climate change adaptation at the local level in least developed countries. For more information, see: <https://www.uncdf.org/local/benin>

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

The **Benin Local Authorities' Committee** elaborated a VSR in 2020, presenting the state of progress achieved in the localization process of the SDGs.⁴ It initiated the mission for the localization of the SDGs next to the 2020 VNR. This initiative aimed at revealing the efforts made by the municipalities and has been a catalyst for strengthening the essence of decentralization, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a tool for advocacy and resource mobilization.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Benin conducted a study on the costing of the SDGs which revealed financial and technological resource needs that represent about 60.8% of GDP (\$74.5 billion between 2018-2030, i.e. \$5.7 billion/year) while domestic fiscal resources barely reach 18% of GDP per year. The mobilization of the estimated volume of resources has led to the design of a program called the **"Leave No One Behind" special initiative**, which aims, through the organization of sectoral roundtables and forums, to capture the resources needed to achieve the SDGs. However, the resource mobilization strategy is not satisfactory and the monitoring and evaluation system in place does not provide complete data. The government proposes to strengthen the current institutional framework for implementation in order to improve synergies and facilitate the involvement of actors (financial partners, civil society organizations and local authorities), as well as to improve resource mobilization. There is a transfer of **FADeC funds**⁶ to the 77 municipalities in Benin, which has enabled the construction of socio-community infrastructures.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Some next steps mentioned in the 2020 VNR are specifically dedicated to the local level: strengthening the integration of priority targets in development policies and strategies at all levels; continuing to strengthen the statistical information system; successful implementation of the SDGs at the local level; and strengthening the institutional framework for coordination and monitoring. Specifically, the next steps will be part of the development and implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Actions for Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs and the methodological guide for integrating international agendas into national planning frameworks.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR makes very little reference to local government initiatives on gender issues. Nevertheless, the report mentions some capacity building of Beninese municipalities with regard to the protection of human rights, including gender-based violence. In addition, in 2019 33% of municipalities had a budgeted plan dedicated to the protection of vulnerable social groups and the identification of violence, including gender-based violence, compared to only 10% the previous year. It also mentions that in 2019, Benin joined the SWEED regional initiative focused on women's empowerment⁷ and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel. In 2019, 23% of communes have strengthened their capacity to promote and protect human rights and combat exploitation, abuse and violence, including gender-based violence, compared to 22.08% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 VNR only mentions national initiatives (mainly related to the economic effects of the crisis).

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_benin_2020.pdf

5. The VSR is available at: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_benin_2020.pdf

6. The FADeC was set up in 2008 as a Municipal Development Fund and transfer mechanism to allocate national resources to cover operational and investment costs of the communes, as part of the national decentralization process.

7. The initiative plans, among other things, to accelerate the demographic transition in order to trigger the demographic dividend and reduce gender inequalities in the countries concerned and one its main actions is the strengthening regional capacities to improve the supply of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and nutritional health products. Here, LRGs have an important role.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		4.6 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		58.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		36.7 (2011, Cotonou)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		58.4 (2020)

8. 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/ben>

BOTSWANA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Botswana is a unitary republic with 16 local governments at the municipal level: the country is divided into 10 district councils and 6 urban councils.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 country developed SDG Planning Guidelines to entail a systematic integration of specific SDG targets and indicators into national and sector-level plans and programmes. The SDGs are integrated into **Vision 2036 (2017-2036)** and the **National Development Plan (NDP) 11** as well as in subnational development plans. Botswana has complemented its NDP with an **SDGs Roadmap**, which includes a five-year plan of action implemented through annual work plans. The country is developing its 12th National Development Plan, which will build on the measures taken to integrate the SDGs into the national development process.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Finance** leads the implementation of the SDGs in Botswana. Following the establishment of the National SDGs Secretariat within the Ministry of Finance in 2015, the creation of a National Steering Committee on SDGs (NSC) and of the **Technical Task Force** in 2016, and of the **Parliament Special Committee on SDGs** in 2019, a **Joint National Steering Committee on SDGs (JNSC)** was created in 2022 to strengthen the SDG coordination mechanisms. The JNSC is the result of the merger of the NSC and the Development Partners Forum, and was established with the purpose of revitalizing partnerships for the achievement of the goals. SDGs Technical Working Groups were previously established by the NSC to perform technical functions to support the implementation of the SDGs. Members include local authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, research institutions and other development partners.³ Recently, to stimulate action at the sectoral level, **SDG Focal Points** have been appointed within line ministries that act as liaisons between the Ministry of Finance and sectors, with the overall objective of advocating for, and mainstreaming, the SDGs in policies, programmes and plans at national and subnational levels.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR was produced under the guidance of the **SDGs National Steering Committee** and its Technical Task Force, with the supervision of the **SDGs Secretariat** at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The **Ministry of Finance** was responsible for the overall preparation of the 2022 VNR. A **VNR core team** was established, including focal persons from UN agencies, line ministries and civil society representatives. For both VNR processes, **consultations** were held with targeted government departments and agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, research institutions, and academia. It is worth noting that at the core strategy of the 2022 reporting process was the need to reach **left-behind populations** to address one of the shortcomings of the 2017 VNR, which focused mainly on urban populations. Consequently, consultations covered the national, district and community levels and allowed for representative participation of key populations including women and girls, the elderly, young people, rural residents, people with disabilities, sex workers and LGBTIQ+ persons, etc.

1. Since the latest elections in 2019, there are 609 councillors, of which 490 were elected democratically, and 119 were appointed by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. See: <https://www.sng-wofi.org/country-profiles/>

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16397BOTSWANA_VNR.pdf (2017); https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Botswana%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

3. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/botswana_2022.pdf

1.3 MONITORING

Findings by the Indicators Baseline Report and the Botswana Domesticated SDG Indicator Baseline Stats Brief, which revealed that the country's SDG monitoring capacity was at 34.8% of the SDG indicators, highlighted the need for a data revolution, pioneered by the development of the **SDG Planning Guidelines**. The Guidelines serve as a tool for mainstreaming SDG indicators into Botswana's medium and long-term development frameworks. Nine ministries piloted the guidelines, resulting in several indicators moving from easily feasible to measurable categories. Furthermore, the SDG indicators are mainstreamed into the **National Monitoring Evaluation System (NMES)** of the NDP 11. The appointment of SDG Focal Points at the sectoral level strengthened advocacy for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data on SDGs relevant to the respective ministries.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Vision 2036 and NDP 11 recognize the important role played by local governments in the country's development trajectory. Most respondents to the survey circulated in 2022 by the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) for its VSR (see below) are aware of the existence of the SDGs. However, the majority of them seem not to be fully aware of the relevance of the SDGs to their work.

Elements of the three dimensions of sustainable development are embodied in **District Development Committees and Urban Development Committees** where all sectors or sub-structures converge for the effective implementation of all programs. At the local level, the **District and Urban Development Plans** determine the implementation of projects and the related budgets, and provide an enabling environment for the incorporation and localization of the SDGs. Indeed, the majority of BALA survey respondents confirmed that LRGs have development plans and strategies that "speak to some SDGs".⁴

LRGs participate in the **SDGs Technical Working Groups**. This is a structure where the BALA also sits. Overall, 44% of respondents to the BALA survey acknowledged "ad hoc" participation in coordination mechanisms for the SDGs; while only 18.5% indicated regular participation in these mechanisms.

In Botswana, the national reporting unit in charge of the 2022 VNR conducted an extensive consultation that covered the national, district and community levels. The report validation process included representatives of the BALA.

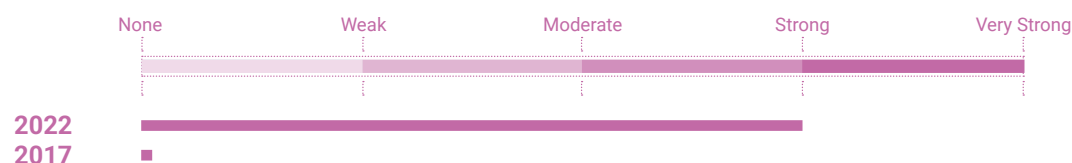
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: A consultation covered the national, district and community levels and the VNR validation process included representatives of the BALA.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs and the BALA Secretariat participate in the **SDGs Technical Working Groups**.

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 were limited references to LRGs throughout the 2017 VNR. There was a special subsection on "Districts and community discussions" as part of the presentation of the national strategy to create ownership of the SDGs at all levels of government (see VNR, 2017, p. 11-12). There is very little reference to LRGs in the 2022 VNR as well. However, there is a subsection on "Mainstreaming SDGs into the National and Subnational Frameworks" (see VNR, 2022, p. 14).

4. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/botswana_2022.pdf

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Francistown** and **Gaborone** have held training workshops, with the support of UN-Habitat and UNECA, to improve their capacities in such areas as monitoring, producing disaggregated data and reporting on SDG 11, using various statistical tools.⁵

► **Tlokweng** was facing tensions between preservation and development given the impacts of rapid urban growth on the loss of habitat, green space and agricultural land. Through a participatory process, the community chose a resilient growth development plan based on land use zones considering values of biodiversity and cultural heritage, health and food access and economic opportunity.⁶

► The town of **Jwaneng** established a District Child Protection Committee, and a children's consultative forum in order to manage child protection issues. The town has also worked towards achieving SDG 11 with the establishment of a Ward Development Committee, the construction of a multipurpose recreational facility and the implementation of the Local Economic Development Strategy.

► **Chobe** District established a Gender and Child Protection Unit and has taken steps to raise public awareness of all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres.

► The **Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA)** adopted a strategy for SDG implementation and is active in awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives, in collaboration with the ministry responsible for local governance and international partners. The association also developed the local economic development policy, with the support of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, which acts as a catalytic tool for inclusive impactful projects with an impact on many of the SDGs.⁷

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

The **Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA)** developed the first VSR of Botswana in 2022.⁸ It gives several examples of local programmes geared towards the SDGs and highlights that "local authorities drive the national aspiration to uplift the standard of living of the population" (see VSR, 2022, p. 16). Limited financial and technical resources, as well as limited engagement with key stakeholders, were among the main challenges mentioned by the interviewed district councils.⁹

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Parliament Select Committee on SDGs** was created in 2019 as a high-level SDG financing advocacy group, due to the recognition of the role of financing for the achievement of the SDGs and of the national budgetary oversight role of the Parliament. Furthermore, Botswana is a signatory to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the domestication of which is ongoing through the development of an **SDG Financing Strategy**.¹⁰ A gender-responsive and climate-smart SDG financing strategy is being developed. The process adopted several good practices including Zero-Based Budgeting and Results-Based Budgeting.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Botswana has one of the oldest decentralization policies in Africa. The legislative framework for LRGs was consolidated in 2012 with the Local Government Act. More recently, in 2016, the country released a development plan called Vision 2036, which supports the development of a decentralization policy (a draft version was presented in 2019). A countrywide consultation on constitutional reform is currently ongoing.¹¹

In the country, existing structures at the subnational level are used to ensure that everyone is involved in SDG implementation. Kgotla (traditional meeting place) is used for community consultations to raise awareness and involve local communities in the planning process. Participation is also assured through structures such as village development committees, village health teams, and village extension teams set up to ensure that communities play an important role in the development of their villages, towns and cities.

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

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

7. Answer of the BALA to the GTF Survey in 2022.

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/botswana_2022.pdf

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

10. An assessment of the financing landscape within and outside the country was undertaken in the context of the Integrated National Financing Framework in 2022. The findings will be used to develop an appropriate and fit for purpose SDG Financing Strategy for the country.

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

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The number of women in the National Assembly and local councils remains low, and no effective measures have been put in place to promote the participation of women in electoral processes as well as political representation.¹² At the local government level, women account for 18% of the seats.

3.2 COVID 19

In 2020, the government developed an **Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP)** to help the national economy to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and to build back better. It is aligned with the spirit of SDG 17 and aims at avoiding setbacks in progress towards the 2030 Agenda due to the pandemic. In Botswana, COVID-19 responses at the local level were carried out by district health management teams.¹³ When local authorities were involved in mitigating the COVID-19 crisis, the measures had more impact and were more easily received and accepted by the communities.¹⁴

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁵

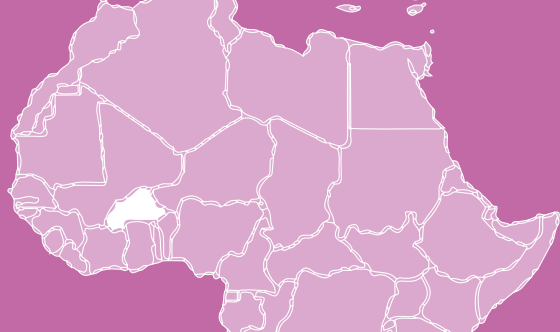
5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		14.9 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	83 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		91.2 (2013, Gaborone)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		25.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		28.1 (2018)

12. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

13. Answer of the BALA to the GTF Survey in 2022.

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/botswana_2022.pdf

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



BURKINA FASO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Burkina Faso is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational government system. Its 13 regions are further subdivided into 351 municipalities. Two of them have a special status: the capital city Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso; they are subdivided into districts with an elected council within each district and a district mayor at the head of each district. Ouagadougou is divided into 12 districts and Bobo Dioulasso into 7 districts.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

Burkina Faso has contextualized the goals of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 in its **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2016-2020)**, which was adopted in 2016 and operationalized through 14 sectoral policies taking into account the SDGs. 42 priority targets have been selected among those of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies directly on the existing planning system: the national **Steering Committee for the PNDES**, chaired by the Prime Minister. There are also a National Technical Committee, 14 sectoral committees and 13 regional committees (see below).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development (MINEFID)** has a major role in the national mechanism for monitoring development policies and is the coordinator of the SDGs. It has set up the institutional and technical mechanism for the preparation of Burkina Faso's 2019 VNR. A technical team was put in place to collect data and to produce the first draft of the report.³ The review of this draft counted with the participation of additional stakeholders, including national institutions, academia, NGOs and the civil society, and UN agencies. The draft was also reviewed at the regional level (see below).

1.3 MONITORING

The SDG monitoring system is managed by **MINEFID** through the **General Directorate of Economy and Planning (DGEP)**. The focal points of the ministries that are members of the PNDES sectoral committees participate in the reporting on the SDGs. Overall, Burkina Faso joined together the mechanisms for the follow-up to the PNDES and the SDGs, **from the national to the local level**. At the national level, responsibility for the review of the implementation of the PNDES rests with the Office of the Prime Minister and draws on inputs from the regional and local level. However, the extent to which there is a separate follow-up and review structure for such a local development programme is up to local governments to decide.⁴

1. There has been a setback in local democracy, due to the fact that with the revolution in Burkina Faso, appointed executives and councils replaced elected authorities and councils. But since then, the situation has changed. Source: UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2015, "L'environnement institutionnel des collectivités locales en Afrique", https://www.uclga.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/L'Environnement_institutionnel_des_CL_en_Afrique_2015.pdf. The latest governance reforms in Burkina Faso in 2018 are aimed at boosting decentralization (a third cycle of decentralization), with financial programming of resources to be transferred to LRGs, thus more closely aligning fiscal transfers and the real needs of LRGs and their constituencies. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

Initially scheduled for May 2021, the elections are postponed to 2022 as part of a reform of the electoral code and the general code of local authorities.

See: <https://www.burkina24.com/2021/03/03/burkina-elections-municipales-au-burkina-faso-vers-un-report-en-mai-2022/>

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23390Burkina_Faso_VNR_FINAL.pdf (2019)

3. This team was made up of the following structures: INSD, SP-PNDES, DGCOOP, SPCNDD, SP-CNPS, DGEP and the DGESE of the ministries in charge of social action, health, agriculture, national education and justice.

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

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs are involved in national mechanisms for SDG implementation. Under the national Steering Committee for the PNDES, sectoral committees (CSD) and **13 regional committees (CRD)** are aimed to guarantee a regular dialogue at the territorial level, help to coordinate the implementation of the PNDES, and ensure the follow-up of regional and local development plans and annual assessments. The regional committees involve subnational tiers of government for vertical and horizontal policy coherence. Local governments may choose to prepare local development programmes that are aligned with the PNDES but focus on specific local priorities. At the regional level, implementation of the PNDES is reviewed every six months, by the regional committees that are chaired by the regional governor, with the participation of the president of the regional council, deconcentrated ministerial bodies, local governments, the private sector, civil society and other actors.⁵ In addition, regional workshops have been organized to disseminate the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for the benefit of regional committees. The objective was to enable them to take ownership of the two agendas in order to facilitate their contextualization in local development plans.

As part of the 2019 VNR process, four **regional workshops** were organized to review the draft report. The objective was to ensure on the one hand the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda and the VNR by the regional actors, and on the other hand, to take into account the regional dimension in the report so as to leave no one behind in implementing the SDGs. The participating stakeholders were representatives of the governorates, regional councils, urban municipalities; as well as representatives from CSOs, NGOs, the private sector and decentralized structures.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in reviewing the draft VNR through regional workshops.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are involved in national coordination mechanisms through the regional committees. Burkina Faso is committed to guarantee a regular dialogue at the territorial level.

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 2019 VNR refers to LRGs (mostly to regions), and acknowledges their participation as it highlights the “real involvement of actors from central and decentralized administration, local authorities, civil society, academics, non-governmental organizations during the various prioritization and internalization processes of the SDGs” (see VNR, 2019, p. 12).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Association of Municipalities (AMBF)** has helped municipalities to draw up local development plans and to align them with both national development strategies and the SDGs. Overall, 13 intermediary cities will work on their respective master plans and the 4 regional capitals will revise their land use plans.⁶

► The new eco-city of **Yennenga**, which was being built in 2019, 15 km from the capital of Ouagadougou. It has been planned paying specific attention to the Harmattan winds, solar energy and the collection of rainwater.⁷

► **Béguédo** is strengthening and protecting its ecosystems and natural buffers to make them more resilient to natural hazards. The municipality is taking action on good governance of natural resources; adapting to climate change by implementing

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

6. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

7. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

best practices, such as mapping the protected areas, and working with the community to show how they can improve their livelihoods while reducing disaster risk.⁸

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2019 VNR states that the SDGs are implemented through the PNDES, whose financing plan for 2020, estimated at FCFA 15,395.4 billion, is made up of 63.8% of own resources and 36.2% of external financing (5 570 billion FCFA) over five (5) years. More information in the VNR, 2019, p. 93-95. There is no information on SDG means of implementation at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of female municipal councilors was 12.68%, i.e. 2,359 councilors out of the 18,602 councilors elected in 2016, against 21.04%, or 3,906 councilors out of 18,565 councilors elected in 2012. Despite Law No. 010-2009 / AN, which establishes quotas of 30% of both genders in legislative and municipal elections in Burkina Faso, the number of women in elected positions has indeed declined. For the application of this law, political parties were informed and sensitized on the content of the law and on the problem of the participation of women on the candidate lists. Also, with the support of technical and financial partners, women candidates have regularly benefited from capacity building in leadership and organization of electoral campaigns.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		12.7 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		57.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		9.6 (2009, Ouagadougou)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		56 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		9 (2019)

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

9. 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/bfa>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Burundi is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure. The national territory is divided into 119 municipalities with elected councils: 116 rural municipalities and the 3 urban municipalities of Bujumbura, the economic capital.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 SDGs are integrated in the **National Development Plan for Burundi (PND 2018-2027)**.³ In total, this plan includes 16 intervention areas. Each strategic orientation corresponds to one or more SDGs and each axis of intervention corresponds to at least one SDG.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The coordination of SDG implementation is led by the **National Commission for the SDGs**, co-chaired by the second vice-president of the government and the Ministry of Planning.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was prepared by a **Multi-sectoral Technical Committee** composed of representatives of the various sectoral ministries, United Nations agencies, civil society, NGOs, and local elected officials. The draft report resulting from the first technical workshops was submitted for review to the various stakeholders in the provinces grouped into four regions. The objective was to ensure the enrichment of the VNR by the provincial actors and to take into account the provincial dimension.⁴

1.3 MONITORING

Burundi has prioritized and adopted 16 SDGs, 49 targets and 101 indicators. It was decided to add to the 101 monitoring indicators already selected, 50 implementation indicators as well as 25 other indicators related to the global partnership (SDG 17) to define a new national package of 17 SDGs, 111 targets and 176 indicators.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participated in regional workshops of local elected officials and in the Multi-sectoral Technical Committee in charge of drafting the 2020 VNR. SDGs are localized through their integration in the **Communal Development Plans (PCDC)**. The government has indeed organized technical workshops to support four pilot municipalities in integrating the SDGs into their plans.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26316RAPPORTDELAMISEENOEUVREDESODDsAUBURUNDI.pdf> (2020)

3. The elaboration process of the Burundi NDP 2018-2027 followed a participatory and inclusive approach and therefore left no one out as recommended in the 2030 Agenda. The government organized technical workshops to support four pilot communes in integrating SDGs into the Communal Community Development Plans (PCDC and PAI).

4. At this level, the actors were the representatives of the municipalities: (i) provincial governors or their representatives, (ii) provincial planning offices, (iii) municipal representatives of various categories, namely, elected municipal officials, (iv) representatives of women, religious denominations, youth, (v) members of Civil Society Organizations, (vi) representatives of NGOs, (vii) persons with disabilities, (viii) persons with disabilities, (ix) persons with disabilities, (x) persons with disabilities, and (xi) persons with disabilities and specific needs, (viii) defense and security forces, (ix) private sector forces, and (x) decentralized ministry structures.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are only mentioned in relation to the multisectorial committee to prioritize the SDGs.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR 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 mentions SDG localization efforts at the local level, from the national government. There is no specific reference to locally-led initiatives.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

It is briefly mentioned that one of the major challenges for boosting the mobilization of internal and external financial resources for SDG implementation will be to improve good governance at all levels and promote the rule of law.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR emphasizes, as one of its main conclusions and challenges, the governability of the reporting process, including the quality of coordination, the quality of spending and the quality of monitoring-evaluation, SDG-sensitive budgeting, transparency of the public financial management system and accountability.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women's access to the public and political sphere appear as key objectives for the national government in its strategy for implementing the SDGs. The Constitution of Burundi established a **quota of at least 30%** to promote women's access to decision-making spaces within government bodies. The proportion of women in the position of governor is 17%, the rate of women communal administrators reaches 34%. The rate of representation of women in hill councils is 17%.⁵ Regarding the development of the VNR itself, representatives of women, religious denominations and youth were among the different representatives from the provinces who participated in the regional workshops to review the report. Also, training of political party leaders and women leaders is organized at the national and provincial levels on gender.

5. The original French word here is collines. Here, we are making reference to the *conseils collinaires*.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR briefly summarizes the measures taken at the national level concerning the health sector but also, more generally, other socio-economic sectors and in particular the measures addressed to the most vulnerable social groups (see the VNR, 2020, p. 133). It doesn't mention initiatives led by local governments in response to the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.3 (2020)
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 (%)		47.7 (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)		36.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		10.1 (2018)

6. 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/bdi>

CAMEROON

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cameroon is a unitary republic with 10 regions, 58 departments and 374 local governments (315 municipalities, 45 urban neighborhood councils and 14 urban communities).¹ In 2019, local elections were postponed from 2017 and regional councils, established by the 2008 Constitution, were remaining inactive.² Elections were scheduled in 2019 but organized in February 2020.³



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).⁴

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2010, Cameroon adopted its **Vision 2035**. For the period 2010-2019, the government prepared a Strategy Paper for Growth and Employment (DSCE). Since 2020, Cameroon has entered the second phase to implement the major orientations contained in its vision with its **National Development Strategy 2030 (SND30)**,⁵ in which the SDGs are integrated. In addition to planning for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategy includes accelerating economic growth, inclusive development and greater social cohesion, improving people's living conditions, and strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development (MINEPAT)**, with the support of the United Nations System, coordinates the implementation of the SDGs. At the regional and local levels, the coordination for SDG implementation is carried out by the regional and departmental services of MINEPAT.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **multi-stakeholder working group**, set up by decision of the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Territorial Development in 2019, coordinated the elaboration of the 2019 and 2022 VNRs. This working group was supported by a technical secretariat which provided support for the drafting of the report. Both VNRs were developed with a participatory approach involving all development actors, in particular the national government, LRGs, the private sector, civil society, technical and financial partners, youth associations, associations of people living with a disability, the media and academics. The data and information collection on the state of SDG implementation was conducted among many stakeholders. For the 2022 VNR, three consultations and a workshop were organized to review and finalize the report.

1.3 MONITORING

At national level, monitoring of SDG implementation is in charge of the **Technical Monitoring Committee of the National Development Strategy**, coordinated by MINEPAT. The review of the implementation of the SDGs takes the form of a **platform for dialogue** co-facilitated by MINEPAT and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, with the participation of representatives of public administrations, the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians and development partners.⁶ Statistical monitoring of the indicators for the implementation of the SDGs is the responsibility of the National Statistical System, managed by the National Institute of Statistics, which produces periodic reports on the progress of SDG indicators. However, there are still shortcomings in terms of production and access to the statistical information needed to achieve the SDGs. Local and regional levels also carry monitoring responsibilities (see below).

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

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

3. See: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lections_municipales_cameroonaises_de_2020

4. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24180CAMEROON_Rapport_VNR_0507_2019.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Rapport%20VNR%202022%20du%20Cameroon.pdf> (2022)

5. The horizon for the implementation of this second phase, initially set for the period 2020-2027, has been extended to 2030 to align it with that of the 2030 Agenda on the SDGs.

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

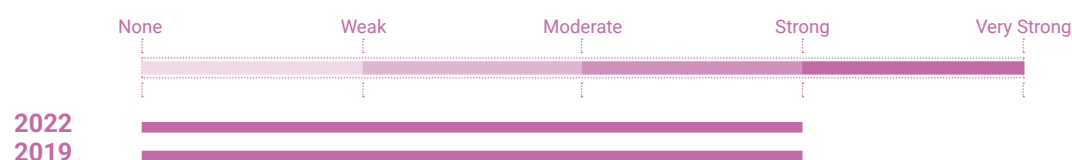
As part of the awareness-raising on the SDGs, tools were made available to local governments. They benefited from training to better integrate the SDGs into development activities; a methodological guide for municipal planning was updated in 2019; and a manual for integrating the SDGs into local plans was developed. The SDGs are integrated into the first-generation **municipal development plans** and even more into the second-generation currently developed. Those plans are drawn up under the supervision and coordination of the **National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP)** and most of the actions included in these strategies documents in terms of programming concern the SDGs.⁷

With recent decentralization reforms, the contextualization and monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs at the local level will increasingly be devolved to the **Municipal Technical Committees** for more participatory monitoring of public investment. At the regional level, the monitoring of SDG localization will be devolved to the **Regional Committees for Monitoring the Physical and Financial Execution of Public Investment**, chaired by the Regional Delegates of MINEPAT, which will have to produce regional reports on the monitoring and review of the implementation of the SDGs. LRGs also participate in the **dialogue platform** jointly led by the MINEPAT and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System which operationalizes the SDG implementation review.⁸

The association **United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (CVUC)** participated in the 2022 VNR through its VSR (see below). CVUC reports good relations with MINEPAT, and is involved in all ad hoc consultation processes it organizes.⁹ However, according to the 2022 VSR, only a minority of LRGs were directly informed of the VNR preparation (41%).¹⁰ Nonetheless, the national government states it took the VNR process as an opportunity to strengthen SDG awareness among LRGs. Local leaders received training to better implement and monitor the SDGs at the local level.

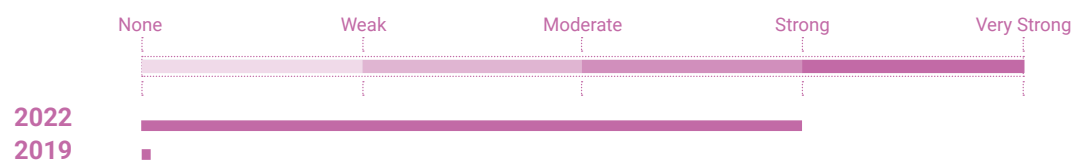
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs were consulted as part of the 2019 and 2022 VNR processes.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are not directly participating in national coordination mechanisms, but there are regional and municipal technical committees dedicated to the follow-up of SDG implementation. LRGs also participate in the dialogue platform which operationalizes the SDG implementation review.¹¹

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 2022 VNR refers to LRGs, and provides specific examples. However, these are mainly national initiatives implemented in certain municipalities/territories rather than locally-led initiatives. The report calls on LRGs to play "a more important role in driving socio-economic and cultural development at the grassroots level" now that all the institutions provided for by the decentralization laws have been completed (see VNR, 2022, p. 8). The VSR prepared by the CVUC is mentioned.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **CVUC** organized several workshops to raise awareness on the SDGs, held in parallel with national events or conferences. In 2017, together with the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), CVUC organized a national workshop on the SDGs in which it presented a report on the taking into account of the SDGs at the local level. This report shows that the national decentralization policy is 94.44% consistent with the SDGs, and 62% with their targets. In 2019, CVUC developed guidelines on SDGs and local planning.

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

8. According to the CVUC, November 2021.

9. According to the CVUC, November 2021.

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

► **Yaounde 6** has been engaged in disaster risk reduction at the local level since 2013 and has shifted from a sectoral vision to a global and integrated vision of its development, with a plan covering the period 2019-2030.¹²

► In the municipality of **Mayo-Baleo**, a Centre for the Promotion of Women and the Family has been built to train women, girls and young people in running small businesses and to offer them a range of other courses (languages, sewing, computer courses, catering, etc.).¹³

► In the municipality of **Kribi**, the actions implemented focus on wellbeing and sanitation, through the development of playgrounds and the organization of cultural events, and the systematization of household waste collection, treatment and recycling of waste.¹⁴

► The municipality of **Tibati** focuses on health and education with actions including the provision of health personnel, and the recruitment and management of teaching staff.¹⁵

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

Yaounde published a VLR in 2020.¹⁶ **CVUC** published in 2022 the first VSR in the country.¹⁷ The analysis shows that most of the actions included in the local plans touch on one of the SDGs. It leads to five recommendations to improve SDG localization, including increased involvement of LRGs in the VNR preparation, increased support from the national government and development partners, and increased financial resources.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To improve financing for the implementation of the SDGs, Cameroon wishes to rely more on development aid, the mobilization of resources from the national and international private sector, and public-private partnerships. According to the General Code of the Regional and Local Authorities, the national government plans to raise the proportion of resources transferred to LRGs to at least 15% of its budget to increase their financial resources and have a significant impact on the implementation of the SDGs.¹⁸

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Cameroon, decentralization has been enshrined in law since 1996. The **decentralization** process has accelerated in recent years. The **Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)** was created in 2018. In 2019, the General Code of Decentralized Local Governments established the general framework for decentralization (free administration and functional autonomy of local governments). The government adopted the National Development Strategy 2030 whose fourth pillar relies on decentralization as a means to reach its goals. The implementation of decentralization should take a significant step forward with the decision of the public authorities to devote more financial resources to the functioning of the regional councils during the year 2022. Six decrees signed in December 2021 by the President of the Republic, relating to the organization of the regional administration and the methods of exercising certain powers transferred to the regions, provide regional governments more capacities for development. The transfer of competencies concerns in particular urban planning and housing, participation in the organization and management of interurban public transport, tourism and leisure activities as well as environmental protection.¹⁹

Since 2014 the country has been facing repeated attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram in the northern part, to the influx of Central African refugees to the east and since 2017 to an internal crisis in the regions of Northwest and Southwest. All of these factors that affect internal resource mobilization capacities negatively influence the achievement of the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2012, the adoption of a law on the Electoral Code of Cameroon made the consideration of gender a legal requirement in the constitution of all candidate lists for municipal, legislative, regional and senatorial elections.²⁰ In 2022, Cameroon has 9.36% of women mayors and 33.8% of women deputy mayors. No woman is president of a region.

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

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

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

15. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

16. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/yaounde_2020.pdf

17. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

18. However, transfers to LRGs have stagnated at 7.2% of the national budget in 2021 and 2022. The financial resources available for LRGs remain insufficient to guarantee the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cameroon_2022EN.pdf

19. However, the funds allocated to the functioning of the regions represent barely 7.2% of the general state budget in accordance with the 2022 finance law which amounts to nearly 5,700 billion FCFA (nearly 10 billion dollars). This envelope dedicated to the implementation of decentralization is far below the 30% of the total state budget desired by the regions and municipalities.

See: <https://www.financialafrik.com/2021/12/30/cameroon-letat-consacre-des-moyens-supplementaires-pour-impulser-la-decentralisation/>

20. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

The central government supported the crucial role of municipalities and urban communities in the fight against COVID-19 through the National Social Security Fund with forms of support including fiscal flexibilization and debt relief.²¹

4. SDG INDICATORS²²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		24.5 (2020)
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 (%)		33.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		43.6 (2009, Yaounde)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		65.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		37.9 (2019)

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

22. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/cmr>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cape Verde is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure made of 22 municipalities.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

Early on, consultations were organized on MDGs and SDGs to build consensus on SDGs' integration in the national post-2015 development agenda. The **Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (PEDS)** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the 2063 Africa Agenda and the SAMOA Pathways.³ The Government Plan, the Sector Plans and the budget are also aligned with the SDGs. The national government of Cape Verde also developed and started to implement a **National Policy for Territorial Planning and Urban Development**, in the light of the New Urban Agenda (2016-2036).

Taking into account the end of the PEDS in 2020, the government organized a broad debate ("Cape Verde: Ambition 2030 – Strategic Agenda for Sustainable Development") with many stakeholders. It will be the main reference document for the next **Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development 2022-2026** and 2027-2031. An SDG Roadmap was approved by the government at the end of 2019.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for monitoring the integration of the International Development Agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, into national planning. As the national focal point for SDGs, the **National Planning Directorate** under the Ministry of Finance is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is supported by an **interagency Working Group** composed of representatives from key Ministries, public agencies, regulating agencies, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR process was coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. A Drafting Group was constituted with representatives from some sectors relevant to the process, the National Statistics Institute, local governments, some United Nations agencies, private sector and civil society. The 2021 VNR was also coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and carried out by a Working Group led by the **National Planning Directorate (DNP)**, through the **Directorate of the Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service**, which is in permanent articulation with the National Statistics Institute (INE). Several presentational and online workshops have been led by local authorities, civil society organization and private sector in different municipalities and islands, to ensure a whole-of-society engagement.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Institute of Statistics (INE)** takes on the production of data for monitoring the PEDS and the SDGs. The 2018 VNR recognized that the establishment and reinforcement of post-2015 SDGs monitoring mechanisms and capacities were still challenges for the country. Statistics were acknowledged as crucial to the leave no one behind approach. The 2021 VNR acknowledges that there is a lack of indicators for measuring the goals, impact and progress of the SDGs, disaggregated by municipality.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19580Cabo_Verde_VNR_SDG_Cabo_Verde_2018_ING_fi_280618.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282392021_VNR_Report_Cabo_Verde.pdf (2021)

3. The PEDS 2017-2021 was developed following a participatory approach, and along with central public administration and local governments, it included the involvement of various national entities and institutions, including civil society and private sector organizations, and Cabo Verde's development partners.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments participated in the elaboration of the PEDS 2017-2021. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the **Territorial Consultation Council** integrates representation of the municipalities.⁴ Its essential function is to stimulate institutional cooperation between the central administration and LRGs, in line with the objectives of the PEDS and the 2030 Agenda.

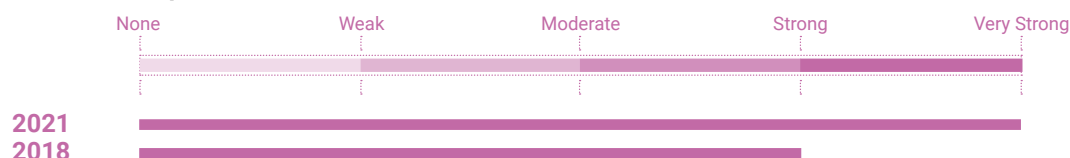
As the SDGs are an approach and a tool of recent application in Cape Verde, their implementation was preceded by activities to raise awareness and capacitate local elected representatives, municipal technicians and leaders of CSOs, organized by the national government with technical assistance from UN-Cape Verde.

To localize the SDGs at the municipal level, a **Platform Program** was implemented by the central government. It aims at the creation of **Municipal Platforms** to review existing local and regional plans in order to identify the main needs, priorities, gaps and inter-sectoral links of the territory and their relationship with the SDGs and the national priorities. The Platforms bring together all the actors to assist the municipalities in the process of preparing the **Municipal Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development (PEMDS)**. Currently, 20 of the 22 municipalities have prepared and approved their PEMDS. Some municipalities went further by creating and/or strengthening Sustainable Development Technical Offices.⁵

Along with other stakeholders, LRGs participated in meetings organized during the 2018 VNR process and were represented in the drafting group. In 2021, the national government decided to give greater visibility to the localization of the SDGs in the VNR. As a result, the **National Association of Cape Verdean Municipalities (ANMCV)** has been part of the Writing Group of the VNR.

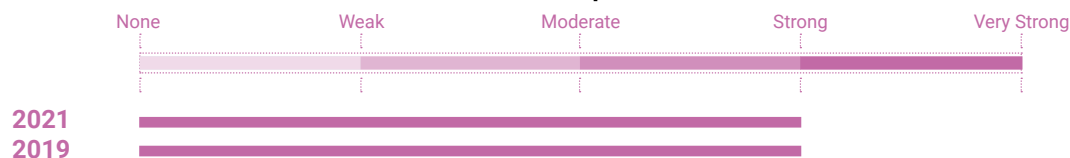
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The ANMCV has presented a contribution to the national report, and was part of the Writing Group (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs participated in the elaboration of the PEDS 2017-2021. The Platform Program is specifically dedicated to mainstreaming the SDGs in the municipal strategic plans for sustainable development (PEMDS).

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 was a subsection of the 2018 VNR on the integration of the SDGs in the coordination frameworks, dedicated to the local level (see VNR, 2018, p. 26-27). The report highlighted the fact that the **regionalization of the PEDS** had as its main objective to support the decision to valorise the potential of each region and to correct regional asymmetries. In the 2021 VNR, there is a subsection entitled "Best Practice: Cabo Verde - Pioneering country in the localization of the SDGs" (see VNR, 2021, p. 38) that summarizes the Platforms program and other national initiatives for SDG implementation at the local level. The VSR prepared in 2021 (and the ANMCV) is also mentioned in a specific paragraph in the section on the report's methodology (although the VSR is presented as a "VLR").

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipality of **Praia**, the capital of the country, was mentioned a few times throughout the 2018 report. Municipalities

4. Political leadership is ensured by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, with the operationalization, articulation and coordination with all partners for the implementation of the PEDS being the responsibility of the National Planning Directorate.

5. In most cases, these are headed by former Focal Points of the Municipal Platforms Program. Many of the former Focal Points were elected Councilors in the municipal elections of October 2020 and became responsible for the sustainable development of municipalities, thus ensuring the continuity and capitalization of the experience developed, from 2017 to 2020.

in general were referred to, but without mentions to specific projects or initiatives they led.

► In the context of an ongoing project on SDG localization, conducted in partnership with UNDP, the **National Association of Municipalities in Cape Verde (ANMCV)** has organized several training sessions in eight pilot municipalities, to support the creation of thematic committees for local development platforms and the SDGs. Each platform will put together a Strategic Municipal Plan for Sustainable Development for the 2017-2030 period.⁶

► The municipality of **São Miguel**, one of the poorest in the country, is implementing the “Socio-economic inclusion and development of São Miguel families” project, focused on the SDGs 5 and 8. The objective is to provide a group of 9 women farmers, heads of households, with access to resources that would ensure their inclusion in the production chain of horticultural products for the national hotel sector, making agriculture a financially profitable and economically sustainable activity.⁷

► The municipality of **Maio** is implementing the “More Health, More Life” (Mais Saúde, Mais Vida) project, contributing to SDG 3. It aims at improving the living conditions of the neediest families by expanding the water supply and improving basic sanitation.⁸

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

The VSR published in 2021 by the **National Association of Municipalities in Cape Verde (ANMCV)** acknowledges the crucial role of municipalities as the main actors and leaders in the process of localizing the SDGs through the Municipal Platforms.⁹ The report presents several successful experiences that have contributed to the process, such as: the **Municipal Program for Sustainable Development Platforms**, to accompany the implementation of the PEMDS in 9 municipalities; the **Requalification, Rehabilitation and Accessibility Program** launched by the government and implemented by the municipalities through “program contracts”. It is observed that there is a difference in the prioritized SDGs between the two programs, which denotes a difficulty in integrating these National Programs in the Municipal Development Plans, creating a dichotomy between the projects executed with resources from the municipal budgets and those executed with municipal extra-budgetary resources through Program Contracts covering the same territory. Moreover, in order to facilitate the connection of the SDGs to the realities of the local communities, it is recommended to elaborate Community Sustainable Development Plans (PCDS), under the motto of “not leaving any community (Neighborhoods and Towns) behind”, integrating it in the “bottom-up” land planning process within each municipality.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the existence of PEMDS, the centralization of the main public policy instruments is still accentuated. One of the consequences of this is the strong financial dependence of the municipalities on the central administration. This dependence is also the result of an international, bilateral and multilateral public financing system, heavily concentrated in the national government. Local governments have few possibilities of direct access to international public financing sources. The financial weakness of the municipalities and the low level of local economic development are the main obstacles to the implementation of the SDGs, as well as the insufficiency of qualified human resources.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Leadership and political participation of women were promoted by the Second National Plan for Gender Equality 2015-2018. The 2021 VNR states that Cape Verde made remarkable progress in the area of gender equality, with full achievement of gender parity in political decision-making bodies, with the implementation of the parity law.

3.2 COVID 19

As a result of the pandemic, in 2020, there were 536,080 fewer tourists and 60.4% fewer overnight stays. Tourism revenues may be reduced by 61.6%, making the country fall back to the level of 11 years ago. Overall, Cape Verde experiences its deepest economic recession since the date of its independence in 1975, aggravated by climate vulnerabilities and the deepening of inequalities and poverty. The existing social vulnerabilities are amplified, therefore health, economic and social emergency are the budget priorities, with the support of the international community specially on the implementation of the National Plan for Response, Recovery and Promotion of the Economy. Cape Verde reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development through the **COVID-19 Post Pandemic Economy Promotion Plan in Cape Verde 2030 Ambition for Sustainable Agenda**.

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/cape_verde_2021.pdf

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		41.8 (2020)
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 (%)		70.6 (2012, Praia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		62.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2021)

¹⁰. 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/cpv>

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Central African Republic (CAR) is a unitary country with a two-tiered subnational structure. Based on the 2016 Constitution, the country is divided into 7 regions and 174 municipalities. **No local elections have been held in the last 30 years.** Municipal authorities are appointed by the central government.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).² However, due to recent conflicts in the country, some of the information provided here might no longer be accurate.

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The Central African Republic has materialized its sustainable development commitment through the **National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (RCPA 2017-2021)** and sectoral development strategies. The RCPA is the basis of all economic and social policies in the country and is aligned to the SDGs.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **National committee** was set up by the Department of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Under the coordination of the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation** and with the technical support of the UNDP, the 2019 VNR process was carried out with the involvement of different stakeholders including state institutions, which include administrative and local authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations, and development partners. Given the impact of the successive crises in the country, the preparation of this report came up against major constraints, related to the availability and collection of data since the archives of administrations and databases were destroyed, and the organization of the various surveys was prevented.

1.3 MONITORING

Creating a centralized **SDG database** accessible to all stakeholders at the level of the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation** is one of the recommendations put forward by the 2019 VNR, as well as strengthening the capacities of sectoral ministries in the collection and processing of data related to the SDGs. The SDG monitoring and evaluation framework should be based on the RCPA's national monitoring mechanism.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2019 VNR states that LRGs participated in the reporting process through consultations. There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. The Central African Republic is in the process of

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

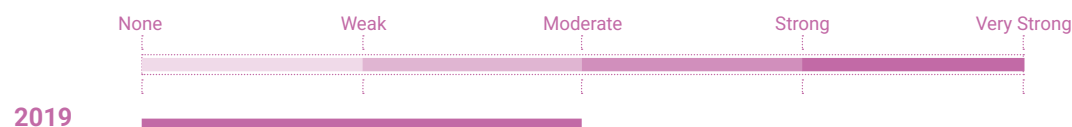
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23414RAPPORT_VOLONTAIRE_DE_SUIVI_ODD_RCA_FINAL_SIGNATURE_MINISTRE_003.pdf (2019)

3. 37% of the SDG targets are in line with the RCPA. More specifically, they have been prioritized given the specificity of the country. The targets of SDGs 4, 8 and 16 are fully taken into account in the RCPA, with 71.42%, 70% and 80% respectively.

adopting a code of local authorities to organize the administration of the territory within the framework of local development.⁴ Reducing regional imbalance and operationalizing decentralization are presented in the VNR as part of the objectives of the national authorities.

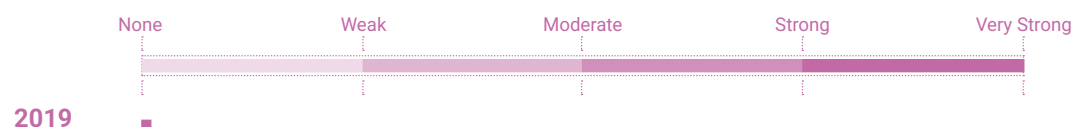
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: A representative from the municipality of Bangui reported its participation in the 2019 VNR (GTF Survey 2019). The VNR indeed refers to the participation of LRGs in the reporting process (consultations).

► 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

There is very little reference to local governments throughout the 2019 VNR,⁵ and no specific example of locally-led initiatives related to the SDGs. Regions are a lot more mentioned than municipalities.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) supports the **Association for Central African Mayors (AMCA)** for different capacity building initiatives targeting specific cities (such as **Bangui**, **Bambari** and **Bangassou**).⁶

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to the development aid received by international development partners, the 2019 VNR specifies that aligning funding with national development priorities, in particular the targets of the SDGs selected, makes it possible to establish public policies favorable to the most disadvantaged, empowering women and expanding the possibilities for individuals to lead the lives they want. Yet, internal resource mobilization capacity still remains weak.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Central African Republic has experienced a series of coups during its history which has led to changes in political regimes. The military and political crises that have become recurrent over the past three decades have created instability, leading to the breakdown of state institutions. The country is marked by repeated abuses by armed groups and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and by the persistence of conflicts in neighboring countries. The country is also one of the poorest in the world.

The issue of growing insecurity is a major constraint on SDG localization in the Central African Republic.⁷ The 2019 VNR stresses the need to strengthen the presence of the state throughout the territory by implementing the law on local government

4. This law will provide for a new spatial configuration with the establishment of seven administrative regions. The new spatial configuration will be clearly defined through a participatory and inclusive approach. Draft texts for better planning and the correction of territorial disparities will be prepared and sent to the authorities for adoption.

5. For instance, there is only one sentence on local authorities as part of the presentation of the progress towards SDG 17 (partnerships). See VNR, 2019, p. 40.

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

7. Answer of the city of Bangui to the GTF Survey in 2019.

bodies, ensuring access to basic services, and creating regional development poles to facilitate and promote decentralization. It includes among its recommendations the operationalization of the Code of local governments and administrative districts.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2019 VNR acknowledges that women in general remain poorly represented at all levels even though a few women occupy important positions of responsibility such as the Presidency of the Constitutional Court, the Presidency of the Electoral Commission and the Vice-Presidency of the High Authority in charge of Good Governance. Therefore, “women's leadership in politics and decision-making remains a major concern”. There are no details regarding their participation in local politics.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

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	12 (2020)
	Rural	2 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	24 (2020)
	Rural	6 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		95.4 (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)		43.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

8. 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/caf>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Chad is a unitary country comprising 377 municipalities. The first local elections were organized in 2012. The second elections were scheduled for 2019 but have been postponed until April 2022. In 2012, the mayors of only 42 municipalities were elected, while the rest of the heads were appointed by the executive, much like in the departments subject to prefects and the provinces administered by governors. Recent changes in territorial organization have been a consequence of two new ordinances in 2019. Only 271 municipalities currently exercise their responsibilities as local self-governments.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 government has developed the “**Vision 2030, the Chad we want**”, divided into **three national development plans** (NDP). The first, covering the period **2017-2021**, is 70% aligned with the SDGs.³ In the short term, the objective is to ensure the integration of SDGs in the 2022-2026 NDP and its sectoral variations.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In March 2018, a **National Coordination for the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs (CNSODD)** was established by the Ministry of the Economy and Development Planning (MEPD). This coordination includes representatives of the sectoral ministries and other institutions (National Assembly, civil society, private sector, academia, UN agencies, etc.). In June 2019, it was transformed into the **General Directorate of Services for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Development Policy and International Agendas**, including a Directorate for Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Policies and Strategies and a Directorate for the coordination and follow-up of the 2030 and 2063 International Agendas. This system was reinforced by the creation in July 2019 of the **SDG Monitoring Platform** (PSODD). In addition, the National Assembly created a Special Commission to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in 2016 which was set up in 2020 as a Standing Committee.⁴

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR was prepared using a participatory approach involving all stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. It was built on the report on the African and global sustainable development agendas drawn up by Chad in 2020. An **Interministerial Technical Committee (CTI)** was set up in November 2020, taking into account multiple stakeholders (sectoral ministries, the National Assembly, the private sector, civil society, INSEED, academic and scientific research institutions and technical and financial partners).

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23405RAPPORT_NATIONAL_VOLONTAIRE_FINAL_TCHAD.pdf (2019); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28099TCHAD_ENV_2021_VERSION_FINALE_23_06_21.pdf (2021)

3. Excluding the 43 targets relating to means of implementation, the 19 targets relating to the partnership of SDG 17 which do not apply to developing countries, and the 7 targets of SDG 14 on marine resources which do not apply to landlocked countries.

4. This commission is an example of national ownership of the SDGs recognized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Stakeholders included in national coordination mechanisms:

The **private sector**, through the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Mines and Handicrafts (CCIAMA) and the Patronage, members of the SDG Monitoring Platform, is committed to the national appropriation process for the SDGs through a partnership with the national government to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) among its members. However, the CCIAMA expresses a pressing need to start awareness-raising activities on the role of the private sector in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in order to enable it to align its CSR approach with the SDGs.

As for **CSOs**, they play a significant role in the process of implementing and monitoring the SDGs. They are also represented within the SDG Monitoring Platform by the Liaison and Information Unit of Women's Associations (CELIAF), the Information and Liaison Center of Non-Governmental Organizations (CILONG), the Union of Journalists Chadians (UJT) and the Coordination of Youth Associations, who actively participate in all the reflection process and capacity building sessions organized by the MEPDCI.

In addition, **technical and financial partners** play a key role in the process of national ownership and implementation of the SDGs in Chad. They supported the realization of some national activities, in particular: (i) integration of the SDGs into national frameworks; (ii) contextualization of SDG indicators; and (iii) prioritization of SDG targets. They are represented in the SDG Monitoring Platform by UN agencies, the World Bank, ADB, the European Union Delegation and Swiss Cooperation.

1.3 MONITORING

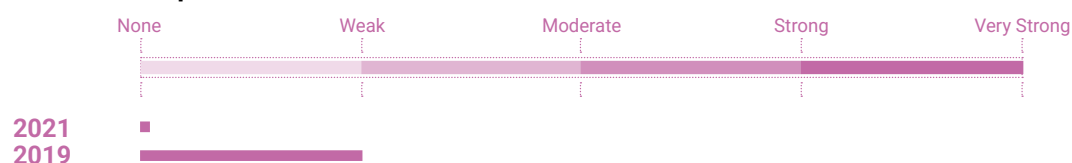
The prioritized package of SDG targets for the period 2017-2021 includes 34 SDG targets (out of 100), that is to say, a prioritization rate of 34% for an average of 40% in Africa. An SDG Indicator Monitoring Unit was created within INSEED in 2018 to develop indicator mapping and manage metadata, but its results are still weak. The **National Strategy for Statistics Development (SNDS 2021-2025)**, in the process of being adopted, proposes organizational, financial and technical measures to enhance national data collection and monitoring capacities. These measures will allow all national actors, under the technical coordination of INSEED, to play their role in the production of regular and reliable statistical data and to monitor the implementation of the PND and the main sustainable development agendas.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

To implement the SDGs at the decentralized level, there are regional or local bodies composed of **provincial action and follow-up committees (CPAS)**, **departmental action and monitoring committees (CDAS)** and **local action and monitoring committees (CLAS)**. However, according to the 2019 VNR, one year after their establishment this mechanism was still not functional. The MEPD has thus temporarily set up a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit for programs and projects, responsible for monitoring the 2017-2021 NDP. No information on the evolution of this is provided in the 2021 VNR.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2021 VNR doesn't mention any LRG participation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Provincial and local bodies were established to implement the SDGs at the local level.

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 2019 VNR briefly mentions the desire of local governments to be more involved in national coordination mechanisms for the SDGs, as well as the challenge of defining the areas of competence and responsibility of the various bodies and institutions involved at the national and local levels (with regards to food and SDG 12). It also mentions the fact that the implementation of the new decentralization scheme of the 2018 Constitution represents an opportunity for all development policies and strategies to be oriented towards the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. The 2021 VNR mentions LRGs a very few times (both at municipal and provincial level), but without further details (less than in the 2019 VNR).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To improve the financing of the SDGs, Chad has initiated a public finance reform to optimize public revenue.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2021 VNR was developed under difficult conditions, linked to the pandemic but also to the change in the political regime. Presidential elections were organized in April 2021, but the process was not successful due to the death of the President of the Republic, and a candidate was provisionally declared winner. This led to the establishment of a Transitional Military Council (CMT), the suspension of the constitution, the dissolution of the National Assembly, the government and the promulgation of the Transitional Charter. In addition, the country continues to suffer the consequences of tensions in neighboring countries and hosts a large number of refugees from Sudan, the Central African Republic and Nigeria, estimated at 500,315 people (UNHCR, April 2021). This situation, by putting pressure on available natural resources and basic goods and services, is a source of tension between populations.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Between 2012 and 2019, there were 144 women (14%) among the elected local councillors, that is to say, out of 947 municipal councillors.⁵

3.2 COVID 19

In view of the constraints linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-political unrest in the country, certain activities could not be implemented. These include the official launch of the VNR preparation process, the regular holding of ITC meetings, the carrying out of the rapid assessments planned as part of the preparation process, etc.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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	17 (2020)
	Rural	2 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	32 (2020)
	Rural	3 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		86.9 (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)		64.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. Source: Réseau de Femmes élues d'Afrique réseau du Tchad - REFELA. See: <https://www.uclga.org/tag/refela/?lang=fr>

6. 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/tcd>

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Côte d'Ivoire is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational government. The first, at the regional level, is made up of 31 regions. The second comprises 14 districts, and the third counts 201 municipalities.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

In 2015, Côte d'Ivoire set about taking the SDGs into account in its national, sectoral and local plans. Côte d'Ivoire's **National Development Plan (PND) 2021-2025** is aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning and Development** is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on an **inter-ministerial Steering Committee** and a **Multi-Stakeholder Committee** made up of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, LRGs and development partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For both VNR processes, **workshops** were organized with the private sector and development partners. Consultations were also held in districts with representatives from all tiers of subnational government, local leaders and civil society groups to collect information. A **drafting team** was established to prepare the draft version of the reports before they were presented to a broader group of stakeholders at a national workshop. A **permanent technical unit** (CTPSE-ODD) coordinated the 2022 VNR process.

1.3 MONITORING

A **permanent technical unit** (CTPSE-ODD) was set up to monitor SDG implementation. It is supervised by the Ministry of Planning and Development and works in collaboration with all stakeholders to develop indicators to measure progress. Following a prioritization exercise, 40 priority targets and 63 indicators were identified for Côte d'Ivoire. The availability of indicators and disaggregated data is one of the challenges identified by the VNRs. The country adopted in 2019 a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SNDS)** which proposes organizational, financial and technical measures to monitor the implementation of the PND and the global agendas.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Although 62% of municipalities responding to a survey disseminated by the **Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI)** in 2022 still have not formally committed to implementing the SDGs, most municipalities carry out actions closely related to the SDGs. 35% of responding LRGs have their own mechanisms and/or indicators for monitoring and evaluation and 32% have achieved between 30% and 60% of the SDGs.³

The government has organized workshops, consultations and awareness-raising missions in all regions and districts to promote the localization of the SDGs and reinforce local ownership. Consultations at the local level were held as part of the

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23327COTE_dIVOIRE_Draft_Rapport_VNR_CIV.pdf (2019); https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Cote%20dIvoire%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

3. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

PND 2021-2025 process. In 2022, a workshop was organized to promote ownership of the tools and principles for LRGs' preparation of VLRs, and regional consultations were held for the production of local reviews in the districts. Moreover, the government is seeking to provide all regions with appropriate planning instruments that integrate the SDGs.

LRGs participate in national coordination and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs. The **Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI)** and the **Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI)** take part, at a consultative level, in the **Steering Committee** for the implementation of the SDGs and in the **permanent technical unit**. LRGs are also represented by the two associations in the **Multi-Stakeholder Committee**. However, among the main challenges faced by LRGs in supporting SDG localization, UVICOCI and ARDCI mention limited coordination between the different levels of government.

Nearly 77% of municipalities responding to the UVICOCI survey in 2022 were involved in the 2022 VNR, compared to 20% in 2019.⁴ As part of the 2022 reporting process, regional consultations were held with representatives from all tiers of subnational government, local leaders and civil society groups, with the aim of preparing local reviews of SDG implementation to nurture the VNR. Furthermore, UVICOCI has been invited to participate in the validation of each stage of the drafting process and to contribute through its VSR (see below), amongst other ways, to the country's bottom-up data collection process.

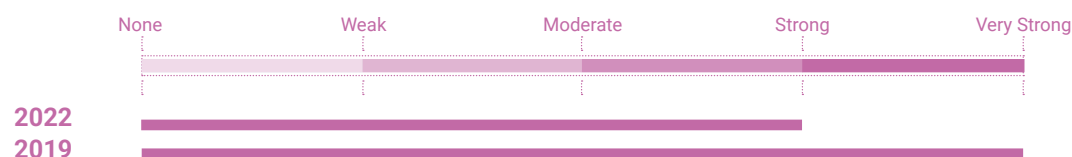
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: UVICOCI was consulted as part of the 2022 VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are involved in the Multi-Stakeholder Committee, and UVICOCI and ARDCI take part, at a consultative level, in the Steering Committee for the implementation of the SDGs and in the technical permanent unit.

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 2019 VNR, there is a brief paragraph on LRG involvement in the SDG implementation process, as part of the presentation of the SDG appropriation and institutional mechanisms in Côte d'Ivoire; both national local government associations are mentioned (see VNR, 2019, p. 17). The 2022 VNR refers to LRGs as a lever to implement the SDGs, thanks to their proximity to the inhabitants and territorial stakeholders. There is a box in the VNR on the conclusions of the regional consultations held as part of the reporting process, which includes recommendations for SDGs 4, 5, 14 and 15, based on inputs from LRGs, local leaders and communities. However, there is no information on locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation and the report takes little advantage of the VSR process conducted by UVICOCI.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Yopougon**, a suburb of Abidjan, an initiative fosters interculturalism and social cohesion. This project promotes cultural citizenship among the local youth in a post-election crisis context through participatory programmes.⁵

► The municipality of **Cocody** created a Sustainable Development Committee in 2017 to promote the participation of the populations in the implementation of the SDGs. In collaboration with the international NGO Earth Rights Institute-USA, the municipality developed the project "Cocody green city, carbon sink of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and Africa". It also funds innovative projects for the empowerment of women and youth such as modern butchers and urban agriculture.⁶

4. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

5. Although this initiative enabled the conditions for peaceful coexistence, the youth unemployment rate remains high and requires ongoing dialogue to ensure social cohesion. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

► The city of **Bouaké** is implementing the project “Bouaké Sustainable City” in partnership with the municipalities of Reutlingen and Bobo Dioulasso. Multiple stakeholders are involved in this project such as civil society, the private sector, research centers, and neighborhood committees. It promotes participatory and inclusive governance and the installation of young people in the green economy. The project includes training and awareness activities for a better consideration of the environment by the stakeholders.⁷

► The city of **Bondoukou** carries out actions in health care such as investment in biomedical equipment and advocacy for the allocation of qualified personnel in health centers. In addition, the city supports agriculture by distributing seeds and fertilizers, and addressing issues related to rural land tenure security.⁸

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

The first VSR in Côte d'Ivoire was published by the **Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI)** in 2022. The VSR stresses that municipalities still have little knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and do little awareness-raising on sustainable development, even though they carry out activities closely related to the SDGs. The report shows that the main gaps slowing SDG implementation at the local level are limited access to information and insufficient support from national governments.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Innovative financial strategies are presented in both VNRs. Côte d'Ivoire's VSR highlights that one of the challenges faced by LRGs in supporting SDG localization is insufficient financial resources: LRGs receive 2% of the national budget.⁹ Nonetheless, 26% of LRGs integrated the SDGs into their local budgets, with a concrete allocation of resources for their implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: A new **decentralization** process has been underway since 2011. The general territorial organization is being reshaped with a corresponding general framework for decentralized administration: regional and municipal councils. Decentralization of responsibilities and resources is recognized in the 2016 Constitution.¹⁰ However, the provisions of the Constitution on the concomitance of the transfer of competences and related financial resources are not effective. In 2014, two districts were recognized as decentralized subnational governments. In 2021, 12 new districts were created.¹¹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

A 2019 law in favor of women's representation in elected assemblies requires parties and political groupings to earmark a minimum of 30% of the total number of candidates presented in the elections for deputies, senators, regional councilors, district councilors, and municipal councilors for women. Today, of the 201 mayors, 11 are women and 60 are female deputy mayors; and of the 31 presidents of the regional councils, only one is a woman.¹²

3.2 COVID 19

LRGs disseminated information related to the pandemic to the population in local languages on the radio to facilitate understanding and identified the most vulnerable households in order to communicate the information to the various national aid funds.¹³ Municipalities also carried out awareness-raising activities and distributed hygiene kits and food kits to support the most vulnerable households.¹⁴

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

8. Answer of the UVICOCI to the GTF Survey in 2022.

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

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

11. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

12. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

13. Answer of the UVICOCI to the GTF Survey in 2022.

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cote_divoire_2022.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	54 (2020)
	Rural	15 (2020)
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 (%)		60.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		41.2 (2003, Abidjan)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		57.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

¹⁵ The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/civ>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a quasi-federal state. It has two levels of autonomous local governments: provinces and decentralized territorial entities. In addition to the capital city Kinshasa, the country counts 25 provinces, further divided into 36 cities and 145 territories. They are subdivided into 137 urban municipalities, 174 rural municipalities, 264 chiefdoms, 471 sectors and 5 908 neighborhoods. Among them, only cities, municipalities, sectors and chiefdoms are considered as decentralized entities, endowed with legal personality and free administration of their resources.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 15 key pillars of the DRC government's program and development policy are closely linked to the SDGs. To achieve them, the DRC follows a participatory, transparent and in-depth approach at both the national and provincial levels.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Head of Government is responsible for coordinating public actions or policies for SDG implementation. Within the Ministry of Planning, the **Congolese Observatory for Sustainable Development (OCDD)** was created in 2016 with the aim of steering the process of monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs. In 2019, the DRC adopted a unifying framework for all national, sectoral and provincial policies and strategies: the **National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD)** focused on the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The government, through the **Ministry of Planning**, organized the data collection for the 2020 VNR, while the **OCDD** was responsible for writing the 2020 VNR. All the ministries contributed to it, and consultations were organized with civil society, the private sector, technical and financial partners. The report is based on data from the National Statistics Institute (INS) and other national data producing services, as well as on data from national institutions.

1.3 MONITORING

The DRC adopted a **priority national SDG package** consisting of 100 targets and 133 indicators, to which the National Strategic Development Plan adopted by the government is aligned. In collaboration with the **National Institute of Statistics (INS)**, a process of collecting data on the priority indicators of the SDGs began in 2019. First, an inventory of statistical data sources likely to inform these indicators was carried out, to identify the missing sources and data. Then, a multi-year data collection program was set up through a household survey. Finally, the DRC has innovated by organizing a population perception survey on the SDGs, leading to the estimate of a Perception Index for Sustainable Development (IPDD). Nevertheless, the National Institute of Statistics is only present in 11 out of 26 provinces, and the lack of coordination and supervision of the various data collection structures (public and private), as well as the lack of state commitment, represent obstacles to the reporting process.

1. In 2013, 72 urban areas acquired the status of city, and 499 new municipalities were created. However, the operationalization of the measure is not yet fully effective.

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26296VNR_2020_DRC_Report_French.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The need to anchor the DRC's sustainable development goals at the local level is clearly stated throughout the 2020 VNR, as well as a desire to strengthen **decentralization**. In accordance with the Constitution and the DRC government's program, a **process of localizing the SDGs** was carried out, with the support of the UNDP, in 11 of the 26 provinces. With the objective of developing Provincial Development Plans (PDPs), this process has led provinces to define SDG targets that correspond to their own contexts and priorities. Ultimately, the goal is for each province to have a PDP aligned with the SDGs.³ Awareness-raising campaigns on the SDGs were also organized in the capitals of all provinces, with the support of the national government and technical and financial partners.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

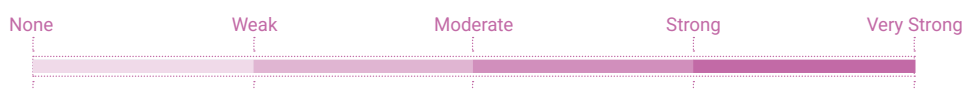
► In the VNR process



2020

Comments: There is no reference to LRGs and their associations among the actors invited to consultations during the VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2020

Comments: The national coordination follows a top-down logic. No LRGs participation is mentioned.

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 2020 VNR, in the section on policies and the environment for the implementation of the SDGs, the subsection "Ownership by stakeholders" of the 2030 Agenda takes local governments into account. Overall, among the different types of local governments, the 2020 VNR only refers to the provinces.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

At the national level, financial difficulties are highlighted as an obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2020 VNR highlights the need of local and regional governments for technical and financial support to achieve their objectives in terms of sustainable development.

³ 5 provinces have aligned their PDP with the SDGs: Kasai-central, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. The project was set to expand to the remaining provinces in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted this schedule. In addition, other difficulties have arisen in the case of provinces with a PDP, which do not always put it into practice.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Highlighting the difficulties encountered (finances, statistics, etc.), the 2020 VNR acknowledges the challenges and main points of vigilance for the country to implement the SDGs. The conclusion of the report gives several recommendations for the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda, the programmatic framework, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, reforms and public policies, financing and resource mobilization.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR mentions the advances and challenges in terms of women's access to decision-making bodies. DRC has a law on women's rights and parity which promotes equitable representation between men and women in national, provincial and local institutions. The co-option of women among customary authorities in Provincial Assemblies has also been introduced into the legislative framework since 2017. But this law requires a proactive approach in its application to guarantee the expected progress.

3.2 COVID 19

The government has set up an emergency multi-sectoral program to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 (PMUAIC-19) in order to preserve the country's progress towards sustainable development. Concerning the local level, the 2020 VNR only refers to isolation and quarantine measures taken by some provinces, without further details.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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	40 (2020)
	Rural	1 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	15 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		77.5 (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)		42.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/cod>

DJIBOUTI

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Djibouti is a unitary country, whose local authorities are composed of 5 regions and 3 municipalities that make up the capital city, which has a specific status at the regional level. They are administered freely by elected councils.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

There is no national institutional framework for the coordination of SDG implementation, since the long-term development strategy “Vision Djibouti 2035” was elaborated and adopted before the 2030 Agenda. Nonetheless, the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs were integrated during the implementation and monitoring of the Vision and its five-year development plan “Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion 2015-2019” (SCAPE). 81% of the SDG targets correspond to the priority actions of SCAPE 2015-2019. Moreover, the new national development plan “**Djibouti ICI**” 2020-2024 is aligned with SDG targets and indicator (“ICI” stands for Inclusion, Connectivity, and Institutions). The priorities and objectives of this plan are more than 80% aligned with the operational targets of the SDGs. The national biodiversity strategy and action programme (SPANB) 2017 also contribute very strongly to the challenges related to the SDGs.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on the mechanisms implemented for “Vision Djibouti 2035”. Coordination relies on three governance bodies: a **Higher Planning Council** chaired by the President of the Republic, a **national Steering Committee** chaired by the Prime Minister, and a **national monitoring and evaluation Commission** chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance in charge of Industry (MEFI). In May 2021, a new **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)** was created to implement the government's environmental and sustainable development policy and to coordinate national environmental protection programmes.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)** led the elaboration of the 2022 VNR. It set up a **steering committee** to manage and coordinate the VNR process, consisting of the general secretaries of the ministries concerned with the five SDGs reviewed at the 2022 edition of the HLPF. A **technical committee** was in charge of the preparation and execution of the different activities and included, among others, a local councilor from the Djibouti City Council and a regional elected representative per region. Consultations were held to gather the views of local authorities, civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians.

1.3 MONITORING

The monitoring of progress made towards the 2030 Agenda was integrated during the implementation and monitoring of Vision Djibouti 2035 and its five-year development plan for the period 2015-2019. The **Minister of Economy and Finances** is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Vision and its action plans. A mid-term review was carried out in 2017, to measure progress to assess achievements in relation to the commitments made by Djibouti for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and as part of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The 2017 Djibouti household survey (EDAM4) conducted by the Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD) should provide data on consumption and living conditions of households for better monitoring of progress in achieving the SDGs. The EDAM4 integrates several themes related to the SDG targets.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

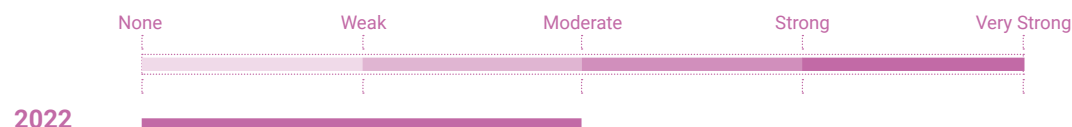
3. The VNR finally mentions the need for a regulatory text to put in place an institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each actor.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the definition of national strategies for SDG implementation in Djibouti, nor of any LRG participation in the corresponding national coordination mechanisms. LRGs' involvement in the VNR process was rather limited, even though they were represented in the technical committee. They took part in a consultation and five awareness and consultation workshops were held in the capital and in the interior regions.

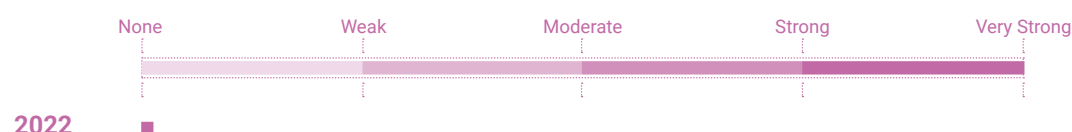
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs took part in the VNR process through a consultation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms.

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 VNR, mentions of LRGs are scarce.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing for sustainable development will be provided through an **integrated national financing framework (INFF)** enabling better management of public finances and improving the catalytic impact of official development assistance in mobilizing resources for sustainable development. There is no information on means of implementation for the SDGs at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: At war in the 1990s, Djibouti only returned to peace after two peace agreements in the early 2000s. The presidential elections that followed marked the return to normal constitutional order, and **decentralization** was imposed as a way out of the crisis. However, until 2006, the national government appointed regional governors and district administrators. In 2006, the first regional elections were held and the resulting assemblies were given a six-year term. The organization of the first regional and municipal elections thus inaugurated a new form of governance, centered on the local level.⁴ The last regional and municipal elections took place in March 2022. In 5 regions out of 6, only one list would compete, that of the presidential majority. Nevertheless, these elections are considered of particular importance in view of the promised decentralization process.⁵ Overall, LRGs' capacities and resources remain limited.

4. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2013, "L'environnement institutionnel des collectivités locales en Afrique", <https://www.uclga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/L%E2%80%99environnement-institutionnel-des-collectivit%C3%A9s-locales-en-Afrique.pdf>
5. See: <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1329398/politique/djibouti-les-elections-locales-laboratoire-de-la-decentralisation/>

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

There are quotas for women to be respected for the eligibility of the lists in local elections, and the requirement for the presence of at least one woman in the local leadership, although this quota remains below 30%.⁶ The proportion of seats held by women in the legislative bodies of local authorities has increased from 10% in 2006 to 31% in 2022. The capital city of Djibouti elects more women compared to the country's national average.⁷

3.2 COVID 19

The government has set up an emergency and solidarity fund and a national solidarity pact in 2020 to support vulnerable social groups and affected socio-professional categories, to support businesses and to enable economic recovery. There is no information on LRG involvement in national responses to COVID-19.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		28.9 (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	42 (2020)
	Rural	21 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		64.5 (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)		38.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

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

EGYPT

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Egypt is a unitary republic, with a two-tiered subnational structure made of 462 local governments at the intermediate level, and 220 at the municipal level. Local councils/assemblies are elected, but the executives (governorates, presidents) are not.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

As Egypt's first-ever sustainable development strategy, the national strategy, "**Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030**" (SDS) was launched in 2016. It is the national framework that guides and sets policies and programs in order to achieve the SDGs, as well as other national objectives.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The launch of the national strategy for 2030 was followed by the establishment of a national committee, the **National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the SDGs**. It falls under the remit of the prime minister's office and is composed of representatives of 17 ministries and state entities. Furthermore, sustainable development units and working groups in different ministries were established and assigned to act as the focal points for developing and implementing sustainable development plans and strategies within their own entities. The whole coordination and monitoring process is led by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was led by the then Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform. Members of the national committee and the focal points in the different ministries and governmental entities all contributed to the reporting process. The 2021 VNR elaboration process was led by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development**. The process involved a series of consultations with government entities, private sector and civil society representatives as well as development partners. Multiple virtual meetings with the committee's members, in addition to the sustainable development units previously established in the different government entities, facilitated the consultations which were an essential resource for reviewing the SDGs and their indicators.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)**, as a member of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), plays a pivotal role in the monitoring process of the SDGs and the Sustainable Development Strategy through its sustainable development unit. The 2018 VNR acknowledges that measurements at the national level do not reflect regional development disparities in SDG implementation. A project aimed at collecting data at the municipal level by actively engaging LRGs in the process. The 2021 report mentions the creation of the Integrated Electronic System for Planning and Monitoring. Through this system, all public projects are requested by public entities, managed and monitored by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. Additionally, this system is linking every public project with the objectives of the government plan as well as with the SGs.

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10738egypt.pdf> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20269EGY_VNR_2018_final_with_Hyperlink_9720185b45d.pdf (2018);

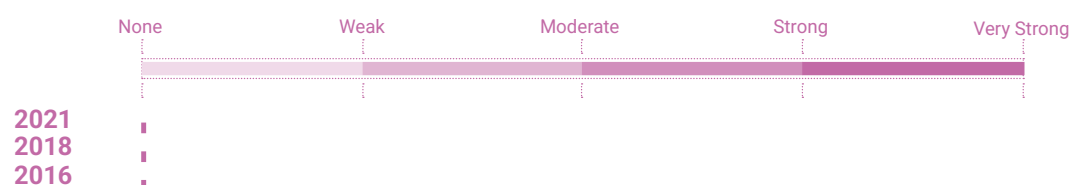
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279512021_VNR_Report_Egypt.pdf (2021)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

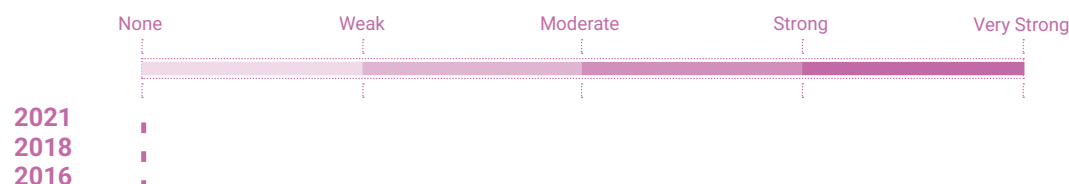
In the 2018 VNR, there was no reference to LRG participation in the reporting process, nor in the general national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. The VNR mentioned the fact that Egypt had begun to decentralize its election and planning systems, with the aim of empowering municipalities and local communities. A law on local administration and a unified planning law were then under development; the first law was expected to decentralize local councils and organize district elections, while the second would grant more power to governorates, cities and villages, allowing the governorates to draft their own strategic plans depending on their developmental needs. In 2021, the VNR states that Egypt is well aware of the importance of the local dimension and accorded significant attention to the localization of the SDGs at the governorate level to address geographic disparities. The government focused on empowering local governments and elaborating SDG localization reports for all 27 governorates.

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

In the 2018 VNR, LRGs are only mentioned regarding the lack of disaggregated data at the municipal level and the up-coming laws on decentralization. The 2021 VNR has a special subsection called "Localization of Sustainable Development" and it refers to: Governorate-Level SDGs Localization Reports;³ Governorate-Level Competitiveness Index;⁴ Governorate-level Investment Allocation Formula (GIAF).⁵

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Qalyubeya Governorate** is a local example of participatory policy co-production in the informal waste collection sector. Local informal waste pickers were central to the launch of an integrated community-based solid waste management system. The system improved the local environment, raised the living conditions of local residents, alleviated the problem of solid waste and created new jobs without affecting current ones. This innovative project was awarded the third Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation in 2016.⁶

► The city of **Aswan** has also developed a comprehensive strategy that integrates gardening and water conservation programmes in schools, as well as diverse entrepreneurial training opportunities for all groups of society.

► The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development launched the Citizen's Plan for two consecutive years (2020/2019 and 2021/2020). It aims to enhance community participation, transparency, and accountability, and ensure the citizen's right to be aware of Egypt's annual sustainable development plan. The Citizen's Plan is developed on evidence-based planning databases and performance indicators of all the development fields in the 27 governorates to bridge development gaps amongst different governorates.

3. These reports aim to provide an overview of the status of SDG implementation at the governorate level through measuring and updating the values of 32 indicators for 11 SDGs.

4. It is expected to serve as a monitor of the implementation of the SDGs and Egypt Vision 2030 at the governorate level. It will also identify and address development gaps among the governorates, and motivate them to improve their competitive performance by creating a positive environment to boost their competitiveness and directing additional resources to marginalized governorates and most vulnerable groups.

5. As a result of the implementation of the formula, the allocation of local investment per capita between governorates has exhibited a convergence trend denoting a more equitable distribution of investment.

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

► The Presidential initiative “Haya Karima” (Dignified Life) was launched in 2019 with a budget of EGP 675 million (~USD 43 million) to accelerate poverty eradication on a local level.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Public investment allocation decisions are based on the prioritization of projects that achieve sustainable development. Additionally, the transformation from a line item budget to performance-based budgeting is gradually being implemented in Egypt's state budget. The 2021 VNR presents the **Governorate-level Investment Allocation Formula (GIAF)**, a formula-based process for allocating local investment funds among the 27 governorates. It was introduced in 2018. This process is being administered by an inter-ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In terms of Finances for Development (FfD), 2020 marked the issuing of the first green bond in Egypt and in the MENA region. This not only added to the diversification of finance tools at the disposal of the GoE but also pushed the agenda of “greenifying” public projects. Additionally, the national government, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the UN, will launch in 2021 the first ever comprehensive national report on FfD to give an objective taxonomy of FfD in Egypt.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference to women participation in politics at the local level.

3.2 COVID 19

Despite the pandemic, the national government launched the second phase of the economic reform program in 2021 aiming at streamlining the structure of the Egyptian economy and raising its competitiveness. There is no reference to locally-led initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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	73 (2020)
	Rural	63 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		5.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		86.6 (2012, Cairo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		72.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		74 (2020)

7. 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/egy>

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Equatorial Guinea is a unitary republic whose single tier of subnational elected government is made of 30 municipalities. Local governments are acknowledged by the constitution, but have no local autonomy and depend on the regional administration. Although legislation shall operationalize the transfer of responsibilities to the local governments, it has not yet been adopted.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

Adopted in 2019, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development “**Equatorial Guinea Agenda 2035**” (ENDS 2035) integrates the SDGs and the Agenda 2063. The strategy includes four axes: 1) Eradication of poverty; 2) Social inclusion and sustainable peace; 3) Productivity and industrialization; and 4) Environmental sustainability.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Commission for the Coordination of the SDGs** includes the Prime Minister, representatives from all ministries, the Secretary of Planning, the Parliament, and civil society. The Commission is supported by a **Technical Secretariat** and four **working groups** that include representatives of ministries, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, and academia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2022 VNR was developed by the Technical Secretariat of the **National Commission for the Coordination of the SDGs**, chaired by the National Direction on Planning (DGP) within the National Agency for the Development of Equatorial Guinea (ANDGE), and the National Institute of Statistics (INEGE). The coordination was supported by a consultant of the NGO Data Pop Alliance. Workshops were organized for data gathering, involving representatives from public and private sectors, academia, civil society, and UN agencies. Complementary interviews were also conducted with national institutions. Nonetheless, the participation of civil society and local representatives was limited.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Statistic System** is in charge of the follow-up of the 237 indicators, 121 characterized as “very urgent”. The process of production of indicators has been initiated in 2019, through the second National Household Survey (suspended in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic and reactivated in 2022). Important efforts have been made to strengthen the national system of statistics. However, the country faces problems of updating, systematization, and disaggregation of data. Only 27.8% of indicators have adequate data.

In 2021, the National Agency for the Development of Guinea Equatorial (ANDGE) was established to ensure the follow-up and evaluation of the ENDS 2035.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

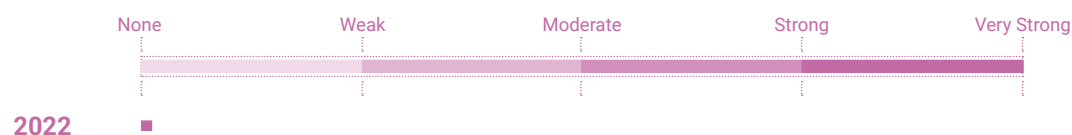
There is no evidence of SDG localization strategies nor of LRG involvement in national strategies for the SDGs.

1. It should also be noted that the Constitution does not affirm the principles of local autonomy and local election. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnational%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

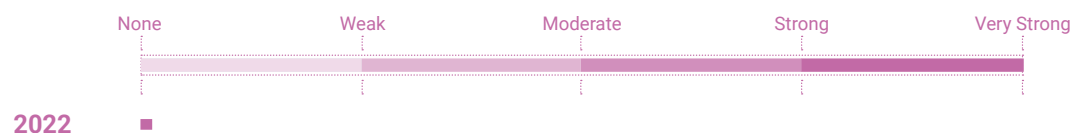
2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Equatorial%20Guinea%20Report.pdf> (2022)

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

Local governments or municipalities are only mentioned 8 times in the VNR, which highlights the need for improved institutional coordination and LRGs' potential contributions to specific initiatives (e.g. for environmental protection, fight against domestic violence). The VNR also underlines that LRGs are weakly equipped to support responses to the COVID-19 crisis (particularly in rural areas), and the necessity for training.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No initiatives from LRGs are mentioned in the 2022 VNR. Regarding urban issues, the report underlines that the national government is investing in urbanizing cities, creating new urban districts, and building social housing throughout the country.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The ministries mention a lack of resources for the implementation of the projects to achieve the SDGs. The government has supported initiatives on renewable energies and has budgeted funds for forest management and climate change adaptation. It also identified several projects to mobilize resources from international partners. For example, the National Direction for Urban Development is seeking funds for urban development plans in districts and municipalities.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country has been strongly impacted by the economic crisis of 2014, with the drop in fuel prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, which also reduced fuel prices, and the Bata explosions of March 2021. To address these challenges, the country is implementing the ENDS 2035 plan, which seeks to promote important changes to diversify its economy, modernize its infrastructure and institutions, reduce poverty, and protect its rich natural environment.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference to the local level. A multisectoral national action plan for the promotion of women and gender equity is in the process of being approved by Parliament.

3.2 COVID 19

The health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic caused setbacks in many activities outlined in the national development plan. In response, the government adopted a health emergency plan. Collaborating with the government, UN agencies supported efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by strengthening the actions of the Ministry of Health, facilitating vaccination, supporting persons in need and groups at risk, protection of jobs, and ensuring the continuity of educational services. There is no mention of local administration.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.9 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		64.9 (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)		44.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Eritrea, a former province of Ethiopia, began to elect assemblies and executives to manage villages, districts, and provinces since its independence in 1991. Between 1993 and 1997, the central state and local communities underwent a series of reorganizations. In 1996, Eritrea's territorial boundaries were restructured, and the country grew from 10 provinces to 6 semi-autonomous regions, each made up of several districts (56 in total). These zones are the only tier of subnational local government in the country, as they are administered by governors and have their own local assemblies.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

Although Eritrea has ratified international conventions for sustainable development, it has no national strategies aligned with the SDGs. Nonetheless, the 2022 VNR states that “inclusive sustainable development, in all its forms, elements, and fundamental principles, is a central element of Eritrea’s long-term national vision and policy framework”.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Eritrea has no national coordination mechanism for SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A multi-institutional **National SDG Taskforce (NST)** was created under the guidance of the Minister of Finance and National Development (MFND) for the elaboration of the VNR. Led by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the NST was composed of high-level focal points from the Ministry of Finance and National Development, Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment (MLWE), along with representatives from the Office of the United Nations System in Eritrea. Consultations were convened regularly, and they included the involvement and contributions of local authorities.

1.3 MONITORING

Two thematic working groups headed by senior experts and technical officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, and comprising members including ministries, departments, local authorities, and civil society organizations, were set up to comprehensively review and report national progress on SDGs 3 and 13.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Eritrea, LRGs participated in the VNR elaboration process through consultation. They have also been part of working groups to monitor progress on SDGs 3 and 13. There is no evidence of an SDG localization strategy in the country.

1. See: <https://localdemocracy.net/countries/africa-east/eritrea/>;

<https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Eritrea-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT.html>;

UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa” https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

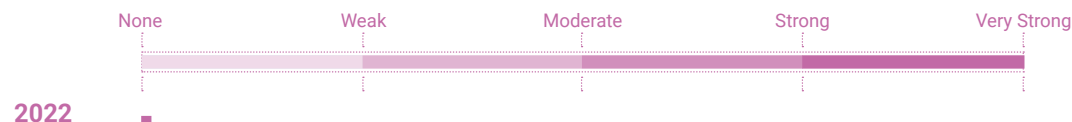
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There are a few references to LRGs in the consultation process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no national coordination mechanism 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

In the 2022 VNR, there is no specific section nor reference to LRGs' role in implementing the SDGs. There are only a few references to LRGs' involvement and no specific reference to locally-led initiatives, while the report acknowledges the need for more "robust local government structures".

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No information is available in the VNR on the financial resources or budget for the implementation of the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Although the 1997 Constitution established local governance structures, this has yet to be implemented. Local governments are only responsible for policy implementation.³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The local government law of 1996, amended in 2004, contains provisions aimed at improving the opportunity for women to participate in local government affairs. Quotas have been put in place to facilitate the representation of women in local elections; at least 30% of seats are reserved for women in local governance bodies.⁴

3.2 COVID 19

The **High-level Task Force on COVID-19** reached out to all regions of the country with structures at the sub-regional and village levels.

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

4. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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)		37 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

ESWATINI

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) is a unitary constitutional monarchy with 67 local governments at the municipal level. They are divided into 12 urban councils, and 55 rural councils.¹ The urban municipalities are acknowledged by the constitution as decentralized entities, while the rural municipalities have very limited autonomy.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The country has mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063 into its strategies and plans. The SDGs were in line with **Vision 2022** contained in the **Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 2030 (SSDIG)** and the **National Development Strategy (NDS)**, which came to an end in 2022 and is currently under review. A preliminary assessment of the performance of the **National Development Plan** adopted in 2019 has also been carried out. Eswatini is developing a new **National Development Plan 2023-2025** that will guide economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as low-emissions and climate-resilient economic transformation. In addition, the country has adhered to Sustainable Development Conventions such as the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Multistakeholder mechanisms with a more technical character are put in place.⁴ The institutional arrangement to implement SDGs involves the **SDGs Technical Working Team (SDGs TWT)** and the **SDGs Steering Committee**. The former includes representatives of government, business society, civil society organizations, academics and experts; while the latter comprises principal secretaries responsible for the overall coordination of SDGs. The **SDGs Secretariat** is under the **Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MEPD)**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of the 2022 VNR was led by the **Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MEPD)**. Within MEPD, the **SDGs Core Team**, composed of MEPD officers with a representative from the Central Statistics Office, led the process of drafting the VNR and providing technical advice, in collaboration with the **SDGs TWT**. Regional level consultations involved development practitioners in government ministries, municipalities, NGOs, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, and traditional authorities.

1.3 MONITORING

The **SDGs TWT** monitors the progress towards the SDGs at the sector level, while the **SDGs Data Matrix** was used to record performance of SDG indicators and targets. However, the 2022 VNR acknowledged several limitations such as the unavailability of timely data from periodical surveys for some SDGs indicators. Whereas some data required for reporting under the development agendas were not collected, in particular qualitative data such as perception or opinion survey.

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

2. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

3. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/24651Eswatini_VNR_Final_Report.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Eswatini%20Report.pdf> (2022)

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

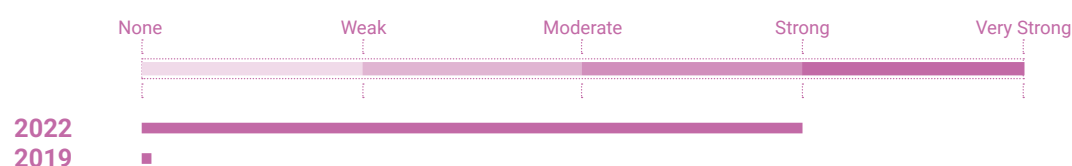
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2022 VNR acknowledges that there is limited capacity for effective implementation of the SDGs at subnational levels, while calling for greater visibility at the regional and local government levels. The report also mentions the limited integration of SDGs in regional development plans. Nonetheless, the VNR accounted for the SDG domestication process, including the development and alignment of new and existing local level policies and development plans, as well as the continuous engagement of stakeholders at the regional and local levels in reviewing progress. The domestication effort has reportedly contributed to the creation of ownership of the SDGs at the regional and local levels, despite little evidence of LRG-led initiatives in the VNR.

The **Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA)** has regularly been involved in all stages of the 2022 reporting process, although not on a regular basis.⁵

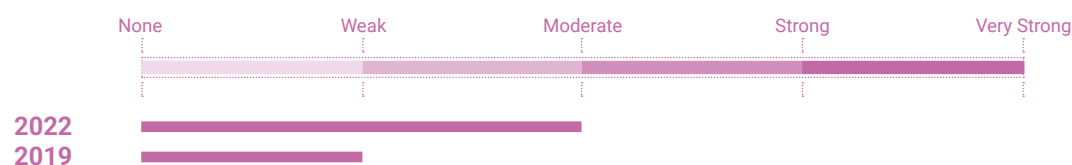
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Municipalities were involved in regional-level consultations.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No evidence of LRGs' involvement in the national multistakeholder mechanisms.

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the VNR, which has displayed the desire of the Eswatini government to strengthen SDG implementation at the local level. Moreover, a chapter is dedicated to the "Review of SDGs Implementation at Regional Level", showcasing initiatives such as the decentralization of services and budget.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan has been adopted, while the proportion of local governments that implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies increased from 23% in 2016 to 29% in 2021.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

At the national level, the fiscal challenges in the country have led to limited resources available for effective SDG implementation. The national government has provided the **Regional Development Fund** to improve infrastructure and development in general across regions. In addition, various economic empowerment funds (ie. Youth fund, Small Medium Entrepreneurs fund), which benefits all regions, can also be accessed.

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In the past decade, Eswatini has carried out local government reforms. One major policy shift in line with the 2005 constitution and the **decentralization** policy in 2006 was the incorporation of the traditional authorities or Tinkhundla into the administration, through the establishment of the **Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD)** in 2009. Key responsibilities of the MTAD include improving the capacity of regional Tinkhundla and chiefdoms to plan, implement, manage and monitor social development programs and the delivery of basic services for their constituencies. With 55 Tinkhundla that cover the length and breadth of the country, these structures bring the monarchy closer to its citizens. However, the policy reforms that have been initiated fall short of the mandate of the 2005 Constitution which calls for fully accountable and joined-up local governments, since chiefs are accountable not to their communities but to the King or Ngwenyama.⁶

In 2015, a bill was introduced to replace the 1969 Urban Government Act, which grants legal status to rural councils, but it was not passed into law. Political parties are excluded from local elections. The latest local elections were held in October 2017.⁷

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR dedicated a chapter to the “Impact of COVID-19 on the Implementation of SDGs”. The national government established emergency coordination structures, including regional and sector committees.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		14.2 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	89 (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 (%)		32.1 (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)		19.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		34.3 (2018)

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

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

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

ETHIOPIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ethiopia is a federal republic with multiple administrative tiers, including federal, regions, zones, woredas (districts), and kebeles.¹ The country comprises 11 regions, of which 2 are chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa, that have a special status similar to that of the regional states. At the municipal level, there are 928 local governments. The 1995 Constitution provides for two types of sub-regional government, while neither explicitly provides for local government nor their specific functional competencies.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Ethiopia introduced a new long-term development plan in 2021, which spans between 2021-2030, known as the **Ten-Year Development Plan (TYDP)**. The TYDP was aligned with both the 2030 Agenda and the Africa Agenda 2063 through a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation process.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD)** coordinates SDG implementation and related issues in Ethiopia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of the 2022 VNR relied on a **steering committee** and a **technical committee**. The former was composed of high-level government officials who played the oversight role; while members of the latter were experts coming from different institutions and providing technical support in terms of reviewing the report, data collection, and validation. Regional authorities, rather than municipalities, participated in the consultations for the preparation of the VNR, together with the private sector, civil society, the scientific community and academia, parliaments and other stakeholders.⁴

1.3 MONITORING

The implementation of the SDGs has been periodically monitored through quarterly, annual, and biannual reports prepared by the **MoPD**. Sector ministers and government institutions are required to report their progress using the automated **Digital Monitoring and Reporting System (DMRS)**, which computes performance scores for each institution in terms of physical and financial performance. The information is used to generate performance reports at the national level by MoPD, contributing to “SDGs awareness, capacity building, mainstreaming, and monitoring and reporting.”

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

According to the 2017 VNR, regional governments and city administrations participated in the stakeholder engagement organized prior to the integration of the SDGs into the **Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II)**. However, they are considered mere implementing agencies of the SDGs.⁵ Also, there is no evidence of any participation of district governments. Whereas in the 2022 VNR, it is briefly mentioned that regional governments are involved in consultation processes of preparing

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

2. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnl.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16437Ethiopia.pdf> (2017); https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Ethiopia%20Report_1.pdf (2022)

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

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

the TYDP. It is worth noting that the **Ethiopian Cities Association (ECA)** observes a low level of awareness and involvement in the SDG localization process. By contrast, regional governments are consulted and involved in federal sustainable development strategies.⁶

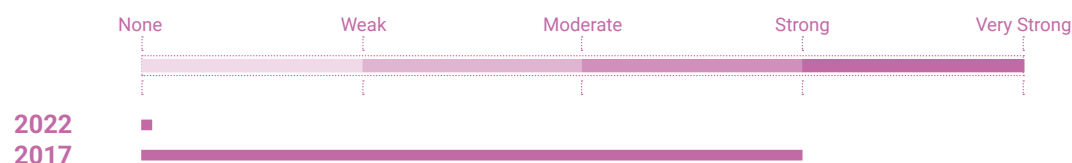
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Regional authorities participated in the consultations for the preparation of the 2022 VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Ethiopian local government association reports never having participated in the national coordination.

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

Regional states and city administrations are mentioned throughout the 2017 VNR. However, there is no reference to the majority of districts. The need for domestic multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnership (mentioning local authorities) is mentioned in the Highlights of the report. In the 2022 VNR, however, there are fewer mentions of local governments, and no substantive references are made to them.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The city of **Addis Ababa** has recently inaugurated a waste-to-energy station, which collects the heat emitted during incineration to produce energy. The waste-to-energy plant is expected to incinerate 1,400 tonnes of organic waste per day, representing about 80% of the city's waste, and to provide 100 skilled jobs in Addis Ababa.⁷

► Due to the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, around 1,215 schools were fully destroyed and 3,920 partially damaged. Regional governments have taken the responsibility of repairing and resuming partially damaged schools while the Ministry of Education is in charge of rebuilding schools that have been destroyed.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2017 VNR indicated that domestic resources pooling and utilization have been undertaken as primarily resources to ensure the implementation of the SDGs and integrate GTP II at all levels. It also mentioned an SDG financing needs study that would be conducted during the SDG implementing years (2016-2030). According to the 2022 VNR, in the 2021-2022 budget year, the government allocated ETB12 billion to SDG implementation and this budget has been distributed to the regions. Whereas the SDGs needs assessment lays out a total cost of US\$ 608 billion (from 2016-2030) for 110 key interventions necessary to meet the SDG targets.

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

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Ethiopia has been a federal country since 1991. The last phase of its decentralization process started in 2001 and deepened the transfer of powers, resources and functions beyond the regional states to local governments. However, the conflict between the national government and forces in the northern Tigray region has been going on since November 2020 and destabilizes local autonomy, in addition to affecting thousands of victims and worsening famine risk.⁸ Whereas the policy framework for climate change provides for local government participation and incorporates them into the national climate change institutional structure. The **National Adaptation Policy (NAP-ETH)** requires local governments to be responsible for the prioritization and implementation of the strategic adaptation options of their respective woreda officials; monitoring and evaluating office-level performances during the implementation of NAP-ETH; designing mechanisms and mobilizing climate finance in their respective jurisdictions; and preparing and submitting monitoring reports to their respective coordinating offices.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

As of October 2021, women hold 8 out of 22 ministerial positions at the federal level, and 33% of cabinet positions, a decline from the 50% parity in 2018. Following the 2021 general election, the number of women parliamentarians holding seats in the parliament reached 42%, up from 38.7% during the previous parliament.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference to LRG initiatives to face the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

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	39 (2020)
	Rural	5 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	16 (2020)
	Rural	4 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		64.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		38.5 (2010, Addis)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		31.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2019)

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

9. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Gabon is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 47 departments and 50 municipalities.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

Gabon has contextualized the goals of the 2030 Agenda in its **Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan 2012-2025 (PSGE)**. Through this plan, Gabonese authorities seek to "establish a new development model that integrates human well-being, social equity, sustainable growth and environmental conservation". These are 109 SDG targets that have been aligned with the 159 actions implemented by the 21 PSGE programs. Around the PSGE gravitates a set of sectoral or cyclical plans. Some could take the SDGs into account more explicitly.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on a **Joint Steering Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals** and the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development. This committee integrates all the agencies of the United Nations System in Gabon and all the strategic ministries working in the implementation of the SDGs. Gabon must reactivate the **joint government-technical and financial partners Committee** set up for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in order to better coordinate the initiatives of the diverse development actors.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economy and Recovery** coordinated the VNR elaboration process. A **technical committee** was set up composed of representatives of the United Nations System and all the administrations concerned by the implementation of the SDGs, as well as two national consultants. A workshop was organized to validate the report, in which all development stakeholders (NGOs, other development partners, constitutional institutions) took part. The preparation of the VNR was directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which did not allow for a broader consultation phase at subnational level and with the private sector and civil society organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

The **General Directorate of Statistics** produces data allowing the SDG monitoring process. Recent operations such as the 2017 Gabonese Survey for Poverty Assessment and the 2019-2022 General Agricultural Census have helped feed the process of monitoring the SDGs. Data also comes from the agencies of the United Nations System.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

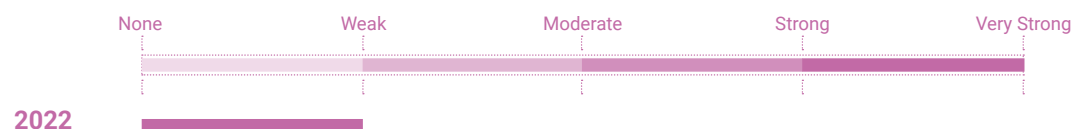
There is no evidence of LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms. LRGs were not directly involved in the VNR elaboration process, however the VNR capitalized on previous exchanges held in 2017 and 2018 with LRGs during the drafting process of local development plans. According to the VNR, in order to disseminate the SDGs at local level, Gabon will update local plans to guide the allocation of Departmental Initiative Fund resources and integrate the prioritized SDG targets.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

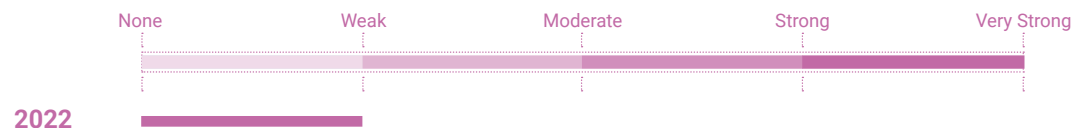
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic context, the national government decided not to extend consultations to provinces and departments for the reporting process. The VNR, however, capitalized on previous exchanges held in 2017 and 2018 with LRGs during the drafting process of local development plans.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

References to LRGs are very limited in the VNR. The VNR states that LRGs are key implementers of the SDGs through service delivery and producing disaggregated data. However, it considers local implementation to be a pending issue and local authorities are perceived as actors that need to be made aware of the steps to take to improve planning aligned to the SDGs.³

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► A structure offering medical and psychosocial support to victims of violence has been set up in **Libreville**. This is an important step that the government aims to generalize at the local level.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The financing of the implementation of the SDGs in Gabon is essentially done with its own funds (oil revenues, tax and non-tax revenues, loans, ...). Gabon also benefits from Official Development Assistance (ODA). There is no information on means of implementation for the SDGs at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 1991 Constitution of Gabon specifies that local governments are freely self-governed by elected councils. However, the process of transferring responsibilities was not initiated until 2009, and, in practice, many responsibilities still remain centralized.⁴ Highlighting the difficulties encountered (statistics, multi-stakeholder coordination, etc.), the 2022 VNR acknowledges the challenges and main points of vigilance for the country to implement the SDGs. The conclusion of the report gives several recommendations for the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda including the need for increased information at the local level.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Gabon has a law establishing quotas for the access of women and young people to political elections and for the access of women to senior positions in the government. Between 2017 and 2021, the proportion of seats held by women in city councils increased significantly (from 13% in 2017 to 22,35% in 2021), while it decreased for the presidents of departmental

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

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

councils (from 27% in 2017 to 12,5% in 2021). There is a noticeable presence of women at the level of deputy mayors and vice-presidents of the departmental councils in 2021. Although there has been an increase, there is still a low representation of women in political elections and in positions of responsibility.

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 (%)		36.6 (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)		40.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Gambia is a unitary country with three types of local government units with councils composed of elected members, including 6 area councils, the Kanifing municipal council, and the Banjul city council. The country is further divided into 43 districts (sub-municipal level administrations). While municipal councils are headed by mayors, area councils are governed by chairpersons. Both mayors and chairpersons are elected by universal adult suffrage. The most recent local elections were held in April 2018.¹ Traditional authorities are represented by the *alkalos* (village head) and chiefs (district traditional head), commonly known as *seyfolu*.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The government had included the SDGs into the **National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021** and had aligned the institutional arrangements for the SDGs and the NDP to enhance effective and efficient coordination among stakeholders. A new **Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP 2023-2027)** addressing different facets of the COVID-19 pandemic and the SDGs is also expected to be implemented in 2023.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The key institutions involved in oversight and policy coordination of SDG implementation are: the **Cabinet**, the **National Assembly**, and the **Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee**. For the technical and implementation function, the following structures have been adopted: the **National Technical Steering Committee (NTSC)**,⁴ the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) platform, the Sector Working Groups (SWG), and the Regional Technical Advisory Committees (RTACs).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **national VNR steering committee** was set up for both 2020 and 2022 VNR processes,⁵ comprising the government, the National Assembly, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, development partners, the youth, and women. In addition, a team from the **Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)** ensured the availability and validity of data presented in the 2022 VNR report, while the UN system provided both technical and financial support. The process also included internal consultations at the regional level across all local governments as well as the preparation of three VLRs (see below).

1.3 MONITORING

The 2020 VNR mentioned that there would be plans to establish an SDG coordination unit at the **Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)** for supporting disaggregated data collection, provision of quality assurance and analysis of relevant SDG indicators at both the national and subnational levels. In the 2020 VNR, The Gambia was only able to report on 52% of the SDG indicators, leading to the conduct of an SDG survey in the following year. Whereas the 2022 VNR mentions that the **Gambia Information Monitoring and Evaluation System** has been set up to monitor and report on the national development plan. The Gambia also launched a National Development Platform to facilitate online data collection and dissemination, enhancing SDG alignment

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/263072020GambiaVNR.pdf> (2020);

<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Gambia%20VNR%20Report%20%28Advance%20Copy%29.pdf> (2022).

4. The NTSC comprises all the Permanent Secretaries of the various Ministries, headed by the Secretary General and Head of civil service.

5. The National Technical Steering Committee (NTSC) is the overarching body responsible for the monitoring, coordination, and resource mobilization for the 2022 VNR.

and reporting with the National Development Plan. While the Gambia Bureau of Statistics provides leadership in the overall SDG data collection and analysis, the 2022 VNR recognizes the need to strengthen the country's National Statistical System.

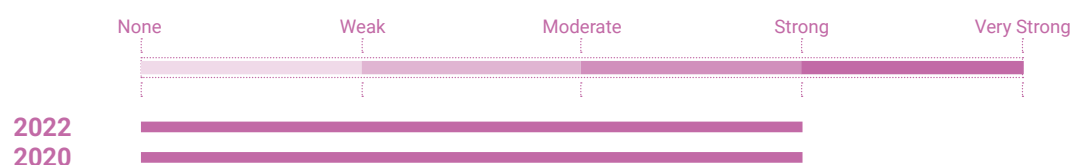
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

At the regional level, the **Regional Technical Advisory Committees** (RTACs) are supported by the Directorate of Development Planning (DDP) to ensure the technical implementation and localization of the SDGs. The 2022 VNR confirms that all local governments have formulated regional development plans that are aligned to the NDP and SDGs. In addition, the country has set up a **Planners Forum**, which brings together national and local government planners to consistently dialogue and review planning and implementation of sector policies and programmes.

Regarding the 2020 VNR process, the Team Leader of the VNR organized a comprehensive consultations with stakeholders across all local government areas. Consultations followed a qualitative approach with focus group discussions held in each of the areas. For the 2022 VNR, local level consultations targeted members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at regional level and men, women, youth, children, persons living with disability, private sector and civil society at community level. The **Gambia Association of Local Governments Authorities (GALGA)** has been appointed a member of the 2022 VNR Project Steering Committee. Finally, the government intended to conduct a post-VNR outreach and engagement aiming at enhancing the ownership of the SDGs at the local level.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Gambia Association of Local Governments Authorities (GALGA) was a member of the 2022 VNR Project Steering Committee.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There are different committees/platforms/forums implemented to ensure SDG localization at the local level.

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 no specific references or subsections dedicated to local government actions in the 2020 VNR. In the 2022 VNR, there are references in different subsections to local governments with regards to consultation and SDG localization, as well as the production of VLRs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Kanifing** Municipal Council (KMC), **Banjul** City Council (BCC) and **Brikama** Area Council (BAC) have joined forces in an organic waste management project. The initiative is financed by the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona (Spain) to the tune of 100,000 euros (nearly 6.25 million Gambian dalasis).⁶

► The Gambia has developed local and national strategies for disaster risk reduction and mainstreamed them into local plans. The country has also developed the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan 2019 – 2030 in the wake of "Building Back Better" initiative during and post disasters, taking into account the local needs and contexts.

► In **Banjul**, the first woman mayor Rohey Malick Lowe created a microfinancing scheme to help homemakers become market traders. Such measures increase women's financial independence and personal autonomy.

► The **Gambia Association of Local Governments (GALGA)** led a project named Localising SDGs: Improving the Livelihood of Vulnerable Women and Youth around the Senegambia Bridge.⁷

6. More information about this project here: <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/gambia-an-organic-waste-management-project-is-launched-in-greater-banjul/>

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

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

The national government and GALGA promoted, with the support of the United Nations, the production of three VLRs that feed into the 2022 VNR. The VLRs gave the local councils the opportunity to review their progress in localizing the SDGs.⁸

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Gambia launched the SDGs through a development forum in 2015. The national launch focused on the theme ‘the post 2015 Agenda and its financing at local level’ and provided a platform for the government to locally adopt the post-2015 agenda. In line with SDG 17, the government of The Gambia recognizes the role of development financing, technology transfer and adoption, and capacity building in the attainment of the SDGs targets. In this regard, the government is currently leveraging information technology in managing government financial accounting and reporting, revenue generations, records keeping and monitoring and evaluation, procurement, debt management, etc. The **Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)** has been fully rolled out to all sub-treasuries, embassies and local government councils. An integrated monitoring and evaluation platform is used to monitor progress of SDG implementation and e-procurement. The 2022 VNR also mentions that the government of The Gambia is planning on digitalizing the revenue collection and has initiated the processes of developing a new Payment Gateway Platform, which will interface with the core banking system of the Central Bank of The Gambia, the Gambia Revenue Authority, commercial banks and the IFMIS. Other means related to SDG implementation such as enhancing domestic borrowing and improved revenue collection mechanisms are also highlighted.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: A National Policy for Decentralization and Local Development (2015–2024) has been formulated. It will be implemented in two phases, during 2015–2019 and 2020–2024 respectively.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In The Gambia, a new draft constitution has been completed which advocates for gender balance and fair representation of women (along with youth and persons with disabilities) at decision-making levels. Although there are still several constraints in the area of gender equality, it is important to note that in 2018, a woman was first elected mayor of **Banjul**, the capital city. Two of the five governors are females, and there is one female among the eight heads of local councils. At the national level, the National SDGs Steering Committee also includes women representatives. Finally, women participated in the development of the 2020 VNR: the national VNR Taskforce set up by The Gambia included women along with other stakeholders. For the 2022 VNR, women also participated in consultation at community level.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR very clearly highlighted the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the multi-dimensional impacts of the health crisis indicated the integrated nature of sustainable development as reflected in the SDGs, the VNR highlighted the challenges ahead for the country to achieve the SDGs, since a large part of its resources have been diverted to fighting the pandemic. Finally, the report recalled the importance of partnerships to cope with the crisis. The private sector, civil society organizations and individual philanthropists were then mentioned. On the other hand, local governments are not mentioned at all in both 2020 and 2022 VNRs.

8. The three local government areas include Kuntaur Area Council, Brikama Area Council and Kanifing Municipal Council.

See: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/un-galga-and-partners-commence-vlr-exercise-in-gambia>

9. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

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	67 (2020)
	Rural	8 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	32 (2020)
	Rural	24 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		27.1 (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)		57.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ghana is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, composed of 6 metropolitan assemblies (Accra, Tema, Cape Coast, Sekondi-Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale), 117 municipal assemblies, and 138 district assemblies.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 SDGs are integrated in Ghana's development agenda as well as planning and budgeting processes. The SDGs are mainstreamed in the government's **Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024)**. The policy objectives, strategies, and result matrix of the **Medium-term National Development Frameworks (2018-2021 & 2022-2025)** are also consistent with the SDGs. In particular, the **Medium-term National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025)** has integrated the 2030 Agenda with emphasis on "emergency planning and COVID-19 recovery response". The national development blueprint, **An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2017-2024)**, also reflects the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

As stated by both 2019 and 2022 VNRs, the architecture for coordination of SDG implementation operates within the decentralized planning system of the country. It is made up of the **High-Level Ministerial Committee (HLMC)** which is responsible for providing leadership and strategic oversight of the implementation process, the **SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee (SDGs-ICC)** and a **Technical Committee (TC)**. The SDGs-ICC and TC have representatives from government, civil society and the private sector, while the UN Country Team has observer status on the HLMC. There is also a **CSOs Platform on SDGs**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR was conducted with the active participation of a wide range of state and non-state actors (parliamentarians, civil society organizations, the private sector, school children, traditional authorities and academia) at both national and subnational levels. The VNR process was coordinated by the **SDGs-ICC** under the supervision of the High Level Ministerial Committee on SDGs. A team of local experts was constituted to support data collection, analysis and drafting of background technical papers for the VNR. They comprised experts in youth issues, governance, economics, an economist, a research science, and a social science. Whereas the 2022 VNR process was similarly coordinated by the **SDGs-ICC** hosted at the **National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)**. The **Technical Committee (TC)** was reactivated to provide technical backstopping to the entire process. The 2022 VNR is the result of a consultative and participatory process involving national ministries, departments and agencies, metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies, civil society organizations (including representation of youth, women, children and persons with disabilities), the private sector, UN agencies and development partners. A total of 102 indicators were assessed in the 2022 VNR compared to 66 in 2019.

1.3 MONITORING

Both 2019 and 2022 VNRs state that access to reliable and timely data at the appropriate levels of disaggregation is a major concern across sectors and at all levels. The Statistical Service Act 2019 placed the **Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)** as the core institution for the National Statistical System and the strengthening of the production of quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information for the purpose of national development. The **GSS** conducted a review of data availability for SDG indicator production at all levels, which resulted in the creation of the **National Data Roadmap**, to be implemented through a

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/23420VNR_Report_Ghana_Final_print.pdf (2019); https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Ghana%20Report_0.pdf (2022).

multi-stakeholder advisory committee. An **online SDGs data reporting platform** was launched to make disaggregated data easily accessible.

The 2022 VNR highlights the need for strengthening monitoring systems and improving collaboration between local and international research institutions and implementers at all levels. Since the National Statistical Development Plan was implemented, statistical departments have also been established at the local level, to help improve and ensure conformity of data generated to the principles of official statistics.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Ghana has taken advantage of its decentralized planning system to ensure better coordination of the SDG implementation process: the national government decided to reinforce the regional and local coordinating councils to ensure vertical and horizontal coordination.

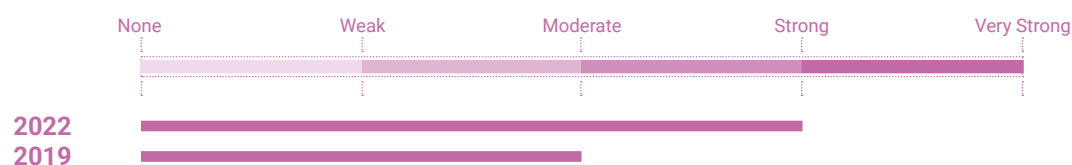
Local government assemblies are required to follow guidelines laid down by the national government and to align their medium-term development plans and activities with the SDGs. The **National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)** works with the local assemblies and the NDPC to assist such alignment in order to aid standardization and localization, as well as local reporting.³ The NALAG also supports these alignment efforts through training and awareness workshops in partnership with Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs).⁴

Regarding the VNRs, metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies in Ghana are acknowledged as key stakeholders in the reporting processes- They also submitted case studies and best practices.⁵ As part of the 2019 VNR process, a four-day campaign was carried out concurrently in the cities of Cape Coast, Kumasi and Tamale to engage with selected stakeholders and mobilize support for the implementation of the SDGs. The 2022 VNR states that the policy objectives, strategies, and result matrix of the Medium-term National Development Frameworks (2018-2021 & 2022-2025), which are consistent with the SDGs, are translated into actions by metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies. The 2022 VNR mentions the participation of metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies as key stakeholders in the reporting process; a case study template, developed to receive information on innovative interventions, was shared with them.

Renewed partnership with traditional authorities is being mobilized to strengthen local governance for sustainable development actions around specific SDGs in local communities. More recently the Kyebi Traditional Area has shown commitment towards accelerated climate action.⁶

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies are mentioned in a side note among the stakeholders involved in the 2022 VNR consultation process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs' involvement in national mechanisms is limited.

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 last item of the conclusion of the 2019 VNR concerns LRGs: "Strengthening Local Government Capacity" (see VNR, 2019, p. 93). Local assemblies are referred to throughout the 2019 report, without examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

The conclusion of the 2022 VNR states that "promoting the 'Leaving No One Behind' agenda requires strengthening the

3. In this framework, the CLGF has been undertaking a programme on achieving the SDGs through LED in Ghana to improve the capacity of four Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to align their development plans to LED and SDG targets. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

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

6. The Kyebi declaration calls for increased urgency for climate action with local communities.

research capacity, especially at the local level. This can be achieved through collaborative efforts to build the capacity of metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies, and national ministries and development agencies” (see VNR, 2022, p. 132) While there are some references to local assemblies and very few examples, most national programmes in the territories are implemented from a top-down approach. There is also no reference to the VLR of Accra.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)** undertook SDG awareness training for staff and its national executive council. It also organized nationwide SDG sensitization workshops in all ten regions in 2017 ‘to educate [its] members and the local authorities on what these targets and goals are and why it is important to carry everyone along’ and the benefits these have for District Assemblies. In collaboration with UCLG Africa and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public and Administration, NALAG organized a training of trainers’ workshop in 2019 to build the capacities of local government officers to localize the SDGs and adopt strategic planning at the local level. NALAG has also been working with the CSO Platform on SDGs and development partners such as the German Society for International Development (GIZ) and CLGF on SDG localization.⁷

► In the city of **Accra**, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) is incorporating the informal waste collectors into the contracts signed with waste collection companies, as part of its membership of the 100RC initiative. In 2017, the city commissioned a waste transfer station that serves as a transit point for waste hauled from other parts of the city by informal collectors who service communities located in poorly planned areas of the city. Because of the success of this approach, AMA is in the process of registering all informal waste collectors to regulate their operations.⁸ **Accra** has also devised programmes that help empower market women to become familiar with basic financial management, the city’s economic strategies and the processes for obtaining permits.⁹

► In **Kumasi**, a comprehensive decongestion effort of the city center is being implemented by an interdepartmental local government team together with other local governments and stakeholders such as ‘market queens’, transport unions, and the university.¹⁰

► In **Sekondi-Takoradi**, citizens have access to scorecards to assess their satisfaction with the quality of public service delivery to the poorer communities. With the support of the Open Government Partnership, the metropolitan assembly of these twin cities has made considerable progress in obtaining better sanitation, access to toilets, and street lighting (which has resulted in a reduction in nighttime crime).¹¹

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

The city of **Accra** published a VLR in 2020.¹² However, it is not mentioned in the 2022 VNR.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The national budget has been aligned with the SDGs, with budget codes linked to at least one SDGs target. To raise adequate resources to finance the SDGs and to ensure that each of the goals is adequately funded, Ghana has adopted the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** as the main framework for mobilization of resources. Ghana’s Budget has been aligned with the SDGs, with budget codes linked to one or more of the SDGs targets. The **Ministry of Finance** has developed a tool that helps track government allocations and expenditure on each SDG target. The allocations provide a measure of the government’s actual commitment to the goals, while information on actual spending shows whether the government has followed through on the planned budget expenditure. Also, a **Green Fund** has been created to support the scaling up of interventions in the renewable energy sector, and, most especially, transitioning towards widespread use of solar power.

According to the 2022 VNR, annual allocation and expenditure aligned to SDGs allows for tracking of financing through SDG budgeting reports, enabling the government, private sector, partners, civil society organization and traditional authorities to better engage on funding for the implementation of the SDGs. It is also mentioned that Ghana’s fiscal **decentralization** drive and the changing development finance landscape informed the decision to adopt a bottom-up approach. In addition, diaspora funds, SDGs Investor Maps and SDGs Investment Fair, integrated national financing frameworks, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement are also opportunities of innovative financing (see VNR, 2022, p. 129).

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

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

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/accra_2020.pdf

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

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

12. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/accra_2020.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Regarding the decentralization process, local governments and decentralization are explicitly mentioned in Article 240/1 and Article 241/3 of the current 1992 Constitution. The **Decentralization Policy Framework II (2015-2019)** and **National Decentralization Action Plan (2015- 2019)** were launched in 2015 and 2016 respectively, while the Local Government Bill consolidated the legal provisions. In 2017, a tentative proposal to introduce direct universal suffrage for the election of local executives was abandoned. The last local assemblies' elections were held in 2019.¹³ The district chief executive, as well as 30% of municipal council members are appointed by the central government following consultation with local primary actors.¹⁴

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

According to the 2019 VNR, the proportion of women appointed as chief executives of local governments increased from 10.3% in 2016 to 14.8% in 2018. The proportion of women elected as members of local governments declined from 11% in 2009 to 5% in 2017. As a total of 30% of municipal council members are appointed by the central government, legislation stipulates that half of the appointed members of local assemblies must be women, and 30% of the representatives of traditional authorities must be women as well.¹⁵ However, there is no reference in the 2022 VNR.

3.2 COVID 19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ghana has explicitly integrated a new development pillar to the three pillars of sustainable development, on emergency planning and response, aimed at building resilience to withstand different types of shocks, including COVID-19. The medium-term National Development Framework emphasizes "emergency planning and COVID-19 recovery response".

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		3.8 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	60 (2020)
	Rural	16 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	12 (2020)
	Rural	15 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		30.4 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		58.8 (2015, Accra)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		54.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		1.1 (2020)

13. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

15. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Guinea is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government, comprising 8 regions (including the special Region of Conakry), and 342 municipalities.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

After the end of the Ebola epidemic, Guinea adopted the **Vision of an Emerging Guinea by 2040** and built, on this basis, the **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) 2016-2020**, which is aligned with the SDGs, as an instrument for the five-year implementation of the said vision.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Guinean government has set up an **Institutional Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (DISE)**, whose mission is to formalize and facilitate dialogue with all stakeholders, on the performance of development actions included in the PNDES and also to serve as a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the SDGs. It comprises a Consultation and Coordination Framework (CCC), a **Technical Monitoring Committee (CTS)** under the responsibility of the **Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation** and supported by eight **Thematic Dialogue Groups (GTD)** made up of officials from key ministries and technical and financial partners, and finally, the Strategy and Development Offices of the ministries and regional Monitoring and Evaluation Units (see below). To ensure SDG ownership and facilitate monitoring, **Strategy and Development Offices (BSD)** exist at the level of the ministries.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **Technical Secretariat** has been set up to prepare the 2018 VNR, comprising representatives of the Ministries in charge of Planning and Cooperation. This committee was supported by representatives of the United Nations system as well as by the recruitment of two consultants.

1.3 MONITORING

To ensure better monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of the PNDES and the achievement of the SDGs, the government plans to strengthen capacities and coordination for the regular production of statistics, in particular disaggregated data, and to allocate financial and human resources to the national statistics system.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

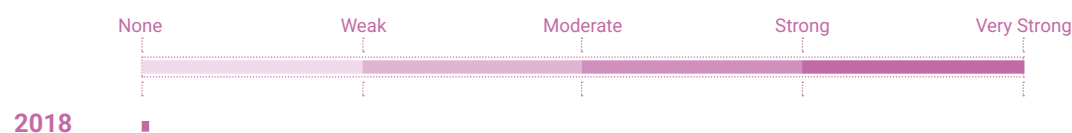
To ensure SDG appropriation and facilitate monitoring, **Monitoring and Evaluation Units** have been set up at the level of the regions/prefectures. Workshops for local authorities, the local private sector and civil society organizations were organized in 2017 for awareness raising in the regions of Lower, Middle and Upper Guinea and Forest Guinea. However, there is no evidence of any local government involvement in the reporting process that led to the 2018 VNR, nor of direct participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

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

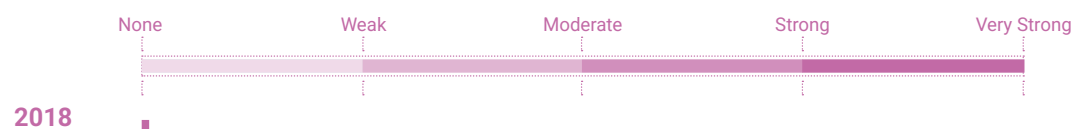
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19612Guinea_RNV_GUINEE_Version_restructure_4.pdf (2018)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are very few references to local and regional governments in the 2018 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► As part of a comprehensive waste management project, **N'Zérékoré** has set up activity zones across the city to inform and train the population about environmental and public hygiene and foster good public health practices. As well as improving living conditions and public health across the city, this project has created jobs for disadvantaged groups, including women.³

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Regarding SDG means of implementation and in particular the tax administration, the 2018 VNR quickly mentions the **decentralization** up to the prefectural and communal level of the services in charge of revenue collection. However, only the revenue collection services of the special zone of Conakry (two communes out of the five in the region) are truly operational.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The under-representation of women is very marked in the deconcentrated and decentralized administration. Indeed, in 2017, out of the 33 prefectures of the country, only two were headed by women and only one governorate out of eight was placed under the control of a woman. At the local level, out of the 29,669 candidates for councilor posts for all 342 municipalities in the elections in 2018, there were only 7,070 women (that is, 23.8%). However, the Guinean constitution requires that 30% of places be granted to women on each candidate list for legislative and municipal elections, and the Constitutional Court recently revised this quota upwards.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15.9 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		50.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		56 (2007, Conakry)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		53.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/gin>

GUINEA-BISSAU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Guinea-Bissau is a unitary republic divided into eight regions and subdivided into 39 sectors or municipalities, and an autonomous sector – Bissau, the capital city.¹ Guinea-Bissau has never organized local elections to date and local governments are appointed by the central government.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Guinea-Bissau adopted a **National Strategy** covering the period 2015-2025 to plan its economic and social development. Guinea-Bissau fully subscribes to the SDGs through this long-term strategy. Similarly, the **National Development Plan (PND 2020-2023)** provides for investments in health, education, the productive sectors and infrastructure, which are the levers for development. In this context, the government is working to align the PND with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's 2063 Agenda. The Nationally Determined Contribution related to the Paris Agreement shows how the country is adopting climate-resilient development. It is aligned with SDGs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Institutional coordination for SDG implementation in the country includes three levels. A **steering committee**, chaired by the Prime Minister, validates the priorities and alignment of the national development plans with the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and guides the implementation of these plans. It works with the **consultative group** which is the platform for dialogue between the government and technical and financial partners. A **technical committee** ensures the technical validation and the coordination of the priority objectives for sustainable development and the communication of information on the progress made.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the preparation and drafting of the VNR, a **coordination committee** was set up including representatives of the Ministries of Economy and Planning, and Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the National Institute of Statistics. This committee was supported by representatives of the United Nations System and a team of consultants. A participatory approach was adopted for the VNR process with the involvement of all government actors, the private sector, civil society and technical and financial partners. The team of consultants and the coordination committee collected data and produced the first draft of the report. The review of this draft counted with the participation of additional stakeholders thanks to several consultation workshops. Workshops were held with civil society in the eight regions and the autonomous sector of Bissau.

1.3 MONITORING

Within the framework of the **Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020** monitoring system, the ministries monitored, through focal points, the execution of actions related to their areas of expertise. **Regional planning offices** monitored the implementation of actions at the local level.

The government adopted two National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (SNDS) in 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 to improve the availability and quality of public data. The monitoring of progress towards the SDGs has been limited by the lack of data, its quality and the absence of an appropriate institutional framework. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a sharp decline in the production of data to measure progress. For example, in 2021, no information was available on SDGs 4, 10 and 12.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Gvs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Gvs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Guinea%20Bissau%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local authorities are not elected and their role in SDG localization efforts is restricted. However, the VNR of Guinea-Bissau calls for translating the SDGs into local actions and reinforcing local capacities in terms of participatory planning and financing.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2022 VNR acknowledges that local administrative structures are very weak, with limited operational capacity. The dysfunction of public and private institutions, especially at the local level, has undermined the provision of public services to the population, including education, health, drinking water and sanitation. The 2022 VNR also states that SDG implementation requires the mobilization of all, including local and regional levels.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The financing of the development strategy is mainly based on remittances and Official Development Assistance. To strengthen the financing for the achievement of the SDGs, the government will implement a National Integrated Financing Framework to mobilize all public and private, national and international financial resources. The government aims to build capacity in inclusive and participatory finance for local authorities to support local economic development and improve the localization of the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Since its independence, Guinea-Bissau has suffered political and institutional instability, with coups, attempted coups and repeated armed conflicts, not allowing economic growth or the establishment of coherent social policies. The VNR process took place in a national and international context marked by profound political changes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

3.2 COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the country's economy, and exacerbated existing economic and social inequalities. The government turned the crisis caused by the pandemic into an opportunity to restructure its economy through industrial transformation. It launched the Strategy for Development, Employment and Industrial Promotion 2020-2024.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

KENYA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Kenya is a unitary republic. Currently, its 47 county governments are its only form of elected and autonomous local governments. Counties are subdivided into other levels of decentralization, which include urban areas and cities, sub-counties, wards, and village units - but they are directly administered by county authorities.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

In 2016, the government directed ministries, departments and agencies to mainstream the SDGs into their policy and to prepare biennial Status Reports on SDG implementation. The **Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) 2018-2022** of **Kenya Vision 2030** was prepared through a consultative process, and mainstreamed SDGs within the strategic policy areas of the country.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **SDGs Coordination Directorate** in the State Department for Planning is the focal point that coordinates SDGs activities in Kenya. It is supported by the **Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC)**. The IATC is composed of members from the ministries, departments and agencies, the **Council of Governors (CoG)**, United Nations Agencies, CSOs, the private sector, academia, research organizations and other stakeholders. Counties, in collaboration with the national government, are currently strengthening **local SDGs coordination** mechanisms through establishment of coordination frameworks (see below).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Consultations were carried out with stakeholders through workshops and online platforms for them to present a draft report. The **SDGs Coordination Directorate** in collaboration with the UN provided capacity building for the stakeholders during the VNR preparation in 2020. Submissions were received from the civil society represented by the SDGs Kenya Forum, the private sector represented by KEPSA, the National Youth Council for the youths, LRGs through the Council of Governors (CoG), Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business for Parliament, and the UN country team. A series of other workshops were held to further review and identify the remaining gaps.

1.3 MONITORING

Kenya has identified 131 indicators out of the 232 global indicators that can be monitored with the available data. National complementary indicators have also been developed based on the MTP III priorities. The complementary indicators are tracked through the NIMES (National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System). The government is also developing the Kenya Strategy for Development of Statistics (KSDS) 2019/20-2022/23 anchored on MTP III. SDG monitoring is institutionalized with a comprehensive progress report prepared biennially. The National Statistics Bureau has established offices in each of the 47 counties to coordinate statistical capacity building programmes at the subnational level and ensure that international standards are applied in the production and dissemination of county statistics for monitoring.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

County governments have mainstreamed the SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (2018-2022), which

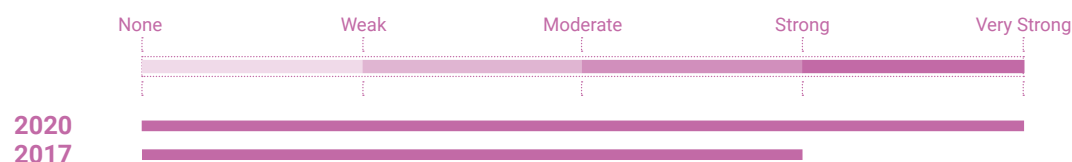
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26359VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf (2020)

domesticate the national MTP at the subnational level, and in the Annual Development Plans (ADPs). The **Council of Governors (CoG)** took several actions to implement the SDGs at the subnational level. It established **County SDGs Coordination Units** across all the 47 counties with SDGs Liaison Office (SLO) to work closely with the SDGs Coordination Department at the national government, seeking to ensure proper coordination and implementation of the SDGs between the two levels of government. Counties have appointed and inducted County **SDGs Champions** to steer the process of SDGs implementation and awareness rising.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The COG was part of multi-stakeholder workshops to develop the report and define a road map (GTF Survey 2020).

► 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

County governments are mentioned throughout the 2020 VNR, not only for the VNR elaboration process, but also as important stakeholders involved in SDG implementation. There is a specific section dedicated to the CoG and subnational governments as part of the presentation of the Multi-Stakeholders' Partnerships to Implement the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Open Institute collaborated with the county governments of **Makueni, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kiambu** and **West Pokot** to provide a technology platform to open data and to strengthen citizen engagement. The Open County Platform was developed for the county management teams to manage development results more effectively as well as provide a platform for engaging citizens and to receive feedback.³

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

Five Kenyan counties developed VLRs in 2019: **Busia, Kwale, Marsabit, Kisumu** and **Taita Taveta counties**.⁴ In 2020, the **Council of Governors (CoG)**, in partnership with the **Counties Assembly Forum (CAF)**, produced a VSR to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the progress made in the localization of the SDGs. The VSR was annexed to the 2020 VNR.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Capacity building is organized at the subnational level since most SDGs represent devolved functions. The 2020 VNR acknowledges that expenditures and investments in sustainable development are being devolved to the county level which lack adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support. The national government, in collaboration with the CoG and the UN, has been engaging the subnational government through workshops. The target group are the officers in charge of planning, budgeting and monitoring. 150 officers from all the 47 counties have been trained.⁶

3. See: www.opencounty.org

4. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Busia%20County%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Busia%20County%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;
[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Kwale%20County%20\(2019\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Kwale%20County%20(2019).pdf) ;
[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Marsabit%20County%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Marsabit%20County%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;
[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Taita%20Taveta%20County%20\(2019\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Taita%20Taveta%20County%20(2019).pdf).

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kenya_2020.pdf

6. The goal of this training was to strengthen the capacities of the officers in localizing and mainstreaming SDGs in planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring. This training addresses awareness creation, stakeholder mapping and engagement, development of SDGs based strategies, tracking and reporting.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR emphasizes the role of subnational governments for the next steps, mentioning that they have a critical role in the implementation of the SDGs: “this implies that the capacity of the sub-national government officers must be enhanced for effective engagement and managing local communities and other stakeholders at that level”. The focus will be on developing effective collaborations with those who would ordinarily not be engaged including people with disabilities, young people, women and older persons, and different income groups.

From the GTF Survey in 2020, some specific challenges can be extracted from the CoG’s answer: slow operationalization of the monitoring and evaluation system by some subnational governments; poor data management capacity; and political transitions in counties and changing priorities.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Various legal and policy frameworks have been implemented at the national level to fight against inequalities, discrimination and violence suffered by women. Regarding their participation in politics, the report mentions the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. Overall, women represent 9.2% of the 1,835 individuals elected in 2017, which slightly exceeds the results of the previous elections (7.7% in 2013). More specifically, in 2017, 6.4% of elected county governors were women, 14.9% were deputy governors, 33.9% were county executive committee members and 33.9% were members of county assemblies. In 2019, the number of women elected county governors decreased (4.3%), while the number of women elected deputy governors increased (17.4%).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions some of the measures taken by the government to deal with the health crisis, and summarizes predictions of the effects of COVID-19 on the implementation of the SDGs. There is no reference to local initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	58 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	29 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		46.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		32.5 (2015, Nairobi)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		26.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

7. 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/ken>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lesotho is a unitary monarchy with a two-tiered subnational government structure with 10 district councils as the upper tier and 11 urban and 64 community councils as the lower tier. The capital Maseru has its own unique single-tier authority, the city council.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 second **National Strategic Development Plan 2018/19-2022/23 (NSDP II)** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. 90% of the SDGs are integrated into the NSDP II which identifies four key priority areas geared toward job creation, inclusive growth, and further poverty reduction. NSDP II is also aligned with the 2063 African Union Agenda and the Southern African Development Community Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on three main bodies. The **Oversight Committee on SDGs** is composed of parliamentary oversight and other oversight institutions. The **National SDGs Forum** aims to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the implementation and communication of the SDGs. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes government officials, development partners, the private sector, academia, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations. Finally, the **Policy Coordination Committee**, chaired by the Minister of Development Planning and the Minister of Finance, provides guidance and develops mechanisms to align the SDG implementation process with other national frameworks. It is supported by an SDG Steering Committee in which multiple stakeholders are involved, as well as a Technical Coordination Committee.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Development Planning** was mandated to coordinate the 2019 and 2022 VNR processes. A technical team was set up to collect all inputs for the 2019 VNR drafting. The **SDG Steering Committee** has overseen the 2022 VNR process, and consultants were recruited to draft technical papers. For both VNR processes, workshops were organized with participants from ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, persons with disability, youth groups and marginalized groups such as herd boys and women, to collect qualitative information on good practices and success stories. To complement the qualitative information on good practices and success stories, the drafting teams were given access to statistical data from the Bureau of Statistics to assess progress on each indicator.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Technical Coordination Committee** coordinates the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **Technical Working Groups (TWG)** are responsible for overall monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the SDGs. Lesotho has selected 152 SDG indicators through a consultative process with stakeholders. The country is only able to report on 53% of the selected indicators due to the unavailability of data. However, the Bureau of Statistics developed the **National Strategy for Development of Statistics II** to strengthen the collection, analysis, and dissemination of development data. The strategy has a focus on gender mainstreaming and having well-coordinated National Statistical Systems.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/23777Lesotho_VNR_Report_2019_Final.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Lesotho%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. The country is also committed to other global frameworks including the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Istanbul Programme of Action, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

District SDGs Focal Persons were involved in the previous National Oversight and Advisory Committee. However, this coordination structure was amended after the 2019 VNR. The 2022 VNR states that LRGs play a key role in SDG implementation by addressing local challenges through service delivery as well as producing disaggregated data that feeds into the National Statistical databases. They work through the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). For example, the Communication and Popularisation TWG collaborates with LRGs and other stakeholders to create awareness about the relevance of the SDGs. To improve coordination for data at both national and subnational levels, **District SDG Working Groups** were established to spearhead the monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators.

District authorities participated in the National Conference for validation and ownership of the 2019 VNR, but there is no reference to LRG participation in the 2022 VNR elaboration process.

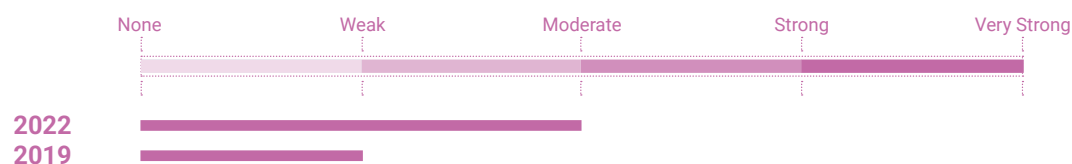
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: District authorities participated in the 2019 VNR process, but there is no reference to LRG participation in the 2022 VNR elaboration process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: District SDG Working Groups were created to improve coordination for data at both national and subnational levels.

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 some references to districts throughout the 2019 VNR. There are very few references to districts and urban and community councils in the 2022 VNR, and no examples of locally-led initiatives.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Maseru** launched its 2050 urban plan in 2017 with the aim of revamping the city in line with the SDGs. The plan aims to ensure environmental rehabilitation, protection and resilience by 2050. There will be improved management of natural resources through the rehabilitation of wetland, river trails and restoration of deteriorating landscapes. Moreover, the government also promotes the clean-up of waste dumps and tree-planting programs for conservation and food production.⁴

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

Not applicable. It is worth mentioning that the 2022 VNR stresses that "future VNRs should be preceded by Local Voluntary Reviews and include qualitative data from implementation efforts from districts and community councils" (see VNR, 2022, p. 67).

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Through their alignment with the NSDP, the SDGs are integrated into the national budget process. One of the challenges to financing SDG implementation is that the priorities in the Budget Strategy Paper, issued by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Development Planning, are often not aligned with the national priorities contained in the NSDP II. There is no information on SDG-related means of implementation at the local level.

4. See: <https://www.gov.ls/maseru-2050-urban-plan/>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2014, the government formulated and adopted the **National Decentralization Policy** with the purpose of enhancing citizen participation and strengthening the local government system, while maintaining effective functional links between central and local government entities.

It is worth noting that Lesotho's priorities include building a peace architecture at the national and local levels, which includes peace and stability institutions and platforms at all levels. Local authorities also participate in the implementation of the ten-year Gender and Development Policy 2018-2028, along with other stakeholders.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The **Local Government Amendment Act** provides for gender equality in politics by increasing women's participation and representation in community councils/urban councils. It provides for the allocation of one-third of the seats in the municipal, urban and community councils to women. Following the local government elections of 2004, women were 58% of representative positions in 2005 and the share decreased to 49% in 2011, and 39% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR briefly summarizes the monetary and fiscal policy measures taken at the national level to mitigate the adverse effects of the mandated lockdown as well as the measures addressed to the most vulnerable social groups (see the VNR, 2022, p. 17). It doesn't mention initiatives led by local governments in response to the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	78 (2020)
	Rural	9 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	39 (2020)
	Rural	51 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		53.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		20 (2006, Maseru)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		24.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Liberia is a unitary country divided into 15 counties, 129 districts and 35 statutory districts. There are no elected LRGs as both local governments assemblies and mayors are appointed by the President of the Republic.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

In 2012, Liberia developed a Vision 2030 framework which addresses the social, economic, political, environmental, cultural, and technological aspirations of the country. The **Five-year National Development Plans (NDP)** materialize this vision and are aligned with the SDGs. The **Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018-2023 (PAPD)** is the second NDP. It aims for inclusion, a more equitable distribution of national wealth and a rights-based approach to national development aligned with the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **PAPD National Steering Committee**, chaired by the President of the Republic of Liberia, is responsible for overall coordination and leadership. It is supported by **Technical Working Groups** composed of technicians and specialists from government institutions, development partners, civil society, and the private sector. The **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning** serves as a secretariat to the Steering Committee and is in charge of national coordination for SDG implementation. Moreover, according to the 2022 VNR, the government, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector have committed to establishing a **multi-stakeholder platform** under the PAPD National Steering Committee to advance the effectiveness of development cooperation in Liberia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning** led the coordination of the 2020 and 2022 VNR processes, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and ministries, agencies and commissions. As part of the 2020 VNR process, technical teams were set up to work on the data collection and report on the implementation of the SDGs at all levels, and virtual consultations were conducted with different stakeholders. The 2022 VNR process benefited from better stakeholders' engagement. Indeed, consultative meetings were held with the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, religious groups, and children, as well as ministries, agencies and commissions and the United Nations. Furthermore, a validation workshop was organized in which multiple stakeholders participated.

1.3 MONITORING

There are structures and procedures in place at both national and subnational levels to monitor and assess the progress of the PAPD and the implementation of the SDGs such as the **National Statistical System**, the **National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**, the Performance Management and Compliance System, and the Citizen Feedback Mechanism. However, the 2022 VNR points out that monitoring in the public sector remains insufficient to provide the data needed to track national development results and the SDGs. Another challenge mentioned is that the PAPD indicators are not properly aligned with SDGs indicators and targets, especially with the various disaggregation types.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf (2020); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Liberia%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR recognized that the national planning process is “top-down in structure”. However, regional consultative meetings were held to review performance on the past national plan and build consensus on the best way forward. In principle, this connects the national and local levels planning processes, but institutional inadequacies have limited the operation of the planning process. Furthermore, the role of local authorities in SDG localization efforts is restricted in Liberia. **Multisectoral/regional planning working groups** include the heads of government institutions’ planning departments and county development committees.

In the 2020 VNR process, the **county development committees** were responsible for leading subnational consultations. Due to financial constraints, consultations at the county level were not held as part of the VNR 2022 process, but the outputs of the consultations organized at local level during the VNR readiness assessment have been taken into account. In its conclusion, the 2022 VNR highlights that there is a need to increase participation at the subnational level for the implementation of the SDGs.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are few references to counties and cities in the 2020 and 2022 VNRs, and no specific section nor precise reference on their role in implementing the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Paynesville, a suburb of the city of **Monrovia**, focused its strategy on specific areas of intervention, such as public health and water management. It managed to provide education and hygiene supplies to communities affected with the Ebola Virus Disease, as an attempt to increase its resilience to future public health challenges.³

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Liberia, low domestic productivity and a weak private sector dominated by the informal economy limit domestic revenue mobilization. Therefore, the country developed a **Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy** that aims to finance the PAPD and achieve the SDGs. There is no information on SDG means of implementation at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR refers to the ‘leave no one behind’ strategy, whose aim is to ensure that development gains are equitably spread across the country and not just concentrated in a few urban areas. To this end, special attention is dedicated, among other things, to the decentralization of government services and the involvement of local communities as stakeholders.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Liberia has a limited number of women in managerial positions in the public sector at both national and subnational levels. Out of 15 county superintendents, only three are women, and out of 30 mayors, only ten are women.

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

3.2 COVID 19

There is no information on local responses to the crisis. Nevertheless, it was specified in the 2020 VNR, regarding other kinds of emergency, that the national government would strengthen Disaster Management Committees at national, district and county levels. The 2022 VNR stresses that COVID-19 has affected socio-economic development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Liberia, undermining SDG progress. The government recalibrated and revised the PAPD due to COVID-19 impacts.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		70.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		10.8 (2015, Monrovia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		52.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

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

MADAGASCAR

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of Madagascar is a semi-presidential unitary state with a three-tiered subnational structure. Madagascar has 1695 municipalities, 22 regions and 6 provinces.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 **General State Policy for 2019-2023** and the **Madagascar Emergence Plan (PEM 2020-2024)**³ are aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **SDG Steering and Monitoring Committee** is headed by the Prime Minister. It is composed of representatives of the Prime Minister, the National Assembly, 13 ministries, UNDP, ADB, UNFPA and the African Union. The **Technical Committee** is headed by the Ministry of Economy and Planning and is composed of representatives of the United Nations, technical departments, civil society, the private sector, and academia. **SDG focal points** are appointed by the ministerial departments and act as the interface between ministries and the Technical Committee.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR process was led by the **SDG Steering and Monitoring Committee**. A survey was sent to ministries, agencies and CSOs.⁴

1.3 MONITORING

The **Integrated National Monitoring and Evaluation System (SNISE)** was established in 2008. 64 targets based on 85 indicators have been selected as priorities to contextualize the SDGs to the realities of Madagascar. But despite the new statistical law promulgated in 2018 in accordance with the National Development Strategy of Statistics (SNDS), providing information on these indicators remains a great challenge for the country. Among these 85 indicators, information was collected for 61 indicators (72%).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

To territorialize the SDGs, an inclusive and participatory approach at the regional level made it possible to better define the priorities at the local level. Currently, regional consultations are underway to tackle the extreme poverty and inequalities in regions far from growth areas. As mentioned in the conclusion of the 2021 VNR, it is planned to continue the dissemination of the SDGs for a better national, regional and local ownership and to continue the actions of integration of the SDGs in the process of national, regional development planning including the localization of the SDGs in the 22 regions of Madagascar, in particular as part of the PEM 2021-2023. The **Association of Mayors of the Major Cities of Madagascar (AMGVM)** participated in various SDG awareness workshops organized by local governments and partners such as IOF and UNDP.⁵ LRGs are not mentioned among the stakeholders consulted for the 2021 VNR process.

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10723Madagascar_Final%20Version.pdf (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279572021_VNR_Report_Madagascar.pdf (2021)

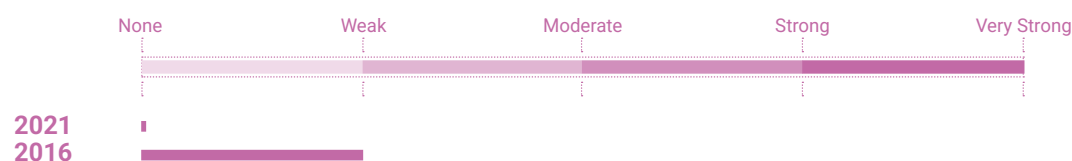
3. It is still being finalized. See below the coordination mechanisms for the Emergence Plan.

4. In 2016, however, consultations were organized in 3 regions (Menabe, Itasy, Amoron'i Mania) out of the 22 regions of Madagascar during the first half of 2016. These consultations raised awareness on the challenges and implications of the SDGs for the development of regions and local authorities.

5. Answer of the AMGVM to the GTF Survey in 2021.

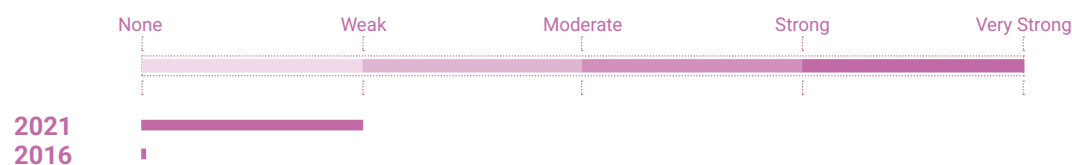
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No LRG participation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regional consultations (but not specifically on SDGs).

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 2021 VNR specifies that "Madagascar remains resolutely engaged in a vast process of territorializing the SDGs because it is important to take into account the specificities of each region". Regions are a lot more referred to than municipalities. There are some references to regional initiatives (but without explicit relation to the SDGs).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- With support of the local authorities, the Ministry of Communication and Culture rehabilitated 33 historical and cultural monuments, in 14 regions.
- A waste treatment center has been established in the **Atsimo Andrefana** region. Three waste treatment and recovery centers are under construction in the three regions, namely Toamasina for the **Atsinanana** region, Betsizaraina for the **Analamanga** region and Antsiranana-I for the **DIANA** region.
- Currently, 11 of the 22 regions have adaptation and climate resilience activities.
- 100,000 ha of Community Protected Areas (PCAs) of category V of the IUCN classification are being created in the **Atsimo Andrefana** region with the support of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and UNDP since 2018.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2016 VNR highlights that technical and financial partners play a key role in supporting the government in the operationalization of its National Development Plan and its implementation at the regional and local levels in line with the SDGs. Additionally, the report mentions the capacity for innovation of the private sector and the potential for private sector investment in local, regional and national development and the need for public-private partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda. The situation is the same in 2021, but the VNR doesn't mention the regional and local levels. Nonetheless, in a section on non-financial means of implementation, it is specified that "the tools developed to verify the alignment of the SDGs with local and national priorities (RIA) and to prioritize the SDGs and their targets have made it possible to identify cross-cutting elements. From these tools emerge the synergies to be maximized between the targets for their integration into national, regional and local policies."

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), together with the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), is working in Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali and Niger to identify the most effective ways to sustain and diversify the financial resources of local government finance institutions (LGFIs) to reinforce and support local authorities and bolster their financial

resources. This is in partnership with the Network of African Finance Institutions for Local Authorities (RIAFCO) and through the Municipal Investment Finance programme.⁶

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Together with the enactment of the 2010 Constitution, new legislative and regulatory provisions governing local governments were adopted in 2014. Although elections were held in 2015, according to legal and electoral frameworks, regions and provinces are still under the supervision of appointed chiefs. In 2017, the country ratified the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.⁷ The adoption of new laws and the holding of the last communal and senatorial elections in 2015 marked a new stage in the revival of decentralization in Madagascar. The country has adopted a National Strategy for Local Development, which constitutes the reference framework for the implementation of decentralization. It was to be translated into a National Action Plan for Local Development.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference to local initiatives nor support to LRGs from the national government.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

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	38 (2020)
	Rural	9 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	14 (2020)
	Rural	8 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		61.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		17.7 (2007, Antananarivo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		17.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

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

8. 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/mdg>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Malawi is a unitary country with a presidential democratic political system and a single-tier subnational government structure. It has 35 councils: 7 urban and 28 rural 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

In 2021 the country launched its new vision, the **Malawi 2063 (MW2063)**, which aims to achieve an upper-middle income status by 2063. It is operationalized through ten-year Implementation Plans. In its first **Implementation Plan (MIP-1)** the country has put in place clear strategies to fast-track the implementation of the SDGs to ensure it meets most of the goals by 2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, the **National Planning Commission (NPC)** coordinates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. **Pillar and Enable Coordination Groups (PECGs)** were established to ensure that the planning and implementation of the SDGs reflect their interlinkages and complementarity nature. PECGs are chaired by ministries, departments and agencies and also comprise councils, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and development partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Two coordination and governance structures were established to oversee the 2020 and 2022 VNR processes: the **National Steering Committee (NSC)** and the **Core Technical Committee (CTC)**. According to the 2022 VNR, the NSC consisted of key ministries, departments and agencies, UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, academia, religious groups and civil society organizations, and was responsible for policy oversight to ensure adherence to the general guidelines. The CTC, which was co-chaired by the NPC and the Department of Economic Planning and Development provided operational and logistical support. Both VNR processes were also carried out by **Working Groups**. According to the 2022 VNR, Thematic Working Groups were formed to lead specific processes covering interest constituencies of the population including youth, women, children, people with disability and civil society organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** implemented measures to ensure that comprehensive and disaggregated data and information collection is continuously taking place at national and subnational levels. At the national level, the SDGs are monitored through **National SDGs Reports**. A high level of alignment of MIP-1 with the SDGs enables Malawi to streamline reporting needs of SDGs and MIP-1. Therefore, the MIP-1 Annual Progress Reviews, led by the PECGs with support from development partners and the NPC, are the main vehicles through which SDGs are reviewed annually. The glaring gaps in the monitoring and data systems continue to bring challenges in assessing national performance including the SDG implementation progress. Each year, the NPC organizes **National Development Conferences** which bring together different stakeholders to review progress in the implementation of the development plans in a transparent and inclusive way.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26317MalawiVNRReport.pdf> (2020);

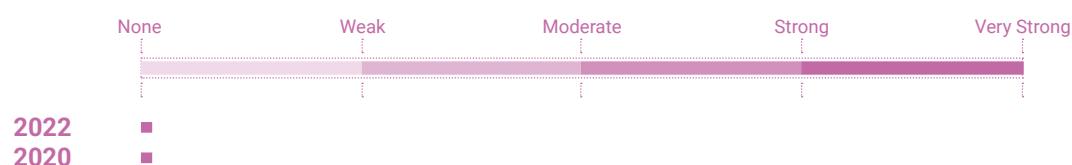
<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Malawi%202022%20Voluntary%20National%20Review%20%28VNR%29%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The SDGs are mainstreamed into most **District Development Plans (DDP)** and **Village Action Plans**. The renewal of many recently expired DDP represents an opportunity for local councils to ensure their alignment with national development plans and the SDGs, as well as with the country's 2063 Agenda. Local structures carry out initiatives to implement the SDGs, however the focus is on goals that directly speak to their needs. According to the 2020 VNR, for purposes of inclusion at the local level, **Area and Village Development Committees (ADCs and VDCs)** bring the needs of the community and citizens to the District Councils to feed into their plans and sometimes participate in the monitoring of the projects undertaken in their areas. The SDGs were also translated into local languages to ensure the understanding of the SDGs and copies were distributed to the local councils and the ADCs and VDCs. The Malawi Local Government Association did not participate in the 2020 VNR process and there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2022 VNR either.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Malawi Local Government Association did not participate in the reporting processes.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Malawi Local Government Association participates through ad-hoc consultations in the National Planning Commission (GTF Survey 2020).

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

Districts are mentioned a few times in the 2020 and 2022 VNRs, without many specific examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.³ However, the 2022 VNR notes in its conclusion that "a lot of local-driven initiatives on the SDGs were noted during the review, coupled with government-led interventions" (see VNR, 2022, p. 72).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR stresses that SDG implementation requires multi-stakeholder participation and sufficient financing of interventions at both national and subnational levels. The **Joint SDG Fund** was created which seeks to strengthen Malawi's financing architecture to accelerate SDG implementation. The programme is using two streams of intervention, the top-down establishment of Malawi's Integrated National Financing Framework and the bottom-up strengthening of the public finance management at the local level. All sectors, ministries, departments, and agencies of government align their programmes budgets to the MIP-1 and SDGs.

3. There is a subsection on "Localizing the SDGs" in the 2020 VNR which refers to a national strategy, the Integrated Rural Development Strategy. See VNR, 2020, p. 30.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Since Malawi is suffering the impacts of disasters from climate change and other natural causes, there are various frameworks regarding disasters: the National Disaster Policy, the National Resilience strategy and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 at the national and district levels. The government developed disaster management plans for its three major cities (**Lilongwe**, **Mzuzu** and **Zomba**) to guide the city councils on how to respond to disasters and mitigate their impacts. Though Malawi has made strides in enacting legislation and policies on climate change, the same is yet to be localized and local governments remain excluded from national programmes and projects on climate change, as programmes and projects on the same are centralized where local governments remain recipients and often spectators and not actors on the fight against climate change.⁴

Marginalized groups are incorporated into the key decision-making processes and are given leadership roles. For instance, various marginalized and “vulnerable” groups are represented in the VDCs, ADCs, and District Executive Committees (DECs) which are key structures for development planning and implementation at the sub-national level.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

There is a persistent low level of women’s representation at the local level in Malawi. However, there is a ray of hope for improvement with the enactment of the Gender Equality Act, which calls for a minimum of 40% of either gender representation in decision-making positions.⁵ Female representation in local government assemblies is currently at 14%, from 11% in 2014.

3.2 COVID 19

Malawi has developed a COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan to counter the effects of the pandemic. It provides remedial strategic interventions to build back better in the economic recovery and set Malawi back on course in its efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

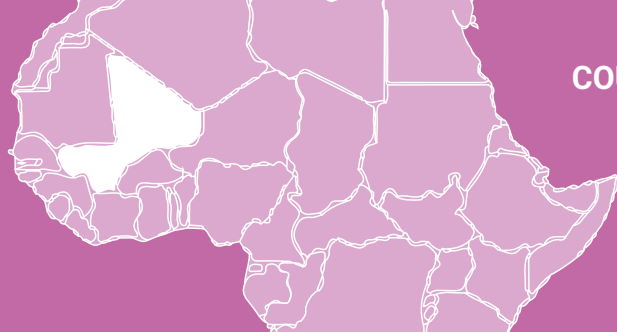
4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		14.6 (2019)
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	27 (2020)
	Rural	24 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		65.1 (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)		25.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		65 (2020)

4. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

5. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mali is a unitary republic with three tiers of local governments. There are 10 regions and the District of Bamako, 58 districts (*cercles*), and 750 municipalities (*communes*).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

Mali's **Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD) 2016-2018** and its action plan were aligned with the SDGs. In 2018, workshops were organized to integrate the SDGs into the CREDD 2019-2023, which prioritizes 77 SDG targets. Mali considers decentralization to be part of its SDG implementation strategy. The 2022 VNR states that the development of a roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs is the next step for Mali.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economy** has a major role in the national coordination mechanisms. There is a common coordination mechanism for the SDGs and the CREDD. It relies on a **National Strategic Orientation Committee** chaired by the Prime Minister, a **Steering Committee** chaired by the Minister of Economy, and a **technical secretariat**. A Mali-Partners Joint Commission was set up as a body for dialogue and consultation with technical and financial partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** coordinated the 2018 VNR process. It collaborated with the **Ministry of Economy and Finance** to coordinate the 2022 VNR process. A **technical committee** has been appointed as responsible for drafting both reports. The Association of Municipalities of Mali (AMM) was part of this core group for the 2022 VNR process. The 2022 VNR process also led to the creation of an inclusive **working group** including experts from national structures, LRGs, civil society organizations and the private sector, and international partners, which revised the report before its finalization.

1.3 MONITORING

A **common monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the SDGs and the CREDD** was adopted by the government. This mechanism brings together all development actors (public administration, LRGs, civil society, private sector and technical and financial partners). As part of this mechanism, Mali has been preparing annual SDG monitoring reports since 2016. The country also prepared three SDG monitoring reports, as part of the drafting of the West African Economic and Monetary Union SDG monitoring report. Mali adopted a third-generation **Statistics Master Plan** to improve the production and use of statistical data needed to monitor public policies and the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In 2021, **37% of local plans already integrated the SDGs**. Training, information and sensitization activities dedicated to local actors were carried out between 2019 and 2022. A guide for integrating the SDGs into local plans was developed in 2020 and disseminated at national, regional and local levels.

There is a coordination mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at the subnational level provided by

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/20200Projet_de_RNV_ODD_VFcor2_06_06_2018_Actuel.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Rapport%20National%20Volontaire%20RNV.pdf> (2022)

the **Regional Committees for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CROCSAD)**, the **Local Committees of Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CLOCSAD)** and the **Municipal Committees of Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CCOCSAD)**. The Regional Committees produce reports on SDG implementation. The regions are less involved than municipalities in localization processes.³ The **Association of Municipalities of Mali (AMM)** has been invited for the first time to participate in the core group in charge of drafting the 2022 VNR. The association is also part of all the coordination and monitoring mechanisms of the CREDD, and it collaborates with certain government departments related to the SDGs.⁴

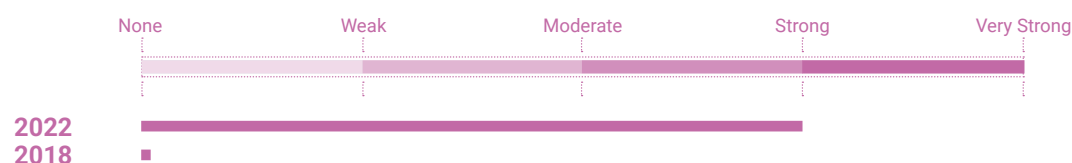
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2022 VNR mentions the participation of LRGs in the reporting process. The AMM was part of the core group in charge of drafting the 2022 VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Mali created regional, local and municipal committees to coordinate and monitor development actions.

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

Local and regional governments in Mali are mentioned throughout both 2018 and 2022 VNRs, without examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. The 2022 VNR stresses LRGs' ownership of the SDGs as an urgent necessity for advancing sustainable development across the national territory, highlighting the importance of reinforcing decentralization to do so.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Association of Municipalities of Mali (AMM)** has taken measures to address the lack of regular coordination between stakeholders on the SDGs. A **taskforce of locally elected officials** has been set up, which serves as an advocacy group to follow up on the national strategy and on the implementation of the SDGs at the LRG level. In 2019, an EU-funded AMM programme was launched to support the localization of the SDGs: the AMM assisted 106 local councils and trained more than 4,000 local stakeholders on the SDGs over a 24-month period.⁵

► The city of **Timbuktu** launched a strategy to reinforce the socioeconomic and urban fabric and civic participation in the city, urgently needed after its occupation in 2012 and 2013. The initiative strengthened local cultural heritage, defended citizens' freedom to maintain their cultural practices, and promoted culture as a strategy for resilience and sustainable cohabitation.⁶

► The implementation of the delegated management of markets approach in the Commune I of **Bamako** led to increased tax collection and established a dynamic and fruitful partnership between informal traders and the municipality.⁷

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

Not applicable.

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

4. Answer of the AMM to the GTF survey in 2022.

5. Answer of the AMM to the GTF survey in 2022.

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

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

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mali set up a Joint Program to finance the SDGs. The 2022 VNR emphasizes the need to accelerate the transfer of resources from the national government to LRGs for the relevant sectors. It stresses that “achieving the SDGs requires significant financial resources to be mobilized by the public authorities as well as by the private sector and LRGs”.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Mali, progress towards achieving the SDGs has been hampered by the country’s current political, security and health context. Mali has been subject to recurring political and security crises since 2012. The most recent dates back to 18 August 2020 marked by the popular uprising claiming the resignation of the President of the Republic and which ended with a military coup followed by the dissolution of the Parliament, the government and the resignation of the President of the Republic. A transition regime has been installed in accordance with the transition charter adopted during the national consultations held from 10 September to 12 September 2020.⁸

However, some progress has been made regarding the institutional environment for local governments during the past years: in 2015, the revision of the main texts on decentralization, territorial administration and elections followed the adoption of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. The Code of Local Authorities, the General Statute of Local Authority Officials and the Statute of the District of Bamako were adopted in 2017 but their implementation has been delayed.⁹

For regions and districts, the most recent elections were held in 2009. The last municipal elections were held in 2016. However, due to the security situation, several municipal councils were not able to be reappointed at that time. The mandates of all these elected officials have been extended until the present day through various regulatory texts. The renewal of all the mandates of municipal, district and regional councilors is on the agenda of the institutional and political reforms to be carried out as part of implementing the recommendations of the National Conference on Refoundation held in 2021.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In Mali, women enjoy a 30% quota in elections in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 2015-052 of 18 December 2015 instituting measures to promote gender in access to appointed and elective positions.¹⁰ In 2021, there were 1,6% of women mayors and 25,6% of women local councilors (against 9% of women local councilors in 2009). Although progress has been made, the law that institutes gender at all levels of the administration and LRGs is not yet strictly applied.

3.2 COVID 19

The **Association of Municipalities of Mali (AMM)** had a very active role during the pandemic within the Multi-Stakeholder Platform to fight against COVID-19. It coordinated the distribution of sanitary kits in 106 municipalities. The municipalities were involved in sensitizing the population to respect governmental measures and watch committees were created.¹¹

8. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

10. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

11. Answer to the GTF survey complemented by an Interview with Youssouf Diakite, executive director of the Association of Municipalities of Mali (AMM).

4. SDG INDICATORS¹²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		25.3 (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	10 (2020)
	Rural	28 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		47.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		57 (2012, Bamako)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		63.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

MAURITANIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mauritania is a unitary republic with two tiers of elected subnational government. The country is divided into 13 regions and 219 municipalities.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

In 2016, the Mauritanian government elaborated the **Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP) 2016-2030**. The 2019 VNR states that the alignment between the SCAPP and the SDGs is relatively robust overall but could be strengthened by additional work on the definition of national targets and indicators in order to better harmonize them with the SDGs. The SCAPP is operationalized through **five-year action plans**, the first of which ended in 2020.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (CIP)** is chaired by the Prime Minister and its members are the ministries and departments having the most important roles in the implementation of the SCAPP. The **Enlarged Consultation Committee** is chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance. Among its members are: the Minister in charge of relations with civil society, the Minister delegate in charge of the budget, the Governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania (BCM), the Representative of Technical and Financial Partners (PTF), the President of the National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM), two representatives of NGOs, and the President of the Association of Mayors of Mauritania (AMM). The **SCAPP Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CCS-SCAPP)** is chaired by the Director General of Development Policies and Strategies at the Ministry of Economy. Among others, its members are the Chairs of Sectoral Development Committees (CDS), the Director General of the Budget and the Director General of the National Statistical Office (ONS). The **Sectoral Development Committees (CDS)** are formed from the sectoral themes of the SCAPP. They serve as a forum for discussion and exchange.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (CIP)** oversaw the 2019 VNR process, a **Technical Coordination Committee (CTC)** led the technical aspects of the reporting process, and a **working group** drafted the report. The data and information collection as well as the drafting process were participatory. Elected officials, development partners, representatives of civil society, private sector actors, unions, etc. participated. Two **field missions** were carried out, one on the North axis to Nouadhibou, the economic capital of the country, and the other to the regions of Brakna and Gorgol. The first focused on the marine environment and fishing, and the second on the terrestrial environment and certain projects dedicated to the most vulnerable social groups. A contribution from the civil society is included in the annex of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The SCAPP has a **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**. It is designed in an integrated manner to facilitate data production and collection, as well as the development of synergies in the design and implementation of policies, in particular between the different levels: national, sectoral, regional and local.

Although efforts have been made to ensure the cohesion of the statistical system and to internalize the SDGs in national surveys, significant gaps in terms of data availability persist. The national statistical system only partially meets the SDG monitoring needs. The lack of sufficiently disaggregated data is mentioned in the 2019 VNR as a major constraint.

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

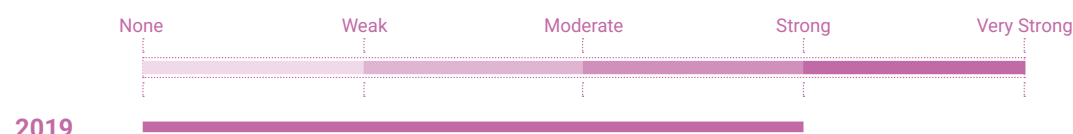
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23447Mauritania_REVISED_AS_OF_24JUNERevueNationalVolontaire_Mauritanie2_medium.pdf (2019)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

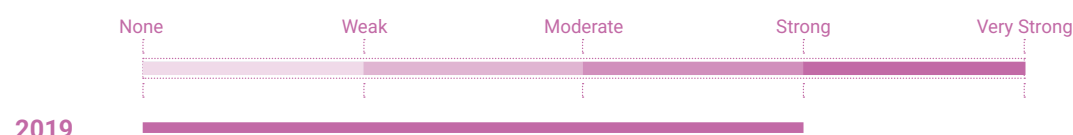
The **President of the Association of Mayors of Mauritania (AMM)** is member of the **Enlarged Consultation Committee**. National coordination mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs are also accompanied by **Regional Development Committees (CRDs)**, chaired by the governor of the regions and of which are members: the Coordinator of the Regional Development Unit planning and monitoring, the decentralized technical services, the regional statistics service, elected officials, local civil society, the private sector and the technical and financial partners present in the regions. According to the 2019 VNR, local variations of the SCAPP and the national action plan for the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs should be developed by mutual agreement with the recently created Regional Committees.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Association of Mayors of Mauritania (AMM) participates on a regular basis (consultative). Meanwhile, the Mauritanian Association of Southern Communes (AMCS) reports a punctual participation and insufficient coordination (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is limited reference to LRGs in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Following the creation of regions and the obligation to integrate the concepts of climate change and sustainable development into various planning areas, the **Nouakchott Region** has embarked on an environmental resilience and sustainable development project.³

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The development of public-private partnerships has provided the country with an additional financing tool. The private sector should provide financing for 20% of the SCAPP 2016-2020 action plan.

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of seats held by women in municipal councils was 35.11% in 2016 and 31.06% in 2018. Despite this slight decrease, the results of the municipal elections from 2007 to 2018 show that women exceed, and by far, the minimum quota of 20% defined in 2016 by ordinance n° 2006-029. However, they rarely access the function of mayor: there were 4 women mayors for a total of 216 municipalities in 2007, then 6 out of 218 in 2013 and 6 out of 219 in 2018.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		31.4 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		73.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		31.6 (2005, Nouakchott)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		74.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/mrt>

MAURITIUS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mauritius is a unitary republic with a three-tiered subnational government system. The Island of Rodrigues can be considered the highest level. At the intermediate level, there are 5 municipal councils and 7 district councils. Finally, at the local level, there are 130 village councils.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 formulated the **Mauritius 2030 Development Model**. Moreover, sectoral policy documents, the Three-Year Strategic Plans and annual Budget Speeches supplement and provide the necessary strategic policy orientation in the implementation of the SDGs. In parallel, Mauritius is working through the SAMOA Pathway to bring to the fore the unique situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It is also implementing the Agenda 2063, and reports through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (MFARIIT)** chairs the **SDG Steering Committee**, where the public sector, private stakeholders, NGOs and academia are represented through their designated **SDG focal points**. The 2019 VNR announced that four **Working Groups** would be soon established, to build more synergies across sectors, establish partnerships and help explore financing options.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **MFARIIT** was assigned the responsibility to coordinate the 2019 VNR process. A **VNR drafting team** was established within the MFARIIT and worked in close collaboration with SDG focal points and members of the SDG Steering Committee. Given that the SDGs are crosscutting, other ministries were chosen to co-lead with MFARIIT on the development of each SDG chapter. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed, as well as an SDG Communications Strategy to ensure inclusiveness and a multi-stakeholder participation in the process. An SDG Questionnaire was distributed to collect information on each SDG, and workshops were held with public and private stakeholders, local institutions, civil society, NGOs, academia and human rights organizations. Also, to connect with a wider section of the population and development partners, the drafts of each chapter were uploaded on MFARIIT's website so as to allow the drafting team to receive feedback.

1.3 MONITORING

Statistics Mauritius, the main provider of official statistics in the country, took the lead to work in close collaboration with line ministries, departments and national agencies to compile relevant SDG indicators. It constructed the first SDG Database for Mauritius in 2016. As of 2018, 72% of the data was available.³

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23462Mauritius_VNR_Report_2019.pdf (2019)

3. Of the 232 UN-prescribed SDG indicators, 222 were found to be relevant for Mauritius. Of these, data are available on 159 indicators.

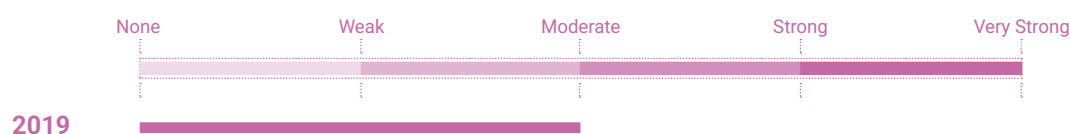
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Mauritius is mainstreaming climate change in the development agendas of local authorities. A Climate Change Charter has been formulated for local authorities since 2015, under which urgent adaptation actions are being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at community level.

Local governments were involved in the 2019 VNR process, mainly at a consultative level. Also, part of the VNR drafting team visited Rodrigues to discuss the SDGs with its inhabitants, and engaged with members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) and other local stakeholders.⁴

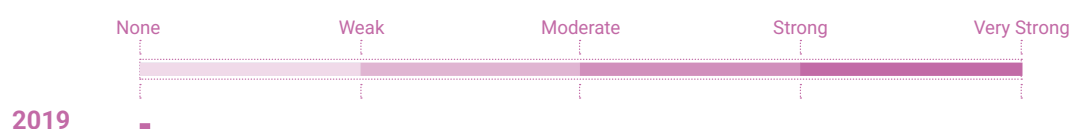
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The annex of the 2019 VNR mentions the participation of the municipal councils of Port Louis and Rose Hill-Beau Bassin, and of the district councils of Black River and Moka.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of local government involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few references to LRGs in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Mauritius has encouraged the private sector to develop eco-friendly cities. Such a project is the Plaisance Eco-City, located in the South of the island, near the airport. This sustainable city will include 1,200 homes for the middle-class, a Business Park and a first class Hotel that will be autonomous in terms of electricity and powered by wind turbines and solar panels. The Plaisance Eco-city is in line with international sustainability standards, and integrates economic efficiency, social equity and environmental quality.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Means of implementation are described as part of the presentation of progress on SDG 17 in the 2019 VNR. There is no reference to local governments.

⁴. The list of involved stakeholders from Rodrigues can be found in the annex of the 2019 VNR.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: All the country's seven districts and five municipalities, as well as the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, have adopted disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2011, the government enacted a new **Local Government Act** which provides for gender-neutral quotas to increase women's representation at local government level. The promulgation of the legislation led to a significant leap in the number of women elected at the local elections, from 12.7 percent in 2005 to 36.7 percent and 34.2 percent in 2012 and 2015 respectively at the Municipal Council level. At the Village Council elections, the figures increased from 5.7 percent in 2005 to 25.4 percent in 2012. Relevant amendments were made to our Constitution in 2016 to adopt similar quotas for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.2 (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	-
	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 (%)		100 (2009, Curepipe)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/mrt>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Morocco is a unitary country divided into 12 regions, intermediate government including 13 prefectures and 62 provinces, and 1503 municipalities. Morocco also has a network of around 25 000 villages and rural localities, which do not have a legal personality.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 **National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2030 (SNDD)** integrates the majority of the SDG targets in its objectives and strategic axes. The **National Initiative for Human Development** is another initiative related to the 2030 Agenda, which aims to combat poverty and exclusion, promotes the provision of health and education services, and develop income-generating activities for the poor and the development of disadvantaged areas.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government designated a **National Commission for Sustainable Development** chaired by the Head of Government and composed of all ministerial departments, major national institutions, large public establishments, socio-professional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The **High Commission for Planning**, which is a member of the Commission, has the double mission of drawing up an assessment of the achievements of the SDGs by government departments and evaluating the prospects for their development in the light of the public policies announced by the government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was prepared with a participatory approach. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad** and the **High Commission for Planning** organized, with the support of the United Nations system in Morocco, a national consultation to take stock of the status of SDG implementation and prepare the country's participation in the 2020 edition of the HLPF. Representatives from the government, the Parliament, the Court of Auditors, public institutions, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, local authorities, universities, the media and non-governmental organizations participated. In collaboration with the regional councils, three regional consultations were organized, with the objective of extending them to the rest of the country's regions, in order to raise awareness among local actors of the contextualization of the SDGs at the level of their geographical areas and the need to set up regional statistical databases.

1.3 MONITORING

The Office of the High Commissioner for Planning, an independent national institution in charge of statistics, is responsible for preparing annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs. By virtue of the decree establishing this commission, the examination and reporting on the SDGs have become annual and a committee has been set up within the aforementioned national commission and is chaired by the Head of Government. It is responsible for monitoring and supporting the SDGs.

1. Six cities with more than 500 000 inhabitants (Rabat, Sale, Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech and Tangier) are managed by a municipal council and are subdivided into districts. They may not have legal personality but they do have administrative and financial autonomy as well as borough councils.

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

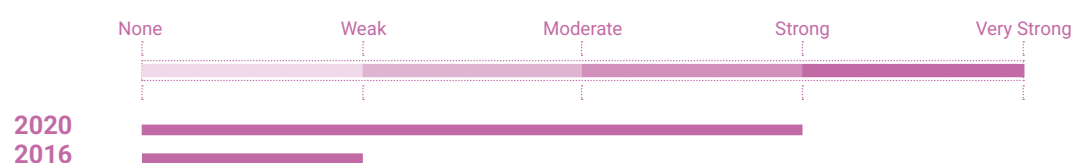
2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10560NVR%20\(Morocco\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10560NVR%20(Morocco).pdf) (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26405VNR_2020_Morocco_Report_French.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR details, regarding SDG 10, some strategies and programs that have been implemented in order to reduce inequalities between territories. These strategies include the **New Guidelines for Public Policy on Land Use Planning**. Their objectives are to specify the fundamental orientations of the national government in terms of territorial planning and development at the national, interregional and regional levels; to promote the territorial coherence of public interventions; to ensure the articulation of development choices and the supervision of territorial strategic planning documents; and to accompany and support sustainable territorial development initiatives in articulation with Morocco's international commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda. Advanced **regionalization** is mentioned as one of the key strategies and programmes in the country. This aims at promoting balanced territorial development, through the strengthening of the powers and resources of local authorities and the creation of two funds for social upgrading and interregional solidarity. In this context, the adoption of a new charter of administrative deconcentration aims to accelerate the reduction of inequalities through the consolidation of the process of territorialization and convergence of public policies at the subnational level, and thus, promote the establishment of a balanced regional development.

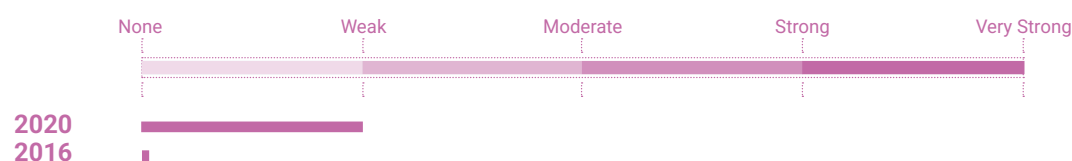
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultations were held at the regional level and national consultations included local authorities.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG direct involvement 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

LRGs are mentioned a few times in the 2020 VNR, without much specific examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. Regions are mentioned a lot more than other local governments (provinces, prefectures, municipalities).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► 11 Moroccan cities (**Casablanca, Marrakech, Oujda, Agadir, El Jadida, Kenitra, Tangier, Tetouan, Beni-Mellal, Dakhla** and **Khémisset**) have already implemented their urban mobility plans. The Directorate General of Local Authorities is continuing its efforts to support other local authorities, both technically and financially, in drawing up their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.

► The national climate policy pays particular attention to the territories and devotes one of its major pillars to the introduction of the imperatives of integrated management of climate change in the planning and management processes of the territories. This pillar also deals with the generalization of Regional Climate Plans (PCR) and aims to improve territorial knowledge on climate change. In the same spirit, concerning vulnerable territories, there has been the development of a project to revitalize oasis agro-ecosystems through an integrated and sustainable approach and landscape in the **Draa Tafilalet Region**.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The adoption of a new organic law on finance as a lever for modernizing the Moroccan public administration is aimed at making it possible to strengthen the coherence of public policies, and improve the performance of public action and the quality of services. The instruments used in this framework include the strengthening of budgetary deconcentration and contractualization between central administrations and their deconcentrated services. Also, the reform of the Regional Investment Centers and the creation of unified regional investment commissions, under Law No. 47.18, promulgated in 2019, is likely to strengthen the territorial attractiveness, especially of the most deprived regions and promote, consequently, the economic and social life in these regions.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR made it possible to show the achievements of the SDGs and to identify the challenges to be met in order to give new momentum to the process of their implementation. These challenges mainly concern ownership at the territorial level, coherence of public policies, coordination of the national statistical system and the development of financing. The **decentralization** of the development process within the framework of advanced regionalization is also a relevant approach to improving the effectiveness of public policies for the inclusion of disadvantaged people and territories.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the level of regional and other territorial councils, the presence of elected women has been steadily increasing. Between 2009 and 2015, their proportion in these councils rose from 12.38% to 21.18% at the communal level and from 2% to 4% at the provincial level. As for the regional councils, their number has experienced, during the same period, an increase from 27 to 255 elected women, bringing their weight in the year 2015 to 37.6%. It should be noted that two women preside over two regions in Morocco (out of a total of 12 regions). Morocco adopted in 2013 its first Governmental Plan for Equality 2012 - 2016 (ICRAM), which aims to entrench equity and equality between men and women in different sectors.

3.2 COVID 19

Morocco has taken a series of measures, under the High Royal Directives, including confinement and the creation of a special fund to manage the effects of COVID-19, to support the purchasing power of vulnerable households and the activities of damaged businesses. However, none of these measures specifically involves the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		20.9 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	91 (2020)
	Rural	61 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	41 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		9.2 (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)		28.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/mar>

MOZAMBIQUE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mozambique is a unitary republic divided into 11 provinces and 53 municipalities. The provinces are subdivided into 154 districts, and municipal units are classified in cities and towns.¹ However, only provinces and municipalities are considered as (elected) local governments.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The National Planning and Monitoring System is guided by the **Government Five-Year Programme (PQG)**, which contains a Framework of Indicators and Targets. The **2015-2019 PQG** was designed taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2017, Mozambique created an **SDG National Reference Group (GRN-SDG)**, chaired by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINEC) and the National Institute of Statistics (INE). It takes on a key role in coordinating the process and promoting broad involvement of different sectors of the government (at the national, provincial and district levels), civil society, academic institutions, the private sector, cooperation partners, United Nations Agencies, parliamentarians, the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and citizens.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDG National Reference Group** played a crucial role throughout the 2020 VNR process. Three regional public consultations were held in the country, involving 405 representatives of different national development players. In addition, **thematic groups** have been set up, composed of representatives from different ministries, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM), International Cooperation Partners, academics and the private sector.

1.3 MONITORING

Under the coordination of the National Institute of Statistics (INE), with the support of international partners, the country is developing the **National Statistical System** that allows effective tracking of SDG progress. In 2020, Mozambique adopted the **National Framework of SDG Indicators (QNI)**, which is aligned with Mozambique's development priorities, particularly with the 2020-2024 PQG.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local authorities have been working on the localization of the SDGs since 2016, with the support of the **National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM)** and have supported the integration of SDGs in areas such as water supply and sanitation, gender equality and urban resilience. Moreover, the national government has established mechanisms to engage

1. For administrative and electoral purposes, in provinces, the deconcentrated districts are further divided into administrative posts, localities and villages (povoações). Likewise, all municipalities are divided into urban districts (in the specific case of Maputo, the capital city), municipal administrative posts and neighborhoods (bairros). The 2020 VNR presents the country as "administratively divided into 11 provinces, 161 districts, 408 administrative posts, 1,132 localities and 53 municipalities".

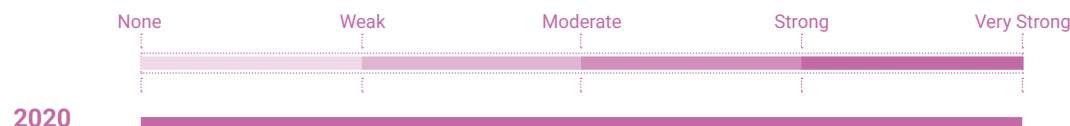
2. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26313VNR_2020_Mozambique_Report.pdf (2020)

with the different levels of government on questions related to planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, with a sustainable development perspective. These include the **SDG National Reference Group**. District, administrative post, and locality advisory councils have also been created, together with development observatories, at the central and provincial levels.³ At the moment, each province has a focal point to foster the coordination and exchange of information between public entities and partners for the localization of the SDGs. In some provinces, the localization is already very advanced, while in others it is still in a very incipient phase.

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

In the 2020 VNR, there is a subsection in Chapter 2 called "SDG Localization in Mozambique", describing how the process has been implemented in the provinces, districts and municipalities. It highlights the efforts coming from the civil society and shows the involvement and commitment from the private sector. These stakeholders (civil society and private sector) are presented as key partners and development players in the process of the SDG implementation at the local level.⁴ At the district level, the participation of development players is ensured through the local councils. It is worth mentioning that the provincial assemblies have the challenge to reflect the SDG indicators and targets in their provincial strategies, plans and budgets.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Some provinces already have partners that support the implementation of their plans, with particular emphasis on the SDGs, such as **Niassa**, **Tete** and **Zambezia** and potentially **Cabo Delgado** (which should receive resources from partners to integrate the SDG in its provincial strategic plan).

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

In 2020, the **National Association of Municipalities of Mozambique (ANAMM)** was among the first local government associations developing a VSR.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Funding is provided by the national government and international cooperation partners, but there are no specific SDG classifiers yet. Therefore, it is not yet possible to account for the budget allocated to them in detail, which is acknowledged in the 2020 VNR as a challenge to be taken into account in the medium term. Financing for the implementation of the SDGs is provided by the municipal budgets, cooperation partners, including international financial institutions. The National Framework of SDG Indicators (QNI), approved in 2020, will contribute to the localization of SDGs at this level. Currently, the allocation of resources by provinces follows two criteria, namely population (70%) and multidimensional poverty index (30%), consumption (30%), water and sanitation (30%), health (20%) and education (20%).

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

4. CSOs have contributed to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 through advocacy, awareness raising and collaboration with Government and communities for its localization and monitoring. They are also active partners with Local Councils and National and Provincial Development Observatories where Economic and Social Plans (PES) and their Reports are discussed. At the institutional level, CSOs are an integral part of GRN-SDG.

5. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/mozambique_2020_english.pdf

With the new **decentralization** package, the provincial level is given more attention due to its responsibilities, including the structure inherent to national representation in the province. The provinces will also be able to exploit the new framework of autonomy and fiscal competencies contained in the law that defines the Financial and Patrimonial Regime of the Provincial Decentralized Governance Bodies (Law 16/2019) for the mobilization of resources.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The SDG localization strategies for provinces and municipalities are explained in the VNR, 2020, p. 16-17:



Figure 1 - SDG Localization in municipalities



Figure 2 - SDG Localization in provinces⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Mozambique has taken significant steps to promote gender equality, with an increasing number of women in decision-making positions. At the moment, 3 of the 10 elected governors are women and 35% of the members of the provincial assemblies are women.

3.2 COVID 19

To mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and households, the country has adopted a set of measures to ensure customs and tax facilities. The 2020 VNR does not mention special measures for/at the local level.

6. Source of Figures 1 and 2: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26313VNR_2020_Mozambique_Report.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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	21 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		77.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		82 (2011, Maputo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		21.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2017)

7. 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/moz>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Namibia is a unitary republic with two tiers of local self government: 14 regional councils and 57 local councils. There are 4 different types of municipalities which entail different degrees of autonomy (city councils, municipal councils, towns, village councils). Regions are further divided into 121 constituencies; regional governors are appointed. Decentralization is mentioned in the 1990 Constitution, as are LRGs.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 SDGs have been embedded in the **Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)** and the corresponding accelerating tool, the **Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) 2016-2020**. By fully aligning the National Development Plan with the SDGs, Namibia set out to achieve the following four broad objectives (inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth, capable and healthy human resources, sustainable environment and enhance resilience and good governance through effective institutions).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

For national coordination, the pre-existing three-tier mechanism has been re-adopted. This consists of the **Development Partners Forum** at the highest level to provide coordination oversight; a multi-stakeholder **National Steering Committee** composed of senior officials from both government and development partners at implementation level to provide tracking of implementation; and lastly the coordination of all developments pertaining to SDGs, through the NDP5 vehicle, which rests with the **National Planning Commission (NPC)** as the Secretariat.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The content of the 2018 VNR was extracted from local development planning instruments (inclusive but not limited to NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan) which resulted from diverse stakeholder consultative processes championed at both the highest level and the technical and grass-roots levels through the NDP5 stakeholder consultations. For the VNR 2021, the main source was the NDP5 2018-2019 Annual Report, which was compiled using information submitted to the National Planning Commission by various coordinators of Focus Areas. Also, a series of meetings were hosted under the auspices of the NPC with Focus Areas, to review and discuss the content.

1.3 MONITORING

The responsibility for the collection of data for analysis and reporting thereof lies with the **Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)**. The monitoring of SDGs' progress is the principal responsibility of the National **Monitoring Evaluation Office** in collaboration with the UN Development System's Coordination Unit.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Awareness campaigns and consultations were conducted at the subnational level for the development of the Fifth National Development Plan - but there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the coordination mechanisms. LRGs are not mentioned

1. Since 2010, the national government has increased its regional presence and appointed regional governors. In 2016, no functions have yet been devolved to regional councils and the decentralization policies do not match local government responsibilities to local resources. The country ratified the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19880New_Version_Full_Voluntary_National_Review_2018_single_1_Report.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279462021_VNR_Report_Namibia.pdf (2021)

among the stakeholders invited to participate in the 2018 VNR process. They didn't participate in the 2021 VNR process either.

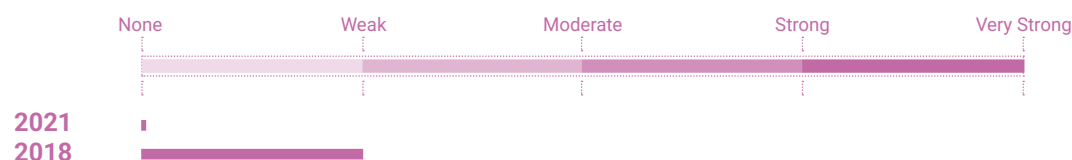
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There was no participation, consultation or request for input in the drafting of the 2021 VNR (weaker involvement than in 2018) (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No participation (same as before) (GTF Survey 2021).

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

Almost no reference to LRGs in 2018 report, nor in 2021 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Integrating informal transport systems, the city of **Windhoek**, together with the Ministry of Works and Transport and GIZ, developed the Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan for Windhoek, which enables decision-makers to develop an affordable, accessible and efficient public and non-motorized transport system for the next 20 years, thus addressing the specific needs of the most disadvantaged urban populations.³

► **Walvis Bay** Municipal Council volunteered to be part of the pilot project Leaders in Local Government for Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Africa, launched by UCLG Africa and Transparency International in 2017.⁴

► A bilateral agreement has been concluded between the Governments of Namibia and Germany, during September 2019, for the implementation of a new **Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD) Project** focusing on the upgrading of informal settlements. The project is being implemented in partnership with GIZ and **5 partner Local Authorities** (technical support): **Windhoek Municipality, Rehoboth Town Council, Rundu Town Council, Helao Nafidi Town Council, and Opuwo Town Council**. The ultimate aim of the project is to improve the conditions in informal settlements in these areas, resulting in sustainably functioning neighbourhoods with households that have secure tenure, the right to erect permanent housing, and improved access to basic services. The project is expected to run from 2021 to 2023.

► Additionally, the government has strengthened viable local-based decentralised housing development support schemes such as the **Build Together Programme (BTP)**.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Amongst other efforts, Namibia launched the **Development Finance Assessment (DFA) Report** in 2021, as part of the holistic approach on the financing frameworks in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and the National

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

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

Development Plans. Furthermore, in 2021, Namibia launched its first-ever autonomous tax administration agency, the **Namibia Revenue Authority (NAMRA)**, under its Ministry of Finance (MoF). The agency aims at improving the country's efficiency in revenue collection, infrastructure development, and adherence to taxation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Regarding SDG 11, the government has enacted the Urban and Regional Planning Act in 2018, which provides for a single and uniform spatial planning framework, integrated spatial (urban and regional) planning, and development in the country. It has introduced more efficiency in land use planning and has combined the functions that were performed by two advisory bodies of the Namibia Planning Advisory Board and Townships Board into a single body, the Urban and Regional Planning Board, and decentralisation or transfer of some of the approval procedures to the regional and local government levels, thereby fast-tracking land and housing delivery.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Namibia lauds itself with regard to the global gender gap index rankings, being number 6 out of 156 countries. Further strides were made with regard to women representation being adopted by the ruling party, attributed as the “zebra- style” gender representation in parliament, which has seen the Namibian bicameral parliament having 48% of its members as women since the 2019 elections. Seats held by women in LRGs represent 14,3%.

3.2 COVID 19

Namibia rolled out N\$8.1 billion COVID-19 stimulus packages to mitigate the impacts of unemployment on those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and to help in the fight of the virus in general. Similar COVID-19 stimulus packages to the value of N\$22.1 million were rolled out by the Social Security Commission for wage subsidies and to assist the informal sector affected by the pandemic. The government spent N\$560 million on the special allowance, also known as the Emergency Income Grant, which benefitted 769,000 Namibians. There is no reference to initiatives for nor from the LRGs.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.1 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.3 (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)		24 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		57.9 (2019)

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/nam>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Niger is a unitary republic. It has 255 municipalities and 7 regions. The municipality is the basic territorial authority. Of the 255 municipalities, 214 are considered as rural municipalities, 37 as urban municipalities, and 4 as municipalities with a special status, or "cities" (Niamey, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder).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 institutional mechanisms for SDG implementation in Niger are those defined for the **Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI)** 2035 and the **Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2017-2021**.³ They include an implementation, coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The **PDES 2022-2026** is currently being formulated.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The governance of the PDES is ensured by the **Council of Ministers** chaired by the President of the Republic. The Council of Ministers approves the decisions of the **National Orientation Council (CNO)** chaired by the Prime Minister. This Council reports quarterly to the Council of Ministers on the progress of the implementation of the PDES. The secretariat of the Council is provided by the Minister in charge of Planning. The Ministry of Planning ensures the technical coordination of the implementation of the PDES and the SDGs. It is assisted by a **National Coordination Committee (CNC)**⁴, **Sectoral Coordination Poles**⁵ and **Regional Coordination Units**. The State-PTF (technical and financial partners) Committee, chaired by the Minister of Planning, ensures the coordination and harmonization of all public interventions and international partners for the implementation of the PDES, and consequently of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR process was led by the **Ministry of Planning**. For the elaboration of the report, a **technical working group** including the Ministry of Planning, the National Institute of Statistics, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD), CSOs including representatives of youth and disabled people's organizations and the United Nations System Agencies has been set up. As in 2020, the 2021 reporting process consisted of 9 steps and was based on the institutional arrangement of the PDES.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19886Niger_Revue_nationale_volontaire_ODD_Niger_Final40718.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26355VNR_2020_Niger_Report_French.pdf (2020); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282722021_VNR_Report_Niger.pdf (2021)

3. The Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) has provided for a development management program that aims to improve the instruments for planning and coordinating public policies as well as the management of public finances, by strengthening the coherence and quality of the instruments for planning, programming, budgeting, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of public policies. The implementation of this program is in line with the achievement of three SDGs: SDG 8, SDG 10 and SDG 17. Despite some progress, major challenges remain in Niger, these include: produce disaggregated, quality and up-to-date statistical data for monitoring policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects and Sustainable Development Goals; strengthen the coordination and centralization of sectoral statistics; improve financing for development.

4. The CNC is a consultation mechanism that brings together the various ministerial departments, the financial and technical partners, civil society and the private sector. It ensures the synergy between the different sectoral coordination poles, the quality of information and that reports are submitted by the sectoral poles and regional units.

5. The sectoral coordination poles are spaces for coordination and dialogue with all the actors concerned. They are structured around the strategic priorities of the PDES and they are: (i) the "rural transformation" cluster, (ii) the "private sector" cluster, (iii) the "demographic transition, health, education and training" cluster, (iv) the "infrastructure and equipment" cluster, (v) the "water and sanitation" cluster, (vi) the "governance and modernization of the State" cluster and (vii) the "development management" cluster.

1.3 MONITORING

The monitoring and evaluation system is integrated into the institutional framework of the PDES. A **Division for monitoring the SDGs** was created within the Ministry of Planning and is specifically responsible for monitoring-evaluation and reporting. The production of data and information for reporting purposes is in charge of the Ministry of Planning, and more specifically of the National Institute of Statistics. Despite difficulties (inadequate human and financial resources), significant progress has been made in the mastery of statistical data and in monitoring and evaluation: (i) the databases of the national monitoring and evaluation system are regularly updated as of 2018; (ii) the development of the main monitoring and evaluation tools has been completed.

At the regional level, information collection and diffusion is ensured by a **regional unit** composed of the Deputy Secretary General of the Governorate, the Regional Director of Land Management and Community Development and the Regional Director of the National Institute of Statistics. This unit collects and analyzes data on the development actions carried out, and ensures the validation and regular transmission of the monitoring-evaluation reports of the PDES.

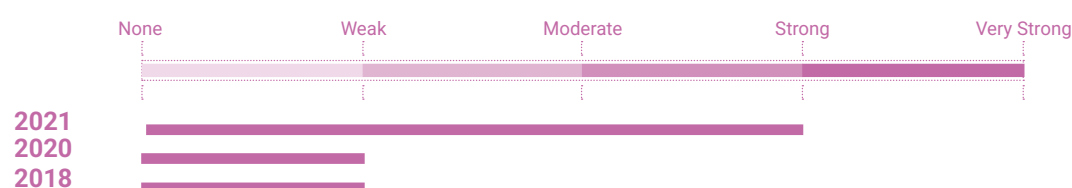
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Since 2018, several efforts have been made in terms of integrating the SDGs into planning tools at the national, sectoral and local levels. To encourage ownership of the SDGs, the government has organized outreach and awareness-raising sessions for local governments, as well as for other stakeholders. In addition, the capacities of state and non-state actors at the national and local levels have been strengthened, for the integration of the SDGs in strategic documents.

In 2020, local authorities were invited to the national workshop organized as part of the 2020 VNR process. In 2021, the **Associations of Regions of Niger** participated in validating the VNR, while the **Association of Municipalities** didn't participate at all. In sum, regions seem to be involved, municipalities no. This is the same for participation in the national coordination mechanisms: the regional LGA is regularly consulted (no decision-making). However, they are not mentioned in the VNR.

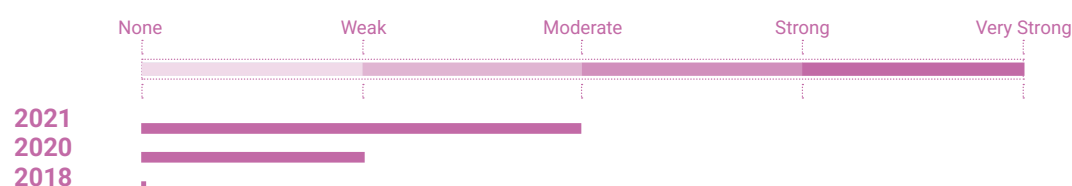
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Regions were involved in the 2021 VNR process, municipalities were not. (GTF Survey 2021. This is not mentioned in the 2021 VNR).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regions are consulted through the ministry (the Association of Regions of Niger is a member of the National Committee coordinated by the Ministry of Planning); municipalities are not (GTF Survey 2021).

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 and 2021 reports do not have any specific section or chapter for the LRGs initiatives or strategies. LRGs are mentioned a few times.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2020 VNR highlights that the **Niamey** municipal district, and the urban municipalities of **Dosso** and **Tillabéry** have set up consultative councils for the development of the neighborhoods, called Development Advisory Boards (CCD). There are other civil society structures such as the water users' association and the health center management committees, which participate in the management and development of cities, towns or regions.

► There is no reference in the 2021 VNR: there are contextual details on the regions, without reference to locally-led initiatives.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2020, the mobilization and absorption of sufficient resources, particularly domestic resources, was the main credo for the implementation of the PDES. This is all the more important as the World Bank estimates that 50 to 80% of what will be needed to finance the SDGs should come from domestic resources. No reference to local governments.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR points out that the ordinance 2010-54 of September of 2010, concerning the General Code of Local Authorities, gives the possibility to the cities, municipalities and regions to set up structures for the direct participation of civil society in the management and development of cities, municipalities and regions (articles 15, 16, 35 and 204). Some cities, municipalities and regions have already adopted these structures.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR presented the **National Gender Policy (NGP)** that was launched by the government in 2017 and its five-year Action Plan (2018-2022). Also, the creation of the **Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMP)** represents the will of women political leaders to work for the promotion of women leadership. Nevertheless, there is no mention of women participation at the local level. The 2021 VNR mentions that the quotas for women in elective and nominative positions have been raised to 25% and 30% respectively. In the 2020-2021 municipal, legislative and presidential elections,⁶ there has been an increase in women candidates.

3.2 COVID 19

Both the 2020 and 2021 VNRs mention that a **comprehensive plan to respond to COVID-19** in the amount of US\$2.4 billion over two years has been adopted and is being implemented with the support of development partners. It does not mention specific information about subnational measures or policies involving LRGs. The PDES 2022-2026, currently being formulated, will take into account COVID-19 recovery.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15.8 (2011)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	25 (2020)
	Rural	18 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	43 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		58.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		29 (2012, Niamey)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		93.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		84.7 (2018)

6. These elections led to the advent of the first democratic changeover in Niger.

7. 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/ner>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Nigeria is a federal republic with two tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 36 states, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), which is under the direct control of the national government. At the municipal level, there are 774 local governments.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

Nigeria's Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020) is the medium-term development plan. It was first designed to deal with the economic recession of 2016, and focuses on economic, social and environmental dimensions of development that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In 2020, the country has been elaborating the successor development plan for 2021-2030, and the SDGs will be included in it. The **Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model** has also been developed as an analytical framework for assessing how policy-making can better address the indivisible nature of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

SDGs are embedded in the highest policy-making environment in the country, which is the Office of the President. The **Secretariat OSSAP-SDGs** acts as the coordinating office for the SDG implementation. A **Presidential Council on the SDGs** was also established, which in turn created an **Inter-Ministerial Committee** on the SDGs, Focal SDG Committees across all the 36 states, respective SDG focal points at federal and state levels, and 2 Standing Committees at the National Assembly (the Senate Committee on SDGs and the House of Representatives Committee on SDGs).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2017, the first VNR highlighted the institutional mechanisms put in place to achieve effective implementation of the SDGs across the country. The second VNR was published in 2020. Its process was led by **OSSAP-SDGs**. The **Core Working Group on the VNR (CWG-VNR)** was established to provide technical leadership and guidance in the preparation and presentation of the report. The VNR is based on evaluations and research, as well as on consultations with state and non-state actors.

1.3 MONITORING

The Department of National Monitoring and Evaluation in the Ministry of Budget & National Planning coordinates the tracking of the ERGP. There was also a **realignment of the National Statistical System (NSS) with the requirements and indicators of the SDGs**. About 70% of SDG indicators come from administrative data sources. The remaining 30% are collected through periodic surveys. The 2020 VNR also mentions Nigeria's need of strengthening the evidence-based planning and accountability mechanisms at the state level.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

With the support of UNDP, **OSSAP-SDGs works with the states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)** to mainstream the priority SDGs into their medium and long-term development plans, as well as in municipal governments'. To coordinate SDG implementation at the subnational level, there are also **37 SDG focal persons**, one for each of the 36 states and the FCT. It

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16029Nigeria.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26308VNR_2020_Nigeria_Report.pdf (2020)

is planned to extend this human resource capacity to all 774 local governments at the municipal level. While some of them already have SDG officers, the structure is yet to be formalized. For now, the focal persons at the state level coordinate all SDG-related activities.

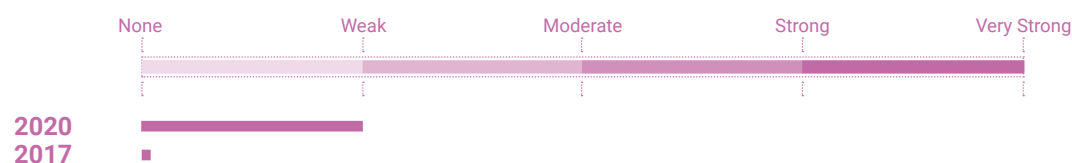
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Five state consultations were organized as part of the 2020 VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: States are taken into account in the coordination mechanisms (but quite in a top-down logic): OSSAP-SDGs is working on including the SDGs in state and local development plans. There are SDG focal points at the state level (but not always at the municipal level).

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 states, and to a lesser extent the municipal governments, are mentioned throughout the report. In the part regarding the governance axis of the ERGP and SDG 16, there is a short subsection on "sub-national coordination". However, there is very little reference to initiatives led by state and local governments.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Lagos State** is mentioned in relation to SDG 17. Regarding the increasing pockets of growth of digital entrepreneurship across the country, Lagos State is presented as the most mature and active digital entrepreneurship ecosystem, with several dynamic incubators, venture capital companies and digital start-ups in sectors such as finance, health, education and agriculture.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To encourage the states to invest more resources into SDG implementation, OSSAP-SDGs provides them a **conditional matching grant (CGS)**. States receive 50% grant and are expected to spend their counterpart funds on approved SDG programmes (mainly health, education and water and sanitation). Also, an appropriate governance and accountability structure is established for the CGS Scheme.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Between 1999 and 2015, the number of female councillors in the 36 states was 603, compared to 9605 male councillors (which equated to 5,9%). And there were 225 female chairpersons, compared to 2263 male chairpersons (9%).³ Besides,

3. For more detail see: <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/784>

the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments decreased in the last electoral cycle. Some of the tools mentioned in the VNR to increase women's representation include the **Nigerian Women's Trust Fund**, which provides resources to female political aspirants, the **women's political empowerment offices**, which are an interface providing support to women politicians in the states and rural areas, and the '**100 Women Lobby Group**', which engages with the three tiers of government on women's visibility and participation. The VNR also mentions the need for federal and state governments to conduct gender-responsive budgeting (GRB).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions the impacts of the pandemic on the economy of the country and the SDG implementation process, as well as the national measures taken to mitigate or minimize the impact of the health crisis. The main implication is the effect on the government's fiscal situation. A Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 was inaugurated and a fiscal stimulus package was established. There is no reference to local governments regarding the recovery, except that state governments, as well as the federal government, development partners and the private sector, have stepped up efforts to increase the financing of the health sector.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		9.8 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	25 (2020)
	Rural	18 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	35 (2020)
	Rural	26 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		53.9 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		30 (2015, Lagos)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		61.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/nga>

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of Congo is a unitary country with two tiers of subnational government, comprising 12 departments and 6 municipalities. However, the decentralization process does not extend to rural areas.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 Republic of the Congo has integrated the SDGs into its **National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The institutional framework for the monitoring of the SDGs and the NDP includes a **National Evaluation Council (CNE)** organized in four tiers: the steering committee, the technical coordination, the permanent technical secretariat and departmental coordination.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process counted with the participation of different stakeholders from the government, the private sector, civil society, the academia and development partners, divided into **thematic groups** (Population, Planet, Prosperity and Peace Groups). Data was collected by the **National Institute of Statistics (INS)** and ministries, among others, with support from UNDP.

1.3 MONITORING

Of the 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 241 indicators of the 2030 Agenda, the Congo has retained 14 goals, 74 targets and 113 indicators.³ Annual SDG monitoring reports are produced. However, there are some challenges in the collection of data. The last major national survey dates back to 2011. The absence of such surveys over the period 2011-2019 explains the failure to inform certain SDG indicators.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The first sustainable development roadmap adopted in 2016 provided for awareness-raising workshops for local elected officials and other stakeholders. There is no evidence regarding any LRG participation in the 2019 VNR process. **Coordination with the departments** is included in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, through the CNE.

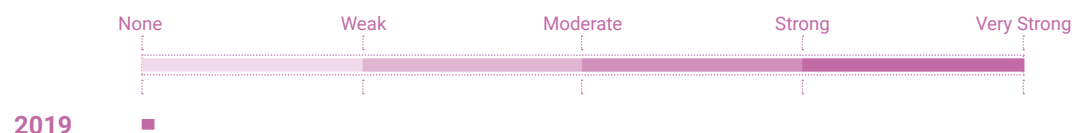
1. UCLG, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, 2019, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23339CONGO_Contribution_Nationale_Volontaire_2019.pdf (2019)

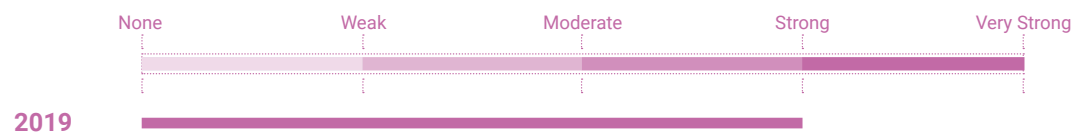
3. SDGs 6, 14 and 17 were not adopted by the Republic of the Congo.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Some cities are mentioned, but there is no example of local initiatives for SDG implementation in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference. Bangui raised the issue of growing insecurity as a major constraint on SDG localization in the Central African Republic.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Means of implementation for SDG implementation are briefly described in the 2019 VNR, without reference to local governments.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of seats held by women in both parliament and local government increased between 2012 and 2017. In municipal and departmental councils, the proportion of seats held increased by 5.7 percentage points. From 15.7% in 2012, it stood at 21.24% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

⁴. Answer of Bangui to the GTF Survey in 2019.

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	59 (2020)
	Rural	19 (2020)
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 (%)		47.8 (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)		42.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/cog>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Rwanda is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, comprising 30 districts.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 SDGs have been integrated in **Vision 2050**, the **National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) 2017-2024** and related sectors and districts' strategies.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government tasked the **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)** to oversee and facilitate the SDG implementation process at all levels. A dedicated **SDGs taskforce** bringing together ministries, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector was established to serve as the nucleus and focal point for ensuring inter-agency collaboration and coordination.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDGs taskforce** played a crucial role in providing technical guidance and quality assurance during the 2019 VNR report's preparation. Focal points across ministries and agencies were designated and tasked to provide necessary information from their respective sectors for the preparation of the report. In addition to data collection, information and clarifications were obtained through consultative meetings and round table discussions with key sectors, especially with the CSOs platform, the private sector federation and key sectors in government.

1.3 MONITORING

SDG monitoring and implementation in Rwanda is being done through various fora and systems that include performance contracting (*imihigo*), which is now being mainstreamed under an online results-based management system. The **National Institute of Statistics (NISR)** is responsible for the annual assessment of performance contracts for all government agencies and districts; as well as citizen report cards and an **Annual National Dialogue (Umushyikirano)** attended by top leadership and a cross-section of all leaders, and representation of Rwandans in the diaspora. The Annual National Dialogue is streamed and broadcast live on all media and citizens can provide instant feedback or comments to their leaders.

However, one drawback is that these mechanisms do not seem to be directly connected to the **National Urban Fora (NUF)** that Rwanda has held since 2008. The NUF are regular multi-stakeholder platforms to support sustainable urban development processes and debates through action-oriented meetings. These meetings address the way in which cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, through cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders and various urban actors. The purpose of the third of these meetings to be held in 2019 was to assess the progress made and reflect on the continuing implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Rwanda.

The National Institute of Statistics has also launched an **online SDGs portal** containing latest data available on Rwanda SDG indicators.

Furthermore, **Rwanda SDGs METADATA handbook** was developed, providing definitions and methodology among others, to ensure data sharing and reporting.

Rwanda has used various systems to collect localized data (e.g. performance contracting, citizen report cards, etc.).

Imihigo (performance contracts) is a planning, monitoring and evaluation tool that the central and district levels use to set delivery targets and assess progress against agreed annual development targets, including SDGs.³

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23432Rwanda_VNR_Document_Final.pdf (2019)

3. More information on Imihigo can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 21.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)** coordinates SDG appropriation and implementation both at national and local levels. The widely consultative process organized for the elaboration of the NST1 2017-2024 as well as sectors and districts' development strategies offered a unique opportunity to create SDG ownership and awareness from central to local levels. **District development strategies (DDSs)** are being aligned with the national agenda and the SDGs through an assessment of the level of integration of SDG indicators with the support of the **Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)** in three pilot districts (**Bugesera, Gicumbi and Ruhango**). It is planned to roll out the results in all the other 27 districts of the country, although it will require further expertise and new resources to continue the work on SDG alignment and awareness-raising.⁴

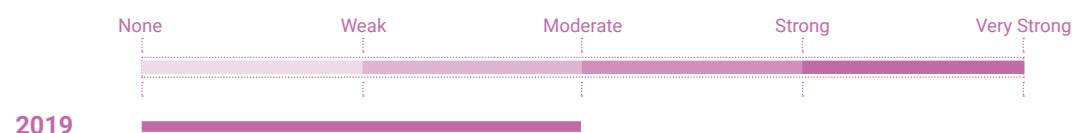
Coordination between the national and local governments is mentioned in the 2019 VNR as part of the presentation of national coordination mechanisms: through **District Councils and Districts Joint Action Development Forums (JADFs)**, as well as **community outreach** through UMUGANDA and districts' administrative entities, e.g. sectors, cells and villages.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) participates regularly at decision-making level (GTF Survey 2021).

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

Districts are mentioned throughout the 2019 VNR, in particular to highlight that there are SDG implementation/monitoring mechanisms at both national and local levels.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)** has been undertaking specific awareness-raising and training workshops on the SDGs and SDG localization for its staff and members with support from the CLGF/ EU and GIZ. In 2017, the RALGA convened a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue that brought together key local government decision makers, government representatives and other relevant stakeholders. The national association is also leading an SDG localization project supported by the CLGF and the EU to strengthen the capacity of local governments to adapt the SDGs to their local realities. The project's components include SDG awareness-raising campaigns; providing technical support to three pilot districts (Bugesera, Gicumbi and Ruhango) for the inclusion of the SDGs in their development strategies; and helping monitor SDG implementation in their local development strategies. In addition, the RALGA Inclusive Decisions at Local Level (IDEAL) project, with support from Dutch VNG International, in all six of the country's secondary cities (Musanz Accelere, Rubavu, Huye, Muhanga, Nyagatare and Rusizi), is strengthening local capacities in areas such as planning, inclusive LED, sound local social welfare strategies and services, and gender sensitive policies.⁵

The RALGA got support from the EU and the CLGF to implement a project on the localization of the SDGs in 2017-2018, and is currently implementing phase two, corresponding to the period 2021-2022. Different awareness campaigns were conducted, and fact sheets were developed for each district in Rwanda. Also, a monitoring tool for SDG implementation at the national level was put in place by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, and by the RALGA for local governments.⁶

► The city of **Kigali** has based its action plan on local challenges, including aging infrastructures, energy insecurity, environmental degradation, lack of affordable housing and flooding.

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

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

6. Answer of the Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Spending needs to reach the SDGs and means of implementation are described in the 2019 VNR, but there is no information regarding the districts. It is worth noting that Rwanda is one of the few countries that has managed to establish a specific environment and natural resource fund, following passage of the 2005 Environmental Law that provided for the creation of the Green Fund FONERWA in 2012. FONERWA provides loans and grants to government institutions, the private sector and CSOs for green projects.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Rwanda is among the pilot countries implementing the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework** to enable the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees. This is part of the Global Impact on Refugees, which seeks to foster refugees' resilience and self-reliance in a way that also benefits host communities.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women's participation in leadership at the local level improved during the period 2016-2018, increasing from 16.7% to 26.7% among district mayors and 45.2% in district councils.

It is worth noting that financing gender equality and empowering women has been and remains a priority for the government of Rwanda. This is reflected in Organic Law N° 12/2013/OL of 12/09/2013 on State Finances and Property that was adopted to enforce gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). All budget agencies must annex a gender budget statement (GBS) to the budget framework paper, ensuring that the budgets they draft incorporate a gender analysis that identifies the implications and impacts of the budget for both women and men.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		43.6 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	46 (2020)
	Rural	5 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	54 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		76.5 (2014, Kigali)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		39.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

7. 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/rwa>

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

São Tomé and Príncipe is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational governments, comprising 2 provinces and 7 districts. The island of Príncipe is an autonomous region. The larger island of São Tomé is divided into 6 districts and Príncipe island into one.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

São Tomé and Príncipe's national strategy is underpinned by the **São Tomé and Príncipe Vision 2030**. Main strategic planning instruments include the **São Tomé and Príncipe Transformation Agenda 2030**, the **National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021**, and the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2020-2024, which is the first operational plan for harmonizing, integrating, and implementing the STP 2030 Transformation Agenda, the 2030 Agenda, the Samoa Way and Agenda 2063 - "The Africa we want".

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The NDP 2017-2021 established an institutional implementation mechanism, composed of **several committees**.³ However, in 2019, the Court of Auditors found out that this institutional mechanism has not been functioning. Hence, the national government will soon create and operationalize an institutional mechanism for the SDG implementation process, coordinated at the high political level.

The **United Nations Framework Plan for Development Assistance (UNDAF)** for São Tomé and Príncipe in 2017-2021 provided for a Steering and Coordinating Committee, co-chaired by the government of São Tomé and Príncipe through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communities (MNEC) and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, and composed, on the national side, of Directors-General of key ministries and representatives from civil society and the private sector.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of this first VNR was a participatory and inclusive process, coordinated by the **Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA)**, through the **National Directorate of Planning (DNP)**, in close technical collaboration with the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**. To carry out the activities of the process, a **working group** comprising representatives from various sectoral public institutions and other stakeholders was set up. The group had the permanent support of the United Nations System (UNS) Resident Coordination in the country and the technical assistance of an international consultant, who facilitated the process of preparing and drafting this VNR. Two launching workshops were organized as part of the VNR process, with the participation of civil society organizations, public institutions, the National Assembly, the private sector and other stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

Among the 115 SDG indicators created in 2018, 42 were produced by the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**, and the remaining 73 by other national entities. An update was made in 2019, using information from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the Household Budget Survey 2017 and administrative data produced by **INE** and some sectoral institutions, which resulted in the availability of 139 indicators. For the elaboration of the VNR, national data was made available to measure 120 out of the 247 global indicators.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sao%20Tome%20and%20Principe%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. These committees include (i) an inter-ministerial follow-up committee; (ii) a consultation committee; (iii) a central technical follow-up committee, (iv) sectoral technical committees, and (v) local follow-up committees in the RAP and the Districts of Água Grande, Cantagalo, Cauê, Lembá, Lobata and Mê-Zóchi.

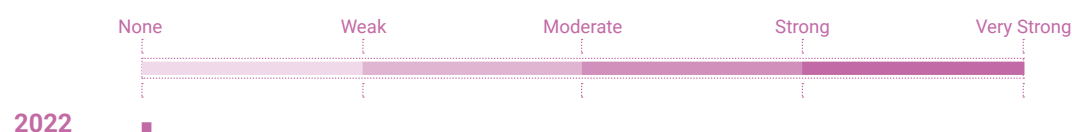
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The VNR lacks evidence of localization strategies or LRG involvement in national coordinating mechanisms for SDG implementation. Although the national coordination mechanism has introduced **local follow-up committees** in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the Districts of Água Grande, Cantagalo, Cauê, Lembá, Lobata and Mé-Zóchi, provinces and districts' role in service delivery is bypassed by national agencies.⁴

Promoting the localization of the SDGs at the level of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the districts is listed as one of the future steps towards SDG implementation by 2030. The national government is expected to promote with the governments of the Autonomous Region of Príncipe and the districts the integration of priority targets in the regional and district plans, in alignment with the national planning instruments.

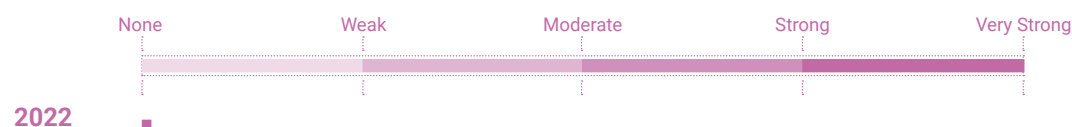
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No evidence of LRG involvement in the drafting process of the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No evidence of LRG involvement in national coordinating mechanisms for SDG implementation.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2022 VNR refers to LRGs (mostly to regions) throughout the report, and acknowledges their role as it highlights the "ownership and mainstreaming of the SDGs by development actors at the regional and local levels of the country is crucial for the full understanding of the 2030 Agenda as well as for the effective implementation of the SDGs" (see VNR 2022, p. 94).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Resource mobilization for the financing of SDG planning instruments relies on domestic resources, external resources and alternative financing. The VNR lacks information on resource mobilization and budget allocation at the local level.

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2003 Constitution recognizes decentralization, establishing the same level of responsibility for provinces and districts. However, legislative and regulatory texts for operationalizing transfers of responsibilities are lacking.⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No information at the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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	40 (2020)
	Rural	25 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	36 (2020)
	Rural	30 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		85.7 (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)		39 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Senegal is a unitary country with a multiparty presidential regime. The country is divided into 43 departments and 557 communes (Gox) including 5 cities (*Rewu Taax*).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 **Plan for Emerging Senegal (PSE)** is the main framework for economic and social policy. Its strategic orientations are aligned with the SDGs, and it covers 97.1% of the SDG targets. The PSE is implemented through five-year **Priority Action Plans (PAP)** and the second phase of the PSE corresponds to the 2019-2023 period. The government committed to developing a 'leave no one behind' strategy as the identification of "vulnerable" people is seen as a prerequisite for effective and efficient implementation of the SDGs. Senegal also considers decentralization to be part of its SDG implementation strategy.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **General Direction for Planning and Economic Policies (DGPPE)** within the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation (MEPC) is in charge of the formulation of development policies and their translation into plans and programs as well as the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of development actions. Its vision and strategic objectives are in line with the MEPC sector development policy letter which is in line with the PSE.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2018 and 2022 VNR processes, an **ad-hoc committee** has been set up. The objective was to mobilize stakeholders involved in sustainable development matters: ministries, civil society, local authorities, the private sector, parliament, other institutions and research institutes. For the 2018 VNR, the technical committee was under the auspices of the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation (MEPC). The **General Direction for Planning and Economic Policies (DGPPE)** within the MEPC led the technical process for the elaboration of the 2022 VNR, together with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the United Nations System in Senegal. In parallel, civil society actors developed an alternative contribution report.

1.3 MONITORING

The institutional SDG monitoring system is linked to that of the **Harmonized Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation (CASE)** of the PAP created in 2015. An annual monitoring report adopted by all development actors (civil society organizations, local elected representatives, the private sector and development partners) outlines the progress made and recommendations. The technical process is led by the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation (MEPC), through the General Direction for Planning and Economic Policies (DGPPE), together with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the United Nations System in Senegal. Senegal seeks to improve the monitoring of the SDGs through its action plan on the inclusive data charter. It defines concrete and specific measures and actions to be undertaken over the period 2022-2025 to facilitate the monitoring of the SDGs at all levels. This will involve, among other things, localizing the SDGs by strengthening communication on the SDGs at the regional, departmental and municipal levels and aligning local plans with the SDGs.

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

2. See: http://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19253Rapport_national_volontaire_Snegal_versionn_finale_juin_2018_FPHN2.pdf (2018); <http://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Senegal%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. There is no information on the DGPPE in the 2018 and 2022 VNRs.

More details on its responsibilities can be found here: <https://www.economie.gouv.sn/index.php/en/le-ministere/secretariat-general/dgppe>

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs do not directly participate in national coordination mechanisms. Overall, Senegal is giving priority to the localization (“territorialization”) of the 2030 Agenda by **aligning local plans with the SDGs**. In 2020, a territorial development planning guide was drawn up to facilitate integrating the SDGs into territorial planning.

Local governments were involved in the 2018 VNR process: a civil society working group held consultations in several regions (mainly about the “leaving no one behind” principle). The 2022 VNR mentions the participation of LRGs as well, linked to the committee in charge of the reporting process. The committee also organized a virtual workshop with local authorities, regional development agencies and other local development actors to present the report to them.

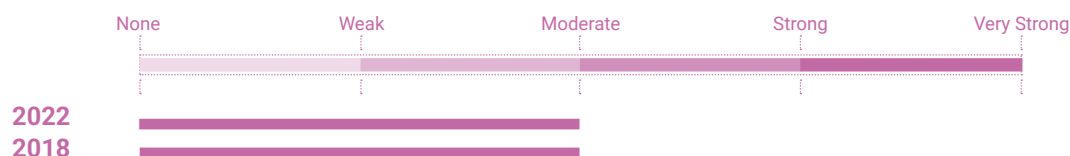
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Committee in charge of the 2022 VNR involved LRGs. (No evidence of this participation in the answers received to the 2022 GTF Survey).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms. However, LRGs are involved in the national annual SDG monitoring process.

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 and 2022 VNRs refer to LRGs, and provide specific examples. However, these are mainly national initiatives implemented in certain cities/territories rather than locally-led initiatives. In the 2022 report, LRGs and localization are presented as key actors and processes for the implementation of the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► There are new mechanisms for integrated regional and urban development plans in several regions (e.g. Area **Dakar-ThièsMbour**), as well as new urban plans (e.g. **Dakar** Horizon 2035).

► The **Fatick Region** has for instance developed the Integrated Regional Development Plan 2012-2018 that used an ecosystem approach to meet the SDGs at the regional level. The transfer of environmental and natural resource management powers to the regions enabled the region to design and monitor its biodiversity, safeguarding efforts to protect wildlife in particular. As of today, 33 forests are being developed and 100 villages are involved in forest management.

► The city government of **Dakar** has organized reforestation activities with schoolchildren from disadvantaged areas, in a more inclusive learning environment to simultaneously raise awareness on climate change and reduce inequalities.

► The city of **Saint Louis**, in collaboration with Enda Energie and Wetlands International, has established a comprehensive framework for protecting vulnerable coastal ecosystems.

► **Pikine** has inaugurated an Office of Rights to provide services of attention, welcome and advice for irregular migrants. In addition, 75 Senegalese local authorities in 2017 adopted a Charter of Citizen Participation and the Right to the City to commit themselves to advance the human rights and citizen participation agendas at the local level.⁴

4. The cases presented above are mentioned in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The financing mechanism for the SDGs goes through that of the PSE. The implementation of the SDGs requires the effective participation of the private sector. In 2020, Senegal launched a process to set up a **National Integrated Financing Framework (INFF)** to better finance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. There is no information in the 2018 and 2022 VNRs regarding the local level. The Minister of Local Governments, Development and Territorial Planning set up in March 2022 in Dakar, a **climate financing project for local authorities (Pfcct)**, anchored to the national program for local development (PNDL). This project is financed by the Fund for Climate Change in Africa (FCCA), created in 2002 within the AfDB (African Development Bank).⁵

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2018 and 2022 VNRs state that in order to deepen decentralization and make the localization of public policies effective, the government committed to promoting economically homogeneous territories. The government of Senegal launched Act III of **decentralization** which aims to promote the emergence of viable, competitive and sustainable territories. The 2022 VNR states that the level of achievement of the SDGs in 2023 is estimated at around 37%. With continued efforts, Senegal could reach 74% of its targets by 2030.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

A law dating from May 2010 establishes “absolute parity between men and women in the fully or partially elective institutions of the Republic” at both national and local level. In addition, a constitutional revision was voted in November 2010 to include a specific clause on male-female parity “in electoral mandates and in elective functions”.⁶ The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments was 43% in 2020 compared to 42.67% in 2015, a small change of 0.36 %. This weak evolution is, among other things, linked to the non-effectiveness of the law on parity at the level of certain municipal councils. However, if the pace of progress is maintained, the 2030 target of 50% will be reached with the effective application of the law on parity.

3.2 COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the low economic growth rate led to a slowdown in the pace of progress towards the SDGs, especially in the case of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 17 which show larger deviations from the baseline scenario. No reference to the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		47.6 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		29.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		21.4 (2007, Dakar)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		59.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. See: https://www.seneweb.com/news/Politique/financement-climatique-des-collectivites_n_374670.html

6. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, “Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa”, https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

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

SEYCHELLES

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Seychelles is a unitary republic and an archipelago of 155 islands, with 25 administrative districts. Between 1991 and 1993, the originally 23 districts were local government units with elected councils. Since then, they have been **governed by government-appointed administrators**. This came about with the result that the opposition in the Constitutional Commission objected to the motion of local elected leaders as per the Local Government Act 1991. In 2015, the Local Government Act 201538.2b enabled the creation of elected district councils. However, the Act has not yet come into effect and local government officers remain appointed to the existing 25 district councils.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

In 2019, Seychelles launched its **15-year vision (Vision 2033)** and the first **National Development Strategy (NDS 2019- 2023)** – the first of three NDSs that will enable implementation of the aspirations of the Vision. The SDGs are mapped onto each pillar and each goal in the NDS.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The '**National Oversight Strategic Committee for the Implementation of Seychelles' Regional and Global Commitments (NOSCIS)**' is a high-level committee chaired by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning. It has the mandate of ensuring that the SDGs are integrated in the national planning process as well as of providing oversight and strategic guidance to the coordinating unit within the Department of Economic Planning.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Department of Economic Planning** within the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning was assigned the responsibility of coordinating the 2020 VNR process. This largely included organizing stakeholder consultations, collecting inputs and drafting the report. Workshops have been conducted on the SDGs with members of civil society organizations; the private sector; district administrators; senior citizens; district councils; LGBTQ+ people; and persons with disabilities.

1.3 MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs will be conducted through the results framework highlighted in the country's NDS. All ministries, departments and agencies are expected to provide reports on their achievements which will depict the extent to which SDG implementation makes progress. This is further strengthened by the Results-Based Management (RBM) programmes which aim to maximize efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Seychelles.pdf and UCLG, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, 2020, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26382/VNR_2020_Seychelles_Report.pdf (2020)

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Seychelles Planning Authority (SPA)** regulates physical development on land to ensure sustainable development of communities within the country. The SPA is planning to enhance SDG implementation by collaborating more closely with both local and international partners. One initiative is to obtain assistance from UN-Habitat for the implementation of scheduled projects to ensure the SDGs are represented in all the project outcomes.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country has adopted a synchronized approach under which consultations with various stakeholders across all sectors and groups, including the private sector and civil society, bring about greater participation and hence strengthen local partnerships. The government ensures broad consultations are conducted during the preparation phase of the budget process, the country's national plans and Vision, and any reforms being undertaken, such as the recent business tax reform.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Local Government Act 201538.2b enables the creation of elected district councils to enable citizens. However, the Act has not yet come into effect and local government officers remain appointed to the existing 25 district councils. Nonetheless, the Association of the Districts of Victoria is present in the country.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Seychelles has achieved 50% women in decision-making in the Cabinet of Ministers and in the public service sector, and women have surpassed the 50% target for female representation at the level of Principal Secretaries and senior managers, with a figure of over 70% senior decision-making levels in local governance.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference regarding the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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)		13.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/syc>

SIERRA LEONE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Sierra Leone is a unitary republic. The country acknowledges a single tier of local self-government: the district. Since 2018, there are 22 local councils, including 15 district councils and 7 city councils. In terms of administrative organization, it is divided into 3 provinces (the Northern, Southern, and Eastern Provinces) and a region known as the Western Area.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

Sierra Leone has remained strategic in pursuing the SDGs, with a special focus on its accelerator SDGs projected to the UN in 2019: SDG 4 (inclusive education) and SDG 16 (justice, peace and inclusive society). The two are still leading dimensions to the transformational agenda of the state. Education is also at the heart of the **Government's Human Capital Development flagship programme**, flanked by healthcare and nutrition in the programme, noting further that the country's **MTNDP (2019-2023)** is titled "Education for Development".

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED)** ensures SDG coordination. Regional Planning Offices of the Ministry have been installed. All development stakeholders in the national planning processes—within and between central and local government, drawing in local traditional authorities, CSOs/NGOs, the private sector, the academic, schools, the media and development partners—are involved in the arrangement for the implementation of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development** coordinated the 2021 VNR process. All relevant stakeholders, including local councils,³ participated in consultations at national and local/district levels, provided data, took part in data analysis and in the preparation of a range of field reports feeding into the VNR. A One-Day Intensive General Stakeholder Technical Session was held to provide status updates to participants in the VNR process, and to discuss the roles and responsibilities of all in the data collection.

1.3 MONITORING

The existing institutions for SDG coordination are also in charge of monitoring SDG implementation, but no specific reference is made to a specific monitoring system.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

According to the 2019 VNR, all SDGs have been integrated into local council plans, facilitated by the Department of Local Government Finance in the Ministry of Finance. Local councils coordinate implementation of the SDGs at district level. Before the resuscitation of the Regional Planning Offices, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development has worked closely

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10720sierraleone.pdf> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23378Sierra_Leone_VNR_FINAL.pdf (2019);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279542021_VNR_Report_Sierra_Leone.pdf (2021)

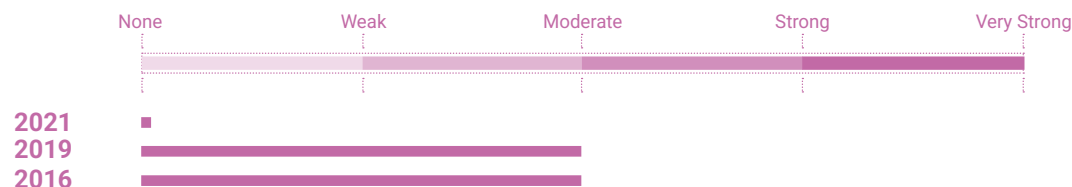
3. More specifically: representatives from the 22 Local Councils covering the 16 districts of Sierra Leone participated in the One-Day Intensive General Stakeholder Technical Session (see VNR, 2021, 23).

with the Ministry of Finance's Local Government Finance Department and the Ministry of Local Government's Decentralisation Secretariat to engage local councils in the implementation and reporting on the SDGs at district level. Implementation and follow-up at district level will be intensified when Regional Planning Offices of MoPED become fully operational, in collaboration with those aforementioned line departments.

The 2021 VNR states that the government will be establishing Chiefdom Development Coordination Units, counterpart to the **District Development Coordination Committees (DDCCs)** at district level to strengthen sub-national development coordination.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

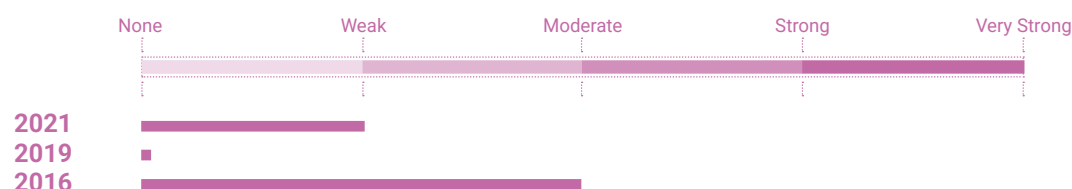
► In the VNR process



Comments: In 2019, a nationwide training and sensitization was conducted on the expected role and contribution of all actors to achieving the SDGs. Local government councils were heavily involved in these sessions, and in the general implementation of the global agenda.

In 2021, there was no involvement of the Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone (LoCASL) in the reporting process. However, according to the VNR, local councils participated in a consultation day.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: In 2021, the District Development Coordination Committees (DDCCs) were re-established.

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 2021 VNR has a specific subsection called "Strengthening local service delivery system" describing how the government and development partners have continued to provide support to local councils. This subsection also shows a renewed determination to decentralize ownership of National Development Plans in Sierra Leone during the period 2019-2020, having as principal outcome the re-establishment of the District Development Coordination Committees (DDCCs) to regularly, functionally and sustainably follow-up on and reporting on the implementation of the national development plans and the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Local Councils Association (LoCASL)** has organized workshops to streamline the SDGs into local development programmes. This alignment process has also been supported by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, both of which have encouraged the 22 local councils to integrate the SDGs into their district and municipal development plans.

► The EU is currently providing a huge programme of support to six provincial local councils, principally including **Bombali District, Kenema, Pujehun** and **Kambia**. The newly established districts of **Falaba** and **Karene** were also considered in extended assistance.

► The **Wan Fambul National Framework** is an inclusive local governance development framework principally focused at catalyzing the placement of people at the centre of development through promoting village/chiefdom level planning (sub-district development system), coming up with plans and projects by the people and led by the people. It is essentially meant to deepen the **decentralization** system to enhance the localisation of the national development plan and the SDGs.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Local Government Finance Department (LGFD)** works closely with the local councils to ensure that they have sufficient resources and support to contribute to the country's development aspirations.

On partnerships and financing for development (SDG 17), a range of initiatives have been pursued, largely informed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among them, the government is currently implementing a **strengthening domestic resource mobilization for SDGs financing project** aimed at driving innovation in domestic revenue collection and management at central and local levels and financial sector capitalisation through deploying digitalisation and financial literacy. Issues of integrated national financing for the SDGs took a centre stage in the implementation of the SDGs in the last two years, following the conduct of a comprehensive Development Finance Assessment and the design of an **Integrated National Financing Framework** for the country.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: As the third VNR of Sierra Leone, the 2021 report is highly evaluative. It showcases the policy impact of strategic state initiatives undertaken in pursuit of SDGs 4 and 16, first and foremost, and then the rest of the SDGs prioritized by the UN for the 2021 edition of the HLPF.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

2 out of the 7 mayors in the 22 local councils of the country are women, constituting 28.5%; while 1 out of the 21 Chairpersons in these councils are women, constituting 4.7%. And 90 out of the 479 local councillors across the country are women, constituting 18.7%. This is against Section 95 (2c) of the Local Government Act (2004), which provides for a **mandatory 50-50 gender parity** at Ward Committee levels. It states that "in addition to the councillor and paramount chief in the chiefdom, the ward committee shall consist of not more than 10 other persons at least 5 of whom shall be women."

3.2 COVID 19

The government had to put in place two key emergency response/recovery programmes during the pandemic: a Quick Action Economic Recovery Programme (QAERP), and a Health Preparedness and Response Plan, that were more socially focused than having direct impact on private economic investment. COVID-19 Behavioral Change Support of **Freetown City Council** includes:

- ▶ #MaskUpFreetown Campaign produced and distributed facemasks to residents
- ▶ Improving markets to encourage social distancing
- ▶ Market COVID-19 prevention monitoring
- ▶ Food supplies to vulnerable populations ahead of lockdown.

COVID-19 preparedness and response plan of the **Freetown City Council** includes:

- ▶ Supplementary food support to quarantine homes
- ▶ Establishment of 180-bed isolation center for asymptomatic patients.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		18.2 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	13 (2020)
	Rural	9 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	20 (2020)
	Rural	10 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		59.1 (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)		54.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

⁴ 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/sle>

SOMALIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Somalia is a federal republic with a two-tiered subnational government structure. Today, the country has 18 regions and 146 districts. However, until now, local autonomy has not been recognized and local governments do not have financial autonomy or a distinct legal status.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

Somalia developed its **Ninth National Development Plan 2020 - 2024 (NDP-9)** which is aligned with the SDGs and provides a national framework for institutional renovation.³ The NDP-9 aims to reduce poverty and inequalities through four pillars: inclusive and accountable policies, security and rule of law, economic growth and social development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

There is no reference to existing coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. According to the VNR, one of the next steps planned is the creation of a **working group or forum on the SDGs**, with the participation of the government, United Nations agencies, and stakeholders, to discuss challenges and actions to strengthen coordination, mobilize funding partners, and revise the data collection and reporting framework.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the preparation of the 2022 VNR, the country developed a broad consultation process led by the **Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)**. Five **consultation workshops** were organized with Federal Member States Directors General and Federal level Director General, academics, think tanks, women's associations, people with disabilities, and youth. A deliberation among experts was also organized to reflect on the progress and gaps in SDG implementation. The VNR process received media coverage to inform the general public of the 2030 Agenda and of Somalia's current progress.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)** established in 2020 conducts the collection, coordination, analysis, and dissemination of all national statistical information. The SNBS has developed an online data visualization dashboard and an online goal tracker to monitor the progress in the implementation of the SDGs. However, the VNR stresses that there are insufficient monitoring and reporting of SDG implementation by relevant institutions.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

1. See: UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnl.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Somalia%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

3. 80 out of the 103 indicators from the NDP-9 are aligned with the SDGs.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2022

Comments: There is no reference to LRGs among the actors invited to consultations during the VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2022

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 is very little reference to LRGs throughout the VNR, and no specific example of locally-led initiatives related to the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Five districts in **Puntland State** developed District Climate Adaptation plans to promote climate change resilience and enhance the capacity of local governments in risk mitigation measures.

► The city of **Mogadishu** provided answers to the needs of migrant groups: sites were selected for housing projects and prototypes were developed that have been complemented by a plan for rented accommodation.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR process revealed a lack of funding which impedes Somalia's ability to reach SDG targets. The country's annual budget is progressively aligned with the SDGs to ensure policy outcomes and facilitate better monitoring. The VNR highlights the lack of financial resources within regions and district-level agencies.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Somalia's federal structure has been experiencing structural political and economic instability. Many development projects have been discontinued as a result. LRGs do not have distinct legal status and there has not been sufficient stability to date to improve existing institutional environments for LRGs. However, the first pillar of NDP-9 is "inclusive and accountable politics", which sets out to achieve national stability and peace through inclusive political processes and effective **decentralization**.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Somali Women's Convention organized in Mogadishu in 2019 aimed at advancing women's roles and developing demands in the review of the Constitution and electoral laws. It involved active women leaders in local and national governments, as well as other stakeholders.

4. UCLG, 2022, GOLD VI Report, <https://www.goldvi.uclg.org/en>

3.2 COVID 19

No reference regarding the local level.

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 (%)		72.1 (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)		27.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

SOUTH AFRICA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

South Africa is a quasi-federal state and a constitutional democracy divided into three spheres rather than tiers of government: national, provincial and local governments. The country comprises 9 provinces and, at the local level, 8 metropolitan municipalities, 208 local municipalities and 41 district municipalities.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 (NDP) – Vision 2030 “Our future, make it work”** – was adopted in 2012 as South Africa's development roadmap. The NDP has a 74% convergence with the SDGs. In addition, in 2016, the national government adopted the **integrated urban development framework (IUDF)**, an initiative coordinated by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in collaboration with other national departments, LGAs and international partners. The IUDF has been promoted not as a policy or plan, but as an approach to activating an ‘all of society’ approach to implementing the New Urban Agenda and its four strategic goals of spatial integration, inclusion and access, inclusive growth and effective governance.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)** coordinates the national coordinating mechanism for SDG implementation, which includes the **Cabinet** and its committees, the **Interministerial Committee on Sustainable Development Agendas** (the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and the Southern African Development Community's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (SADC RISDP)), the Director-Generals' **National Steering Committee** and an **interdepartmental implementation committee** with working groups. There is also a Presidential Coordinating Council and a National Sustainable Development Stakeholders Forum.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Preparation of the 2019 VNR was led by **Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)** and the **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)**. An institutional mechanism was established and extensive consultations were undertaken to integrate views across the national government, provincial and local governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and UNDP. **Sector Working Groups** were formed and led by Stats SA.

1.3 MONITORING

The **South African Local Government Association (SALGA)** was part of an SDG initiative led by **Stats SA**, which is the central national government department coordinating the compilation of the SDG reports (i.e. SDG Goal reports, Thematic reports, and Country reports) based on inputs from different departments, organizations and private institutions.³ SALGA also uses the **“municipal barometer”** web-based portal and its smart mobile application, working in close collaboration with Statistics South Africa, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to develop disaggregated local data.⁴

1. South Africa has one of the world's most highly devolved systems of government. However, devolution remains asymmetric. The so-called category ‘A’ or metropolitan municipalities, have far more autonomy than smaller category ‘B’ or local municipalities, or the category ‘C’ district municipalities. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23402RSA_Voluntary_National_Review_Report_The_Final_24_July_2019.pdf (2019)

3. Answer of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2020.

4. Answer of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2020. The Municipal Barometer is a web-based portal established to collect, re-package and disseminate local level data for municipalities. It was developed to provide easy access to municipal level data for both specialist and non-specialist audiences. See: <http://www.municipalbarometer.co.za/>

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

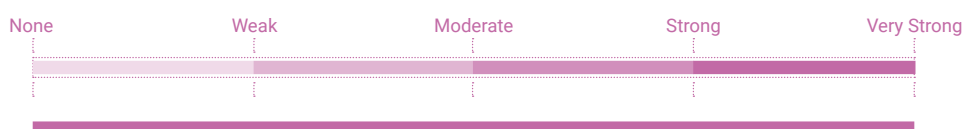
Provincial and local governments are part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, since, as the 2019 VNR emphasizes, “the achievement of development targets is anchored in the programmes of subnational governments” (see VNR, 2019, p. 23). The national government has been working to improve the coordination and coherence of the provincial and local development plans with respect to the 2030 Agenda. SDG implementation and coordination is facilitated through **provincial growth and development strategies (PGDSs)**, as well as **integrated development plans (IDPs)** at the local level.

Provincial and municipal governments are responsible for the roll-out of the **IUDF** through their provincial and municipal spatial development frameworks and strategies.⁵

The 2019 VNR process included a range of representatives from subnational governments, but some challenges persist. For instance, the city of Johannesburg has volunteered to report data for the VNR, but there is no clear institutional mechanism for coordinating and reporting linking the national and local governments; instead this seems to take place on an ad hoc basis. There are also difficulties to integrate local-based data into the national official statistics system.⁶

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: Johannesburg reports a puntual participation (GTF Surveys 2020 & 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is a box on the alignment of the SDGs with local development plans, showcasing the municipality of **eThekweni** as an example illustrating the efforts to integrate the SDGs into development planning at the local level (see VNR, 2019, p. 28). Another box mentions initiatives of different cities to increase reliance on renewable energy in transport (see VNR, 2019, p. 67).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **South African Local Government Association (SALGA)** has been raising awareness about the SDGs among its political leadership and members, for example during the National Members Assembly. It made active use of the media to disseminate information about the SDGs, in particular through its 'Voice' magazine. The LGA developed a book, 'Leading change – Delivering the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning' in support of SDG 11. In December 2018, the SALGA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UN in South Africa to support South African municipalities in localizing the SDGs. With regards to its monitoring activities, the SALGA also developed a 'municipal barometer' web based portal and works closely with Stats-SA to promote disaggregated local data. The SALGA is also collaborating with ICLEI Africa which in 2019 organized South Africa's first SDG symposium, bringing together local government representatives to discuss SDG localization.⁷

Also, SALGA has undertaken to institutionalize the advancement of women in political and decision-making positions through the formation of **SALGA Women's Commission (SWC)**. The mandate of the Women's Commission is “to coordinate, promote and advocate for gender appropriate strategies and practices within member municipalities and feed into national, regional and the global agenda and processes”. The SWC is one of the governance structures chaired by a female politician who is also a member of the National Executive Committee on an ex-officio basis. The Association has advocated for 50/50 representation in local government elections.⁸

5. However, clear guidelines and support for the implementation of the IUDF at the local level are so far absent. This is because the responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of these agendas lies with other government departments such as the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

6. Answer of the city of Johannesburg to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

8. See: http://www.cib-uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg-cib_gender_equality_publication_june2021.pdf

► The city of **Johannesburg** has established seven waste buy-back centres, operated by the informal community of waste pickers, with the aim of empowering impoverished communities and providing job security benefits, while increasing recycling rates. Also, public spaces in Johannesburg serve as bridges to reconnect the urban areas to recreational spaces and allow for freedom of movement. Because of the spatial legacy of apartheid, parks and public facilities were all concentrated in higher-income neighbourhoods, while townships remained dense areas with almost no open green spaces. The 'Corridors of Freedom' initiative illustrates this new vision of making public space inclusive, particularly in poorer areas, and improving living conditions in former townships.⁹

► The municipality of **eThekweni-Durban** has aligned its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) with the SDGs. For the last two fiscal years, eThekweni has incorporated the SDG targets and indicators into its local government responsibilities and municipal budget using a bottom-up approach as part of the city's strategic approach to sustainability. The alignment has focused on four main pillars: human rights, people, the planet and prosperity. This exercise has allowed the city's metropolitan area to introduce a system of benchmarking that permits more robust monitoring and a better reporting framework. In 2017, 66 out of 98 SDG indicators had been aligned with investment projects; in 2018, this number increased to 75. With support from local government affiliated organizations such as the eThekweni Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE), eThekweni Municipal Academy (EMA), and UCLG, the city has been able to improve its knowledge and understanding of the SDGs. By providing input into SDG Toolkit developments and assisting in the training of trainers on SDGs, the city is enabling advocacy, learning and institutionalization of the SDGs amongst its own officials as well as those from other cities.

Also, eThekweni has a comprehensive package of measures for poor and vulnerable people, including indigenous communities (SDGs 1, 6, 10, 11). With regard to basic services, rates are not levied on properties valued under a certain amount, with preferential treatment for pensioners and social grant recipients; and the use of water, sanitation, electricity and waste is free up to specific limits. With respect to housing, a new programme will deliver over 150,000 housing units to poor people free of charge over a ten year period. To improve the quality of life in informal settlements and transit camps, short-term emergency/ interim services have been provided in the form of washing blocks, refuse removal, storm water ditching, fire breaks, etc. In addition, innovative new housing forms and urban design solutions are being implemented with the aim of promoting densification, social cohesion, and a more sustainable urban form.¹⁰

EtheKweni, through the MILE programme, facilitates inter-municipal learning and cooperation on SDGs, both domestically and within the SADC region – offering learning opportunities to sister cities.¹¹

Finally, eThekweni supports women employment within the municipality. Women represent 48% of the teams responsible for environmental issues and actions related to climate change in the city. The municipality has partnered with a local university to develop tools to respond to climate change and increase local capacities and resilience. This program has 60% female students. Education is indeed considered to be a major empowerment lever for women.¹²

The 2019 VNR highlights the active participation of eThekweni in **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**. The latter has assisted the municipality in developing toolkits for SDG awareness and localization. Senior staff within the municipality have been involved in the packaging and development of training modules that can be used to build capacity on SDGs at the local government level. The municipality of eThekweni, through the Strategy Office, has provided content and assisted UCLG and UN-Habitat in the development of training modules on SDG awareness, SDG strategic planning and implementation, and SDG monitoring and reporting. Currently, 12 staff members have been trained on the methodology of SDG localization using the above modules.

► In **Tshwane**, the city administration has improved its collaboration with informal transport providers, leading to improvements in local economic development (LED) (SDG 8), which has accelerated the rate of social change and had a direct impact on the lives of the poorest citizens.¹³ Overall, the city has in 2020 initiated an SDG localization and alignment process to align all city planning activities and instruments, as well as policies to eth SDGs and their targets.¹⁴

► **Cape Town** has initiated action to recover and reduce waste and improve energy efficiency in municipal buildings since 2009. By 2015, the city had installed about 500 smart meters within municipal facilities and developed an automated energy management system, the 'SmartFacility' application. This interprets the facility's electricity consumption data in a friendly, accessible manner, illustrating the data on a dashboard for internal end users and the public. In addition, the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Program (WISP) was established in the city, and provides business members with time and technical expertise, connecting companies with unused or residual resources, such as materials, energy, water, assets, logistics and expertise. The cumulative impact of WISP over the last five years has included: 27,436 tons of waste diverted from landfill; 46,700 tons of GHG saved (equivalent to nine 2.2MW wind turbines installed in South Africa); EUR 2.8 million generated in financial benefits through additional revenue, cost savings and private investments; 143 jobs created in the economy (25 directly in member companies). The programme has received multiple award nominations, including being a three-time finalist for various circular economy awards.

► Steps are being taken to decarbonize the transport sector and lower its emissions by supporting the uptake of electric and hybrid cars, the use of cleaner fuels and more energy efficient technologies, the expansion of non-motorized transportation, and an efficient and integrated Bus Rapid Transport System, among others. Progress has been made in enhancing the city of **Tshwane**'s bus fleet using compressed natural gas (CNG). The city of **Johannesburg** is using a dual system for their bus

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

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

11. Answer of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2020.

12. Friends of the Earth, C40, 2015, Why Women Will Save the Planet, London, Zed Books Ltd, 299 p.

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

14. Answer of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2020.

network with a combination of diesel and CNG. For phase 2, the City has identified CNG and electric buses as potential newer technologies. The city of **Cape Town** has selected to procure electric buses, which are currently undergoing testing.

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

The municipality of **Cape Town** published its VLR in 2019.¹⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A methodology has been developed to allocate spending as recorded in budget documents to the achievement of specific SDGs. Using the United Nations Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, each sub-programme within each vote of the 2018 South Africa National Budget was assigned an associated SDG (when appropriate) and an associated SDG target (when possible). The SDGs that captured the most funding in fiscal year 2017-2018 were promoting good governance, peace and justice (SDG 16), reducing inequality (SDG 10) and reducing poverty (SDG 1). The three accounted for 42% of spending on SDGs, followed by spending on education (SDG 4), infrastructure (SDG 9) and partnerships (SDG 17).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR acknowledges that South Africa has failed to address inappropriate spatial patterns that limit growth and impair welfare. Cities suffer from fragmentation, with poorer neighbourhoods far from centres of employment, large settlements that, due to location and informal legal status, are difficult to connect to basic services, and poorly integrated transit systems that do not provide smooth connections between bus and rail services and result in over served and underserved communities. Addressing these issues requires greater and more efficiently planned infrastructure investment, the location of subsidized housing in leafy suburbs and urban centres, and policies that emphasize support and provision of legal rights to informal settlers.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women leadership in local government has also improved substantially over the past 25 years. Women representation rose from 19% in 1995 to 41% in 2016. South Africa is one of the three countries (after Lesotho and Namibia) leading women leadership in local government in the Southern African Development Community between 2010 and 2016.

3.2 COVID 19

Local and provincial governments have been at the front lines of implementing interventions to respond to COVID-19 – including health care and support and awareness, food parcels, ensuring basic services, providing shelter, supporting economic recovery and promoting a safe environment, etc. Support and resources have been made available from the national government, but much of the response required for the COVID-19 crisis is an unfunded mandate.¹⁶

15. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Cape%20Town%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Cape%20Town%20(2019)_0.pdf)

16. Answer of the city of Johannesburg to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		40.7 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	81 (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 (%)		25.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		82.6 (2015, Johannesburg)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		25.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		98.0 (2020)

¹⁷ 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/zaf>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION*

Sudan is a federal republic divided into 18 states and 188 localities. However, subnational authorities are not elected, but appointed by the national government.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 SDGs are considered a tool for integrating the dimensions and principles of sustainable development into the national priorities on peace and development, and in Sudan's **Quarter-Century Strategy (QCS 2007-2031)**. Through the QCS, the implementation of development activities and programs has been organized through successive short-term **Sustainable Development Implementation Plans**. Furthermore, the integration of the SDGs in the national planning framework has been designed through the **National Program for Sustainable Development (NPSD) 2016 -2030**.³ The SDGs were also integrated into Sudan's medium-term development plan: the **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2021-2023**. Pursuing inclusive economic growth, a major pillar in the PRSP, is a policy that responds to the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sovereignty Council** oversees the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A **High National Committee** chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) was created, to ensure the integration of the SDGs into the government plans and budgets. It is supported by a **technical committee** chaired by the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP, and composed of head executives of the concerned ministries. SDG implementation was coordinated by the **National Population Council (NPC)** until 2019, and is now coordinated by the **Poverty Reduction and SDGs Unit**. This Unit is part of the General Directorate of Planning and Economic Policies which falls under the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The previous High-Level National Mechanism, composed of ministers and high-level officials, and the NPC were in charge of the 2018 VNR process. The **Poverty Reduction and SDGs Unit** coordinated and prepared the 2022 VNR under the supervision of the Understory of Planning in the MoFEP. **Technical working groups** led by the concerned ministers were created for six SDGs to be covered in depth. For both VNRs, consultations were held with the private sector, academia, youth, women, persons with disabilities, NGOs and other civil society organizations. The 2022 VNR process included consultations with subnational governments. The suspension of activities in Sudan by the development partners as a result of the military decisions of October 2021 impacted the contribution of the UN agencies in the preparation of the 2022 VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)** is in charge of the production and dissemination of national statistics and the coordination of statistical work across government agencies. Inadequate funding and limited capacity have restricted the production and availability of reliable statistics. To improve the availability and reliability of statistics for monitoring progress towards the SDGs, the CBS has produced its **Five Year National Strategy for Promoting Statistics 2021-2025** and the World Bank has approved a "Data and Statistics Strengthening Investment Project".

* Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnl.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/21741VNR_Sudan.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sudan%20Report.pdf> (2022)

3. The NPSD 2016-2030 consists of a general framework for the integration of the SDGs principles and targets into the national planning frameworks, harmony of the national policies, plans and institutions, data preparations for measuring the indicators, and mobilization of the means and tools of implementation.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

States and localities, apart from Khartoum State, face a lack of knowledge and information on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. They also lack the financial and technical resources to implement the SDGs. States' plans and projects very rarely integrate the SDGs. Focal points representing the states participated in the NPC. However, the 2022 VNR stresses that there is weak coordination between the federal level and subnational authorities for SDG implementation. The 2022 VNR process included consultations held in all states with representatives from the states and localities.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2018 VNR, there is a subsection on the "role of the local communities in peace building" (see VNR, 2018, p. 38). It refers to the system of Native Administration and to the Ajaweed Council (more information below, in section 3). In both 2018 and 2022 VNRs, there are more references to states than to localities, and examples of federal/local initiatives for SDG implementation are scarce.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ **North Darfur State** has raised the knowledge and awareness of officials in the public and private sectors on the SDGs.
- ▶ The SDGs were integrated into **Khartoum State's** Plan for 2017-2030.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR states that a reform will pave the way for integrating the SDGs into the government's general budget. States are responsible for substantial spending on SDGs. However, in Sudan, states and local governments have a very limited capacity for revenue generation and tax collection, and are highly dependent on fiscal transfers from the federal government which are plagued by limited transparency and a lack of predictability. According to the 2022 VNR, a **National Revenue Fund** and a **National Commission for Dividing, Allocating and Monitoring Financial Resources and Revenues** are to be established to ensure a better allocation of national revenues between the federal government and the states, giving due consideration to conflict-affected areas, and addressing the historical grievances in resource allocations.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Sudan, being under sanctions during the previous regime with regard to terrorism, human rights violations, and external debt arrears, has been isolated from a meaningful engagement with the international community. Official Development Assistance was mostly humanitarian driven by conflicts and displacement.

The system of **Native Administration** forms an effective institution of local governance in Sudan. It plays an important role in peace-building through customary laws that are usually accepted and respected by all members of the community. The purpose of the Native Administration is threefold: to manage land allocation and use, to deliver justice and settle disputes, and to represent the state. The Native Administration exists side-by-side with the **Ajaweed Council (Al Joodia)**, which is an indigenous conflict resolution mechanism and is the most important social institution that provides oversight and mediation for disputed parties. The government established local authorities called **Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanisms** working on peace-building in the community, such as the Peace Council in Blue Nile State.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable as local authorities are not elected.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR summarizes the impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs in Sudan. There is no reference to local initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		88.4 (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)		43.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		11.1 (2019)

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

TANZANIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The United Republic of Tanzania is a unitary republic comprising the Mainland and Zanzibar. It has a single tier of subnational government, made up of 169 districts.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

Tanzania Development Vision 2025 (for Mainland) and **Zanzibar Development Vision 2020** spell out the transformation agenda and transition to middle-income country status. The medium term plans, namely the **National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP) II** for the Mainland and the **Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA) III** are aligned with the SDGs. Furthermore, the country has developed a **roadmap** detailing how stakeholder engagement, awareness creation, resource mobilization, capacity building, domestication and localization are to be accomplished.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In Mainland, the Prime Minister's Office provides overall oversight of FYDP II and SDG frameworks, while, the responsibility of coordinating the implementation and monitoring of FYDP II is bestowed upon the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP). A **Steering Committee**, composed of permanent secretaries of key ministries, is responsible for providing oversight and the operationalization of FYDP II (and by extension, SDG coordination). The Committee is supported by the **Coordination Secretariat**, which is composed of the Deputy Permanent Secretaries of key ministries. Coordination of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Zanzibar has been bestowed upon the **Zanzibar Planning Commission (ZPC)**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Led by the **Ministry of Finance and Planning** in Mainland and the **Zanzibar Planning Commission**, the process of preparing the 2019 VNR was consultative and participatory, engaging all stakeholders in the country i.e. the central government, local government authorities, Parliament, the Judiciary, the private sector, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, think tanks, marginalized groups, and the United Nations System. An **Inter-Sectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Working Group** on the SDGs was established, composed of representatives from ministries, departments, agencies, private sector organizations, higher learning Institutions, research institutions and CSOs. As part of the VNR process, the **Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT)**, a multi stakeholder platform for private sector, CSOs, UN agencies, development partners and government, undertook a series of engagements and consultations aimed at engaging the Tanzania private sector in the SDGs, as well as reporting on the implementation of the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

A **National Sustainable Development Data Roadmap** was developed for effective tracking of the SDGs and fostering partnerships for improvement of data availability, accessibility and use. A data visualization and dissemination portal has been developed to facilitate the dissemination of the SDGs. The 2019 VNR indicated that a robust national coordination and monitoring framework, supported by the National Bureau of Statistics and the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) was in the final stages of development.

In Zanzibar, the MKUZA III Monitoring and Evaluation System has been established and operationalized at all levels (the same system is being used for monitoring the implementation and reporting of the SDGs). The Office of the Chief Government Statistician has the responsibility of providing data for the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs from surveys, censuses and routine data.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23429VNR_Report_Tanzania_2019_FINAL.pdf (2019)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Mainland, there is no evidence of local governments' participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. In Zanzibar, the Zanzibar Planning Commission includes the LRGs.

A **Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development (PGSD)** monitors the implementation of the SDGs at local level and provides regular feedback and guidance. A **strategy for the localization of the SDGs** has also been presented to the planning officers of the country's regional secretariats, its district planning officers (DPOs) and the assistant administrative secretaries responsible for coordinating with local authorities.

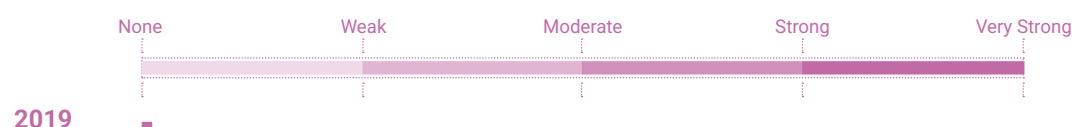
Local governments participated in the 2019 VNR process.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR refers to the districts, without reference to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, the government has prioritized a few areas to be addressed in an innovative way. These include financing, where reforms on the business environment and investment climate are expanding scope for current mechanisms of financing and opening up innovative means of resource mobilization.

Recognizing the importance of project management capacities in conceptualization, planning and the execution of SDG related interventions by public bodies, the government developed a public investment management-operational manual (PIM-OM), to serve as guide to ministries, departments and agencies, regional secretariats and local government authorities on matters related to Public Investment Management. In addition, the government has been conducting training to central and local government staff on project management in general and on the operationalization of the manual. The government, in collaboration with stakeholders, including UNCDF, trained 177 investment committee members from 60 local governments on public investment management. The government with support from UNCDF has also provided training on Municipal Investment Finance (MIF) and provided technical guidance to investment committee members and council management teams of four pilot local governments in the identification of 30 potential revenue-generating infrastructure projects for possible municipal revenue bond issuance.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: With respect to local disaster risk reduction that affect slums and unplanned settlements the most, the proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies increased from 11.17% in 2015 to 15.43% in 2018 (Mainland). The increase is attributed to the willingness of local government councils to develop and implement Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Legislative affirmative action has done much to ensure women's representation in local government in Tanzania. There is a legal requirement that women must occupy at least one-third of ward representatives' and 25% of village council seats and the prescribed special seats have increased the number of women councillors to 978 in 2015 across all authorities. Following the 2015 election, 34% of councillors were women, down on 35% following the 2011 election. Approximately 3% through the open ballot and the rest through reserved seats. Following the 2015 election, women chaired 11% of urban councils and 2% of rural councils.³

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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	35 (2020)
	Rural	22 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		40.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		44.7 (2015, Dar Es Salaam)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		26.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		17.6 (2018)

3. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tanzania.pdf

4. 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/tza>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Togo is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 5 regions, the autonomous district of Greater Lomé and 117 municipalities.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 **National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the government revised it by adopting the **Togo 2025 roadmap**. This roadmap takes into account the impacts and needs posed by the pandemic and reinforces the implementation of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Institutional coordination for SDG implementation in the country includes three main mechanisms. The **steering committee** and the **Government Seminar** arbitrate on projects and reforms requiring decision-making. The **interministerial monitoring committee** is responsible for arbitrating on urgent blockages in certain projects or reforms. The **ministerial monitoring committee** is in charge of the tight steering of the ministry's priority projects or reforms and of making minor decisions and arbitrations.

In Togo, national coordination mechanisms include multiple stakeholders: the private sector, the civil society and the local government association.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The four VNRs published were developed with the participation of different stakeholders including representatives of the public administration, local authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector and technical and financial partners. **Drafting/technical teams** were set up and national **workshops** were organized to validate the reports, which included all stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The 2018 VNR stresses that "all that is now required is to couple the NDP's monitoring and evaluation framework with that of the SDGs". The **ministerial monitoring committee** monitors progress on priority projects and reforms, and the **interministerial monitoring committee** reviews the overall progress of all projects and reforms. According to the 2022 VNR, the country established planning, statistics and monitoring-evaluation structures in sectoral ministries to enable a successful implementation of the SDGs. Moreover, the 2022 VNR process led to the creation of the **monitoring platform** for the indicators of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas and the Togo 2025 roadmap.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Association of Municipalities of Togo (FCT)**³ was consulted during the preliminary/design phase of the NDP 2018-2022. The 2018 VNR emphasizes that LRGs play a key role in implementing the NDP. It states that, to implement this plan, "at both the regional and local levels, regional and local development and planning commissions shall be put in place and their

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

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/10503togorapport.pdf> (2016);

https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16521Togo_EN.pdf (2017);

https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/20341Togo_ENGLISH_RAPPORT_DU_TOGO_Version_anglaise.pdf (2018);

https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Togo%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

3. The Union of Municipalities of Togo was replaced by the Association of Municipalities of Togo (FCT) in 2020.

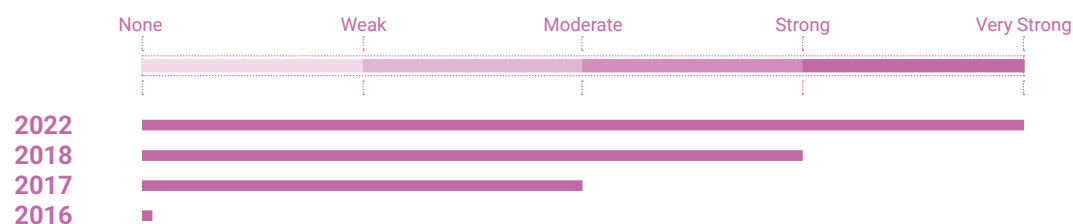
technical committees shall be constituted under the framework law on territorial planning”(see VNR, 2018, p. 19). Awareness-raising and outreach activities on the SDGs were organized at all levels, with the participation of regional and local government officials. Since 2019, awareness-raising sessions have been held regularly for actors in the 117 municipalities with a view to strengthening their capacities to take account of the SDGs in the Municipal Development Plans.

The FCT is involved in national coordination mechanisms through regular participation in the decision-making process. The government also sends surveys on a regular basis to municipalities so as to keep track of the state of SDG localization.⁴

The FCT was not involved in the first VNR published in 2016 but its contribution has grown stronger over time. The association participated in the 2018 VNR process by answering a survey and attending bilateral meetings with the national reporting unit. It also played a key role in the 2022 VNR process by answering a survey, presenting its own contribution to the report, and directly participating in the reporting unit as well as in the drafting process.

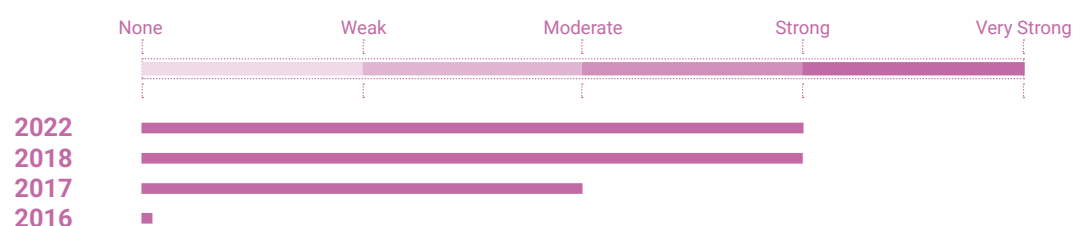
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Association of Municipalities of Togo participated in the 2022 VNR by answering a survey, presenting its own contribution to the report, and directly participating in the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Association of Municipalities of Togo is involved in national coordination mechanisms through regular participation in the decision-making process.

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 limited references to LRGs in the 2018 VNR, and very few specific examples. There are some references to LRGs in the 2022 VNR, without examples of locally-led initiatives. The VNR places emphasis on the importance of decentralization and territorial development for inclusive local governance.⁵

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Association of Municipalities of Togo** has initiated, under the Local Governance Enhancement Project for Community Project Management (PAGLEMOC), actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of the municipalities in the management of water, hygiene and sanitation projects. Also, the FCT has supported five municipalities (**Tabligbo**, **Bassar**, **Pagouda**, **Kanté** and **Mango**) in the preparation of their local development plans. These have been aligned with the country's national development plan and the SDGs, through participatory and inclusive consultation mechanisms and the creation of a handbook.

► Other local governments have elaborated their local development plans in line with the SDGs: **Kpalimé**, **Kara** and **Dapaong**.

► With the support of UNDP, Togo wants to promote **climate-smart municipalities** (Smart Cities), for a better response to climate challenges. To this end, about ten municipalities will be supported in the development of a climate-smart methodology, and the preparation of action plans for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in coherence with the municipal development plans.⁶

4. Answer of the Association of Municipalities of Togo to the GTF Survey in 2022.

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

6. See: <https://www.togofirst.com/fr/gouvernance-economique/0906-10122-togo-lancement-du-projet-de-10-smart-cities-pour-repondre-aux-defis-climatiques>

► In 2021, in **Lomé**, 73,640 square meters of green spaces were created and maintained and more than 15,000 plants were planted to promote urban reforestation.

► The operation "My Togo without plastic waste" was launched in the municipalities of the **Kpendjal** prefecture in April 2022.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

As stressed by the 2018 VNR, the lack of financial resources and qualified human resources remains a major hurdle in the implementation of the SDGs in the country. According to the 2022 VNR, an integrated development financing framework has been operationalized as part of the "Improving Development Financing for the Achievement of the SDGs in Togo" project.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 1992 Constitution acknowledges **decentralization** but from 1987 to 2019, no local elections were held. Municipal councilors were finally elected in June 2019 and took office in 2021, dissolving the special delegations established in the prefectures and municipalities in 2001.⁷ This is the result of various initiatives, such as the 2016 national roadmap for decentralization and local elections, the territorial reforms creating municipalities, in 2017-2018, and the creation of the **National Decentralization Monitoring Council** responsible for steering the process.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2018, the implementation of the "Women Conquering Municipalities" project provided training to 219 women candidates for municipal elections. Since 2021, 202 local elected women and 29 municipalities' secretaries-general have benefited from training on gender and climate, political communication techniques, etc. Since 2019, 12.6% of municipal councilors are women. Furthermore, the Association of Municipalities of Togo is chaired by a woman.

3.2 COVID 19

The government implemented the **Togo 2025 roadmap**, which constitutes the new reference framework for development actions to address the effects of the health crisis. It has made it possible to set up actions to support the most vulnerable populations.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		12.6 (2020)*
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	37 (2020)
	Rural	7 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	12 (2020)
	Rural	7 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		54.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		43.9 (2005, Lome)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		45.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

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

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

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Tunisia is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government: 24 governorates (regional level), and 350 municipalities. The first free and competitive municipal elections in the country's history, after the revolution in 2011, were organized in 2018, resulting in more than 7,200 local elected representatives who took part in the 350 municipal councils.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

SDG implementation began with the **2016-2020 five-year development plan (PQD)**, which includes 80% of the SDG targets.³ The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Investment Support (MEFAI) is responsible for the preparation of the new 2021-2025 development plan.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Steering of the SDGs is shared between the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAEMTE)**, which is responsible for diplomatic leadership, and the **Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Investment Support (MEFAI)**, responsible for the national coordination and technical leadership. A **national steering committee (COPIL)** has been set up. It is interministerial and multi-stakeholder: it brings together more than 100 persons (representatives of parliament, ministries and public institutions, civil society, the national federation of Tunisian municipalities, national organizations such as UGTT - UTICA - UTAP - UTSS - UNFT, etc). Since 2018, focal points in each ministry have been appointed to support MDICI's activities. **17 National Commissions**, one per SDG, bring together different ministries, civil society and the UN agencies.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process was led by the COPIL. It included the focal points of ministries and national administrative structures, representatives of the civil society, of national organizations, of the National Institute of Statistics, of the private sector and academia. With the support of the United Nations system and the experts, three workshops were organized in order to ensure better involvement of regional actors (citizens and LRGs), civil society actors and students. As in 2019, the **COPIL** led the 2021 VNR process. The 17 National Commissions organized a series of meetings to collect data, ensure synergy and transversality between the SDGs and contribute to the preparation of the report. The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Investment Support (MEFAI) organized consultations. Participants could read and revise the first draft of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The National Statistics System (SNS) comprises: the National Statistics Council (CNS), the National Statistics Institute (INS), the Specialized Public Statistical Structures (SSP) of various ministries, **local authorities**, public establishments and public enterprises, and Statistical Training Institutions. However, the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation is not clear enough and mastered by LRGs, and the indicator information system is obsolete, which does not allow a clear assessment of the performance of the municipalities. Lack of reliable and disaggregated data is a critical gap in achieving the SDGs.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23372Rapport_National_Volontaire_2019_Tunisie.pdf (2019); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279442021_VNR_Report_Tunisia.pdf (2021)

3. 58% are perfectly aligned and 42% are partially aligned. Tunisia reiterated, in 2018, its commitment to the 2030 Agenda through the adoption of the MAPS approach materialized by the signing of the Joint SDG Program between the Tunisian government and the UN for "Support for integration and implementation of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system for the SDGs". The ten SDGs identified as priorities by the government are as follows: 1; 3; 4; 5; 6; 8; 10; 13; 16 and 17

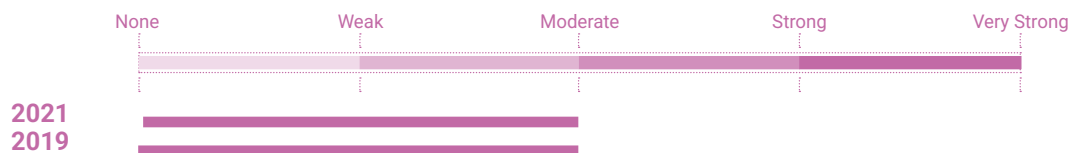
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **decentralization** process is still very recent and requires more time to be implemented, especially with the new territorial division materialized by the creation of new municipalities and the extension of certain municipalities;⁴ along with very limited technical and financial support from the central government. These obstacles hinder effective and efficient implementation of the SDGs. Overall, the participation of LRGs in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is limited: municipalities are not involved in the COPIL.⁵

Municipalities are aware of the SDGs (68%) and apply them, but often without necessarily naming them in their plans. Some of them have set up specialized **commissions on sustainable development** (for instance, the municipalities of **Sidi Jedidi** (governorate of Nabeul) and **Msaken** (governorate of Sousse)). Other municipalities apply different SDGs within the same commission. The main targets prioritized by the Tunisian municipalities concern SDGs 6, 11 and 12 (in particular, waste management, drinking water, renewable energy and reduction of environmental impact, preservation of cultural heritage, etc.).⁶ As part of the 2019 VNR process, regional workshops were organized to involve the 24 governorates. For the 2021 VNR, municipal councillors participated in the workshops organized by the MEFAI. In addition, as part of the VNR process presentation, the report mentions one specific consultation, organized on April 20, 2021 by the MEFAI, with the presidents of the 18 municipalities of the governorate of Sousse. Issues discussed were related to the SDGs (energy, environmental pollution, town planning and the development of anarchic constructions).

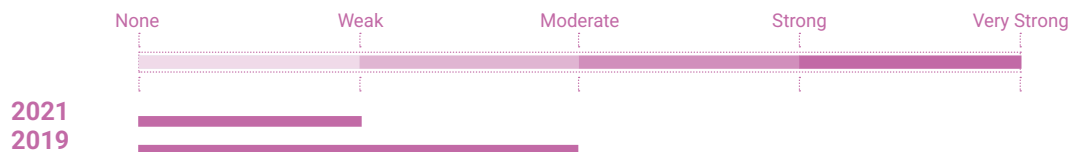
2.1 VNR REFERENCES

► In the VNR process



Comments: According to the 2021 VNR, consultations were organized with municipal councillors. Sfax occasionally participated, while Nabeul didn't (GTF Survey 2021). The VSR is not taken into account in the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Sfax is involved through punctual and ad hoc participation. Nabeul doesn't participate. (GTF Survey 2021)

The 2021 VNR states that the FNCT is part of the national steering committee (COPIL). However, the FNCT affirms it doesn't participate in any national coordination mechanisms (as stated in its VSR).

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 a few references to LRGs throughout the 2019 report. In the 2021 VNR, there is a very brief subsection on the local integration of the SDGs, in the section on the alignment of the Constitution and the planning framework with the SDGs (see VNR, 2021, p. 33) - but there is no reference to specific mechanisms. As part of the description of the VNR methodology, there is a section on consultations with local elected officials (see VNR, 2021, p. 60-61). It also mentions the importance of municipalities and the local level in implementing the SDGs. There is a subsection "The 2030 Agenda, from global to local" (see VNR, 2021, p. 70), on municipalities' responsibilities and on SDG localization. The National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT) is mentioned there. Finally, a section on SDG integration at the local level presenting the Madinatouna project and the sustainable development strategies (SDV) of 2 cities: **Jendouba** and **Msaken** (see VNR, 2021, p. 75-77).

4. The 2014 Constitution marks a new era in the decentralization process. It takes into account the principles of electing local councils, independent administration, and the functional and financial local autonomy. The constitutional provisions are reinforced with the 2018 Code of Local Self-Government and the local election held the same year. The territorial reforms between 2014-2018 resulted in the creation of 86 municipalities, bringing the total number of municipalities to 350. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tunisia_2021.pdf.

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tunisia_2021.pdf

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► With the support of different partners, the **National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT)** is leading a project to develop strategic plans to contribute to localizing the SDGs (e.g. **Madinatouna project**)⁷ and a programme on waste management (Wama-net), involving 20 Tunisian cities. The FNCT organized training labs for its members (Lab'baladiya). A first PRIHQ1 programme for neighbourhood upgrading was implemented in 65 municipalities; a second programme will involve 121 municipalities. The Tunisian association in collaboration with GIZ also launched the 'Citizen Space' initiative to restore trust between the citizens and the municipalities while increasing transparency and accountability at the local level.⁸

► As part of the Madinatouna project, the experience of the **Medenine governorate** constitutes a pilot project for the appropriation of the SDGs by local communities. As part of the 2016-2020 PQD, the governorate drew up its five-year regional development plan (PQR) adopting a participatory approach involving more than six hundred representatives of the public sector, civil society, the private sector, academics and professional organizations. This first initiative resulted in the identification of specific and relevant targets and indicators for monitoring and implementation of the SDGs at the regional level.

► The municipalities of **Mahdia** and **El Mourouj** have promoted a more integrated and participatory approach to sustainable urban development, through the SymbioCity framework, supported by the international agency of the Swedish Association of Municipalities (SKL International).

► The city of **Sousse** has also been active in setting up projects in the fields of citizen participation, energy efficiency, sustainable environment, urban mobility and migration, with support from national and international experts.

► The consultation of the presidents of the communes of the governorate of Sousse showed that they are already working on the SDGs at the commune level.

Some examples from the VSR published in 2021 (see below):

► The municipality of **Kalaat el Andalous** follows a climate-smart city model to support coastal resilience.

► The municipality **Sidi Alouane** fights against gender inequalities in early school leaving through vocational training programs dedicated to girls who have dropped out of school.

► The municipality of **Hergla** formed a committee with civil society and the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency to ensure the sustainability of facilities focused on coastal protection.

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

The **National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT)** developed a VSR in 2021.⁹

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The resources of the municipalities are insufficient¹⁰: they represent only 4% of the state budget and the ordinary income of the municipalities in 2020 has declined by 3% compared to 2019. However, local funding is expected to increase gradually over the next few years (until it reaches 21% of the state budget in nine years).¹¹ A new **support fund for decentralization, equalization and solidarity between municipalities** was created under the 2021 finance law.¹² With regard to human resources, insufficient at the local level, a functional mobility program of central government to local government was launched.

The 2021 VNR acknowledges that "the development of the regions still depends on decisions taken at the central level, especially in terms of the allocation of financial resources". With the exception of large cities such as **Tunis, Nabeul, Sfax**, or **Sousse**, the financial resources of municipalities are limited and the level of qualification of local administrative officers is low, particularly in the interior of the country.

7. With the support of UNDP, Cities Alliance, GIZ, VNG International and Medcities, the FNCT has helped eight cities to align their strategic development plans with the SDGs. The cities of **Beja, Gabes, Jendouba, Kairouan, La Soukra, Medenine, Monastir, Sidi Bouzid** and **Tataouine** have already aligned their development strategies for 2030 with the global agendas.

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

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tunisia_2021.pdf

10. Technical and financial support is not adapted to the powers attributed to municipalities by the Code of Local Public Authorities.

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tunisia_2021.pdf

12. The resources of this fund will benefit at the rate of 70% to the municipalities, 20% to the regions and 10% to the districts and will be distributed taking into consideration the criteria relating to the number of inhabitants, unemployment rate, fiscal capacity, the index development and debt capacity. This does not prevent local authorities from also needing to acquire fiscal autonomy.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Disparities among regions are taken into account in the 2019 VNR. This principle has been enshrined in Tunisia's new 2014 Constitution. Article 12 states "the state acts to ensure social justice, sustainable development and balance between regions, taking into account development indicators and the principle of positive discrimination". In addition, the fourth axis of the PQD 2016-2020 aims to apply the principle of positive discrimination, (ii) decentralization, and (iii) reduction of disparities among regions. Positive discrimination for regions is retained as the guiding principle of arbitration for investment where 2/3 of public projects are allocated to half of the population in regional development zones (the least ranked governorates according to the Regional Development Index (RDI)).

Municipalities have so far not had an established responsibility for disaster risk reduction and intervention, a responsibility dictated by their role as front-line provider with populations, in particular to prevent, respond to and manage crisis situations such as the pandemic. This responsibility remains at the central power, deconcentrated regional authorities and designated national and regional commissions. It has not yet been aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Tunisia is among the countries in Africa that have created legal provisions and platforms for citizen and community participation in local government, with a particular focus on gender equality.¹³ There is no reference to women participation in local councils in the 2021 VNR.

3.2 COVID 19

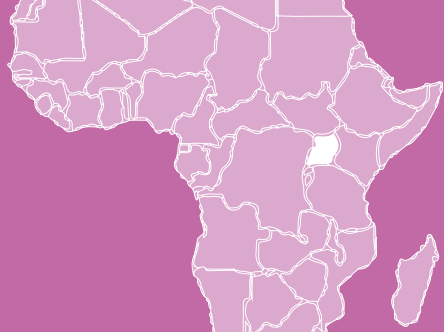
No reference.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		48.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	84 (2020)
	Rural	69 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	89 (2020)
	Rural	63 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		8.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2008, Sousse)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		33.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

14. 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/tun>



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Uganda is a unitary country and a presidential democratic republic. It has a single tier of subnational government, which comprises 135 local districts (municipal level), and the city of Kampala.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 second National Development Plan (NDPII) was the guiding framework for national development until 2020 and was 70% aligned to the SDGs. For 2021-2025, Uganda's third **National Development Plan (NDP III)** fully integrates the SDGs and the country's **Vision 2040**. NDP III identifies interventions under 3 categories as **SDG Accelerators: Environment, Governance and Industry**. It also sets out the imperative of applying a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), which is recognized as a key foundation in the 2030 Agenda. All sectors, ministries, departments and agencies and LRGs are expected to adopt a HRBA in their policies, legislation and plans.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The multi-stakeholder **National SDG Coordination Framework** was established in 2016 under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister and defines and delegates leadership roles and responsibilities for coordinating implementation of the SDGs.³ To operationalize it, the National SDG Roadmap was prepared through a wide consultative process that included government, the private sector, civil society, the UN system and development partners. As part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, there is the **SDG Policy Coordination Committee (SDG-PCC)**, the **SDG Implementation Steering Committee (SDG-ISC)** and the **National SDG Taskforce**. The **SDG Secretariat** coordinates 5 technical working groups: on monitoring and evaluating, planning and mainstreaming, resource mobilization and financing, data and on communication. The coordination framework also includes sector working groups, ministries, departments and agencies, and local governments. In 2018, the President appointed the Minister in Charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister as Cabinet focal person on the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Office of the Prime Minister, with the support of the SDG Secretariat, has spearheaded the 2020 VNR process. The National SDG Taskforce established a **multi-institutional Advisory Committee** drawn from ministries, departments and agencies, Parliament, UN bodies, civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide oversight to all processes leading to the VNR report. Besides, the VNR benefited from technical contributions from the **Civil Society Core Reference Group on SDGs**, coordinated by the Uganda NGO Forum, and from other actors including **youth** organizations and the **Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU)**. **Citizens** also provided insights through a VNR E-platform and U-Report. Finally, the data collection process included the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

1.3 MONITORING

The five-year Plans for National Statistical Development (PNSD) guide statistical planning for the National Statistical System (NSS). The capacity of the NSS to produce and make available disaggregated statistics is coordinated through the National

1. The Mayor of Kampala is elected by universal suffrage, and participates in the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) through which the national government directly manages the city, but he plays a rather ceremonial role. Overall, there are 5 categories of Local Councils in the country: the Local Council I at the village or neighborhood level (LC1), the Parish (LC2), the Sub-County (LC3), the County (LC4) and the LC5, which corresponds to an entire district and the city of Kampala.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10689Uganda%20Review%20Report_CDs1.pdf (2016) ;

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26352VNR_2020_Uganda_Report.pdf (2020)

3. More details in the VNR, 2020, p. 6.

Statistical Indicator (NSI) Framework. To enable data-driven policy making in the districts where there are some instabilities with neighbouring countries and an increasing refugee population, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) conducted one of the first comprehensive community surveys to include refugees. The government is also developing a Frequent Monitoring System to inform policy planning with more updated information.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Uganda has started to roll out the SDG process systematically at the subnational level via a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach. The SDG Secretariat, **Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)**, **Urban Authorities' Association of Uganda (UAAU)** and the Uganda National NGO Forum jointly undertook engagements to ensure participation of all actors at the local government level. **SDG focal persons** have also been appointed by all LRGs to liaise with the SDG Secretariat and SDG Technical Working Groups. The National Planning Authority has undertaken several **capacity-building** engagements for district planners to enable them to effectively integrate the SDGs and apply a Human Rights Based Approach in the district development plans and budgets.⁴

During the 2020 VNR process, **consultations** have been held with selected local government leaders as part of the SDG localization process. Besides, the report mentions that residents and authorities of **Ngora District** informed the process via their VLR.

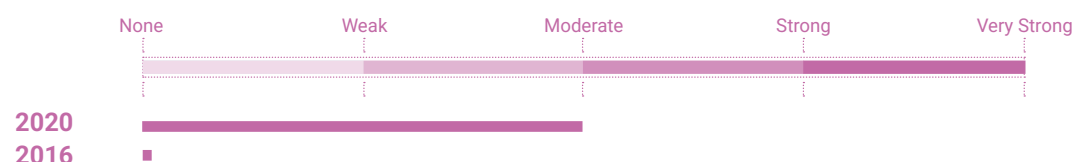
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultations have been held with selected local government leaders. There is also a mention of the VLR of the Ngora District in the 2020 VNR. However, the answer of the Uganda Local Government Association to the GTF Survey in 2020 mentions no participation in the VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are taken into account in the national coordination framework (via ad-hoc consultations).

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

LRG involvement in SDG implementation is mentioned in the VNR, 2020, p. 7-8.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Citizens' participation in urban planning has been included in the **Kampala** City Strategic Plan. The priority concerns of citizens and visitors of the city were collected at various engagements and formed the foundation of the strategic plan. These issues would go on to form the basis for the development of a citizens' charter. The strategy also mentions that service delivery will be among the key parameters to be assessed as part of a citizens' satisfaction survey.

► Still in Kampala, the **Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls discrimination project** was initiated as well as in some surrounding town councils. The project aims to ensure that women and girls are socially, economically and politically empowered in public spaces which are free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence, that gender-responsive locally owned interventions are implemented, and that there are laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, especially in public spaces.

⁴ Other efforts have been made at the subnational level to contextualize the SDGs and mobilize communities. A civil society policy think tank, Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), has been implementing the Local Government Councils' Scorecard, in partnership with the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA). This scorecard is based on performance indicators aligned to the roles, responsibilities and functions of elected district authorities. For 2018-2019, it was conducted in 35 districts and indicated an improvement in the average performance of the assessed District Councils, up from 51% in 2016-17 to 62% in 2018-19.

► To contextualize the SDGs and mobilize communities to own their development agenda with meager resources, a civil society policy think tank, Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), has been implementing the **Local Government Councils' Scorecard**. The scorecard initiative implemented yearly by ACODE in partnership with the **Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA)** stems from the desire to contribute to the deepening of democratic decentralization in Uganda, while addressing the problem of poor service delivery. For 2018-2019, the scorecard was conducted in 35 districts and indicated an improvement in the average performance of the assessed district councils, up from 51 percent in FY2016-17 to 62 percent in FY2018-19. This improvement in average performance is also reflected in other parameters such as legislative function, accountability to citizens, and monitoring service delivery, which went up from 15 to 16 points, 11 to 14 points and 10 to 17 points respectively. This positive change in functionality and performance of district councils is partly attributed to the sustained capacity-building programme for elected district leaders.

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

The **Ngora District** in Uganda's Eastern region prepared a VLR in 2020.⁵ Its process looked at the wider development spectrum covering institutional frameworks and aspects of "leaving no one behind" in the district development agenda. Overall, Ngora District has integrated the 2030 Agenda and aspirations of Agenda 2063 in its development processes and budgets. The national government announced in 2021, at the UNECA Regional Forum, the preparation of 6 more VLRs in **Nebbi, Sheema, Sironko, Kitagwenda, Kyotera** and **Bugiri**.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure conformity of the national budget with the NDP III and the SDGs, Uganda's government has assessed the quality of sector budgets to evaluate their compliance. This is complemented by the Certificates of Gender and Equity measuring the responsiveness of national and district budgets to gender and equity. The annual certificate of compliance indicated an improvement in SDG alignment from 60.9% in 2017-18 to 64% in 2018-19. Analysis of alignment of the budget to the SDGs indicates that SDGs 1, 4, 5 and 16 scored over 75%, while 6, 8 and 17 scored over 70%. There is no mention of resource allocation to LRGs for SDG localization.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In its conclusion, the 2020 VNR highlights the overarching areas and themes that Uganda will continue to pay close attention to: stronger partnerships, coordination and collaboration; deeper localization and popularization of the 2030 Agenda; building a leadership culture for the 2030 Agenda at all levels; promoting SDG-focused innovation by all citizens and especially by young people; focusing financing for the SDGs; strengthening technology and information systems in SDG implementation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The national government has set up policies and programmes to ensure women's participation and equal leadership opportunities in political, economic and public life. In relation to the UN global programme Making Every Woman and Girl Count, over 30 ministries/departments/agencies and 84 local governments have been trained in the collection, usage and dissemination of **gender statistics** and are able to integrate gender perspectives in their planning frameworks and strategic plans for statistics (under the capacity building program for gender statistics 2018-2023). At the local level, representation of women is at 45.7% of all district councils. However, women represented only 1% of local chairpersons in 2007, then 2% in 2011 and again 2% in 2017. Majority of the women councillors in the district councils have been elected on affirmative action seats with 1.6 % elected on direct seats at district level, 2% at municipality level and 8% at sub-county level. While representation at both national and local level is above the 30% quota provided in the Constitution, the number of women elected remains very low over the years.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference regarding LRGs initiatives in the face of the pandemic.

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ngora_district_2020.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.7 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	43 (2020)
	Rural	8 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	16 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		48.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		50 (2017, Kampala)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		37.0 (2019)

6. 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/uga>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Zambia is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government: it counts 116 local governments.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

In Zambia, the implementation of the SDGs is anchored on the **National Vision 2030**, which is implemented through a series of five-year National Development Plans (NDPs). The current is the **Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP)** covering the period 2017-2021.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of National Development Planning (MNDP)** is the designated entity to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs at the national level. On the side-lines of the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC), a **National SDGs Sub-Committee** was constituted with the responsibility of ensuring inclusive partnership and capacity building, availability of data and strategic information, and conducting periodic monitoring. In addition, the Zambian Parliament has a critical role in the planning, budgeting and monitoring of the SDGs. The **Parliamentary Caucus Committee on the SDGs** has been instrumental in fostering and sustaining SDG engagement.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The MNDP appointed a **VNR Secretariat**, which was responsible for the 2020 VNR process. An **Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group** was also constituted with representatives from all ministries, the private sector, the youth, civil society, academia and the UN agencies. Focal point persons from these institutions provided information for the preparation of the report. The MNDP also engaged with representatives of vulnerable groups, such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities. In addition, awareness campaigns were organized and focused on strengthening capacities at the sub-national levels to implement, monitor and report performance of the 7NDP as well as the SDGs. An SDG guide was prepared in English and translated into the 7 main local languages.

1.3 MONITORING

Key policy and legislative interventions to support implementation of the SDGs in Zambia include the **Monitoring and Evaluation Policy**, which aims at improving programme efficiency and effectiveness. The **Office of the Auditor-General (OAG)** played a critical role in the monitoring and auditing of the SDG process. It carried out an audit of Zambia's preparedness for the SDGs and recommended required actions. Key lessons from the audit are: (1) strengthening the national statistics system at both the national and subnational levels, (2) costing of SDG implementation, (3) expediting implementation of Output Based Budgeting, (4) enhancing passing of the National Planning and Budgeting Bill (more details on the latter below). Moreover, Zambia undertook measures to raise the statistical capacity of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), which is now a semi-autonomous body. It is now called Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) and will strengthen the statistical capacities of Planning Units through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (NSDS) 2019 -2024.

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

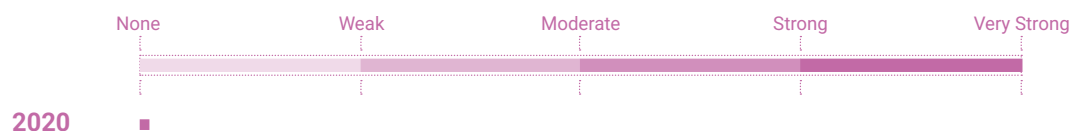
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26304VNR_2020_Zambia_Report.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Through the National Planning and Budgeting Policy approved in 2014, the Zambian Cabinet established consultative and advisory structures. At the national level, there are the **National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC)** and **Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs)**. The Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) and the Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are operational at the local level. The **Local Government Association of Zambia** was consulted during the preliminary/design phase of the 7NDP.³ There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2020 VNR process.

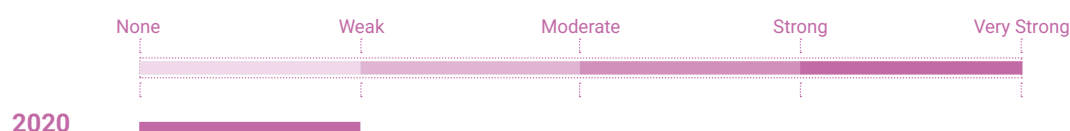
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2020 VNR doesn't mention LRGs participation in its preparation process nor among the stakeholders consulted. The Local Government Association of Zambia was not involved (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Local Government Association of Zambia was consulted in the design phase of the 7NDP (GTF Survey 2020).

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 2020 VNR, there is no specific section nor reference to LRGs specific role in implementing the SDGs. However, districts are mentioned throughout the report.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference on policies and initiatives led by local authorities.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2014, the Zambian Cabinet approved the **National Planning and Budgeting Policy**. It provides for the integration of national development plans and the national budget to improve responsiveness, transparency, accountability, and results-orientation. It also provides for a more inclusive planning and budgeting system which increases the participation of all stakeholders from the district, provincial, sectoral and national levels. The **National Planning and Budgeting Bill** of 2019 aims at strengthening accountability, oversight and participation mechanisms in the national planning and budgeting process. In addition, it is intended to strengthen the link between the national development plans and the SDGs as well as promote participatory and decentralized national planning and budgeting processes involving state and non-state actors.

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The youth was actively engaged among the CSOs involved in the SDG awareness campaigns organized during the 2020 VNR process. For instance, with support of the UN, a National Youth Conference was launched. Its theme was "Engaging the Youth in Monitoring and Accountability of the SDGs for a Sustainable Zambia". It attracted over 200 youth from all the 10 provinces.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the local level, the proportion of local government seats held by women rose from 10% in 2016 to 38% in 2019. Nonetheless, their participation is still limited as mayors and chairpersons in local councils (8.6% in 2019).

3.2 COVID 19

The current situation, challenges and opportunities of the crisis are detailed in the VNR, 2020, p. 45. There is no reference to locally led initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		7.1 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	50 (2020)
	Rural	
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	24 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		54.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		34.6 (2015, Lusaka)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		30.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/zmb>

ZIMBABWE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Zimbabwe is a unitary republic that recognizes 2 levels of subnational governments in its 2013 Constitution: provinces and local governments, in charge of urban and rural affairs. There are 8 provinces and 2 metropolitan councils at the regional level and 92 local councils at 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

Zimbabwe has aligned the SDGs (and the MDGs before) into its development policies and plans: the **Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation 2013-2018 (ZIMASSET)**,³ the **Transitional Stabilisation Program 2018-2020 (TSP)** and the **National Development Strategy 1 2021-2025 (NDS 1)**.⁴ The country's **Vision 2030** has mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda to facilitate joint implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An inter-ministerial **Steering Committee** chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Office of President and Cabinet provides overall guidance and strategic leadership to SDG implementation. There is also a **Technical Committee**, chaired by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, and represented by SDG focal persons from ministries and representatives from UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, civil society and the Office of the President and Cabinet. It spearheads the coordination, technical processes as well as providing technical back-stopping. In addition, three **thematic clusters** were organized to mainstream and localize the SDGs. Besides Committees of the executive branch, Zimbabwe's legislature also has a **Thematic Committee on SDGs**. The government established a dedicated **SDGs Secretariat** to coordinate SDGs implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR process included interviews with key stakeholders representing government, development agencies, private sector, civil society organizations and youth groups. The key messages and the draft report were subjected to review by the SDG technical committee and a broad stakeholder consultation. The 2021 VNR was spearheaded by the **Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare** through the **SDG Secretariat**, and with the assistance from United Nations Zimbabwe (Technical Team). The stakeholders involved included all government ministries departments and agencies SDGs focal persons; stakeholders consulted during 2017 VNR and the 2020 SDGs review; secretariats of umbrella bodies of civil society organizations and business membership organizations (BMOs). While a whole-of-society' approach was employed to engage stakeholders, face-to-face interviews and organizing conferences/workshop/focus group discussions to solicit information from stakeholders were inhibited by COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. Within the COVID-19 context, written submission was adopted as the most plausible and viable option to get well considered views from diverse constituencies.

1.3 MONITORING

The 2017 VNR mentions a monitoring and evaluation policy including prioritized SDGs targets and indicators. The NDS 1 monitoring and evaluation will be tracked through an e-enabled Whole of Government Performance Management System. The 2021 VNR acknowledges that "disaggregated data on the performance of key SDG indicators remained a challenge. Further,

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15866Zimbabwe.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279562021_VNR_Report_Zimbabwe.pdf (2021)

3. ZIMASSET was adapted in 2015 to mainstream the SDGs.

4. Further improvements on the Institutional architecture include the alignment of NDS1 to SDGs as well as the coordination and information sharing within NDS1 and SDGs implementation Clusters. NDS 1 also integrates the African Union Agenda 2063.

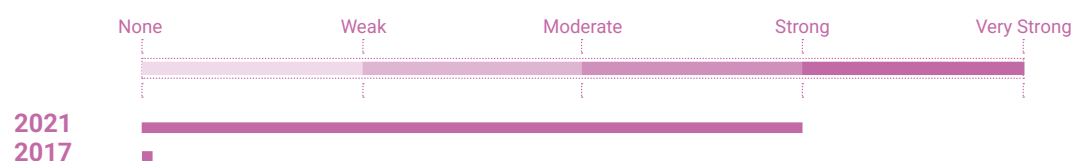
data on the ZIMSTAT SDG portal had gaps and submissions from line Ministries were predominantly narrative and void of key statistics on the status of implementation of SDGs within their jurisdiction”. Zimbabwe has created **focal points appointed by local authorities** to support the work of the national State Statistical Committee.⁵ Besides, since 2012 urban local authorities have been gathering data on the state of key services they deliver. They have also been using the data to develop action plans following peer-review processes. This has been done under the Service Level Benchmarking (SLB) initiative supported by the World Bank. But overall, locally-generated or disaggregated data for defining local SDG priorities and to inform local strategies and plans is generally limited.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In 2017, the VNR claimed that plans were in place to strengthen the capacities of subnational authorities to align strategies and policies at that level to achieve the SDGs. But in 2021, available efforts are still largely at national level. At the local level, the level of SDG awareness, prioritization and implementation remains low. The national coordination mechanisms are neither linked to, nor do they steer, subnational SDG localization. The Ministry responsible for local governments is yet to develop a system to support localization. In addition, important gaps regarding LRGs’ fiscal autonomy, political empowerment, development planning leadership and administrative autonomy constrain their participation in SDG-related functions. Local governments have seized on piecemeal opportunities to learn and adapt localization practices based on external funding or facilitation. This has largely been pilot-like. Based on these initiatives some rural and urban local authorities have adapted their structures assigning SDG-related functions to key departments. A few have gone as far as designing change projects while a much smaller cohort has initiated SDG reporting as is the case with the cities of **Harare** and **Victoria Falls**. The **Association of Local Governments of Zimbabwe (ZILGA)** contributed to the 2021 VNR with its own contribution (but it is not much referred to in the VNR).

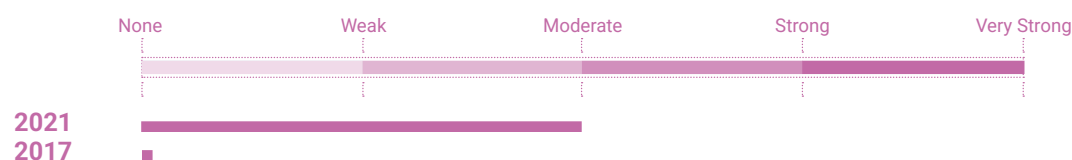
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe presented its own contribution to the 2021 VNR (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Punctual and ad hoc participation of the Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe. Local authorities are now required to report on SDGs (GTF Survey 2021).

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 2021 VNR mentions that “**ZILGA** leveraged on an on-going process that was being supported by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to produce a subnational voluntary review to coordinate submissions from RDCA and UCA for the VNR”.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The town of **Epworth** is an example of participatory approach to slum upgrading. A settlement profile, mapping and enumeration of the informal settlement Magada provided the basis for an upgrading programme as part of an agreement between the residents and their community organizations and local and national government.⁶

► **Harare** developed an informal sector development policy, and vendor markets for informal traders. A Health Strategy for

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

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

2018-2021 was also developed: new health centres were developed and upgraded into 'one-stop-clinics' offering specialist HIV and AIDS, diabetes and tuberculosis services; two of them were upgraded into COVID19 response centres. The city reviewed its gender policy in 2016 to align with SDG targets, and 2016 and 2017 budget allocations for gender related projects were increased. WASH infrastructure projects were also implemented.⁷

► **Victoria Falls** made numerous efforts to guarantee access to efficient, effective, accessible, affordable and sustainable services. This includes: providing safe workplaces for mainly female traders to address poverty, formalizing the informal sector and increasing access to safe drinking water, improving maternal health and HIV and AIDS-focused work, support to youth employment, fighting against gender-based violence. The city has an SDG-aligned Strategic Development Plan.⁸

► The city of **Bulawayo** conducted awareness-raising workshops for municipal staff and CSOs on gender issues. Gender-sensitive development is guided by the city's gender policy. It has a '365 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV)' initiative led by a Gender Desk. The municipality of **Beitbridge** also has a gender policy and a sexual harassment policy, and a dedicated staff (a gender focal person and gender champion).⁹

► The government launched the Local Authorities Digital System (LADS), expected to be used in 92 local authorities to improve government internal operation and administration.¹⁰

► The government has also embarked on the regulation of informal settlements programmes (currently being implemented in 4 settlements) and an urban renewal programme in **Mutare**, **Bulawayo** and **Harare**.¹¹

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

The cities of **Harare** and **Victoria Falls** published a VLR in 2020.¹² The **Association of Local Governments of Zimbabwe (ZILGA)** has prepared a VSR in 2021.¹³ The analysis shows three gaps slowing SDG implementation at the local level. These are about i) data and institutional fragmentation, ii) resource limitations (conclusion of an analysis of national budget allocations to LRGs), and iii) absence of SDG institutionalization.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The key instruments being used to strengthen localization include national program-based budgeting and intergovernmental fiscal transfers. The leadership of the Ministry responsible for local government (in close liaison with the national lead Ministry on SDGs as well as the Ministry responsible for treasury) is critical (yet insufficient) for tracking financing of SDG's and actual local delivery. On the side of LRGs, local fiscal gaps are due to a combination of underperforming local economies due to rising poverty and macro-economic shrinkage in a context lacking access to affordable development or long-term finance.¹⁴ Consequently, resource flows for SDG implementation are weak.¹⁵

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

As specified by the 2021 VNR, women represent 13.3% of local government councillors (190 women and 1169 men).

3.2 COVID 19

Institutional arrangements for SDG implementation and monitoring have faced challenges emanating from COVID19. Inadequate infrastructure resulted in the reduction of SDG cluster meetings for coordination purposes. At the local level, information and communication innovations were undertaken by all local authorities followed by securing access to basic services generally and health systems particularly. Local economic development support was also reported by many local authorities.

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

12. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/harare_2020.pdf and https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/victoria_falls_2020.pdf

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

14. Fiscal decentralisation has been constrained in Zimbabwe mostly by the prevailing political, legal, and economic environment. This has limited the taxing and expenditure powers. Revenue sources for local governments (property taxes, development levies, user charges, license fees and income generating projects) have not been performing well.

15. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/zimbabwe_2021.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		12 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	65 (2020)
	Rural	13 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	16 (2020)
	Rural	30 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		33.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		22.6 (2015, Harare)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		25.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		90.28 (2019)

¹⁶ 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/zwe>



ASIA- PACIFIC



AUSTRALIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Australia is a federal monarchy with two tiers of subnational government comprising 6 states and 2 self-governing territories, and 562 local government areas.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

Australia has not yet developed a process to integrate the SDGs into national and subnational policy yet. Nonetheless, the SDGs are consistent with the Australian government's priorities and efforts across a range of sectors such as health, education, agriculture, water, the environment, the economy, and gender equality. In addition, Australia has endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Australian government has convened an **interdepartmental group of senior officials** with portfolio responsibilities that link to one or more of the SDGs and separate cross-government groups on specific aspects such as data or communications. The senior officials group, co-chaired by the **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)** and the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, provides coordination on how to best give effect to the 2030 Agenda. The government has engaged with state, territory and local governments on the SDGs through existing committees and representative organizations.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was coordinated by the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, using the whole-of-government **interdepartmental committee** on the SDGs. Agencies were designated to lead or support various SDG chapters that best fit with their portfolios and conducted stakeholder outreach across sectors and jurisdictions.

1.3 MONITORING

Australia's consideration of the SDG Indicators has been a whole-of-government exercise. Australia's national statistical agency, the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)** undertook a data mapping exercise for the SDGs, in conjunction with lead agencies. The government has developed an **SDG data platform** to house available government datasets on the SDG Indicators, and to indicate the status of Australian data collection against all 232 SDG indicators. The platform is a whole-of-government initiative, funded by DFAT, produced by the Department of Environment and Energy.

The **Smart Cities Plan** (see below) includes a commitment to measure the success of government policies and inform Australians about the trends and changes in our cities. The **National Cities Performance Framework** supports this approach by bringing together critical economic, social and environmental data for Australia's largest cities into an easily-accessible dashboard.

Australia is supporting programs to help close the gender data gap, such as the UN Women flagship program Making Every Woman and Girl Count, which aims to create an enabling environment for gender statistics and increase the production and accessibility of gender disaggregated data. The country also supports the UN Women's Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) program, which is accelerating efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, asset ownership and entrepreneurship. Finally, Australia works in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund to support the kNOWVAWdata program, which is strengthening regional and national capacity to measure violence against women in the Asia Pacific.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20470VNR_final_approved_version.pdf (2018)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

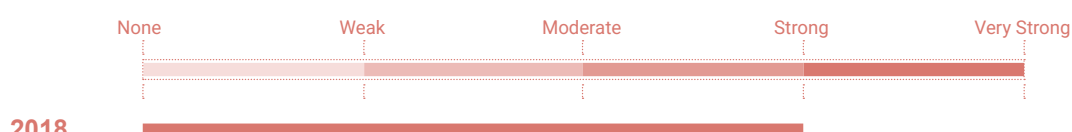
Many local governments, such as the **Perth Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council** and **Melbourne City Council**, are leading the way through the incorporation of the SDGs into their planning processes.

As part of the effort to support LRGs, the Australian government released the **Smart Cities Plan** in 2016, which outlines a vision for productive and liveable cities by promoting collaboration between all levels of government, the private sector, research organizations and the local community. 'City Deals' is a key component of the plan, promoted as a collaborative approach aimed at bringing together the three levels of government to support urban policy and develop a shared vision to improve infrastructure, innovation and job accessibility in a specific geographic area. 'City Deals' is an example of special purpose vehicle funds conceived as partnerships to leverage funds for project financing. However, many mayors argue in favour of adopting discretionary instead of nationally-targeted funding programmes to support localization of the SDGs.³

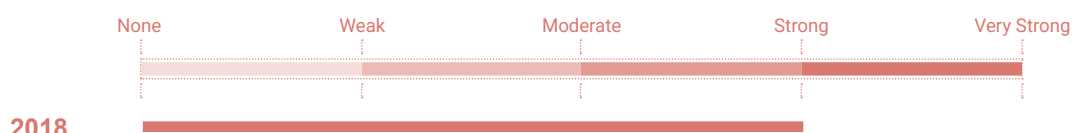
The **Western Australia Local Government Association (ALGA)**, and the **Council of Capital City Lord Mayors** worked with the federal government to contribute to the reporting process in 2018, gathering experiences at the local level.

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 acknowledges that "many targets in the SDGs are in the purview of subnational levels of government" and makes many references to local and state governments, with examples of concrete local initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Cities such as **Sydney**, **Melbourne** and the **Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council in Perth** were among the first local councils to integrate the SDGs into their plans or strategies (Sustainable Sydney 2030, Plan Melbourne 2017- 2050, and Perth Regional Environment Strategy 2016-2020).

► Other local authorities are promoting climate change and sustainability actions in their communities to build resilience and adaptation capacity. Over 100 local government areas that encompass more than 300 cities and towns across Australia, representing almost 11 million people, have joined the **Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership**, which encourages, motivates and accelerates local initiatives in emissions reductions and clean energy.⁴

► In implementing Plan **Melbourne** 2017-2050, the Victorian government is delivering an integrated response to cross-cutting SDGs, with a performance monitoring framework for measuring them. Central to Plan Melbourne is the creation of '20-minute neighbourhoods' that offer accessible, safe and attractive local areas where people can meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip. This shows how the SDGs can be delivered locally, making Melbourne communities healthier, more sustainable, liveable and inclusive places to live.

Also, urban greening has been tried in Melbourne's Western Suburbs, an area that receives less rainfall than other parts of Melbourne, meaning it is drier and can experience warmer daytime temperatures. An increasing population will impact further on pollution, heat stress and the environment. A group of stakeholders with an interest in urban greening has come together to share knowledge, and promote and implement solutions through targets to increase green space and tree canopy

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>. For example, the most recent City Deal is the Western Sydney City Deal which is a 20-year agreement between the three levels of government to deliver a once in-a-generation transformation of Sydney's outer west – creating the 'Western Parkland City'. The agreement builds on the Australian Government's commitment to build the Western Sydney Airport to catalyze investment, development and job opportunities in the region and beyond. It also includes measures to realize the '30-minute city' and maintain and enhance Western Sydney's unique character by improving community infrastructure and liveability. See VNR, 2018, p. 76-77.

4. The examples above are extracted from UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

cover. Activities under the Greening the West partnership, supported by an Australian Government environment program, have included tree planting, creation of additional parklands, harvesting stormwater for use on green spaces, and supporting community gardens.

Still in Melbourne, partnering with CrowdSpot and Monash University's XYX Lab, girls and women were invited to pin a public interactive map "Free to Be" and describe their experience of that area. The feedback was shared with authorities such as the city of Melbourne, Metro Trains, and Victoria Police, to help create a safer city for young girls and women. This innovative Australian project has since been expanded to Sydney, as well as cities internationally including New Delhi, Kampala, Lima and Madrid.

► **Brisbane** City Council has put sustainability at the core of its planning, with a focus on biodiversity, reducing emissions, green transport, water conservation, urban forests and parks, and waste and resource recovery. Active and engaged community groups and volunteers are all playing their part to enact this vision of a clean, green and sustainable city.

► The city of **Fremantle** adopted the One Planet Fremantle Strategy, and its sustainability principles. This aligns with the intent of several SDGs.

► A number of Australian cities are **Healthy Cities**, which promote and support actions to establish social, economic and physical environments conducive to good health and wellbeing. Healthy Cities Illawarra is a leader in the Asia-Pacific region, sitting on the Steering Committee for the Asia-Pacific Healthy Cities Alliance and working with the University of Wollongong to develop a localized regional approach to the SDGs.

► The cities of **Melbourne** and **Sydney** are participating in the international **100 Resilient Cities** program, which supports cities to incorporate resilience thinking into local planning.

► At the state level, the **South Australian Government's** Health in All Policies initiative takes a 'joined-up' policy development approach to achieve better public policy outcomes and simultaneously improve population health and wellbeing.

► In 2008, the **New South Wales Government** developed a long term joint initiative with the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council in recognition that the quality of water and sewerage service delivery in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state, was significantly lower than in the broader community. The initiative provides funding through local governments and private providers for 62 communities to receive maintenance, operations and repair of water supply and sewerage systems. The quality of existing infrastructure is investigated at each location and project plans developed to improve service levels to the standard expected in the wider community.

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

The city of **Sydney** presented in 2018 a Green Environmental Sustainability Progress Report.⁵ **Melbourne** published a VLR in 2022.⁶

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Australia takes a **human rights-based approach to sustainable development**, emphasizing the need for countries to respect, protect and promote human rights, in line with international human rights law, in the implementation of all SDGs. As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2018-2020), Australia has pledged to promote gender equality, good governance, and freedom of expression, the rights of indigenous peoples and strong national human rights institutions and capacity building. Its term on the Council will also be guided by other core objectives: the abolition of the death penalty; promoting equal human rights for LGBTIQ+ persons; and protection of the freedom of religion or belief; and ensuring civil society is enabled to protect and promote human rights through participation in the UN human rights system.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

There have been positive trends at the subnational level in terms of women participation in local politics, with the Australian Capital Territory returning a female majority following its 2016 elections, and the Tasmanian parliament returning a female majority in March 2018.

5. It is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/Green-Environmental-Sustainability-Progress-Report.pdf>

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/melbourne_2022.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		34.0 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	99 (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 (%)		99.3 (2015, Canberra)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		7.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		22.2 (2020)

7. 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/aus>

BANGLADESH

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The People's Republic of Bangladesh is a unitary country with a three-tiered subnational structure. Rural local governments include 64 districts, which are divided into 489 sub-districts, comprising a total of 4 553 unions of villages. Urban areas include 11 city corporations and 324 municipalities.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 government has adopted **Vision 2041** as a continuation of Vision 2021. It seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and reach Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) status by 2031, and High-Income Country (HIC) status by 2041 with poverty approaching extinction. The SDGs are aligned with the **Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020)**, the **National Action Plan to Achieve the SDGs**, the **SDGs M&E Framework** and **SDG Financing Strategy**. National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) is a mechanism developed first by the government in 2018.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Inter-ministerial SDGs Implementation and Review Committee** (multistakeholder) is headed by a Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission serves as a secretariat. There is an **SDG Working Team** headed by the Director General of Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the PMO and represented by government officials and non-government think tanks and academia.

Bangladesh has adopted a whole-of-society approach for SDG implementation involving the government, NGOs, CSOs, development partners, private sector, business people, academia, professionals, local authorities, members of the Parliament and other relevant stakeholders. The government has agreed in principle that every three years it will take part in the SDG global review process.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDG Working Team** was in charge of the 2020 VNR first draft. The PMO delegated 17 ministries/divisions to coordinate SDG reporting. Local governments were also involved (see below).

1.3 MONITORING

The Monitoring & Evaluation framework has highlighted three milestone targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030, which correspond to the end of the 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plans. The government is in the process of revisiting the framework. Also, an innovative SDGs tracker, a web-based data repository system, has been launched to assist the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs.³ In addition, the government has formed the **National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)** to identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs. In 2018, 40 priority indicators were approved for SDG localization; 39 indicators from the 17 Goals were selected which were considered to be crucial for the local level of the country. An additional priority indicator was left to achieve the 'leaving no one behind' principle according to the circumstances of a specific District or Sub-district, meeting the ground reality of that particular geographical area. It is expected that the localization of SDGs will promote the collection of disaggregated data and reporting exercises at the local level.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15826Bangladesh.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26302VNR_2020_Bangladesh_Report.pdf (2020)

3. Available at <https://sdg.gov.bd/>

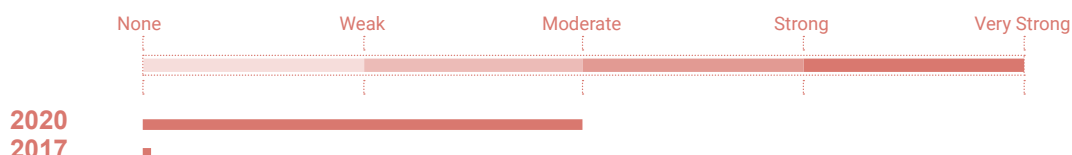
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

As part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, in addition to the national committee, the Cabinet Division has formed **three committees at the Divisional, District and Sub-district levels**, which are chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) respectively.

To have grassroots-level involvement in the VNR processes, Divisional Commissioners were requested to convene consultations locally, with local government representatives and other stakeholders. However, in the end, only two Divisions (**Rangpur, Chattogram**) could arrange workshops in which around 250 local officials of Division, District and Sub-district levels participated.

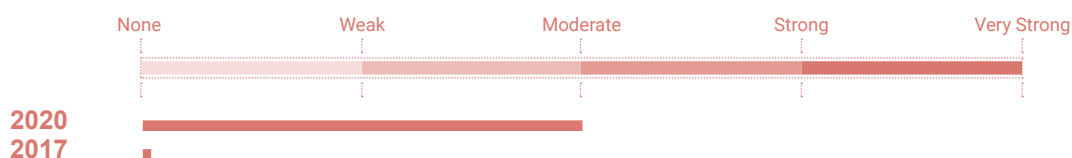
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2020 VNR constantly mentions SDG localization as an important process, but no specific information concerning LRGs participation can be found.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There are three committees for better implementation and coordination of SDGs localization works at the Divisional, District and Sub-district levels.

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 is a subsection called "Localization of SDGs in the context of Bangladesh" (see the VNR, 2020, p.162). It describes, briefly, the monitoring and evaluation system implemented at the local level.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The national government initiated in 2016 the Bangladesh-Pro-poor Slums Integration Project funded by the World Bank, to construct some 10,000 residential flats for slum dwellers in **Dhaka**. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT-6) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT, Airport to Gazipur) system are also being constructed. The government is implementing the revised Strategic Transport Plan (2015-2035) to oversee and implement a huge urban transport network in and around Dhaka city plus neighbouring areas. Dhaka's transport system is supposed to be improved substantially after completion of the construction of five metro railings, two rapid bus routes, 1,200 km of new roadways, six flyovers and three-ring roads in Dhaka by 2035. A metro rail line between **Uttara** and **Motijheel** and a rapid bus line from **Ghazipur** to **Mohakhali**, which will be built by 2021, will also ease the transportation problem.

► Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, or RAJUK – literally the Capital Development Authority of the Government of Bangladesh – is a public agency responsible for coordinating urban development in **Dhaka**. RAJUK has taken a project of "Conservation of Flood Flow Zone and Compact Township Development" and "Waterfront West City".

► **Dhaka** North City Corporation (DNCC) has set the target for hazard waste treatment up to 15% by 2030. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has a target/plan to modernize the equipment of solid waste management. Both DNCC and DSCC and other major city corporations are working on the safe removal of medical waste through public-private partnerships. National 3R Strategy for Waste Management was launched in Bangladesh in 2010. The City Corporations and municipalities are making efforts to incorporate the concepts and guidance of this strategy in their solid waste management activities.

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

The municipality of **Singra** was the first local government in Bangladesh to develop a VLR in 2022.⁴

5. See: <https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/singra.pdf>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government has been increasing its contribution to urban local government institutions through **Annual Development Programme allocation** as well as through block allocations. Yet, more resources are required. The Annual Performance Agreement (APA) is a result-based performance management system across the whole spectrum of the public sector with a view to improving efficiency as well as ensuring transparency and accountability. The government has already integrated the SDG targets into the APA system so that the long-term objectives can be translated into the annual work plan of the ministries. The government has conducted an analytical study in the field of international cooperation for attaining the SDGs in the country. It is expected that regular budgetary support will be earmarked to advance towards SDG localization in the coming years.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Considering women's empowerment, Bangladesh is at the top of South Asia and the situation is improving consistently as 15,000 women were elected out of over 60,000 representatives in local governments. Bangladesh is a country with a dominant leadership of women in the national parliament and government. Currently, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the House are all women. There is a National Women Development Policy 2011 to give women the rights to wealth and resources at all levels.

3.2 COVID 19

Committees have been formed at city corporation, municipality, district, and union levels. Specific hospitals have been set up in **Dhaka** for coronavirus patients. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) together with a2i Programme and other stakeholders (government institutions, telecom companies, development partners, NGOs, academia, etc.) developed a data intelligence platform to minimize the fatalities based on data-driven decision-making.⁵ The analytics help to identify hotspots and high-risk cases, analyze and predict requirements for additional patient management and guide resource allocation (health workers, testing facilities, hospitals, isolation units, ICT, etc.) and guide the government with timely policy responses.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		23.3 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	53 (2020)
	Rural	62 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	34 (2020)
	Rural	42 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		47.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		55 (2012, Dhaka)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		62.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		11.9 (2020)

5. See it here: <https://www.corona.gov.bd>

6. 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/bgd>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Bhutan is a unitary monarchy and is divided into 20 districts (*dzongkhags*), 38 municipalities (*thromde*) and 205 groups of villages (*gewogs*). Local assemblies are elected, but executive bodies are appointed.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

With its holistic approach to development based on the principles of **Gross National Happiness (GNH)**, Bhutan's development framework as executed through its Five-Year Plans presents high levels of synergy with the SDGs and a strong foundation for their integration and implementation. The SDGs have been mainstreamed into **Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) for 2018-2023** whose objective is a "Just, Harmonious and Sustainable Society through enhanced Decentralisation". The plan focuses development on National Key Result Areas (NKRAs). Improved efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources will be reinforced by the recently developed Sustainable Consumption and Production Strategy. A national climate change policy, REDD+ strategy, and updated environment strategy, among others, have also been adopted as part of efforts to manage climate change impacts.

Meanwhile, **Bhutan's 21st Century Economic Roadmap** is under formulation. As a long-term strategy, it is expected to contribute to a transformation of the Bhutanese economy, while ensuring that the principles of GNH and the SDGs are upheld.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC)** is also the **High Level SDG Committee**, and is chaired by the Prime Minister. Other members are the Finance Minister as the Vice-Chair, Cabinet Secretary, Secretaries of all ten Ministries and the Secretary of the National Environment Commission. The **GNHC Secretariat (GNHCS)** is the Lead Coordinating Agency, and has the responsibility to coordinate, advise, monitor, evaluate and report progress on the implementation of the SDGs. Within the GNHC Secretariat, there is a dedicated **SDG Working Committee** with the mandate to oversee, facilitate and guide integration and implementation, and to report on progress of SDGs. The SDG Working Committee members are appointed based on relevance. Since 2019, SDG focal persons have been nominated across all ministries and agencies at the central level. Overall, the 2021 VNR recognizes the significance of the role of partnership with multiple stakeholders including the international community, private sector, civil society and the local governments in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2018 VNR, the **GNHCS** (through its SDG Working Committee) organized several meetings and consultations of the **SDG Review Committee** and the **Task Force for VNR**. The committee comprised representatives of agencies such as the GNHCS, National Statistics Bureau (NSB), the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the National Environment Commission (NEC), the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (MoWHS) and other government agencies. The taskforce comprised senior government officials from the Cabinet Secretariat, the National Statistics Bureau, and other sectors. In spite of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 VNR process has adopted a participatory and inclusive approach by engaging stakeholders from across key government agencies including line ministries, constitutional bodies and autonomous agencies, as well as local governments, parliamentarians, political parties, development partners, civil society organisations including women and youth groups, private sector, academia, and the media. The strategic objectives of stakeholder engagement were to: gather contributions, collect updated data and inputs towards the VNR report; and to deepen awareness and strengthen ownership of the SDGs. A **multi-sectoral VNR Task Force** was formed to provide technical input and guidance.

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19369Bhutan_NSDGR_Bhutan_2018.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279552021_VNR_Report_Bhutan.pdf (2021)

3. The 17 National Key Result Areas (NKRA) are closely aligned to the SDGs, with their targets and indicators integrated into the 12th FYP.

1.3 MONITORING

- ▶ The 16 National Key Result Areas and Key Performance Indicators of the 12th FYP are aligned to the 17 SDGs, their targets and indicators.
- ▶ With the SDGs well-integrated into national plans and programmes, their implementation is monitored annually and through mid-term reviews of the FYPs, as per the existing national monitoring system.
- ▶ The NSB's Strategic Plan to Improve Statistics in Bhutan (July 2020-June 2023) seeks to address these issues by improving data governance and enabling factors. Among others, Big Data will be explored, administrative data will be strengthened, and a local level data architecture will be established.
- ▶ The **Dewa Platform**, an integrated dashboard to monitor GNH, SDGs and FYP progress, has also been developed. It will enable more up to date analysis of SDG indicator status as well as current state of data gaps and availability. The dashboard aims to bring together into a consolidated platform data across a wide spectrum in Bhutan, and thus also includes updated data for indicators in the 12th FYP NKRAs and GNH. Among other features, it will provide a common geographic information system (GIS) interface platform for **geo-spatial analysis and district-, block- and sub-block data visualisation**.

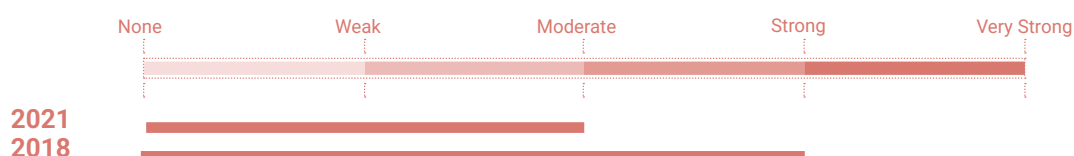
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

With the FYPs formulated at the **central, sectoral, district (dzongkhag), block (gewog) and municipal (thromde) levels**, and further translated into annual performance agreement and budgets, the prospects for SDG integration at all levels is high. However, although SDGs are known, detailed knowledge is still inadequate. A possible contributing factor is the limited use of the "SDG language" in the detailed process of adopting the FYP planning framework or result matrix; and in the guidelines on plan formulation, which are issued by the sectors to respective departments and local government agencies. As LRGs identify activities in line with this framework—which includes all national visions and international commitments including SDGs—implementation of the activities contributes to SDG implementation. The 2021 VNR acknowledges that LRGs "in particular require more support, given the decentralised set-up and relatively limited opportunities for SDG-specific workshops targeting [LRG] functionaries" and that "local government representatives expressed the need for clearer guidelines and support, for example in aligning local plans and programmes to SDG targets and indicators".

LRGs (some districts and municipalities) were involved in the 2021 VNR process, as well as many other stakeholders (consultations).

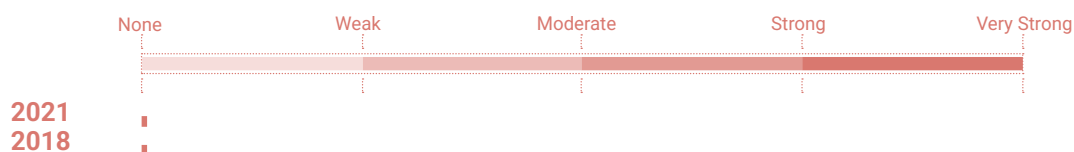
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

▶ In the VNR process



Comments: Some districts and municipalities were consulted as part of the 2021 VNR process.

▶ In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No mention of any LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms.

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 is only very little mention of LRGs throughout the 2018 report. The 2021 VNR mentions the LRGs, but without much reference to specific locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

There are only a very few examples in the 2018 VNR, in addition to a dedicated box on the Bajo Water Supply System. In the 2021 VNR, there is an example of the national programme: the Strategic Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (SPCR) is being piloted in **Samdrup Jongkhar** Thromde to promote climate-resilient urban services and infrastructure. See other national programmes for SDG 11 in the VNR, 2021, p. 21-22.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

According to the 2018 VNR, the GNHCS allocates resources to priority programs at central and local government levels. Overall, upon approval of the performance objectives and budget, annual performance agreements are signed between the Prime Minister and respective heads of agencies including the local governments.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Bhutan remains highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and natural disasters, which pose serious threats to its nature-dependent livelihoods and hydropower - and agriculture-based economy. As it maintains its carbon neutral status in the face of mounting pressure to accelerate economic growth, the additional burden of adaptation and mitigation entail huge costs. It is expected that current gaps in implementing the Disaster Management Plan and Contingency Plan (DMCP) at national and district levels will be addressed and that the mechanisms will be strengthened. Although DMCPs had been developed for all 20 districts (dzongkhags), four municipalities (thromdes), and several agencies as reported in the 2018 VNR, recent stakeholder consultations point to a “central-local disconnect” that hampers implementation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women participation in decision-making is 11.6% in local governments.

3.2 COVID 19

An Economic Contingency Plan of Nu. 4.492 billion provides priority support to the tourism and construction sectors, agriculture and livestock production, and towards stocking essential food and non-food items. The Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu—an important social protection prerogative of His Majesty the King—has helped sustain livelihoods of about 52,644 individuals, besides supporting interest payment of more than 139,096 loan account holders. Several monetary and fiscal measures are also in place. While working to “build back better”, Bhutan remains committed to accelerating the SDGs so that progress towards an inclusive, low-carbon and resilient development pathway—as envisioned by its GNH approach—is sustained. Regarding public service provision, based on the experience of the first lockdown, concerted efforts continue to be made to improve logistical arrangements and coordination among essential service providers. A **zoning system of districts and cities** was initiated and refined over time, to minimise disruptions and improve the management of subsequent lockdowns and other containment measures.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		10.6 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	49 (2020)
	Rural	28 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	63 (2020)
	Rural	67 (2020)
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 (%)		72.3 (2012, Thimphu)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		37.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		51.3 (2018)

4. 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/btn>

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Brunei Darussalam is a unitary country **without elected local governments**.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The 2030 Agenda has been integrated in Brunei Darussalam's national Vision, **Wawasan Brunei 2035**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A multi-stakeholder **Special Committee for the Implementation** ensures the coordination. It was established in 2016 and includes senior officers from relevant ministries and agencies to facilitate the inclusion of SDGs indicators in Brunei Darussalam's development plans as well as to ensure and monitor the implementation of the SDGs in line with national priorities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For its 2020 VNR, Brunei Darussalam established a **Special Committee**, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). This Special Committee spearheaded the preparation of the report, reviewing the country's progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. Several workshops were organized for the elaboration of the VNR. The country also attended several workshops organized by the UN and ASEAN.

1.3 MONITORING

No specific references could be found for monitoring strategies but some of the SDGs (1, 3, 10, 11 and 16) have special agencies, international institutions or special mechanisms that help to monitor their advances.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

No reference.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26410VNR_2020_Brunei_Report.pdf (2020)

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Brunei Darussalam welcomes and supports the efforts of other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, not just towards achieving the SDGs, but also for the development and prosperity of the country. There are many initiatives at the local level, coming from non-governmental actors, for the implementation of some strategies in order to accomplish some SDG-related goals with the local community and mobilizing resources from other countries (see the VNR, 2020, p. 106-108).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: MyActionForSDG: MY World 2030 Advocate in Brunei Darussalam is an awareness campaign that aims to inspire individuals, organizations and the local community to start taking action for the SDGs. It is supported by the UN SDGs Action Campaign, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and UN Volunteers Asia-Pacific. The 2020 VNR states that “the campaign aims to create a positive change in society towards the SDGs, through increasing awareness of its importance, localizing and unifying community action supporting SDGs and connecting local supporters with the Global Day of Action”.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR highlights the national objective of women participation “at all levels”: in the civil service, in the legal, political, and managerial fields, etc. (without always providing policy examples nor figures as proof of progress in this direction).

3.2 COVID 19

The government took various measures, mainly economic, to provide support to businesses and individuals affected by the COVID-19 health crisis.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

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)		7.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

2. 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/brn>

CAMBODIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Cambodia (RGC) is a unitary country with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 25 regional governments (24 provinces and the capital city). At the intermediary level, there are 159 districts and 26 municipalities. At the local level, the country counts 1 410 communes and 236 *Sangkats*. Local councils are elected and local executives appointed.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

Following the endorsement of the SDGs at the UN General Assembly in 2015, Cambodia worked to adapt the goals to its national context and has crafted the **Cambodian SDGs (CSDGs) Framework 2016-2030**.³ The SDGs fully align with the RGC's long-term development vision as articulated in Vision 2050, and in its medium-term instruments – the **Rectangular Strategy Phase IV (RS-IV)** and the **National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning** was nominated in 2015 to lead efforts towards the implementation of the CSDGs, and coordinates the **National Council on Sustainable Development**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The process underpinning Cambodia's first VNR was led by the **Ministry of Planning**. As with the CSDGs Framework, the VNR relies on a wide consultative process. It has adopted a whole of government approach - drawing in ministries and agencies, and local administrations - as well as a whole of society approach open to civil society and business actors.

1.3 MONITORING

In addition to the 17 SDGs, an 18th goal requiring the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordinance was added. The final framework comprises 18 **CSDGs**, 88 nationally relevant targets, and 148 globally and locally defined indicators. Overall responsibility for the national M&E process lies with the **Ministry of Planning**, who is maintaining the **CSDG indicator database** and acting as lead technical focal point. The former task includes compiling data received and providing annual updates and five yearly milestone reports for review by the national government.

Ministries and national agencies' capacity and data systems are urgently being strengthened through the **National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)**, which is an important complementary initiative to designing and monitoring the CSDGs. The 2019 VNR indicates that given the wide scope of CSDGs, and that their delivery requires the contribution of all Cambodian stakeholders and their partners, the RGC will also seek to build an ecosystem supportive of wider feedback, and engage with the private sector, civil society and international organizations.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs were involved in the 2019 VNR process, and the **National League of Local Councils (NLC)** states it is always invited by the Ministry of Planning in the events related to the SDGs. Regarding national coordination for SDG implementation, the

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

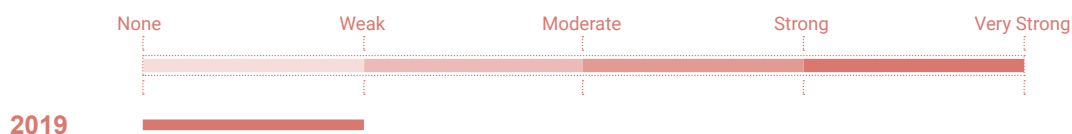
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23603Cambodia_VNR_PublishingHLPF.pdf (2019)

3. See more details in the VNR, 2019, p. 15-16.

local government association reports a regular participation and indicates that the mechanism coordinated by the Ministry of Planning allows for “good cooperation with local governments”.⁴

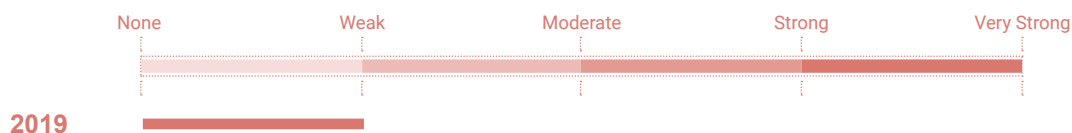
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: According to the 2019 VNR, LRGs were consulted.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are consulted. The NLC participates regularly (no decision-making). LRGs’ responses to the GTF Survey indicate a medium participation. (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments’ annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR specifies that “geographical consistency” is necessary to ensure that “national, subnational and local plans are reconciled and work together for maximum impact” (see VNR, 2019, p. 88). However, there are only a few direct references to LRGs. As part of the review of SDG 11, there is a case study (a two page-long box) dedicated to the presentation of initiatives taken in the city of **Battambang** (see VNR, 2019, p. 72-73).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National League of Communes (NLC)** has included the SDGs in its five-year strategic plan (2018-2022) and is committed to organizing capacity-building workshops on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as the international workshop it organized in 2019, in Siem Reap.⁵

► With the support of UN agencies, cities like **Battambang** are currently undertaking action to improve urban integrated management, particularly in such fields as waste management and participatory planning. Indeed, Battambang was selected as one of five pilot cities under the joint United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN-Habitat project, “Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific” (2018-2021). The project focuses on advocacy and capacity development for local government and other urban stakeholders in Battambang as related to the principles, goals, and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and is being implemented in Battambang with local partners from different stakeholder groups. Battambang has selected solid waste management, livelihoods and local economic development, waste water, and affordable housing as the city’s SURM priorities. The 2019 VNR indicates that “the process operationalizing the localization of the SDGs is integral, and the SURM approach thus translates for the local level the systemic issues in SDG 17, the call to strengthen institutions and multi-stakeholder involvement from SDG 16, and takes cues from other “means of implementation” targets across the SDGs. The aim is to strengthen the capacities of local governments and other key urban stakeholders to achieve effective partnerships at the city-level” (see VNR, 2019, p. 71-72).

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

Not applicable.

⁴. Answer of the National League of Local Councils (NLC) to the GTF Survey in 2020 and 2021. However, the NLC reported not having been invited to the preparation of the 2019 VNR.

⁵. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The national government has acknowledged that the SDGs should still be matrixed to the subnational level in 2019, including subnational budgets.⁶

A **Subnational Investment Fund** will provide grants (but not initially loans) to fund public infrastructure and services. This fund prioritizes providing support for decentralized sectors and services and promoting the ongoing reform process. It receives support from the Asian Development Bank and will provide different types of support to each level of government, according to its context, on a competitive basis.⁷

The 2019 VNR states that “on-going reforms, especially in Public Financial Management and public administration reform, have provided momentum for the [SDGs] with their respective focus on results-based budgeting and improved public service delivery”. It also draws attention to Cambodia’s specific resourcing constraints versus the level of ambition represented by the CSDGs, alongside Vision 2050 objectives. Delivering these will require major investments and a matching expansion in resource flows.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Cambodia is part of the Asian countries where local government reforms are still at an early stage or where local administration is deconcentrated rather than decentralized.⁸ Yet, since the local elections in 2009, some LRGs note that they have seen positive changes, for instance in the district administration. They mention the implementation of decentralization and deconcentration processes at sub-national level, which result in the augmentation of the speed of administrative service delivery and in faster development of public services. The district administration has therefore been able to manage its resources more effectively and in the ownership way.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

There has been a significant increase regarding the participation of women in the political leadership over the past decade. The 2019 VNR acknowledges that there is a higher proportion of women in politics at the subnational level (from 40% in 2014 to 43% in 2017) than at the national level (from 27% in 2014 to 31% in 2017). The proportion of women in commune/*Sangkat* councils reached 16.75%.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		16.9 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	57 (2020)
	Rural	18 (2020)
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 (%)		45.1 (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)		25 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

7. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

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

9. Answer of the Monkul Borey District to the GTF Survey in 2021.

10. 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/khm>

CHINA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

China is a unitary one-party socialist republic with three tiers of subnational government. There are 2,851 local governments at the municipal level (counties), 333 at the intermediary level (prefectures) and 31 at the regional level (provinces), amounting to 3,215 LRGs.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

In 2016, the country released **China's National Plan on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which translates each target of the SDGs into action plans for the country. China's **13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)** for Economic and Social Development, also adopted in 2016, is aligned with the SDGs. The **14th Five-year Plan** for Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 covers the immediate next five years. Several sectoral plans are also aligned with SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

According to the 2016 VNR, the national coordination mechanism established for SDG implementation comprises 43 government departments and is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The 2021 report states the interministerial coordination mechanism comprises 45 government agencies. The VNR states that for the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, relevant ministries are lead agencies, and local governments assume the main responsibility of implementation, thus forming an effective structure comprising the central, local and primary levels.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR focuses on the SDGs under discussion for 2021 HLPF and covers five cross-cutting areas: poverty reduction, climate and environmental governance, COVID-19 and recovery, food and agriculture governance, and infrastructure.

1.3 MONITORING

The strategy of poverty eradication of China contains a monitoring dimension. Yet, the 2021 VNR acknowledges that the monitoring and support mechanisms need to be improved to detect and prevent any relapse through intervention and assistance. There is no reference to specific SDG monitoring mechanisms or strategies.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs are not directly involved in national coordination mechanisms.³ In such an extended and complex country as China, in general a top-down approach has been taken in the implementation of the SDGs: the 2021 VNR acknowledges that the "central government coordinates national efforts, provinces assume overall responsibility, cities and counties work to meet the targets". To counterbalance this top-down logic, China is developing a set of tools involving a mix of policy processes. Within the '**Development Plan of China's Innovation Demonstration Zones** for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', the central government and LRGs collaborate to facilitate vertical and horizontal coordination, as well as create greater opportunities for public participation. Three pilot cities have been selected: **Guilin**, **Shenzhen** and

1. These statistics cover mainland China only, without the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

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

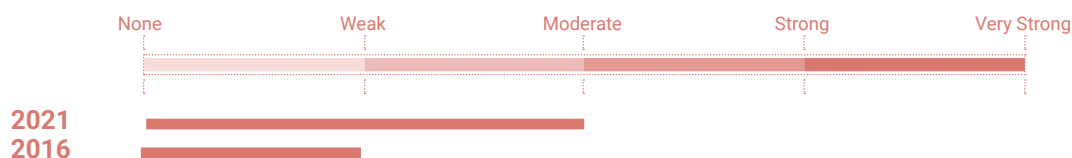
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280812021_VNR_Report_China_English.pdf (2021)

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

Taiyuan. In these cities, legislation has been adopted to confirm the city's overall sustainable development planning to 2030. They are also establishing SDG-related institutions to conduct further implementation work.⁴ The 2021 VNR doesn't mention any involvement of LRGs and local stakeholders in the reporting process. However, some LRGs (**Hangzhou** and **Zengzhou**) that answered the GTF annual survey in 2021 mentioned that they met with representatives of the reporting unit and sent contributions.

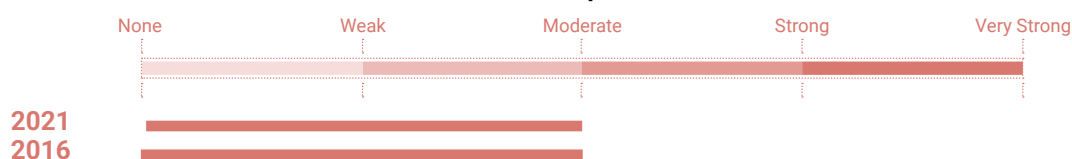
2.1 VNR REFERENCES

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2021 VNR doesn't mention any involvement of LRGs and local stakeholders in the reporting process. However, Hangzhou and Zengzhou mentioned that they met with representatives of the reporting unit and sent contributions (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The local level is taken into account for SDG implementation (no further details in the 2021 VNR).

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 localization of strategies to realize the SDGs and the role played by local governments are mentioned in the 2016 VNR. Regarding national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, the 2021 VNR mentions LRGs as implementers: "for the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, relevant ministries are lead agencies, and local governments assume the main responsibility of implementation, thus forming an effective structure comprising the central, local and primary levels". Overall, there are only a very few references to LRGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Some cities and provinces in China are competing in different areas to foster sustainable development through ambitious and innovative programmes, such as **Deyang, Yiwu, Haiyan** and **Huangshi** as resilient cities; and **Chengdu, Nanhu, Zhejiang Langzhong, Libo** and **Chibei** as models for international sustainable pilot cities.

► **Xiangyang** is testing out technologies for recycling sludge from wastewater treatment into energy, and recovering resources through an innovative cost effective green treatment process.

► **Wuhan** received the Guangzhou International Award for Innovation for the transformation of one of the largest landfills in Asia into a recreational park and ecological garden covering an area of over 170 square km.⁵

► According to the Provincial and Large and Medium Cities Sustainable Development Ranking 2018 Annual Report, **Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Tianjin, Guangdong, Chongqing, Shandong, Fujian** and **Anhui** rank top ten in terms of sustainable performance among provinces and metropolitan cities. According to the ranking, the most developed and wealthy regions, such as **Beijing, Shanghai, the Pearl River Delta** and other coastal cities, ranked the highest.

► **Chengdu** has been practising participatory budgeting since 2008, and has funded over 100,000 projects.⁶

► More than 60 million new urban jobs have been created.

► The objective of eradicating extreme poverty is considered "achieved". By the end of 2020, 98,99 million poor rural people had been lifted out of poverty and 832 counties and 128,000 villages had graduated from their poverty-stricken status.

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

5. The project involved government departments as well as experts from 82 cities. This is the largest application of aerobic technology for landfill remediation and the biggest ecological bridge in China.

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

► Regarding public services and infrastructures, by the end of 2020, all counties had been connected to large power grids, and basically all rural areas had access to stable and reliable power supply. There has been major improvement, in schools in poor areas, hospitals and village doctors, and cultural facilities. Poor regions have now access to key infrastructures: 99.3% of administrative villages have access to industrial electricity, 99.9% of administrative villages have access to communications signals; over 98% poor villages have fiber-optic and 4G connections; garbage is collected and disposed in a centralized way in 89.9% of administrative villages; 62.7% have e-commerce delivery stations. Tap water access rose to 83 % in poor areas.

► As part of a structural reform of the agriculture in the country, China has improved agricultural support policies, and implemented the system of holding local governments responsible for doing their share for national food security.

► The One Village One Product Project aims to help villages, or towns and counties, develop one or a few unique products and brands based on their resources or advantages. Each village will specialize in certain small and unique products that they can make well on a commercial scale and build their own brands. Such villages are expected to become demonstrations and have a radiating effect on neighboring villages.

► **Zhejiang Province's** eco-restoration program involves 1,000 demonstration villages and aims to improve 10,000 villages. This program was recognized through the United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.

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

Deqing (in 2017 and 2018), **Guangzhou** and **Yiwu** (both in 2021), and **Yangzhou** (in 2022) have published their VLRs.⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Funding and resources at different levels of government often do not match. In the past, this mismatch was not as problematic, as local governments could rely on land revenues and borrowing money to deliver unfunded services. However, local government land sales and borrowing capacity have been curtailed more recently.⁸ LRGs indebtedness needs particular attention. For poor areas, interregional collaboration and paired assistance have been organized. The 2021 VNR highlights that “9 provinces in the east have paired up with 14 provinces in the central and western regions (e.g. 100,5 billion inf fiscal aid and assistance funding), and 343 more advanced eastern counties (cities and districts) paired up with 573 poor counties in the central and western regions in a campaign to achieve common prosperity”.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: UN agencies are developing several initiatives to support environmental government, strengthening climate change resilience / adaptation and clean air, biodiversity protection, circular economy and sustainable urban planning (e.g. low carbon urban transportation demonstration zones in **Shanghai** and **Yancheng**, smart urbanization, Smart City Planning Guideline). They are also active regarding reforestation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

To control the spread of the COVID-19, assistance was flown in **Wuhan** and **Hubei** from 19 provinces. Overall, the 2021 VNR presents the national strategies to cope with COVID-19 and highlights China's international role in facing the pandemic: “China has shared its experience in preventing, controlling, diagnosing and treating COVID-19 with more than 180 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations, and sent medical expert teams to more than 30 countries and assistance to more than 160 countries and international organizations, and donated or exported COVID-19 prevention and control goods to more than 200 countries and regions. China has fulfilled its commitment of giving China's vaccines as a global public good, first to developing countries. Under WHO's COVAX, China has provided vaccine assistance to more than 80 developing countries to meet their urgent needs, and exported vaccines to more than 50 countries, contributing to the global fight against COVID-19”.

7. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Deqing%20\(2017\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Deqing%20(2017).pdf) ;
[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Deqing%20\(2018\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Deqing%20(2018).pdf) ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/guangzhou_2021.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/yiwu_2021.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/yangzhou_2021.pdf
8. UCLG, 2019, Report GOLD V, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		23.1 (2018, Macao Special Administrative Region)
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	86 (2020)
	Rural	44 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		24.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2015, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		45.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

9. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>.

More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/chn>

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a unitary country, administratively divided into 9 provinces and 4 municipalities (Pyongyang, Nampho, Rason and Kaesong). Local power organ is the people's assembly at all levels: it includes provincial (or the city under the direct jurisdiction) people's assemblies, city (or district) people's assemblies and county people's assemblies.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 SDGs are integrated in the **National Development Goal (NDG)** and sector plans, including the **2016-2020 Five Year Plan**. The national SDGs framework consists of 17 goals, 95 targets and 132 indicators, reflecting the government's priorities. Priorities are given to energy, agriculture, water and sanitation, and environment in the national SDGs and 53% of the global SDGs targets are selected as the national SDGs or integrated with the NDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the government of the DPR Korea set up the **National Task Force for Sustainable Development (NTF)** which includes representatives from relevant line ministries and agencies, and appointed the Vice-Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission (SPC) as the Chair and the Deputy Director-General of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) as the Vice Chair. The NTF is responsible for nationalizing the SDGs and their targets and indicators to establish country-specific goals in conformity with the national development goals and coordinating activities for the implementation of SDGs at all levels. The **Technical Committee (TC)** under the NTF was formed, composed of CBS statisticians.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was prepared involving different agencies. In March 2021, the **TC** integrated data through the national statistical system and submitted the results to the NTF. The **NTF** organized consultation meetings under the six thematic areas of socio-demography, science and education, public health and water and sanitation (WASH), economy and energy, environment and ecosystem and disaster risk management (DRM), to discuss successes, experiences, challenges and actions forward, and drafted the report based on those reviews. Due to COVID-19, consultations were organized through virtual meetings with staff from line ministries and relevant agencies.

1.3 MONITORING

The **TC** compiles and evaluates data by indicators through national statistics systems and surveys, and reports them to the NTF. Since 52% of the indicators measuring implementation of the 2016-2020 Five year plan are linked to the national SDGs framework, the statistical data on its implementation as well as the results of surveys (including a Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey) conducted in collaboration with UN organizations have been used as inputs in preparing the VNR.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282482021_VNR_Report_DPRK.pdf (2021)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not Applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Provinces and municipalities are part of “planning divisions in people’s committees at province, city and country level”.³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women accounted for 20.2% of the deputies elected for the 13th Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA) in 2015 and 17.6% for the 14th in 2019, and more than 25% for the local people’s assemblies.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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	77 (2020)
	Rural	49 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	1 (2020)
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)		38.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

⁴ 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/prk>

FIJI

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Fiji is a unitary republic with two spheres of government. The country comprises 14 provincial councils and 13 municipal councils (2 city councils and 11 town councils). **There are currently no elected councillors** (councils have been suspended and elections postponed since 2009).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

Launched in 2017, **Fiji's 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plans** embody the key goals and principles of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economy** is the government agency responsible for national development planning and thus the sustainable development agenda. The Ministry is also the convener of the SDGs Taskforce that is charged with the responsibility of overseeing SDG implementation in the country.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economy** led the 2019 VNR process. The development of the VNR started with a detailed data and information review exercise, followed by a comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder consultation process via various platforms. The latter included a call for submission from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and philanthropy on programmes or initiatives that are being implemented by these stakeholders to support the achievement of the SDGs. Also, the Fiji Civil Society Organisation Voluntary Review Taskforce organized a forum to assess and report on civil society organizations' contributions to SDG implementation.

1.3 MONITORING

As part of the VNR process in 2019, and with the support of UNDP, a comprehensive data collection process was started in 2018 to establish the SDG baseline status in Fiji and an SDGs monitoring and evaluation system.³

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any involvement of the provincial and local councils in the 2019 VNR process nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

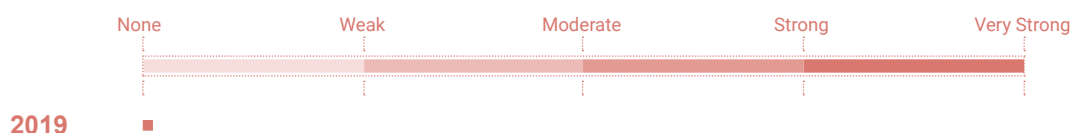
1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Fiji.pdf. Traditional leaders head the 14 provincial councils elected by the indigenous Itekei people, while local administrations have been appointed since the military coup in 2006. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25011Fiji_VNR_2019_final.pdf (2019)

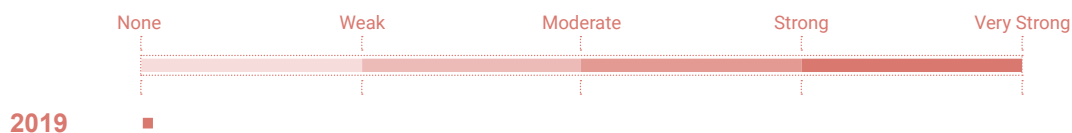
3. The exercise revealed concerns on data availability for SDGs 11, 12, 13 and 14, and explored proxy national indicators for these SDGs. The assessment also highlighted indicators that have yet to be mainstreamed into the 5-Year and 20-Year NDP and suggested a number of indicators that needed to be adapted to the Fijian context.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are very limited references to local councils in the 2019 VNR, and no example of local initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2019 in **Nadi**, the 5th Pacific Urban Forum was held in partnership with the national government, UN-Habitat, UNESCAP and other partners. It concluded with voluntary commitments to support cities in localizing the 2030 Agenda as well as a declaration for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to support the institutionalization of local government concerns in the region.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To achieve SDG ambitions through the 5-Year and 20-Year NDP, Fiji requires significant mobilization of both public and private sector finance. Also, as a country on the frontlines of climate change, Fiji is well placed to explore the wider use of international climate finance for adaptation, resilience building and mitigation purposes. Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) developed with technical assistance from the World Bank highlights that the Fijian Government must make interventions in five key areas to reduce vulnerability.⁵

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR stresses the threat posed to the Fijian people by the reality of climate change. Whether it's more frequent and more severe cyclones, the rising seas, ocean acidification or changing weather patterns, the report acknowledges that Fiji faces extreme vulnerabilities that will require funding from within and beyond our borders to adequately address.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the last local government elections in 2005, 13.3% (21 out of 158) women were elected countrywide. Currently there are no elected councillors and none of the special administrators are women.⁶ The 2019 mentions the iTaukei traditional social structure: women hold 7% village chief positions.

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

5. The interventions are (i) Building inclusive and resilient towns and cities; (ii) Improving infrastructure services; (iii) Climate smart agriculture and fisheries; (iv) Conserving ecosystems; and (v) Building socioeconomic resilience. Furthermore, the CVA is particularly impressive in its use of innovative analyses and methodologies. For instance, it investigates the impact of natural disasters on poverty and inequality, so that the Fijian Government can make risk management decisions that are informed by poverty impacts and not just based on aggregate costs.

6. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Fiji.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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 (%)		11.2 (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)		10.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

7. 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/fji>

INDIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION*

India is a federal republic with a two-tiered subnational structure. It has 29 states and 7 Union Territories (UTs) (with 736 Districts) and 267,543 elected local governments at the municipal level: 262 983 rural local bodies, including 255,492 villages (*Gram panchayat*), and 4,560 urban local bodies.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 **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** replaced the previous Planning Commission of India in 2015 to nourish the federal spirit of the Constitution. NITI Aayog has released the national strategy document, namely, '**Strategy for New India@75**', envisioning a thriving nation in the year 2022. It lays out a detailed strategy to materialize the '**New India**' and factors the SDGs, as well as related targets, across all strategic domains.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

NITI Aayog, chaired by the Prime Minister, has been designated as the government institution responsible for overall coordination and monitoring of the SDGs in the country, in close collaboration with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), which is responsible for the development of the baseline data on the National Indicator Framework. **High level committees** have been established at the state level, as well as **District Development Coordination and Monitoring Coordination**, to provide continuous guidance, oversee implementation and monitoring, and put in place mechanisms for ensuring coordinated action on SDGs. The Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament exercises legislative oversight on the progress of the SDG agenda through periodic reviews of NITI Aayog and related line ministries.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

NITI Aayog prepared the 2020 VNR action plan. The report preparation process involved seven major elements: i) a **VNR Forum** involving different stakeholders, ii) the **SDG Taskforce** which provided technical issues, iii) stakeholder engagement using consultations, iv) government consultations were set up with the national and subnational level for inputs on progress update and knowledge sharing, v) communications, vi) research: NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance undertook a joint study with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to estimate the cost for achieving select SDGs and vii) drafting the VNR, during which the inputs from CSOs, private sector, central ministries and the governments at the state and UT levels were collected.

1.3 MONITORING

- ▶ There is a **National SDG Indicator framework (NIF)** with 297 indicators across all SDGs and a coordinated system for generating and managing data through a process of multi-layered and iterative consultations.
- ▶ NITI Aayog developed the **SDG India Index** first in 2018 to measure progress, rank the performance of the states/Union Territories and trigger remedial action.³ The indicator base has been substantially widened to cover 100 indicators, which are largely drawn from the National Indicator Framework (NIF).

*Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16693India.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26279VNR_2020_India_Report.pdf (2020)

3. The first SDG India Index covered 13 out of 17 SDGs (excepting Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17) in 2018, while the 2019 edition was far more comprehensive, covering all the 17 Goals.

► The **SDG India Index and Dashboards**, the first government-led measure of subnational progress on SDGs, has provided direction to efforts of subnational governments.⁴

► While a State Indicator Framework serves as the foundation of the State-level SDG monitoring system, with indicators relevant to the state, the **District Indicator Framework (DIF)** for each state facilitates competition among the districts.

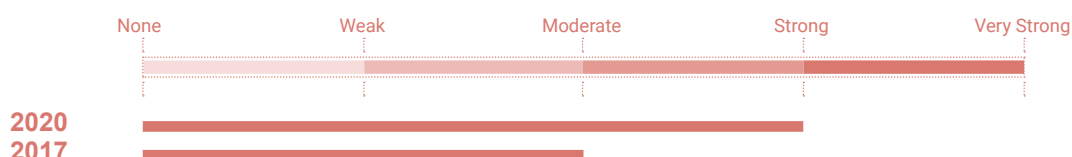
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

All states have created **professional units** on SDGs in the shape of an SDG cell in the nodal department with personnel having technical expertise and experience. Several states have gone further and established or adapted even **district level structures** for taking SDG implementation and monitoring to the grassroots. They are evolving as they have created, for example, the District Planning Committees (DPC), which are constitutionally mandated structures to facilitate planning and review at the district level. The **District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA)** at the district level, actively coordinates and monitors 28 major schemes/programmes in tandem with the central, state and local government.

In addition, NITI Aayog, in alliance with the United Nations and other partners, initiated sensitisation and awareness building measures. It has conducted a series of 25 national and subnational consultations on SDGs and their implementation strategies.

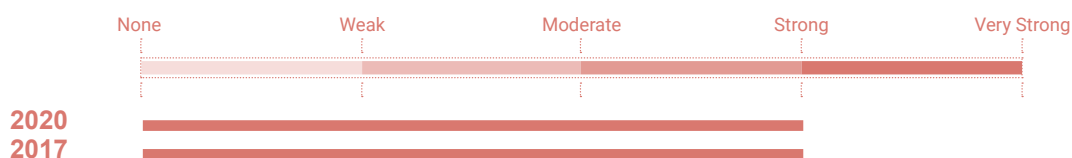
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs have been consulted, but they have not been part of the drafting team in 2020.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Participation is limited to federal states.

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 third section of the 2020 VNR, entitled "Policy and Enabling Environment", is dedicated to explain how the government has been strengthening the federal relations with the subnational level in order to consolidate SDG implementation strategies. It makes emphasis on the competences and jurisdiction of the subnational governments showing how they have constitutionally well-defined legislative and executive jurisdiction, giving the states considerable autonomy in their management (see the VNR, 2020, p. 13). It also mentions the "Team India", which comprises the national government, the states and the Union Territories, working in close collaboration to drive and implement the SDGs. The fourth section is entitled "the Indian approach to localising SDGs" (see the VNR, 2020, p. 17). It describes the strategies that have been undertaken at the subnational level for SDG implementation and it details the institutional mechanisms that have been created.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Assam, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka** and **Haryana** have matured renditions of the professional units on SDGs with full-fledged centres of excellence in collaboration with support organizations like UNDP.

► Other states, such as **Madhya Pradesh** and **Chhattisgarh** are developing a methodology to orient district planning to SDGs and preparing manuals/guidelines for the same.

4. The SDG India Index and Dashboard is available at <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/>

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

With the acceptance and implementation of the **14th Finance Commission Award**, financial devolution to the states was increased from 32 to 42% of the divisible pool of taxes along with an increased share of cess and surcharge in tax collections. The share of general-purpose transfers that are unconditional has increased from 51.41% of the total transfers to around 60%.⁵ The 2020 VNR makes reference to the legal evolution of the subnational planning system in the subsection called “Addressing Local Priorities – The Space for the Third Tier”, showing how the 14th Finance Commission award was important for the local development planning, as more than 50% of the financial devolution was meant for the local governments, capitalizing on the new fiscal decentralization measure. This section explains how the government, in 2015-2016, began a new initiative of preparation of village-level holistic planning at the *Gram Panchayat* (village council) level, for pooling of resources (Gram Panchayat Development Plan - GPDP). The report highlights how these programs were fundamental for the localization process at the community level as the GPDP is fully aligned with SDG principles.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Even if there have been several policy initiatives in post-Independence India to initiate and institutionalize decentralized local development planning, it came into practice only **after the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992**, which conferred constitutional mandate respectively to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, block and district levels. But progress is limited by state governments and varies from state to state.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Regarding the participation of women in the implementation of the SDGs, the 2020 VNR mentions several meetings and conferences, such as the BRICS Women Parliamentarians “Forum in 2016, on Perspectives on implementation of SDGs”, and “Achieving SDGs - Role of Women Parliamentarians in involving Citizens”. In 2017, the South Asian Speakers’ Summit on Achieving the SDGs also called upon parliaments to create gender-sensitive elected bodies, particularly at the grassroots level, in order to identify and prioritize issues relevant to women. Regarding the participation of women in politics, progress has been made in recent years. Even if it remains low overall, it is steadily increasing. In particular, women occupy 44.4% of the seats in rural municipal councils. In addition, more and more women are going to vote, overtaking men in 2019 (68%). The VNR stresses the need for bottom-up consultations as well as an evaluation of the programs implemented at national, regional, and local levels, to develop gender responsive policies. Finally, the VNR mentions a few examples of good practices from regional and local governments, aimed directly at women (access to employment, eradication of poverty) or which take them into account indirectly (recycling of waste, sustainable fishing).

3.2 COVID 19

In the 2020 VNR, the measures taken by the national government to cope with the pandemic, whether economic or social, are presented as opportunities to continue progressing towards the SDGs and bring about transformative changes in the country, on the basis of strengthened partnerships (particularly with the private sector and civil society organizations). The report does not refer to initiatives carried out by Indian local governments.

5. “The Centre-State fiscal relations underwent major changes in recent years on account of two major moves: (i) fundamental changes in the system of revenue transfers from the Centre to the States by providing higher tax devolution to the States from the fiscal year 2015-16 onward, (based on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission); and (ii) the Constitutional amendment to introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the establishment of the GST Council for the Centre and State governments to deliberate and jointly take decisions. Total transfers to States has maintained a progressive upward trend, climbing steadily from INR 8.29 trillion (USD 110.5 billion) in 2015-16 to INR 13.19 trillion (USD 175.9 billion) in 2019-20.”

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		44.4 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	56 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	37 (2020)
	Rural	51 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		35.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		75 (2012, Bangalore)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		68.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		91.7 (2020)

6. 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/ind>

INDONESIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Indonesia is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational self government: 34 provinces, 416 regencies and 98 cities (intermediate level), and 83 344 villages (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

The SDGs are institutionalized from the highest national level to subnational entities, and integrated in national and subnational development planning. Indonesia's national development agenda has been aligned with the 17 Goals and 94 out of 169 measurable SDG targets. Indonesia has been drafting the **2020-2024 National Action Plan**, formalizing the integration of the SDGs into the **2020-2024 National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN)**, mainstreaming 124 targets in the SDGs **National Action Plan (RAN)** and the **Sub-national Actions Plan (RADs)** localizing sustainable development at the subnational level. The **Sustainable Development Goals Roadmap Towards 2030** has also been developed.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2017, Indonesia established the **SDGs National Coordination Team** led by the President of the Republic of Indonesia. The **Minister of National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency** was appointed by the President as the National Coordinator for SDG implementation. In the structure of the Team, all stakeholders are represented inclusively. It consists of a Steering Committee, Implementing Team, Working Group, Sub-Working Group and Expert Team, each comprising four participation platforms. These platforms consist of (1) national and subnational governments, (2) civil society organizations, (3) philanthropy and business, and (4) academicians and experts. At sub-national levels, there are 29 **Subnational Coordination Teams**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process was coordinated by the **Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency** and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the members of the National Coordination Team for SDG implementation. In addition to a survey and other sources, meetings were conducted with Statistics Indonesia and the SDGs Working Group and Sub-Working Group to obtain relevant and updated data. For the 2021 VNR process, despite being limited to virtual meetings, an inclusive development process managed to reach more stakeholders and to provide input through public consultation. The process was coordinated by **BAPPENAS**. The VNR preparation involved the four partnership platforms (national and sub-national governments, civil organizations and media, philanthropy and business, as well as universities and experts). The UN system facilitated and complemented the analysis. Three different drafts were circulated, discussed through online public consultation, specific consultation with youths and on human rights. A plenary meeting was organized for the presentation for the final draft, which was circulated among the 700 members of the Indonesian National SDGs Coordinating Team and the public through all official social media accounts of SDGs Indonesia. The report also considers the surveys from the Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR) carried out by **ITB SDGs Network** with the support of United Cities and Local Government Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC).

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15705Indonesia.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2380320190708_Final_VNR_2019_Indonesia_Rev3.pdf (2019);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280892021_VNR_Report_Indonesia.pdf (2021)

1.3 MONITORING

In 2019, Indonesia was formulating its 2030 Agenda roadmap that contains projections analyses of key indicators. Indonesia created a **OneData portal** as a data hub, coordinated by the **National Development Planning Agency** and the **National Statistics Bureau**. Analyses on data are disaggregated by household expenditure, sex, age group, rural and urban, people with disabilities and people with no disabilities and provinces. This will allow districts, municipalities and provinces to gather, compile and report on the correct indicators in line with the SDGs and national development indicators.³ A national **Local Governments Information System (SIPD)** was created to collect all municipal data on performance indicators. Monitoring is carried out each semester, whereas evaluation is conducted annually.

Governors, as representatives of the national government, coordinate monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation in districts within their provinces and report on SDG implementation to the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of BAPPENAS and the Minister of Home Affairs.

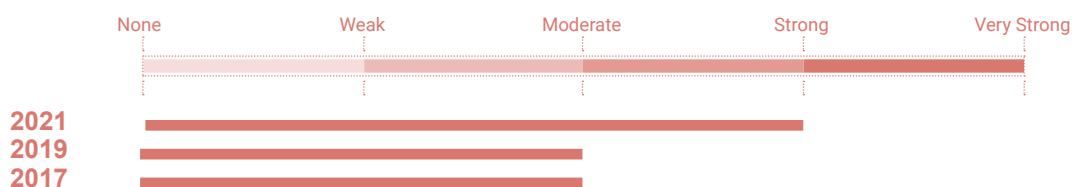
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

To ensure the mainstreaming of the SDGs at all levels of government, a Presidential Decree (2017) requires the integration of the SDGs into the national and subnational mid-term development plans, and mandates the preparation of an SDG roadmap and action plans that include clear deadlines at national, provincial, district and city levels.⁴ The integration of the SDGs into development plans is implemented at the subnational level through the **Medium-Term Regional Development Plan (RPJMD)** and **Regional Work Plan (RKPD)**. SDG coordination teams have also been created at the subnational level: the involvement and role of all stakeholders at the regional level is strengthened by the establishment of the **Regional Coordination Team (TKD)**. The involvement of municipalities/regencies in the localization of the SDGs is followed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), responsible for decentralization policies. MoHA's regulation (2018) established a Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), that should define SDGs to be included in Local Mid Term Development Plans (LMDPs) of municipalities/regencies. From 2018 until 2021, about 29 provinces adopted **Local Actions Plans (LAPs) aligned with SDGs**. LAPs are mandatory for provinces but not for municipalities.

LRGs participate in national coordination mechanisms only at the regional level.

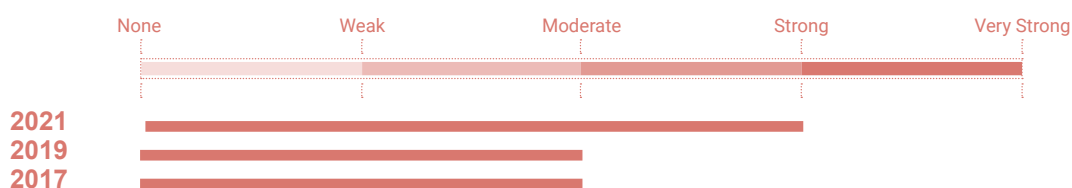
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI) has been informed at an occasional meeting that the association can contribute by voluntarily giving feedback on the draft of VNR (GTF Survey 2021). The VNR also considers the results of the survey used for the VSR published in 2021.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs participate in national coordination mechanisms only at regional level. Although Bandar Lampung City Government mentions a regular (consultative) participation (GTF Survey 2021).

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

LRGs' role in the localization of the SDGs is mentioned throughout both 2019 and 2021 VNRs, with details on their development plans and specific examples.

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

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

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ In cooperation with UCLG ASPAC and as part of the LOCALISE project, the **Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI)** has established training programmes for local government officers, and developed toolkits for the dissemination of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. APEKSI has also created working groups on climate change and inclusive cities.
- ▶ **Surabaya** developed an e-3Rs and created a waste bank where residents are paid in return for recycling plastic bottles and cups. The city also has an educational programme and community based waste management in order to reduce the levels of waste and increase recycling in the city.
- ▶ Women's Schools (Sekolah Perempuan) have been established to provide informal education to empower women, jointly implemented by local governments, CSOs and communities in 54 villages and towns in different districts and provinces.
- ▶ The Regency of **Wonosobo** and **Palu City** created a city human rights commission to protect religious diversity, minority groups and develop awareness-raising programmes.
- ▶ The **Kartamantul** partnership stands out as an example of horizontal cooperation (between provinces and cities/regencies) for localizing the SDGs at a metropolitan level.⁵
- ▶ The Regional Government of **East Aceh District** is implementing a program to accelerate the reduction of the prevalence of stunting called Rumoh Gampong (RGG). The Regional Government of **Bandung City**, West Java Province implemented the OMABA Cooking Center Program: A Bottom-Up Solution in Alleviating Stunting.
- ▶ As part of the BOTAK Programme, **Bogor City** supports the campaign to reduce plastic bags through the Mayor Regulation No. 61 Year 2018 on Reduction of Plastic Bags in shopping centers and modern stores. This regulation aims to reduce household plastic waste in Bogor City, which can accumulate to 1.8 tonnes monthly.

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

The analysis for the VSR published in 2021 was conducted in 13 provinces, 9 cities and 3 regencies, involving the **Indonesian District Government Association**, **Indonesian Provincial Government Association** and **Indonesian District Parliament Association**.⁶ The method implemented includes interviews with subnational governments on the implementation of SDGs; questionnaires on the subnational government's capacities in implementing SDGs, setting priorities for SDGs-aligned development, and understanding of SDGs; and focus group discussions for experience sharing. The VSR highlights that, at the ground level, local governments have different capacities and limited political drives to engage in policies on SDG implementation. Those who do not have access to facilitation of capacity building, especially sponsored by international institutions and non-state actors, are left to their own. The SDGs prioritized at local level are: poverty (1), hunger (2), health (3), education (4), followed by water and sanitation (6), work and growth (8), energy (7), sustainable cities (11) and climate (13) and finally gender equality (5) and inequalities (10). The VSR also mentions how divergent priorities between municipalities can be an obstacle as the provincial government cannot oblige municipalities /regencies to implement targets set by the provincial government, unless there are incentives transferred from the provinces. Some provinces have created platforms to support coordination with municipalities/regencies.

Subaraya and **Jakarta** published their VLRS in 2021.⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2019 VNR states that at the national level, Indonesia seeks to find a variety of financing sources to fund SDG implementation, both conventional and innovative financing schemes. The sources of finance may come from: Optimization of State Revenues, Sources of Non-Government Financing, Other sources. In 2020, the Ministry of Villages has launched the "SDGs for Villages" with 18 goals, with a Village Fund toward SDG implementation and a digital portal.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: From 2011 to 2017 the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) has facilitated the preparation of Local Disaster Management Plans (RPBD) in 33 provinces. Currently all 34 provinces already have RPBD documents. Meanwhile, at the district/city level in 2012-2019, only 182 (35%) districts/cities had RPBDs. Given that there are 514 districts/cities in Indonesia, more substantial efforts are needed to encourage the preparation of RPBDs in all districts/cities in Indonesia.

5. 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>

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/indonesia_2021_0.pdf

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/surabaya_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/jakarta_2021.pdf

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the Provincial House of Representatives, women held 15.5% of the seats in 2009, 15.92% in 2014 and 17.53% in 2019. At the District House of Representatives, they held 14.24% of the seats in 2014 and 15.3% in 2019. According to the 2021 VNR, the objective is to reach 30%.

3.2 COVID 19

To face the pandemic, regulations (Act No 2/2020) were enacted to allow for adjustment of local budgets toward social economic protection against human and economic losses, resulting in delaying the planned activities set in local development plans and repositioning SDGs priorities. Many local governments in Indonesia are struggling with providing adequate public services to their communities. Support to the local economy during pandemic often leads to funding deficits. In addition, limited access to funding and internet connection hinders the local government's capability to adjust local bureaucracy.⁸

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15.7 (2020)
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 (%)		30.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		72 (2015, Jakarta)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		1.8 (2019)

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/indonesia_2021_0.pdf

9. 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/idn>

JAPAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Japan is a unitary monarchy with a two-tiered subnational structure. The country is divided into 47 prefectures at the regional level, and into 1747 local governments at the municipal level. The municipal level comprises Cabinet-Order Designated Cities, cities, towns, villages and the 23 special wards in metropolitan Tokyo. The prefectural level consists of one metropolitan district (Tokyo), two urban prefectures (Kyoto and Osaka), one “district” or “circuit” (Hokkaidō), and rural prefectures.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

In 2016, the **SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles** were adopted as a national strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda.³ The **2018 Basic Policies** and **2018 Economic Growth Strategy (EGS)** are committed to promoting the SDGs. In December 2017, Japan adopted the 2018 SDG Action Plan and in June 2018, the Expanded SDG Action Plan.⁴ The **SDGs Action Plan 2021** reiterates the government's commitment to achieve the SDGs even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic (see below, section 3.2).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2016, the government established a Cabinet body called **SDGs Promotion Headquarters**, headed by the Prime Minister. This cabinet ensures the coordination of the SDG strategy at the inter-ministerial level. They also recognize leading companies and non-governmental organizations working on the SDGs. So far, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and the **SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings** have been held twice a year (only once in 2020 due to the spread of the COVID-19) to exchange opinions on Japan's efforts to achieve the SDGs. It was pointed out at the July 2020 Roundtable Meetings that it is important to further accelerate discussions by establishing **four working groups** on education, environment, progress management/monitoring, and public relations.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The government of Japan has composed the 2017 VNR under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters through consultation among relevant governmental agencies. In drafting the report, SDGs Roundtable Meetings were held comprising representatives of governmental agencies and other stakeholders. Moreover, consultations were held with civil societies and the private sector. The 2017 VNR described how Japan had established its institutional mechanism and undertaken initiatives to promote the SDGs since their adoption in 2015. Since then, various global stakeholders, including national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society have taken actions to achieve the SDGs, raising awareness of the SDGs and promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs both in Japan and abroad. The 2021 VNR was prepared not only through discussions within the government, but through discussions at the **SDGs Promotion Roundtable**, which consists of representatives from various fields, discussions with civil society, the youth generation, and the private sector. In addition, the report was subjected to public comment so that the views of a wide range of citizens were incorporated.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16445JapanVNR2017.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28957210714_VNR_2021_Japan.pdf (2021)

3. Through the Guiding Principles, Japan established the following vision: “Become a leader toward a future where economic, social and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind.” The document sets out Japan's vision, priority areas, implementation principles, implementation framework and approach to the follow-up and review processes.

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

1.3 MONITORING

In response to the adoption of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, consultations have been conducted among ministries on the availability of official statistics for reporting the global indicators. As a result, Japan covers around 138 indicators, which is 55.9% of 247 SDG indicators in total (as of April 2021). The **Working Group on Progress Management and Monitoring** exchanged opinions on the status of indicators and evaluations in Japan that complement the SDG indicators and discussed the progress of evaluation by the private sector members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable in preparing the 2021 VNR.

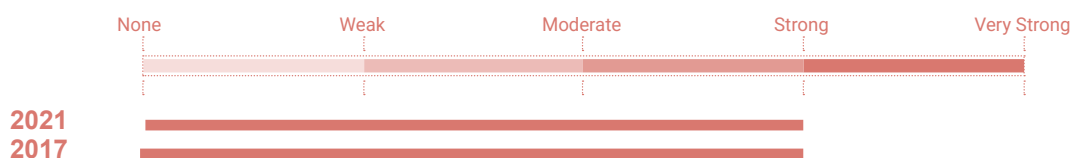
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs are involved in the **SDG Promotion Roundtables** (consultative level). Based on a long tradition of strong collaboration between central and local governments, the Japanese government encourages local governments to incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and policies. The government launched a new project, the **SDGs Models of Local Governments**, to provide support to selected local governments in their implementation of the SDGs. With the support of different programmes (mainly through the **SDGs Future Cities** initiative,⁵ a product of the pre-existing 'Eco-Model Cities' programme), over a hundred cities have shown a proactive interest in implementing innovative strategies and action plans to localize the SDGs, with a special focus on environment, aging population and the involvement of the private sector and civil society.⁶ Other initiatives such as the **Public-Private Partnership Platform for Local SDGs** and **Local SDG Finance** have created momentum to promote the SDGs.

In 2017, the percentage of LRGs working on the SDGs was only 1%, but by 2020, it had risen to 39.7%, and the government is working to increase it to 60% by the end of 2024.

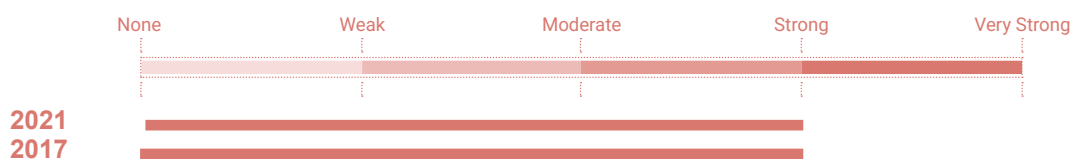
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2021 VNR mentions LRGs' importance in SDG implementation, as well as examples of best practices. LRGs were consulted through the SDGs Promotion Roundtable.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Hamamatsu City participates at decision making level (GTF Survey 2021).

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the 2017 VNR, and there is a specific subsection on local governments' engagement in SDG implementation, with different examples (see VNR, 2017, p. 15-16). The 2021 VNR includes several positive examples of LRGs that have taken the lead to promote the SDGs, including four cities that have conducted their own Voluntary Local Reviews. It also includes a special subsection called "Promoting the SDGs in Japan (highlights of SDGs localization in Japan)", explaining the different initiatives that the government has developed to localize the SDGs. This includes the Japan SDGs Award, which seeks to recognize companies, organizations, etc., that are making outstanding efforts to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The report also mentions the program SDGs Future Cities that selects the municipalities that propose outstanding initiatives to achieve the SDGs. Additionally, this section mentions the SDGs for Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform, which is an information-sharing platform for the public and private sectors to deepen partnerships,

5. Local governments that propose outstanding initiatives to achieve the SDGs have been selected as "SDG Future Cities" since 2018, and some initiatives of leading municipalities among the SDGs Future Cities were selected as "Municipal SDGs Model Projects".

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

solve local issues and revitalize local economies, in cooperation with LRGs. The 2021 VNR also highlights the role of different stakeholders, including a section on LRGs referring to the elaboration of VLRs and pointing out their importance to promote the establishment of cross-departmental promotion organizations and the development of systems of administration; reflect SDG elements in various plans; establish governance methods to manage progress; accurately measure SDG initiatives to disseminate information and share results; promote cooperation with stakeholders both in Japan and overseas; and set local indicators, among others.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The city of **Yokohama** has been amongst the most committed in the SDGs Future Cities initiative, with its ‘Yokohama Future City’ initiative focusing on environment, care of the elderly and culture.⁷

► **Hamamatsu** adopted the Hamamatsu SDGs Future City Plan to promote forest, energy and intercultural initiatives by taking advantage of the local area’s unique characteristics and resources such as its “Warm and Diverse Topography”, “Enterprising Spirit”, and “Diverse and Supportive Society”.⁸

► A total of 124 cities have been selected as “SDGs Future Cities” through four rounds of selection by 2021, of which 10 projects have been selected as “Municipal SDGs Model Projects” each year and subsidized by the government. The selected cities formulate action plans with **key performance indicators (KPIs)** to achieve the goals, while receiving advice from the Cabinet Office and the Task Force of Local Governments and Experts on SDGs. In setting KPIs, the cities are recommended to use the **List of SDGs Local Indicators for Local Development** published by the government.⁹

► Moreover, Japanese cities have been involved in climate change actions for a long time. **Tokyo’s** Climate Change Strategy is attempting to reduce final energy consumption.¹⁰

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

Three cities — **Toyama**, **Kitakyushu** and **Shimokawa** — launched their VLRs in 2018.¹¹ **Hamamatsu** published its VLR in 2019 and **Tokyo** and **Yokohama** prepared theirs in 2021.¹²

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

As stated by the 2021 VNR, ESG investment, SDGs investment, and impact investment, to name but a few, have become popular as investments that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, the concept of **SDGs finance for local development** has been proposed, and the idea of providing active support to companies that promote the SDGs was born.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Japan has, under the Development Cooperation Charter, set Human Security as the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of its assistance and placed issues such as health, disaster risk reduction and gender equality, which are listed in the SDGs as major challenges to be addressed, at the core of its international cooperation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In May 2018, the Act on the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field was enacted. This law aims for an equal number of male and female candidates in elections to the House of Representatives, the House of Councilors, and local assemblies. It also stipulates the responsibilities of national and local governments and their voluntary efforts, such as setting targets for the number of male and female candidates for official positions belonging to political parties.

9. More information can be found in the VNR, 2021, p. 22.

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

11. See the summaries of the 3 VLRs in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, p. 116: <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

12. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Toyama%20\(2018\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Toyama%20(2018).pdf) ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Kitakyushu%20\(2018\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Kitakyushu%20(2018).pdf) ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Shimokawa%20\(2018\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Shimokawa%20(2018).pdf) ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Hamamatsu%20\(2019\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Hamamatsu%20(2019).pdf) ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tokyo_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/yokohama_2021.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

The **SDGs Action Plan 2021** decided in December 2020, based on the fact that there are serious concerns about delays in efforts to achieve the SDGs due to the spread of the COVID-19, sets four priority areas in which Japan will accelerate efforts: 1) Countering infectious disease and preparing for the next crisis; 2) Business for building back better and growth strategies through innovation; 3) SDGs-driven regional revitalization, creating a virtuous cycle of economy and environment; and 4) Accelerating actions through empowerment and strengthening bonds among people. The total amount of the SDGs Action Plan 2021, including support for measures to combat the COVID-19, was approximately 6.5 trillion yen, nearly four times the amount of the previous year (approximately 1.7 trillion yen), demonstrating the government's concerted efforts to implement a variety of measures while taking the SDGs into consideration.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		14.3 (2019)
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 (%)		96.1 (2015, Tokyo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		13.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

13. 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/jpn>



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Kiribati is a unitary republic with a single tier of local government, made up of 3 town (urban) councils and 23 island (rural) councils.¹



As of April 2022, the 2018 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Kiribati was not available. The information in this profile is therefore taken from the document summing up the VNR's key messages.²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are aligned with the **Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2016-2019** and **Kiribati Vision 20 (KV20)** until 2036.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

To coordinate SDG implementation, the **Development Coordination Committee (DCC)** and an **SDG Taskforce** (see below) operate under the oversight of the National Economic Planning Office of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Development Coordination Committee (DCC)** led the 2018 VNR process. Following the appointment of a special SDG Taskforce from among DCC members, an intensive consultation period commenced with all stakeholders. Each partner was educated on the importance of the SDGs, data collection, and the timeline for the reporting process.

1.3 MONITORING

The government issued preliminary indicators to all government agencies, community groups, development partners and private sector organizations. This led to the formation of KDP 2016-2019 and a national set of indicators. Following the 2018 VNR process, national goals and indicators were to be realigned for the second half of the four-year term of the KDP.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

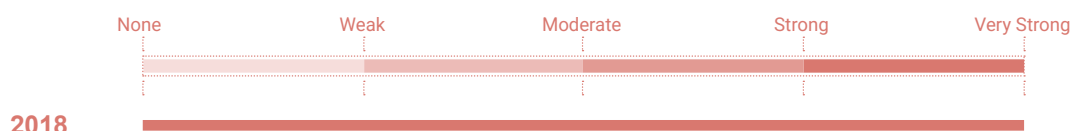
The **Kiribati Local Government Association (KILGA)**, established in 2012, is recognised by the national government and serves urban and rural councils. It ensures the dissemination of the SDGs through its monthly newsletters, radio, forums and workshops. In 2018-2019, the KILGA helped 10 local councils align their development plans with the SDGs and, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), assisted 5 local councils to develop water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) policies. KILGA's executive director participated in the process of drafting the country's VNR in 2018.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19049KIRIBATI_KDP_MidTerm_Review_and_VNR_Key_Messages_revised.pdf

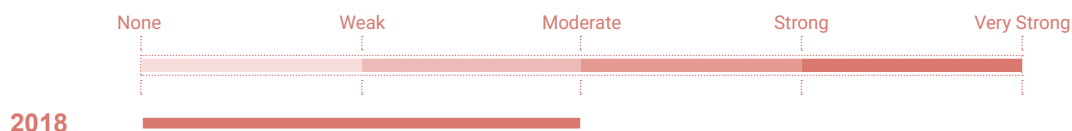
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2018

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2018

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR's key messages and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

The **Betio Town Council (BTC)** was selected as one of the participants of the UNESCAP project on VLRs, which is currently being negotiated. The constraints in communication have delayed the finalization of the VLR for BTC.³

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2012 elections, 3.4% of councillors were women, including 3.5% (7 out of 199) of island councillors and 2.9% (1 out of 34) of urban councillors.⁴

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

3. Answer of the Kiribati Local Government Association (KILGA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Kiribati.pdf

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	21 (2020)
	Rural	7 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	26 (2020)
	Rural	27 (2020)
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)		11.07 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		17.4 (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/kir>

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR)¹ is a one-party parliamentary socialist republic, divided into some 16 provinces, as well as the Vientiane municipality and the Xaysomboun special zone. The provinces are further subdivided into districts and villages. Elections are organized to elect members of the Provincial People's Council. Voters in Laos choose from among LPRP candidates only. The heads of local administrations including provincial governors, capital city mayors, district governors, municipality chiefs, and village chiefs are directly appointed.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP 2021-2025)** integrates the SDGs. This has meant changes for the NSEDP, since the planning process (formulation, implementation and monitoring) has now to be based on the **SDG Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP)** framework.⁴ The **SDG Roadmap** was finalized and approved by the National Steering Committee in 2019. It was prepared based on a series of consultations with both national and international partners. It focuses on institutional strengthening and partnerships. The Roadmap includes awareness-raising strategies, multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogue, mechanisms to create horizontal and vertical policy coherence, budgeting for the future, and plans for monitoring, reporting and accountability. The **SDG Advocacy and Communication plan** was developed based on the recommendations from the first VNR published in 2018. One of its main focus areas is to increase SDG awareness, “especially at the local levels” (see VNR, 2021, p. 23).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The President issued a Decree in 2017 appointing the Prime Minister to chair the **National Steering Committee for SDG implementation**. Its 26 members are drawn from all concerned ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, and mass organizations. The Committee oversees the coordination and implementation of the SDGs through the NSEDP and the sectoral development plans of various ministries up to 2030, including the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation results. The Committee then appointed the **National SDG Secretariat** in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SDG focal points in relevant line ministries to lead and take ownership of each SDG.

To further help facilitate the **Multi Stakeholder Partnership Framework for the SDGs** at sectoral level, Lao PDR has created a partnership and coordination forum called **Sector Working Groups (SWGs)**. Currently, there are 10 SWGs which are covering more or less various key sectors for implementation of the SDGs. The creation of the SWG mechanism has also helped to improve collaboration between the government and partners. Chaired by the relevant ministries, each SWG now plays a critical role in supporting the preparation of the sector development plans fed into 9th NSEDP formulation, implementation and review, especially ensuring that sector priorities are reflected in national plans.

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) has been controlled by the communist Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). This party, in alliance with the Vietnamese communists, carried out the revolution that ended in its seizure of power and the abolition of the monarchy. Top government positions—beginning with the president, who is head of state, and the prime minister, who is the head of government—are selected from high-ranking party members who constitute a Central Committee with the Politburo at the head.

2. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19385Lao_Final_VNR_19_June_2018_web.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279472021_VNR_Report_Lao.pdf (2021)

4. The planning process is now more transparent. The government now shares with donors, provinces and the public, information on how the NSEDP is formulated, implemented and monitored.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR was prepared by the **SDG focal points** from line ministries under lead coordination of the **National SDG Secretariat**. It was also developed based on a strong partnership with development partners and all national stakeholders which takes place at several levels, from the National SDG Secretariat and the various line ministries and departments including **provincial authorities** from all 18 provinces. The latter have also been engaged with the aim to increase their understanding of the SDGs and implement relevant strategies in each province. At the national level, the **Round Table Process** is a platform for the engagement of all national, sectoral, provincial and international stakeholders including private sector, CSOs, academia, and others to engage in the policy dialogues which have implications for the SDG implementation in the country.

1.3 MONITORING

Currently, around 60% of SDG indicators have been integrated into the 8th NSEDP (2016-2020), and on-going discussions have been made on how the rest of SDG indicators will be fed into the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025) and 10th NSEDP (2026-2030). The 2021 VNR provides an outline of the assignment of SDG indicators to relevant line ministries for implementation and reporting; there is no role allocated to LRGs (see VNR, 2021, p. 23). There is however, a sub-subsection stating that “engaging local administrations in systematic implementation and monitoring is critical”. The VNR affirms that the government has already initiated institutional strengthening within local administrations by:

- ▶ seeking their inputs for the mid-term review and conclusion of the 8th NSEDP and the development of the 9th NSEDP with strong focus on SDG implementation;
- ▶ developing the 9th NSEDP M&E framework with data disaggregated by sectors and provinces;
- ▶ and potentially using an SDG open platform which will highlight various data to monitor SDGs at national, sectoral and provincial levels.

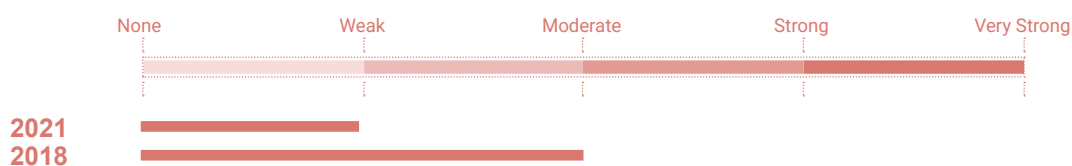
The VNR adds that “at provincial level, efforts are on-going and more actions will be needed in coming years to build capacity of provincial officials to engage in all aspects of statistical work.”

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2021 VNR does not mention any LRG participation in the National Steering Committee for SDG implementation. Provincial authorities were involved in the 2021 VNR process, but their participation was still limited.

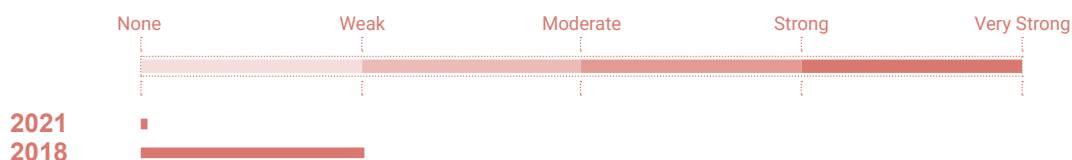
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

▶ In the VNR process



Comments: Provincial authorities were involved - but their participation was still limited.

▶ In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no LRG participation in the National Steering Committee for SDG implementation. The 2021 VNR makes reference to the need to increase vertical collaboration with the provinces, but it does not feel like any concrete actions, let alone outcomes, have been taken in this direction beyond minor mentions to “training and capacity building”.

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 general, the 2021 VNR makes reference to the need to increase vertical collaboration with the provinces, but it does not feel like any concrete actions, let alone outcomes, have been taken in this direction beyond minor mentions to “training and capacity building”. Subsection 3.5 (see VNR, 2021, p. 75) is called “Central-local relations and balanced development across the country”. It reflects that there is limited local autonomy. For example, regarding public service provision, the VNR states that the government is redefining central-local relations: the provinces as the strategic units, the districts as the planning and fiscal units, and the villages as the implementation units. Within this framework, each ministry has gradually defined the central, provincial, district and village levels of responsibility, as part of a fully integrated approach to improving the management and delivery of public services. The subsection only mentions central-local relations in terms of public service provision, construction and maintenance of rural roads and agricultural production and related activities, and from a top-down perspective. Moreover, there is a sub-subsection that compiles the inputs from provincial authorities and local communities on: equality; participation; monitoring and evaluation; advocacy and awareness-raising and capacity building (see VNR, 2021, p. 16). There is also a sub-subsection on Local Administration and Service delivery which explains the legislative changes implemented in the last period (see below). Overall, there is consistent reference in the 2021 VNR to the need for adopting a “whole of government” approach, including at the provincial level (see VNR, 2021, p. 15).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The administration framework was updated in line with government policies including amendments to the Law on Government, the Law on Local Administration and Regulations on City and Municipality. The 2021 VNR mentions legislative changes affecting local administration and service delivery (see VNR, 2021, p. 85): “Updates to the Constitution and laws promulgated in a few years were progressively applied. These updated laws including amendments to the Law on Government, the Law on Local Administration and Regulations on City and Municipality, have helped to clarify the roles and responsibilities amongst the offices of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and Heads of Ministry-equivalent organisation; and clarify further the mandates, roles and functions between levels of government and administration”.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women’s share in the National Assembly in 2019 was 27.5%, while it was 31.8% for Provincial People Assembly. At other subnational levels and in managerial positions women’s representation is much lower. It can be noted that the 2021 VNR puts emphasis on issues of ethnic equality and women empowerment.

3.2 COVID 19

The government will mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak through measures such as: (i) reprioritizing spending and mobilizing additional resources to support well-targeted social assistance to affected households and businesses; (ii) accelerating reforms to promote diversification and improve competitiveness in the private sector; and (iii) more and better investment in human capital and social protection system to enhance economic resilience in the longer term. Other measures, related with green growth, resilience, risk management, labor and migration have been undertaken.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		32.2 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	27 (2020)
	Rural	12 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	63 (2020)
	Rural	60 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		21.1 (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)		20.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/lao>

MALAYSIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Malaysia is a federal monarchy. The country has a three-tiered system of government. Subnational government in Malaysia comprises 13 states, 3 federal territories and 154 local governments. Local governments include 12 city councils and 38 municipal councils in the urban territories, and 98 district councils in the rural territories.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

SDGs are aligned with national plans: they have been integrated into the **11th Malaysia Plan 2016–2020 (11th MP)**, in the **12th MP** and in **Vision 2020**. The **National SDG Roadmap** aims at providing a clear direction on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and will be developed in three phases until 2030. After Phase I of Malaysia's SDG Roadmap (2016-2020), the **SDG Roadmap Phase 2 (2021-2025)** will be formulated to advance the SDG agenda by identifying priority areas, key enablers and critical 'accelerator points' for lagging SDGs, ensuring policy coherence across all levels of governments, and recommending strategies and plan of actions. Finally, the **Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV 2030)** is a commitment to make Malaysia a nation that achieves sustainable growth along with fair and equitable distribution across all levels by 2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National SDG Council** chaired by the Prime Minister is the main body in charge of the coordination for SDG implementation. It is supported by a **National Steering Committee (NSC)**, which is chaired by the Director General of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Prime Minister's Department (EPU). This Steering Committee includes six Cluster Working Committees (CWC) with representatives from the ministries, CSOs, the private sector, academia, UN agencies and youth. Similar mechanisms were created at the state level (see below a diagram of the national coordination organization). Also, the **All-Party Parliamentary Group on SDGs (APPGM-SDG)** is an innovative model where CSOs, academics and experts collaborate with parliamentarians to localize the SDGs (see the box in the VNR, 2021, p. 121).³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Both 2017 and 2021 VNRs were prepared by the **National Steering Committee**. The 2017 VNR takes into account Malaysia's efforts to align key elements of the SDGs with the latest five-year development plan, the 11th MP and the National SDG Roadmap 2016–2020. While the first VNR focused heavily on the government's effort in achieving SDGs, the 2021 VNR took a different approach by adopting a whole-of-nation approach. A **steering committee (SC)** was formed, as well as **technical working groups (TWGs)**. The SC discussed the content and endorsed the VNR before presenting it to the Cabinet, while the technical working groups verified the accuracy of information and data in the report. Participation in this process was well received with active representation from ministries and agencies, civil society, CSOs, academia, private sector and relevant stakeholders. This effort was supported by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaysia, as well as other UN agencies. Several rounds of engagement sessions, workshops and consultation meetings were held. The findings and data collected for the upcoming 12th MP and the SDG Indicators Malaysia 2019 report are also utilized in the report.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15881Malaysia.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/285982021_VNR_Report_Malaysia.pdf (2021)

3. The Parliament of Malaysia established this All-Party Parliamentary Group on SDGs to assist the government in reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in society, particularly those who reside in remote areas. This initiative is part of Malaysia's effort in ensuring that everyone in the country will enjoy the benefits of economic development

1.3 MONITORING

The **National SDG Council** plans and monitors SDG implementation. Additionally, the **Economic Planning Unit (EPU)** has an overall view and is able to monitor implementation. The 2021 VNR presents the **Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)** as the national focal point for SDG indicators that coordinates data collection and compilation from various line ministries and agencies. In 2020, a further global review of the indicators at the 51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020, resulted in the adoption of 247 indicators globally. Based on the review and building on a similar exercise done in 2018, DOSM listed that 128 indicators are available, while 73 are partially available but require further development, 31 are not available and 15 are deemed to be not relevant. In terms of percentages, this highlighted that the overall available indicators have increased from 48% to 52% from 2017 to 2019.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government is developing a more comprehensive **SDG indicator for local governments**. This indicator is one of the initiatives to improve and upgrade the existing 39 MurniNet indicators. Currently, a total of 52 additional indicators covering each target across the SDGs have been listed.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Participation in the elaboration of the **National SDG Roadmap 2016-2020** was received from states and was driven by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), and supported by the UN Country Team in Malaysia. The **SDG Roadmap** aims to mainstream the 2030 Agenda at subnational level. The 2021 VNR states that recent years have seen the government pursue various efforts to translate the SDGs at both state and local levels. This includes efforts by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in undertaking VLRs with six cities. In a final section on issues and opportunities, the 2021 report highlights that “in localizing SDGs, in addition to working with local authorities, efforts are being made to engage with the district offices. This is to ensure an inter-agency SDG delivery taskforce is organized at the district level to enhance the role of all agencies including a multi-stakeholder group (civil society, private sector and academic networks) in addressing economic, social and environmental concerns at the grassroots level”.

Under the coordination of the Malaysia United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and with the key support of UN-Habitat, the Malaysian VLR cities have been invited to contribute to the 2021 VNR process by preparing a policy paper on their activities and priorities. They also had an opportunity to present the paper at the Technical Working Groups that are coordinating the stakeholders' inputs to the VNR.

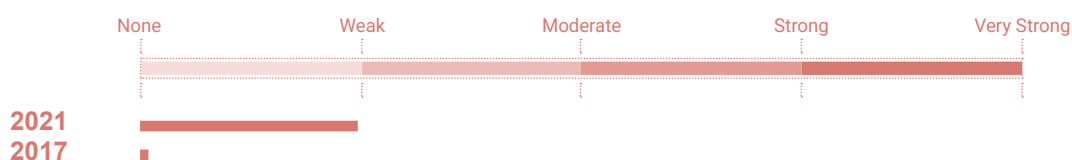
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The cities elaborating a VLR participated in the 2021 VNR elaboration.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Coordination mechanisms based on the national model were created at the state level (yet there is no evidence of the relation between national and state mechanisms).

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 its preface, the 2021 VNR states that “localizing SDGs is a crucial prerequisite for nationwide SDG adoption. There is a need for greater coordination across government, from the federal level all the way down to the local level, in order to facilitate SDG adoption”. There is a box on the VLRs elaborated by six cities (see VNR, 2021, p. 36 and below). Also, as part of the section on SDG 17, there is a brief subsection on “Mainstreaming SDGs at the National and Local Levels” (see VNR, 2021, p. 118).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ The **Malaysian Association of Local Authorities (MALA)** has worked on connecting local governments with international activities linked to the SDG framework in, for example, **Seberang Perai** and **Penang**.
- ▶ The **Low-Carbon Cities Framework (LCCF)** was introduced in 2011 as a national framework to guide local governments in their efforts to transition to a low-carbon development. It includes guidelines for design, measurement and reporting. In 2019, 22 local governments have implemented low-carbon solutions and demonstrated reduction in GHG emissions. The Low-Carbon Cities Challenge 2030 was launched to establish designated low carbon zones within state capitals and major cities. The aim is to establish 200 low-carbon zones and 1,000 low-carbon partners by 2030.
- ▶ **Shah Alam City** is presented as a pioneering example of the LCCF (see VNR, 2021, p. 102). The city started its sustainable development journey as early as 1998 through the Agenda 21 and Local Agenda 21 (LA21) programmes. Shah Alam also performed well in the Malaysian Urban Rural National Indicators Networks (MURNInets) Sustainability Index from 2012 to 2020 with an average score of 97%. MBSA has also received the Gold Award from Malaysia Institute of Planner (MIP) for three consecutive years: 2017, 2018 and 2019. Now, the city is dedicated to driving the low-carbon agenda.
- ▶ The Ministry of Housing and Local Government also introduced the **Safe City Programme** in 2004. It aims to reduce crimes in cities by putting in place prevention measures such as ensuring dark and lonely lanes are illuminated, installing CCTVs, separating pedestrian walks from motor roads, and installing road safety mirrors. In addition, iSelamat.my was developed to enhance public awareness by providing information on crimes in the neighborhood areas in the form of crime mapping.

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

Currently, six cities in Malaysia have engaged in VLR processes: **Shah Alam, Subang Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Alor Gajah** and **Malacca City**. For 2021, two cities have concretely advanced in formulating their VLR, namely **Shah Alam** and **Subang Jaya**.⁴ **Penang Island** also published its first VLR in 2021.⁵ Within this year, the **State of Selangor** will also embark on SDG reporting and prepare a VLR.

The support to VLRs has been framed within the program called **Malaysia SDGs Cities**, which has provided cities with an overall strategy and guiding frameworks to implement the SDGs in their territory.⁶ Malaysia SDGs Cities is developed by **Urbanice Malaysia**, a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The VLRs have also been initiated to ensure local authorities' programmes and initiatives are in line with the SDGs.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **New Economic Model (NEM)** is premised on three main goals of achieving high-income nation status, as well as inclusiveness and sustainability in development. This entails, among others, reducing the divides between urban and rural dwellers. The National Transformation Programme has benefited 4.1 million people in rural areas.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Malaysia, state governors are elected, but both local assemblies and executive bodies of local governments are appointed. Tasks that were traditionally devolved to local governments have been partially recentralized or privatized. Malaysia has elections at state level, but local elections have been suspended since 1965.⁷

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

In mitigating the impact of COVID-19, Malaysia has implemented several economic recovery packages equivalent to 20% of the GDP, to boost growth and ensure no one is left behind. More concerted efforts will be undertaken in the 12th MP to ensure that everyone will benefit from inclusive socioeconomic development, while addressing current and future challenges, including the impact of the pandemic. There is a box on the impact of COVID-19 on poor and vulnerable groups (see VNR, 2021, p. 47-48).

4. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/shah_alam_2021.pdf ; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/subang_jaya_2021.pdf

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/penang_island_2021_0.pdf

6. The formulation of Malaysia SDG Cities is the key outcome of Kuala Lumpur Declaration of World Urban Forum 9 (WUF9), which Malaysia hosted in 2018, as an action plan roadmap towards SDGs implementation for cities in the country.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

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)		16.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

⁸ 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/mys>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Maldives is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational government system, made up of 179 island councils, 3 city councils, and 18 Atoll councils.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

Alignment of the SDGs with national priorities is underway. As of 2017, some sectors – namely education, health, energy, waste management, fisheries, water and sanitation, and local governance – had incorporated the SDGs into their policy documents and action plans.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Ministerial Coordination Committee (NMCC)** is chaired by the Prime Minister and coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Consisting of cabinet ministers, it provides overall policy guidance and political support towards the implementation of the SDGs in the country. The Ministerial Committee is supported by a **Technical Committee on SDGs**, which brings together experts from various government institutions and civil society. In addition, an **SDGs Division** was established at the **Ministry of Environment and Energy** for monitoring and mainstreaming the SDGs in national policies, plans and strategies. As such, the Division has been carrying out awareness raising sessions in order to sensitize agencies, institutions and organizations to the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDGs Division** led the 2017 VNR process.

1.3 MONITORING

The main role of the **SDGs Division** is to coordinate SDG monitoring, reporting and follow-up on the implementation process. The SDGs Division and the **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** undertook an exercise with different stakeholders to identify data gaps and mechanisms to address these. The development of a monitoring framework to report the achievements of SDG targets was planned for 2018-2019. Nonetheless, the 2017 VNR points out structural challenges. The lack of financial resources and technical expertise in terms of data collection and management, remains a major hurdle in the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

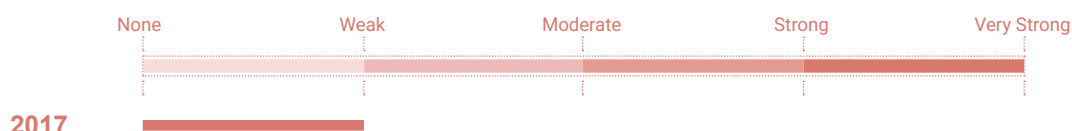
Local governments aligned their five-year development plans (2017-2021) with the SDGs. Sessions for awareness raising on the SDGs were organized in 2017 with local councils and other stakeholders.

1. See: <https://uclg-aspac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/UCLG-ASPAC-EECLG-rev.pdf>

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15891Maldives.pdf> (2017)

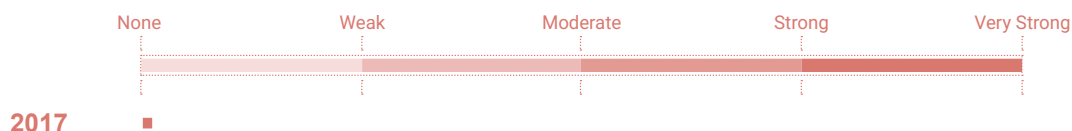
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2017

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2017

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is very limited reference to local councils in the 2017 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

One of the main tasks for the years 2018-2019 included integration of the SDGs into the budgetary process through program budgeting. As of 2017, this work was on-going at the **Ministry of Finance and Treasury**, and will help plan the future activities for the implementation of the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Maldives recognises the importance of engaging with the media and public sphere in promoting national ownership of the SDG implementation process. As such, efforts have been made to forge new partnerships and intensify existing ones with the media. In this regard, the government continues to engage with the Public Service Media (PSM) in disseminating information related to the SDGs. Furthermore, a capacity building workshop is scheduled for journalists from various media in order to enhance and develop their skills to report on the SDGs. This includes specific information on how to create, develop and deliver reports and other media content on the SDGs process. Efforts are also underway to develop special programmes targeted to the entire Maldivian population.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the 2017 local council elections, women represented only 6% of the elected local councillors.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		6.0 (2020)
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 (%)		30.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		38.2 (2012, Maldives)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/mdv>

MARSHALL ISLANDS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a unitary republic. The RMI court system includes local courts of first instance. There are 33 LRGs (municipal level).



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020-2030** was updated in 2020 providing the Government with a roadmap for progress in five strategic areas (Social Services and Cultural Identity, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Environment Awareness and Climate Change and Good Governance). The policy objectives in each strategic area are aligned to the 2030 Agenda (and SAMOA Pathway).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **NSP-SDGs Steering Committee** led the design and development of the NSP 2020-2030 and steered the design and development of the VNR. It has 5 subcommittees, for each one of the pillars of the NSP. The committee is also mandated to identify appropriate members for the 5 **thematic Task Forces**, to ensure that there is a wide range of representation from stakeholders both at national and local levels.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **VNR Working Group** was established by the NSP-SDGs Steering Committee to oversee and coordinate the 2021 VNR process. The working group included members of Office of the Chief Secretary (OCS), different ministries, Economic Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO), Climate Change Directorate (CCD), Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OCIT), and civil society representatives. Then, a VNR Write Workshop was conducted with relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, state-owned enterprises, and private sector stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The annual monitoring and report of the NSP tracks progress on the SDGs. The **Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO)**, ministries and the Office of Chief Secretary (OCS) are responsible for overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the NSP and SDGs (through the NSP M&E Framework). An SDG database which is currently housed at the EPPSO, contains information used to help with ongoing monitoring of SDG and NSP implementation.

The NSP-SDGs Steering Committee supports local governments in data collection, monitoring and assessment at local levels. It also ensures that **information gathered at local level is used in national SDGs monitoring and reporting**.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

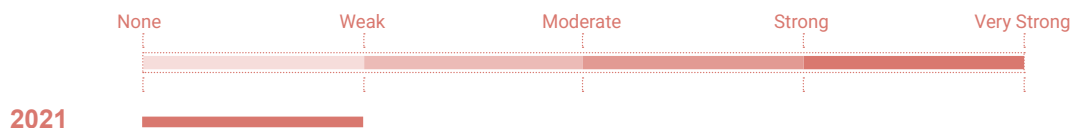
Municipalities are not mentioned among the stakeholders that participated in the national consultation process preceding the elaboration of the NSP. Local governments are part, at least in theory (and the Steering Committee has to supervise this), of the 5 **thematic Task Forces**. Each year the **Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA)** convenes a conference meeting of all the mayors of the 24 atolls to dialogue with national government, civil society and other partners, addressing issues of concern to people living in the neighboring islands.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279312021_VNR_Report_Marshall_Islands.pdf (2021)

LRGs were part of the “broad engagement” as part of the reporting process for the 2021 VNR. But they neither were represented in the VNR Working Group nor were engaged in the VNR Stakeholder Workshops (only for private actors and NGOs). However, the VNR Working Group met with the officers of the **MIMA** to raise awareness and share materials on the VNR and gather inputs from the LRGs.

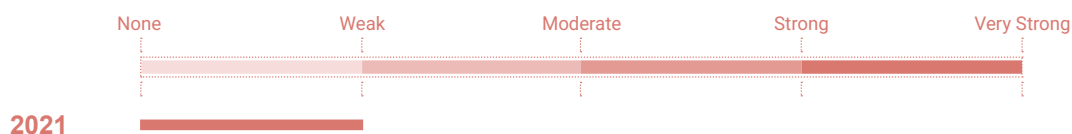
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs neither were represented in the VNR Working Group nor were engaged in the VNR Stakeholder Workshops, but the officers of the Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA) were consulted.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Annual conference meeting with LRGs and national government through the Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA). But there is no evidence of any direct LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms.

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 paragraph “Consultation with Mayors”, in the section on the 2021 VNR’s methodology, refers to the consultative channels as part of the VNR process and the national coordination mechanisms (only consultative). There is a box (see VNR, 2021, p. 40-41) on SDG localization, but it refers more to the adaptation of SDG targets and indicators to the national level than to the local level. Overall, LRGs are mentioned throughout the report, and there are a few references to some cities, but without explicit reference to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Ministry level budget and planning information is aligned to the NSP. A fund was established under the Office of the President to support annual pilot projects that are designed to create awareness, ownership and align with the SDGs. These projects are presented by NGOs and other stakeholders (although one of the projects mentioned as examples is located in specific cities, **Majuro** and **Ebeye**, it is not specified if LRGs can participate). The conclusion specifies that the government continues “to finalize the alignment of planning and budgeting so that reporting ensures that progress of the NSP and related SDGs can be effectively monitored and evaluated at all levels of government (national, sector, ministry, local).”

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2021 VNR mentions rural-urban disparities. To address them, a diverse range of policies are in place to promote improving access and livelihoods in both rural and urban centers through the “One Nation Concept”, that is the unifying theme of the NSP.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference of LRG initiatives to face the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15.9 (2019)
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 (%)		60 (2017)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		12.5 (2020)

2. 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/mhl>

MICRONESIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an island country without local elected governments. Its 4 states are Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for 2004-2023** is the highest level policy framework for achieving equitable and sustainable economic growth and self-reliance. The FSM has committed to aligning the SDGs to its national and state strategic development plans, in particular the key sectors of climate action, health and education.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **SDG Working Group (WG)** was established in 2016. It is an internal coordination mechanism that draws from departments and associated agencies within the government soliciting input from civil society actors and the chambers of commerce. It also establishes **State Focal Points (SFPs)** for effective implementation and reporting. The WG works on the localization and alignment with the SDGs within the FSM's development framework. In the education and health sectors, forums were held at both the national and state levels to discuss the localization of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The WG coordinated the preparation of FSM's first VNR. The process took place in 4 stages: preparatory work, gathering input and stakeholder engagement, report preparation, and HLPF presentation and video production. **State consultations** workshops were convened with stakeholders including government, legislature, civil society, academia and community groups. Representatives of key departments, the private sector, NGOs and other development partners drafted various sections of the VNR. State government coordination mechanisms were also set up with the leadership of the state focal points to lead the drafting of the state components of the VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The process of prioritizing SDG indicators was started by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)** undertaking preliminary discussions with stakeholders in early 2017. As a result, 89 SDG targets were identified, as well as 90 SDG indicators, all linked to the SDP 2004-2023. The FSM has prioritized the production and use of data to monitor SDGs, through the 2020 Census of Population & Housing, the Household income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), that includes a multi-dimensional poverty index, National Social Indicators Survey, a draft Strategy for Development of Statistics (SDS) 2020-2024, a national SDG dashboard developed based on assessment of the SDGs in 2017, and a comprehensive performance audit of the implementation of the SDGs. Moreover, the office of the national public Auditor (ONPA), in collaboration with the office of public auditors of the four states, conducted an independent audit of the preparedness for implementation of the SDGs in the FSM for the period 2017-2019.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26667VNR_2020_Micronesia_Report.pdf (2020)

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

No reference.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference to the means of implementation allocated to the localization of the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Throughout the report, there is a strong focus on the partnerships necessary to achieve the SDP and implement the SDGs: multi-sectoral, interstate, regional and international partnerships.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Regarding women participation in politics, the VNR highlights that in 2020, there were three women serving as legislators in the Pohnpei State Legislature, and in the state of Chuuk, there were two state female senators.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference to local initiatives, nor to the states' response to the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		1.5 (2019)
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)		10.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

2. 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/fsm>



NAURU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Nauru is a unitary republic. There are no local elected governments. Its 14 regions are headed by appointed government representatives.¹



Nauru's Voluntary National Review (VNR) is not available. Unless otherwise indicated, the information in this profile is taken from the Key Messages document based on the VNR.²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Nauru has demonstrated its commitment to achieving the SDGs through the review of its **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)**. Implementation is monitored through a **Three-year Medium Term Strategic Framework (MSTF)**, linked to a multi-year budget. The current one covers the period 2019-2023.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **National Planning and Development Committee (NPDC)** was established to provide a mechanism for improved coordination and consultation for monitoring and evaluating policy, and program implementation of the NSDS. The Committee is chaired by the Minister for Finance and comprises key heads of departments.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Division of Planning and Aid Division under the Ministry for Finance spearheaded the review process with the guidance of a technical working group which was created to advise and guide the Ministry in the review process. There was a consultation process which engaged diverse groups of stakeholders, through a series of stakeholder consultations including sector specific consultations, district open forums and questionnaire distributions. A good coverage of participation of elders, youth, and people with special challenges was recorded.

1.3 MONITORING

As of 2019, only 26% of the NSDS milestones had been implemented. Factors affecting implementation included inter alia the lack of funding, staff capacity, weak coordination, land issues and unclear goals. After the VNR publication, a selection of indicators with baseline benchmarks and quantifiable indicators had to be identified by implementing line agencies to measure progress. Further consultations had to be undertaken with the Ministry of Finance to design the monitoring and evaluation systems for each priority area.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Not applicable.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

No reference.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23006Nauru_Key_Messages_Final17May2019.pdf (2019)

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Not applicable.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Not applicable.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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)		8.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

3. 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/nru>

NEPAL

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Nepal moved from a unitary form of government to a federal one with a strong focus on decentralization based on “cooperative federalism”. The new federation has three tiers of government, namely federal, state (7 provinces) and local (276 urban municipalities, 460 rural municipalities, 6 metropolitan cities and 11 sub-metropolitan cities).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 **Constitution of Nepal**, promulgated at the same time that the SDGs were adopted globally in 2015, adopts an effective and strong foundation for the main thrust of the SDGs. The 14th Plan (2016- 2019) was the first periodic plan to internalize the 2030 Agenda, and the **15th Plan (2019-2024)** has continued to align and mainstream the SDGs. Also, since 2016, the annual programs and budgets are aligned with the SDGs, introducing SDG coding to each program. The **National Planning Commission (NPC)** is preparing a national framework of ‘leaving no one behind’ to indicate the programs to uphold the inclusive agenda of the SDGs and the Constitution.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

There is a **High-level Steering Committee on the SDGs**, chaired by the Prime Minister. It is composed of the Vice-Chair of the NPC as Deputy Chairman, the Foreign Minister, the Finance Minister, Chief Ministers of all provinces, the Chief Secretary, presidents of associations of rural municipalities, municipalities and district coordination committees. The Secretary of the NPC is also its secretary. There is also an **Implementation and Monitoring Committee**, led by the Vice-Chair of the NPC. It provides guidelines to the federal ministries for implementing and mainstreaming the SDGs at provincial and local levels. It also monitors implementation and prepares the status of progress of SDG implementation. There are also 7 thematic committees, each coordinated by members of the NPC. Besides, it has been set up a **Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the National Assembly** in the Federal Parliament, with representation of all the major political parties to provide oversight and national budget scrutiny on the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of the 2020 VNR included literature review, discussions with relevant stakeholders in a virtual setting in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, and key informant interviews. These consultations were held with parliamentarians, and representatives of provinces and local levels. The report took into account indicators and data that had been developed in order to follow the progress of the SDGs implementation in Nepal. The data collected in the SDG Status and Roadmap report of the NPC (see below) was fundamental.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Status and Roadmap report of the NPC** proposed a preliminary list of 415 indicators to better reflect the national context for the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs against a global total of 232 indicators. After consultations and engagement with province level SDG stakeholders, the NPC came up with a total of 594 indicators.³ The National Strategy for Development

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16513Nepal.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26539VNR_2020_Nepal_Report.pdf (2020)

3. The VNR mentions that the 2021 National Population Census will be closely aligned with the SDGs and is expected to address specific issues related to SDG data generation, disaggregation and data gaps.

of Statistics (NSDS) has been prepared to improve and modernize the system of data collection by the government.⁴ Another monitoring strategy was the report prepared by the government in 2017 in consultation with stakeholders, including the status and roadmap, including 494 indicators, with 257 local indicators (see the VNR, 2020, p. 12-13). Finally, it is worth mentioning that the **High level National Development Action Committee (NDAC)** is the apex body of the government monitoring and evaluation system. It reviews the implementation of programs and projects and establishes inter-ministerial coordination on development related issues on a trimester basis. This last initiative is accompanied by another effort coming from the government: the organization of the Evaluation Networking (Eval-Net) meetings that started in 2013.

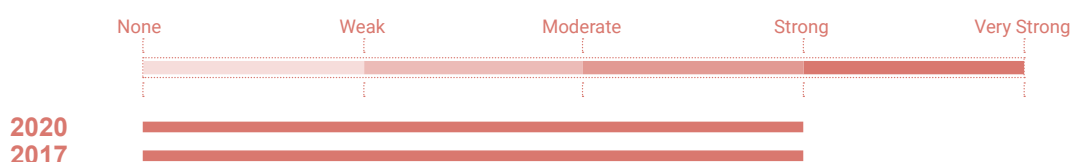
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The Chief Ministers of seven provinces and the chairpersons of local government associations have been included in the national **High-Level Steering Committee**. **Provincial-level steering committees** coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the SDGs in the provinces. Provincial governments have established their own policy/planning commissions, which have been sensitized about the SDGs. Actually, some of them have prepared periodic plans integrating the fundamental principles of the SDGs. District coordination committees, which are the main monitoring and supervising bodies for local level development works, have also been encouraged to align their functions for the SDG implementation.

As part of the 2020 VNR process, consultations were organized at the provincial and local levels, with heads and members of the planning commissions from all provinces and representatives of the **Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal (ADCCN)**, the **Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)** and the **National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal (NARMIN)**.

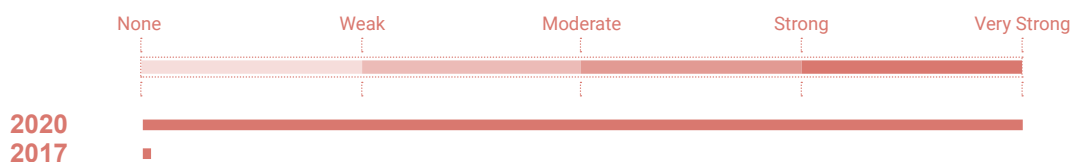
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultations were organized at the provincial and local levels, with the planning commissions from all provinces and representatives of the Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal (ADCCN), the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and the National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal (NARMIN).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Provinces and local government associations are represented in the national High-Level Steering Committee.

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

Provincial and local levels are mentioned as crucial stakeholders in order to accomplish the 2030 Agenda in Nepal and are mentioned throughout the 2020 VNR as part of the most important partnerships and allies in this effort. In the subsection 3.6, entitled "Partnership with stakeholders", the subnational level (both provincial and municipal) is mentioned. Other important points are mentioned: the legislative, executive and judiciary powers that the Constitution gave them in order to plan and implement development programs; some planning and monitoring guidelines as well as SDG Localization Resource Book that have been prepared by the NPC; and the fact that most of the provinces have formulated SDG responsive periodic plans and MTEFs (Medium Term Expenditure Framework).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Nepal will pilot a subnational project on REDD+ to reduce about 14 million tons of CO₂-eq by 2020 by addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strengthening governance mechanisms.

⁴ Other efforts like the Cooperative and Poverty Management Information System (COPOMIS) are in operation for the purpose of monitoring and also establishing an integrated data system.

► The NPC has conducted awareness campaigns on the SDGs in each province. More recently 25 facilitators were enrolled for four months and provided training on SDG localization with the Nepal Administrative Staff College coordinating the event. These facilitators have moved to the 11 municipalities. Indeed, the facilitators (2 to 3 per municipality) are there to support the chief of the municipality and his team in municipal preparations of periodic plan and annual plan of action with SDGs actions at the center of their actions.⁵

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

In 2020, Nepal was among the first countries developing a VSR, based on a collaboration between the **Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)**, the **National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal (NARMIN)** and the **Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal (ADCCN)**.⁶ The municipality of **Dulikhel** published its VLR in 2022.⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

As part of the federal system of financial governance, federal grants such as fiscal equalization, conditional, matching and special grants are provided, and revenue and royalty are shared among the provinces and local governments. Apart from other responsibilities, in Nepal, all three levels of government have expenditure and revenue rights. The Local Government Operation Act 2017, the Intergovernmental Fiscal Management Act 2017 and the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission Act 2017 have been adopted to facilitate coordination among the three tiers of the government. Lastly, the three-year Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and annual programs and budgets have well emphasized the budget allocation for SDGs financing.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The general elections as well as the provincial and local level elections, all took place following the presentation of the 2017 VNR. Since the provincial and local structures were given new responsibilities, efforts to develop and consolidate their legal, institutional and financial rules and regulations and to develop plans and programs are being carried out. In the last two years, they have built the necessary foundations, and the integration of the SDGs is under way. The 2020 VNR also mentions, as part of the next steps presented at the end of the document, the localization of the SDGs, highlighting the key role of the provinces and local level in integrating the SDGs into their respective areas of responsibilities. It states that provincial and local level planning needs to be institutionalized by mainstreaming and localizing the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR states that the President's Women Empowerment Program and the continuation of the practice of gender-responsive budgeting have contributed towards the upliftment of the status of women. In Nepal, 330 members of the seven provincial parliaments and about 35,000 elected representatives in 753 local councils have equally strong representation of women and marginalized groups, as per the electoral law. Women make up 34% of the provincial assemblies.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions that health-related interventions have been given the top priority and that policy initiatives have been taken to reorient economic activities with greater emphasis on the agriculture, skill development and employment generating activities for migrant returnees and unemployed people, enhance government expenditure on priority infrastructure projects and provide special credit facilities to the affected sectors. Supportive monetary and fiscal policies are also being adopted. Nevertheless, there are no measures specifically mentioned for the local level.

5. Answer to the GTF Survey in 2020.

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/nepal_2020.pdf

7. See: <https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vlr-dhulikhel.pdf>

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		41 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	25 (2020)
	Rural	16 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	42 (2020)
	Rural	50 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		49.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		94 (2003, Kathmandu)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		81.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		16.9 (2019)

⁸ 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/npl>

NEW ZEALAND

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

New Zealand is a unitary monarchy with two tiers of subnational government. The country has 11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities at the municipal level. There are two types of territorial authorities: city councils and district councils.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

A **Living Standards Framework** was developed by the New Zealand Treasury: it covers current wellbeing, future wellbeing and risk and resilience across a range of economic, social and environmental indicators. Through the **Urban Growth Agenda (UGA)**, the New Zealand national government is seeking to implement the New Urban Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

As for 2019, New Zealand had not yet defined coordination mechanisms. SDG national summits ensure the involvement of all sectors, including LRGs, in building a multi-sector action plan for SDG implementation, which is currently underway.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The Living Standards Framework includes a 'dashboard' (database of indicators) that will support progress towards the SDGs. Statistics New Zealand developed a set of metrics – **Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand (IANZ)**.³ Like the Living Standards Framework, IANZ goes beyond traditional economic measures such as income and GDP, and includes wellbeing and sustainable development. IANZ supports the development of the Living Standards Framework as well as monitoring and reporting against the SDGs. In addition to supporting government strategic policy-making, the indicators will also enable local governments, businesses, civil society, communities and individuals to make informed choices on wellbeing and sustainability. In addition, the **Society of Local Government Managers** has developed a national set of indicators that aligns closely to the SDGs and has distributed these to all councils to enable them to provide annual monitoring reports.⁴

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local Governments New Zealand (LGNZ) was part of the national reporting unit to the United Nations' HLPF in 2019 and was asked to present its own contribution to the VNR. Local and regional governments have been active in developing sustainable policies for some time. They were involved in the summits organized prior to the elaboration of a multi-sector action plan for SDG implementation.

In 2017, New Zealand local leaders launched a **Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration** to support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases undertaken by the central government and to make local commitments to respond to climate change.

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

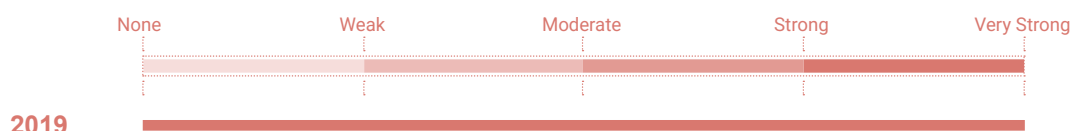
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23333New_Zealand_Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Final.pdf (2019)

3. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand is a comprehensive suite of approximately 100 social, cultural, environmental and economic indicators to measure and track New Zealand's progress over time. There will be approximately 20 population and production indicators, providing context for considering and interpreting the wellbeing indicators. More information on Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand can be found at <https://statisticsnz.shinyapps.io/wellbeingindicators/>.

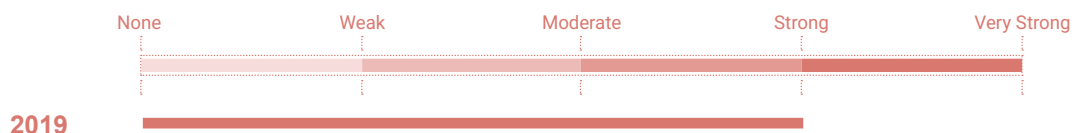
4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

There are a few references to LRGs throughout the 2019 VNR, with very limited examples to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Local Governments New Zealand (LGNZ)** developed a toolbox to assist local authorities to meet the challenges of sea level rises and extreme weather events, with advice on adaptation and mitigation, and is leading a project designed to improve the quality and safety of water supplies, in addition to a project to improve access to quality affordable housing.⁵

► In 2014, the **Auckland Council** adopted the Living Lightly and FutureFit programme, encouraging Aucklanders to shift to a low-carbon path by proposing six climate action themes (Move, Shop, Eat, Energy, Grow and Talk) to change lifestyles. In addition, its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 has a vision for the city to be zero waste by 2040.

► The **Greater Wellington Regional Council** has adopted an electric-first policy for its own vehicle fleet and has invested in electric buses to replace diesel buses. Its biodiversity strategy Our Natural Capital aims to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilizing community action.

► **Rotorua Lakes Council** has established an innovative partnership with the indigenous people of its district, the Te Arawa Iwi, which provides Iwi with a voice in the policy and decision-making processes of the council.

► Based on Mauri tradition, the city of **Rotorua** has developed an ecosystem re-entry mechanism, including restoration of the *mauri* (life-force) of the *wai* (water), as well as *Kaitiakitanga* (care of the environment), to support the principle that water is intrinsic to life and therefore also needs to sustain life and be life-sustaining.

► Many local authorities have their own plans and strategies relating to public open space and how to make those spaces safe, inclusive and accessible. Aiming at universal access to green and public spaces, there is a national programme supporting cities and communities to become age-friendly and a number have already achieved Age Friendly Communities' accreditation.⁶

► **Wellington City Council**'s biodiversity strategy "Our Natural Capital" is designed to reduce predators and protect threatened species through mobilizing community action. Since 2015 the city has experienced a material increase in native bird life including a 600 percent increase in the native *kākāriki* parrot population and an average of 45,000 native trees planted annually.

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

Not applicable.

5. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>. See a report of LGNZ on the quantum of local government infrastructure exposed to sea level rise here: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/d566cc5291/47716-LGNZ-Sea-Level-Rise-Report-3-Proof-FINAL-compressed.pdf>
6. The practices mentioned above, including this one, are mentioned in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, New Zealand's national government adopted its first 'well-being' budget based on its commitment to protect human, natural, physical and social capital. The **Local Government Funding Agency** was created in 2011 through the joint initiative of local and central governments as a debt vehicle to raise bonds on financial markets and lend to member LRGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Local authorities have completed an assessment of the amount of under and above ground infrastructure that will be affected by sea level rises, based on three different scenarios. Discussions between local authorities and the central government are underway to identify options for meeting the costs involved and providing councils with the powers to halt development in areas likely to be affected by sea level rise in the future.

New Zealand has comprehensive alignment between national and local disaster resilience planning which is based on a reduction, readiness, response and recovery framework. We aim for cities to adopt and implement policies that support mitigating and adapting to climate change, and resilience to disasters. New Zealand's monitoring of adoption and implementation of climate change and resource efficiency policies and plans is a relatively recent development. Current baseline reporting shows some local authorities are well advanced in comprehensive planning, with many others continuing to develop their plans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39.4 (2019)
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 (%)		98.1 (2015, Wellington)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		6.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

7. 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/nzl>

PAKISTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Pakistan is a federal republic whose first tier of subnational government is composed of four provinces (Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan), one federal territory (Islamabad Capital Territory) and two federally administered areas (Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir). The second tier comprises 684 municipal governments and 11,685 sub-municipal entities.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 SDGs are embedded in Pakistan's long-term development perspective, in the **12th Five-Year Plan (2018-2023)**, and in **provincial medium-term development strategies**. At the federal level, the government has aligned the SDGs with the national **Vision 2025**. At the provincial and area government levels, the planning and development departments have developed their respective provincial SDG frameworks with targets and indicators.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI)**, the focal ministry for SDGs, is coordinating horizontally with all the pertinent ministries' focal persons. In addition, for legislation on SDG implementation, 20 sub-groups of **parliamentary task forces** on the SDGs were formed at the National Parliament. **SDG Support Units** have been established at the federal, provincial and federally administered area levels in order to improve vertical and horizontal coordination among different tiers of government and non-governmental stakeholders (more details below). Provincial governments have also established Provincial Advisory Committees (see below for specific examples). Yet, higher tiers of government (federal and provincial) tend to exclude local governments from planning and implementation of SDG-related interventions.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 and 2022 VNR processes were guided by the **Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI)**.⁴ The role of the planning and development departments was instrumental throughout the entire preparation processes of both VNRs, which involved conducting multi-stakeholder consultations and preparing provincial reports with extensive support of partners and experts. The cornerstone of the VNR processes was multi-stakeholder engagement and a 'whole government' approach, which saw federal and provincial stakeholders working side-by-side to maximize inclusivity (see more details below). The federal SDG Support Units and SDGs section teams of the MoPD&SI adopted a three-pronged strategy to steer the 2022 VNR. After a series of meetings with federal ministries and other stakeholders, ministries were provided a template to map progress and challenges on relevant indicators in consultation with provincial governments, reporting progress from a baseline (2014-2015) and since the first VNR in 2019. Then, ministries were requested to prepare a working paper on their respective targets, indicators, and initiatives while provincial and area governments submitted their subnational reports. National consultations were held with all stakeholders after the final draft report was drafted.

1.3 MONITORING

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is the country's focal institution for collecting data, coordinating with federal and provincial agencies on data collection, and reporting progress on the SDGs.

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/233812019_06_15_VNR_2019_Pakistan_latest_version.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Pakistan%20Report.pdf> (2022)

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

4. Previously known as the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPDR).

In 2018, Pakistan launched its '**Data Reporting Gaps Analysis**' study – a stepping stone for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the SDGs. This review was followed by a series of consultations with the PBS, the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, federal ministries and line departments. The **National SDGs Framework** sets baselines and targets for SDG indicators and will feed into the SDG monitoring and evaluation framework. The MoPD&SI published its first **SDGs Status Report in 2021**, which reported 133 indicators at the national level as compared to 21 indicators in 2016. Meanwhile, major national surveys, namely the **Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM)**, **Labour Force Survey (LFS)**, **Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS)**, and the provincial **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)** were reviewed from the viewpoint of SDG indicators. In addition, parliamentary task forces in the national, provincial, and special areas are also involved in monitoring the progress of the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2019 VNR mentioned that the provinces have instituted **technical committees and thematic clusters** to bolster the implementation of the SDGs and alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The nomination of focal persons at all levels of government, down to the districts, is helping them to align their development priorities with the 2030 Agenda.⁵ However, the lack of legal and financial frameworks weakens the localization of the national agenda in provincial plans and the development of localized territorial strategies. There are huge challenges to coordination within the four provincial governments in terms of strategies, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.⁶

The 2019 VNR was led by the MoPD&SI with its counterparts at the provincial level: the **Provincial Planning and Development Departments**. However, local authorities (districts and towns) have only been included to a rather limited extent. Also, although Pakistan makes reference in its VNR to the promotion of 'vertical and horizontal policy coherence', its approach reflects a predominantly vertical vision. It can be noted that Pakistan's VNR was introduced using the 2017 Declaration of Elected Local Government Representatives.⁷

The 2022 VNR states the 'vertical linkages from federal to provincial and local government required further strengthening through SOPs and continuous engagement' (see VNR, 2022, p. 15). The sub-committee on SDGs of the National Economic Council (NEC) was formed with the Minister of Planning as chair, and the head of planning departments at the provincial and local government level as core members. By 2022, the NEC sub-committee on SDGs had met twice and given recommendations to the NEC for further debate and approval.

The local council associations have not been involved in the 2022 VNR preparation. According to a survey conducted for the purposes of the VSR produced in 2022, LRG representatives were not aware of the VNR process. The VSR states, however, that provinces and districts were consulted through the SDG units, technical committees and focal points, depending on the context of each province.⁸

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: A majority of LRGs did not participate in the VNR reporting process at all (VSR 2022).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Punctual participation of the Association for Development of Local Governance; regular participation of the Local council Association Sindh, in part thanks to interpersonal relations (GTF Survey 2021); weak coordination between local and provincial governments and within various segments of government departments; LRGs were excluded from the planning and execution process (VSR 2022); LRGs are involved as core members in the sub-committee on SDGs of the National Economic Council (NEC).

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.

5. "This institutional arrangement has been instrumental in guiding the alignment of federal and provincial national policies, sectoral plans and growth strategies with the contours of the 2030 Agenda" (see VNR, 2019, p. 9).

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/reports/gold-v>

7. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs. https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

8. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/pakistan_2022.pdf

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2019 VNR, the presentation of the country's context mentions all tiers of LRGs and refers to their responsibilities (see VNR, 2019, p. 12-13). Institutional mechanisms implemented in the provinces are presented in the chapter on means of implementation (see VNR, 2019, p. 57-58, some examples are presented below). There is also a section on "Localizing the Goals", dedicated to government, civil society, private sector and academia and to the institutionalization of the SDGs in planning processes (see VNR, 2019, p. 59-63).

In the 2022 VNR, a chapter is dedicated to the localization of the SDGs, while the key findings of the VSR are highlighted in a section. Challenges of localization are also mentioned, for instance, "local and provincial governments are mostly dependent on vertical transfers from the provincial and federal governments respectively with limited capacity to generate their own revenues" (see VNR, 2022, p. 14).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Punjab**, an Advisory Council has been constituted to oversee the prioritization and sequencing of the SDGs. It has since finalized provincial baselines and targets for the SDGs. Representatives from different sectors are part of the Council, which is supported by four Cluster Groups, formed to address social, economic, environmental, inclusivity and governance issues. These ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence for designing Punjab's SDG Prioritization Framework, as well as the implementation of programmes and projects. Punjab has nominated the district administrator (Deputy Commissioner) in each of its 36 districts as the focal person on the SDGs. Punjab has also constituted District SDG Committees for the implementation of the goals at the grassroots level. Efforts were made to provide strategic guidance for inclusive economic growth and development through the Punjab Growth Strategy 2023, Punjab Spatial Strategy 2047, Medium Term Development Framework, Responsive Investment for Social Protection and Economic Stimulus (RISE) Framework and Punjab SDGs Framework.

► **Sindh** has established a Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) to guide the mainstreaming of the SDGs. In tandem, a Core Group advises on localizing the goals and formulating the province's SDG Prioritization Framework. Six additional Core Groups have been notified on different thematic areas to steer implementation efforts – specifically on health, education, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, local government and public health engineering, and the environment and energy and corresponding subcommittees have also been formed. The Sindh government has come up with Sindh Agriculture Policy, Sindh Labour Policy, Framework for industrial relations, Sindh Youth Policy, etc. The Sindh government has also initiated Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF) with a focus on both on-farm and off-farm activities and endeavors to facilitate efficient production, processing, and market linkages for wider economic gains in the sector.

► **Balochistan** has notified a Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) to steer the localization of the goals and advise the SDG Support Unit. In addition, five Thematic Committees have been formed on employment generation and management, water, energy and the environment, health, agriculture and education. District Coordination Committees on the SDGs will help to align the province's Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy 2018-2024 with the SDGs.

► **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's** Provincial Technical and Steering Committee is actively involved in mainstreaming the SDGs in the province, and oversees the localization of specific goals. Also, the province has set up a District Performance Management Framework, through which district authorities are evaluated using an online monitoring system.

The planning and development partners in **Azad Jammu** and **Kashmir** have established four Thematic Working Groups on the SDGs, with members from the government, academia, civil society, youth and the private sector. These working groups meet periodically to take stock of progress on the SDGs in the administrative area.

► In partnership with UCLG ASPAC, and with financial support from the EU, in March 2019, the **Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG)** launched a four-year pilot initiative called LEAD for SDGs (Local Empowerment, Advocacy and Development for SDG Localization). The project seeks to accelerate localization efforts by supporting the monitoring and evaluation systems used in two selected pilot districts.

► Regarding resilience building, local governments have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies with a progress of 3% (see VNR, 2022, p. 17).

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

The first VSR of Pakistan was published in 2022, presenting the progress of SDG localization in the country as well as identifying the local governments that have integrated the SDGs in their plans and policies.⁹

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/pakistan_2022.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2014, the government of Pakistan established a 'Pak SDGs & Community Development Programme'. Its objective was to divert a sizable portion of public investments by the federal government to fulfill the basic needs of communities at the local level.

The 2022 VNR states that domestic resource mobilization and private-sector financing are insufficient. Pakistan needs a consistent and reliable supply of international financial aid flows, specifically Official Development Assistance (ODA), in order to achieve sustainable development. The federal government has also worked closely with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for future financial projections on five key areas of SDGs i.e., education, health, water supply and sanitation, electricity, and roads.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The devolution of power to the provinces in the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010 has enabled the country to establish a decentralized development approach, while all four provinces have different local governance systems in terms of administrative and financial powers. Local governments are recognized as the third tier of government in the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The 2022 VNR also acknowledges that "local governments have mostly remained under the administrative control of non-elected administration due to lack of consistency in local government elections" (see VNR, 2022, p. 14).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following elections in 2013 and 2015, approximately 19.6% of councilors were women. There is a reservation for women councilors: 33% in Balochistan, 22% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, 15% in Punjab. In the 2013 Balochistan local council elections, 2,335 out of 7,169 councilors were women: 2,332 via reserved seats and three via non-reserved seats. In the 2015 cantonment elections, 2 out of 199 seats were won by women, and the 33% reservation was not implemented.¹⁰ The **Local Government Ordinance 2001** allocated 33% reserved seats for women, empowering women for the first time in the history of local government in Pakistan.¹¹ The 2022 VNR states that women's engagement in formal political processes has steadily improved over time, however, "it still does not commensurate with their share of the population" and gender inequality is deep-rooted in Pakistan.

3.2 COVID 19

There is no reference to initiatives for nor from the LRGs.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		16.8 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	40 (2020)
	Rural	33 (2020)
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 (%)		40.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		77 (2009, Lahore)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		58.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

10. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Pakistan.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/pakistan_2022.pdf

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

PALAU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Palau is a unitary republic. Its 16 states have their own local governments, which include local legislators, governors, traditional chiefdoms, elders and clans, in accordance with their respective Constitutions.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Palau has embraced the 2030 Agenda at the highest political level and is using the **National SDG Framework** to improve implementation, monitoring, and reporting on national priorities. The national master development plan “**Palau 2020**” will be incorporated into the **National Sustainable Development Plan**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **SDG Coordinating Unit** has been created. The **SDG Working Groups** established for the 2019 VNR process, supported by the SDG Coordinating Unit, will continue to refine the National SDG Framework while facilitating SDG implementation across the national government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Eight multi-sector **SDG Working Groups** have led the preparation of the 2019 VNR. The groups have identified an initial set of core targets and associated indicators that collectively constitute Palau's initial National SDG Framework. Two national consultations were held where the SDG Coordinating Unit, in partnership with UNDP, introduced the SDGs to government officials, traditional leaders, civil society organizations, and the public, as well as for the validation of the set of targets and indicators.

1.3 MONITORING

After mapping global targets and indicators against domestic priorities, Palau identified 95 targets that comprise the National SDG Framework.

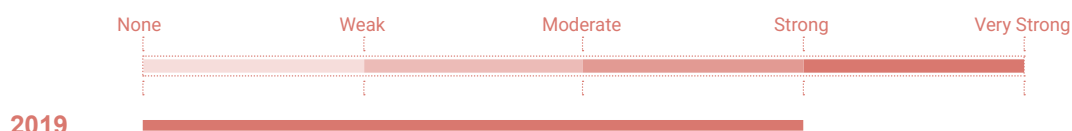
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local traditional leaders participated in the national consultations organized as part of the 2019 VNR.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23606VNR_FINAL_21June2019_UN_Version.pdf (2019)

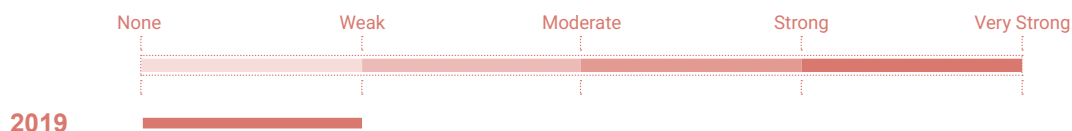
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are some references to Palau's states throughout the 2019 VNR, but no example of specific initiatives they lead to implement the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Work is in progress to integrate national and SDG priorities into planning and budgeting processes. Identifying relevant SDG targets and adopting their associated indicators as performance measures will enable government ministries to better identify the budgetary resources needed to achieve the various sector and SDG targets. The national budget process revolves around a Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) which specifies Key Results Areas (KRAs). The 2019 VNR announces that the **Bureau of Budget and Planning (BBP)** will integrate the National SDG Framework into the KRAs. This is central towards facilitating greater accountability and transparency in the national budgetary review process and improving the allocation of scarce resources to priority issues.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The impacts of disasters and climate change on men and women differ; these differences need to be understood and considered during planning and decision making. **Palau has mainstreamed gender into the most recent work on disaster risk reduction with programs informed by gender disaggregated data.** Community-based disaster risk reduction toolkit that addresses the needs of women and vulnerable groups has been developed and implemented in 10 states. The 2019 VNR emphasizes that "women need to actively participate in all aspects of climate and disaster planning and response. Women need to be empowered with the skills they need to effectively advocate for their special needs to be reflected in disaster, climate, and land use planning and policies" (see VNR, 2019, p. 52). It mentions an initiative for disaster resilience training for women in Babeldaob. It is a collaborative effort by two NGOs (C-WEB and Palau Red Cross) and funded by UN Women and the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund. The focus of this training is on practical measures to be taken before, during, and after a disaster. The training will also equip women with the knowledge and skills they need to take active roles in disaster preparedness planning.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In state governments, women hold 4 out of 16 governorships (25%).

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

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	96 (2020)
	Rural	70 (2020)
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)		8.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		62.5 (2020)

2. 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/plw>

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a federal monarchy with a single tier of elected subnational government, made up of 32 urban and 265 rural governments. It also has one autonomous region: Bougainville. Recently, the New Organic Law on Decentralization changed the situation regarding the 20 provinces, which are progressively acquiring greater political, administrative, legal, and financial powers.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

PNG's national goals and directive principles, as well as annual budgets, are aligned with the SDGs. The Vision 2050 drives the crafting of the **Development Strategic Plan (DSP) 2010-2030** and the **Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) III 2018-2022**. Both of them are consistent with the 2030 Agenda. Among policies and strategies to operationalize the Agenda, there is also the **National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS)**. Besides, a **National Disaster Risk Framework 2017-2030** has been established. It is aligned with the MTDP III, the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The MTDP structure for SDG governance involves different steering and working committees (see more details in the 2020 VNR, p. 19). First, there is the **National Executive Council (NEC)** chaired by the Prime Minister. Second, there are **2 committees**: the National Steering Committee (NSC) at the parliamentary level, and the Central Agency Coordinating Committee (CACC). The **Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) Secretariat** is the central planning and monitoring department responsible for leading the integration of SDGs into national development frameworks. There are also technical and core working groups, involving government agencies, academics, private sector, civil society organizations, and UN agencies. Moreover, the Business Council of Papua New Guinea leads the private sector's engagement on the SDGs. The Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), established since 1998, brings together civil society organizations to work with public and private partners in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The **Provincial Local Level Government Services Monitoring Authority** is the body created to coordinate service delivery and coordination issues at national and subnational levels.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **DNPM** led the whole 2020 VNR process, and core members of the SDG Technical Working Group contributed to manage the SDG review process. The reporting process engaged stakeholders from the Parliament, national government departments and agencies, the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, the United Nations system, provincial and district administrations and the general public. Due to the pandemic, a mixed-methods approach was adopted to collect data (including desk-reviews, discussions, informant interviews and informal consultations). Data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) was also used.

1.3 MONITORING

PNG had not been able to monitor and track MDGs' targets and indicators. UNICEF had introduced the MDG tracking tool (DevInfo), but it was not sufficiently utilized. Similar tracking tools were introduced by the Department of Provincial and Local Government Authority (DPLGA) for the Provincial Information Management System and the District Information Management System of the Department of Rural Implementation and Rural Development. But again, they were not utilized. Thus, special

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26452VNR_2020_Papua_New_Guinea_Report.pdf (2020)

efforts were made for reviewing the SDG implementation. DNPM has developed the **PNG Strategy for Development Statistics** to map out all national data producers and sources. DNPM has also been building a **National Data Centre** that will have all the development indicators for the MTDP and SDGs. Regarding SDG localization, there was a need for a comprehensive review of SDG targets and indicators to determine their relevance to PNG. Resultantly, 46 SDG indicators were considered immediately suitable with feasible data sources and were thus included into the MTDP III. Overall, the 2020 VNR process has stimulated ideas on innovative ways of tracking SDGs in the future.

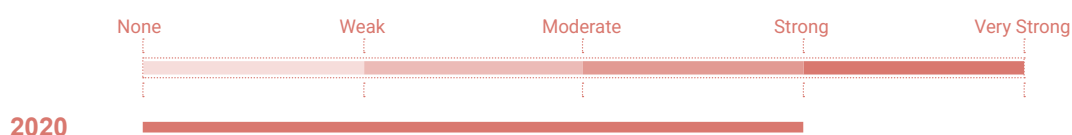
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The SDG localization process involved a series of workshops and consultations with the private sector, civil societies, academia, youth, people living with disabilities and other interested groups. But LRGs participation is not mentioned in the 2020 VNR. It is specified that urban town authorities have limited human resources and technical capacity in developing strategies and undertaking key reforms towards the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, the VNR acknowledges that PNG's performance on the SDGs depends on provincial and local governments. The need to develop a roadmap to mobilize LRGs is mentioned, as well as the necessity of national engagement in regular dialogue with all subnational governments on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During the VNR process, provincial and district administrations participated through consultations, as well as many other stakeholders.

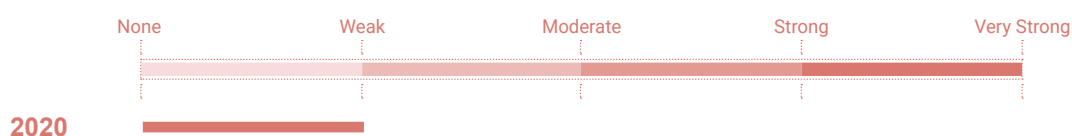
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Provincial and district administrations participated in the VNR process through consultations. LRGs are mentioned throughout the report.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are not mentioned among the participants of consultations for SDG localization. SDGs' mainstreaming in provincial and district development plans seems to follow a top-down logic (as well as many of the national programs mentioned in the VNR, implemented at the local level).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few mentions of local governments throughout the 2020 VNR. There is a subsection on decentralization (see VNR, 2020, p. 16) that briefly mentions the recent drive for increased independence of the provinces. At the end of the report, a subsection called "Strengthening Sub-National Government Capacity in SDGs" insists on their role in implementing the SDGs (see VNR, 2020, p. 86). Some cities are mentioned in the subsection on SDG 11, without references to locally led policies or projects.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Port Moresby**, safe market programs for women traders are implemented under the city commission (National Capital District Commission).

► **Mount Hagen** and **Goroka** are also committed to improving unsafe and unsanitary markets and poor transport infrastructure.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is a specific part on means of implementation in the 2020 VNR (see VNR, 2020, p. 42). The government crafted the **Medium Term Fiscal Strategy (MTFS) 2018-2022** as the main financing strategy of both MTDP III and the SDGs. For SDG financing at the subnational level, there are ongoing reforms under the Inter-Government Relations (Functioning & Funding) 2009 Act. In line with the National Service Delivery Framework, it aims at increasing the fiscal capacity and ability of all provincial and local-government administrations to manage and provide basic services. Through the **Service Improvement Programs**, the national government expends financial resources to districts and provinces.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: SDGs have been mainstreamed in provincial and district development plans. However, the 2020 VNR states that **the local capacity for SDG planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is relatively low**. PNG's government is thus making efforts to strengthen local-level planning, monitoring, reporting, and implementation capacity by recruiting more local government staff (mainly monitoring and evaluation officers or statisticians). These efforts involve competency-based training through the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, the Department of Personnel Management, and the DNPM.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 1984, the National Women's Development Program was introduced to mobilize and build a strategic network of women's organizations from district levels to the national level. Nowadays, several provinces have **Provincial Family and Sexual Violence Action Committees** represented at the highest level. This works well in provinces such as East New Britain and Morobe. There is information on the still low representation of women in politics at the national level (in the Parliament), but not on the current situation in local governments.

3.2 COVID 19

Among the economic measures to cope with the pandemic, the 2020 VNR mentions the food security programs that are currently being initiated in **Port Moresby**, with subsidized shipping costs for farmers especially from the Momase and Highlands region.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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	28 (2020)
	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 (%)		0 (2020)

3. 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/png>

PHILIPPINES

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Philippines is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 82 provinces, each led by an elected governor and an elected provincial council. Local legislative power is exercised by Provincial Boards (*Sangguniang Panlalawigan*). The country is also divided into 17 statistical/planning regions, composed of 13 ordinary regions plus four special regions: the Cordillera Administrative Region, the Negros Island Region, the National Capital Region, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which replaced the former Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in 2022 and is the only region with an elected government. At the intermediate level, the country is further divided into 146 cities and 1488 municipalities. Mayors and municipal councilors are elected. At the local level, there are 42046 villages (*Barangays*), which are managed by an elected official (*Barangay* Chairperson or “captain”) and an elected village council (*Sangguniang Barangay*).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 SDGs are integrated into the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022**. The country also has a long-term document “**Ambisyon Natin 2040**”³ and a **10-Point Socio-economic Agenda**.⁴

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)** is responsible for the coordination of the SDG implementation strategy. The **Sub-committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDGs)** has been established with the approval of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC). The sub-committee is co-chaired by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The sub-committee on the SDGs and the four technical working groups led discussions on SDG indicators and provided direction for the 2022 VNR process.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In conducting the 2019 VNR, the Philippines undertook several consultation workshops to collect feedback from stakeholders while engaging and renewing commitments for cooperation towards the achievement of the SDGs. For the 2019 VNR, focus was given to synergies between government and non-government actions that empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality, particularly on deliberate efforts to reach out to the marginalized sector. Regional consultations were held with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Outside NEDA, a Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking was created to improve coordination.

The 2022 VNR process brought together various government agencies, stakeholders, and members of society from different sectors and geographic regions of the country through multi-stakeholder consultation. The Sub-committee on the Sustainable Development Goals and the four technical working groups led the VNR process, while the Stakeholders’ Chamber was formalized as part of the government’s official mechanism for collaborating with various sectors of society.

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/10765PH%20VoluntaryNationalReview_FINAL.pdf (2016); https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/23366Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Philippines.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/06222022%20VNR%20of%20the%20Philippines.pdf> (2022)

3. This long-term vision is meant to guide development planning across at least four government administrations. The attainment of the SDGs, set at 2030, should pave the way for the achievement of “*Ambisyon Natin 2040*”.

4. This agenda gives emphasis to regional or subnational equality and the improvement of the access to services in rural areas. It is aligned with the SDG’s core tenet of leaving no one behind.

1.3 MONITORING

The **SDG Watch**, regularly compiled by the **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**, local government units, and the **Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS)**, are the mechanisms for SDG monitoring at the national and subnational levels. SDG data monitoring and evaluation is managed by the PSA, which created the initial list of the SDGs for monitoring in the Philippines. The SDGs are monitored through the Socioeconomic Report SDG Annex.⁵ There are two government-initiated online sources of SDG information in the Philippines: the SDG Website of NEDA and the SDG Watch of PSA.⁶

The **PSA regional offices** monitor the SDG indicators at the regional and local levels with the approval and adoption of the 2019 **Core Regional SDG indicators (CoRe-SDGs)**. By 2022, 13 out of 17 regions have been monitoring the CoRe-SDGs through their SDG Watch. The **Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act** is crucial in generating local indicators and disaggregated data that can fill local data gaps on the SDGs. The compilation of the **Provincial Product Accounts** serves as localized tools to help local governments better understand realities on the ground and design programs accordingly. However, findings from the first VSR published in the Philippines in 2022 (see below) suggest that monitoring is particularly challenging for the majority of LRGs due to the unavailability of SDG-related data and information, as well as cities' lack of capacity to process already available local data.⁷

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2019 VNR showed that the Philippines sees the **localization** of the SDGs as a means to reduce regional disparities. As part of the 2019 VNR process, regional consultations were held in each of the three major Philippine island groups, and were attended by CSOs, academic institutions, media, business consortia, and government representatives. Other consultations involving children and trade and labor unions were organized in Quezon City, Manila and Tacloban City.

The **Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)** supports the localization of the SDGs. The SDGs have been cascaded to the subnational level through their inclusion in **Regional Development Plans (RDPs)**. To facilitate the localization of the SDGs in the country, the DILG, together with NEDA, issued a Joint Memorandum Circular that provided guidelines on the localization of PDP results matrices, and on the SDGs which bound local governments to create programs that implement PDP and SDG targets. In 2017, the national government issued an executive order requiring all levels of government to implement the PDP and public investment programme 2017-2022.⁸ NEDA's regional development offices are responsible for crafting and coordinating the Regional Development Plans (RDPs). Provincial governors usually chair the Regional Development Council, acting as the formal mechanism for coordination and multilevel governance. However, the view from local government organizations is that local governments are not completely aware of the ongoing process, despite several workshops held by DILG in all the regions. The new matrices were launched ahead of the national and local elections in 2019 without real consultation, and not all local governments have the capacity to respond to their requirements.⁹

Still, in 2022, more than 50% of the cities responding to the survey of League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) expressed high familiarity with the 17 SDGs and are actively participating in national advocacy campaigns on the SDGs. Nearly all of them (92%) have already aligned their local plans with different SDGs (i.e. Baguio, Makati, Tabaco, Iriga, Luzon, Naga, Visayas and Mindanao).¹⁰

To enable the effective implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, the special **Regional Sub-committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (RSC-SDGs)** was created to be a responsive, participative, and accountable institutional mechanism at the local level which aligns with the national government. Similar to the national process, the regional sub-committees also have a secretariat and technical working groups that support its work. However, each regional sub-committee has its own structure. Some regions develop unique technical working groups dedicated to sectors such as indigenous peoples, watershed, or infrastructure. Allowing regions to pattern their structures after their own respective individual needs enabled an organic and deepening of ownership of the SDGs at the local level.

Finally, the 2022 VNR process included activities at the subnational level, such as the collection of best practices on the SDGs; an alignment meeting with the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) on the VSR it jointly prepared with the Leagues of Municipalities and Provinces (LMP and LPP, respectively); focus group discussions with Naga City, which prepared a VLR; and 18 events, meetings, and workshops to support the special regional committee on the SDGs.

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

6. See: <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph> and <https://psa.gov.ph/sdg>

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

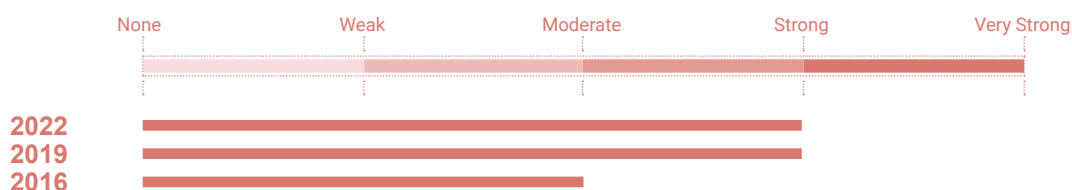
8. See: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2017/06jun/20170601-EO-27-RRD.pdf>

9. There is an over-reliance on regulatory approaches instead of promoting outreach, collaboration and capacity-building efforts between national and local governments. Vertical and horizontal coordination between organizations remains patchy, producing weak linkages in planning and fragmented policy. The current electoral conjuncture and other national debates (in particular with respect to federalism) do not help the buy-in process either. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

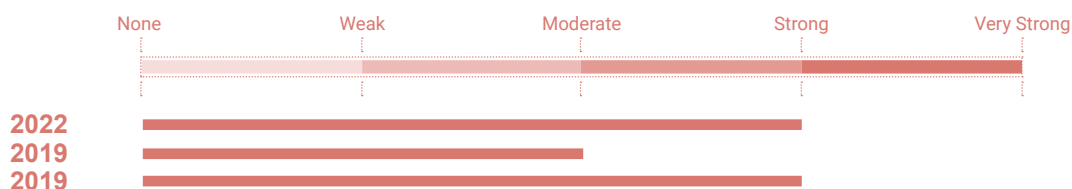
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments and their associations participated in regional consultations.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Punctual participation of the League of Cities, Vigan City, and Makati. The city of Bagio reported a regular participation and a stronger involvement compared to previous years (GTF Survey 2021). However, local government organizations perceive that local governments are not completely aware of ongoing SDG-related processes.

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 was a brief section, at the end of the 2019 VNR, dedicated to “localization” (see VNR, 2019, p. 47). It acknowledged that “attainment of the SDGs requires concerted, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder efforts both at the national and local levels” and presented the national framework for SDG implementation at the local level through regional and comprehensive development plans (see above). In the 2022 VNR, there is a section on “Subnational mechanisms and localization of the SDGs” (see VNR, 2022, p. 15), as well as a section on “SDG adoption and implementation at the local level through a Whole-of-Nation approach using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)” (see VNR, 2022, p. 82). The 2022 VNR dedicates two pages to the country's VSR and Naga City's VLR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Community-based Early Warning System (CBEWS) has been successfully replicated in several areas of the country such as the Agos River CBEWS in **Quezon Province**, which has been devastated by extreme typhoon events. The system consists of rain gauges, flood watchpoints, radio communication devices, and a defined set of emergency measures aimed at preventing loss of lives and damage to properties.

► After the destruction caused by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the municipalities of **Daanbantayan** and **Medellin** in the province of Cebu have successfully implemented community-led disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts that resulted in timely rehabilitation of schools and restoration of tourism livelihood.

► The province of **Albay**, which is exposed to multiple natural hazards such as typhoons and volcanic eruption, has been a model of “zero-casualty” due to its effective response measures and proper coordination with relevant agencies. The successful implementation of these initiatives is a result of strengthened collaborations among local government units, NGOs, national government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector.¹¹

► Both the **League of Cities** and the **League of Municipalities** have been active in SDG localization through seminars, information sharing, conferences and workshops. The League of Cities has developed pilot projects with different partners to promote the integration of the SDGs into local activities, for example the Vertical Integration for Low-Emission Development (V-LED) in collaboration with UN-Habitat; the Building Climate Resiliency Through Urban Plans and Designs programme with the support of German cooperation agencies and UN-Habitat; the Ambitious City Promises project with ICLEI; the Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the “Green, Green, Green” project of the Philippine Department of Budget and Management, amongst others. The League of Cities, moreover, co-leads Citynet's SDG Cluster.

11. The three practices above were extracted from the 2019 VNR.

- ▶ Since 2015 the **Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)**, in partnership with the **League of Cities**, the **Local Government Academy** and several international agencies, has been promoting the SDGs in over 34 cities as a follow-up to a programme focused on children in poor urban communities. For example, the cities of **Naga**, **Iriga** and **Muntinlupa** have made efforts to incorporate SDGs into their development plans. They have introduced a system of (local target) scorecards to gather baseline data on governance. The scorecards evaluate whether development plans are aligned with the SDGs.
- ▶ In 2017, the *Galing Pook Awards* Programme shortlisted 30 municipalities and *Barangays* that have developed initiatives complying with the three pillars of sustainable development in different areas: participatory governance (**Angon**, **San Fernando**), poverty reduction (**Zamboanga del Norte and del Sur**) and economic development (**Tagum City**), support to informal workers (garment sector in **Taytay**) and poor communities (fisheries in **Ambao**, youth in **Ilocos Norte**), access to basic services (water in **San Luis**, waste management in **Makati**, transport in **Legazpi**, road maintenance in **Davao**), affordable housing (**Quezon**) and slum upgrading (**Dipolog City**), sustainable tourism (**Loboc**), urban renewal and green cities (**Pasig**), clean food (**Marikina**) and, finally, inter-municipal cooperation for better services (PALMA Alliance in the **Cotabato Province**).
- ▶ Other local governments are also active and follow a range of programmes supported by international institutions and local government organizations (such as the League of Cities) related to sustainable policies i.e. **Angeles City**, **Tagum**, **Legazpi**, **Ormoc**, **Cagayan De Oro**, **Pasig**, **Parañaque** and **Marikina** for climate mitigation and adaptation and resilient initiatives. Other examples include **Sorsogon**, a pilot city for the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities; the city of **Cebu** for solid waste management; the cities of **Baguio** and **Quezon** for planned sanitation and tourism through public-private partnerships, and others.
- ▶ Since 2008, the **Iloilo Local Housing Board** has facilitated coordination between the local government and the urban poor federation to participate in the city's formal planning process, disaster rehabilitation and relocation strategies that operate at the city-wide scale.
- ▶ The **Grassroots Participatory Budget programme** (formerly Bottom-up Budgeting) succeeded in the mid-2010s in expanding to virtually all local government units (1,633 in total, in 2015).¹²
- ▶ The **League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)** submitted in 2020 a report on the organization's on-going initiatives geared towards the attainment of the SDGs to the Office of Senator Pia Cayetano, head of the Senate Committee on SDGs, Innovations, and Future Thinking.¹³ The LCP integrated the SDGs into its Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 and is leading various initiatives for SDG dissemination: partnering with the Liveable Cities Challenge in organising the Liveable Cities Labs; developing the LCP City Database Project to consolidate city data and show how cities are achieving the SDGs; developing the Cities' System Capacity Development Project to strengthen city planning; and promoting projects such as Gender and Development, and Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs.
- ▶ Cities such as **Baguio**, **Iriga** and **Makati** have adopted resolutions and strategic frameworks anchored in the SDGs (i.e. 2019-2025 Makati Comprehensive Development Plan). The Iriga Strategy for SDG localization includes, amongst other actions, setting up 5 sectoral committees for the formulation and integration of the SDGs within comprehensive land use and development plans.
- ▶ In **Iriga**, during lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Vegetables on Wheels" project sought to help citizens with mobility issues by bringing them goods produced by local farmers. Also during the pandemic, **Makati** distributed around 82,000 food packs to students after school closures left children without school meals. **Baguio** and **Makati** have supported micro and small businesses through financial facilities and grants.¹⁴
- ▶ Recognizing the significance of cross-stakeholder initiatives in improving resilience, the Philippines urged local governments to join the **Making Resilient Cities 2030 (MCR2030)** initiative. MCR2030 is a global partnership of experts in urban resilience, disaster risk reduction, climate change, and the SDGs for sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks and building partnerships among advocates of local resilience.

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

In 2017, Cauayan City published its first VLR.¹⁵ Naga City published its first VLR in 2022. The first VSR of the Philippines, published in 2022, was jointly developed by the League of Cities (LCP), the League of Municipalities (LMP) and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).¹⁶

12. All the practices presented until this one are mentioned in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report.

13. According to the GTF Survey in 2021. See more in UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

14. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

15. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Cauayan%20City%20\(2017\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Cauayan%20City%20(2017)_0.pdf)

16. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/vsr_philippines_final.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The PDP 2017-2022 was complemented by national budget allocations through the Public Investment Programme.

The 2019 VNR presented the **Local Government Support Fund - Assistance to Municipalities (LGSF-AM)**, which “aims to address policy and governance gaps in the implementation of local programs and projects through the harmonization of LGSF-AM’s processes with the existing systems of the local government, strengthening the latter. Addressing governance gaps focuses on building partnerships between local government units and CSOs and people’s organizations in the selection and monitoring of infrastructure projects through the Local Development Councils. Addressing policy gaps focuses on correcting fiscal and infrastructure imbalances in local service delivery” (VNR, 2019, p. 28).¹⁷

As part of the localization efforts aimed at following up the implementation process, NEDA, DILG and the Philippines’ Statistical Office developed assessment criteria for SDG implementation linked to access to specific funds (i.e. the Seal of Good Local Governance). However, the alignment between the funds to support local governments’ plans and the SDGs is not clear for LRGs. Testimonies stress that local plans will continue to be aligned with the funds rather than with the national SDG strategy. On the other hand, LRGs also find it difficult to access specific funds to support adaptation to climate change and resilience projects.¹⁸

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In the Philippines, the national government promotes a **top-down localization strategy**. Despite this, the three associations of subnational governments (LCP, LMP and LPP) are actively involved in the localization of the SDGs.

The Supreme Court ruling in 2020 on the Mandanas-Garcia case increased the share of the national tax allotment destined to subnational governments to fund devolved services; the response to and recovery from the pandemic; and SDG localization. Although it is yet to be implemented, this policy on full devolution is expected to give local governments an even more central role in SDG implementation.¹⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of women in local government was 31% in 2016, but this fell to 21.3% in 2018.

3.2 COVID 19

The National Policy Framework on Promotion and Recognition of Healthy Communities was implemented after the outbreak of COVID-19 aims to bring health awareness to local governments. The Social and Behavior Change Plan ensured the continuity of the first 1,000 days of services provided by local governments. Some local government units started to adopt digital monitoring systems, i.e. Visitor Information and Travel Assistance (VIS.I.T.A.) platform to protect tourists and communities by controlling the number of visitors and their activities.

The LCP was also mobilized to help with the COVID-19 response (i.e. quarantine and travel protocols, economic recovery, and vaccination rollouts).

17. For example, in 2017, the national government launched the Green, Green, Green program, funded under the Local Government Support Fund, to promote the development of public open spaces and create greener, and more sustainable cities all over the country.

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

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

4. SDG INDICATORS²⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		29.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	62 (2020)
	Rural	35 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	55 (2020)
	Rural	66 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.9 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		70 (2009, Manila)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		21.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		85 (2020)

²⁰ The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of Korea is a unitary state with a two-tiered local government system with no hierarchical link, made up of 17 regional entities and 226 municipalities. Regional governments comprise 8 provinces (*do*), one special self-governing province (*Jeju*), 6 metropolitan cities (*gwangyeoksi*), one special city (Seoul Metropolitan City) and, since 2012, a special self-governing city (Sejong), which both have a special status. The lower-level of local government includes cities (*si*), counties (*gun*) and autonomous districts (*gu*).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

Based on the second National Strategy and Five-Year Plan for Green Growth, in 2016 the Ministry of Environment released the **Third Sustainable Development Fundamental Plan (2016-2020)**, which is aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)** was nominated as the lead agency in charge of coordinating the implementation of the SDGs. SDG coordination is also the responsibility of the **Commission on Sustainable Development**, led by the Ministry of Environment. It includes civil society organizations and academia, the Office for Government Policy Coordination and the **Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC)** for international policies, which is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In order to prepare the 2016 VNR, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** held a series of meetings that were joined by different government bodies, including the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OGPC), the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the National Statistical Office. For drafting and completing the report, experts were invited from the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, Republic of Korea) and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) (Geneva, Switzerland). They contributed to the report's preparation by undertaking interviews with key stakeholders, collecting statistical data, producing a background paper and providing editorial support. The VNR also reflects inputs from civil society organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

Statistics Korea has already established three mid- and long-term tasks for the implementation of the SDGs: the development of a framework for monitoring nationally relevant SDGs, research on methodologies to improve SDGs indicators in terms of scope, and the provision of technical support for other government agencies to enhance their statistical capacity. Progress toward the policy targets of the Third Plan is evaluated biennially by the **Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**.

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

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10632National%20Voluntary%20Review%20Report%20\(rev_final\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10632National%20Voluntary%20Review%20Report%20(rev_final).pdf) (2016)

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

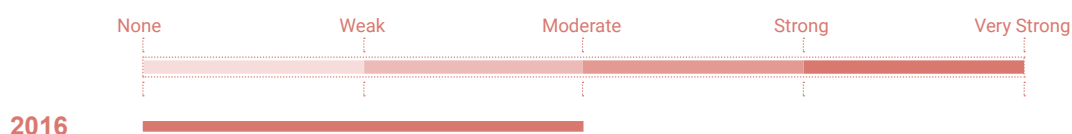
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Based on the experience of the Agenda 21 and the **Local Councils for Sustainable Development** (created in the 1990's),⁴ LRGs have taken the lead in promoting sustainable development. Local governments and NGOs have developed actions within the frame of the **Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea (LSAK)**.⁵ A number of local governments, for instance, those of **Seoul, Gwangju, Jeonju, Cheongju, Suwon, and Bupyeong District** have voluntarily established implementation strategies for sustainable development at the local level and have drafted evaluation reports to measure their progress since 2010, which provides a strong basis for the implementation of the SDGs by local governments. Also, an increasing number of local governments are joining international networks of local governments interested in issues such as climate change, environment, cultural heritages, and human rights.

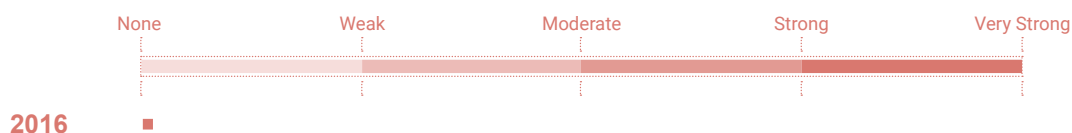
The city of **Seoul** participated partially in the 2016 VNR process, but no direct participation in the national SDG coordination mechanisms is reported.⁶

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is a subsection in the 2016 VNR dedicated to local governments, acknowledging their role "in the dissemination of information and knowledge to local residents" (see VNR, 2016, p. 5).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Changwon**, the 2020 Environmental Capital initiative launched in 2008 planted millions of trees and reduced air pollution, urban noise and average summer temperatures by about 3 to 7 degrees celsius.

► The province of **Jeju** has committed to preserving the custom of haenyeo (women divers) as an eco-friendly sustainable fishing practice, rooted in traditional knowledge.

► Inspired by the spirit of the Asia Human Rights Charter, local governments such as **Gwangju** have carried out extensive memorial and human rights education programmes with a view to promoting peace, culture and human rights in both the city and its regions.

► Democratic reforms in South Korea in the 1990s led to the first mayoral election in **Seoul** in 1995. Seoul is pursuing sustainable development through key initiatives based on participatory urban planning and governance processes. It is the only metropolitan area in the Asia-Pacific region to attempt to address all 17 SDGs (but not all targets).⁷

4. In 1995, civil society movements led to the establishment of the Local Councils for Sustainable Development (LCSDs), a wide network of local governments and civil society organizations that has launched various campaigns related to environmental and governance issues. As of 2016, 100 out of 243 local governments had established LCSDs. LCSDs are now implementing policies directly related to the SDGs at the local level by analyzing and aligning existent projects in the context of the SDGs. As local partnership organizations composed of governments and multi-stakeholders, the LCSDs are a notable example of multi-stakeholder partnership for the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

5. Established in 2000 as a nation-wide network of LCSDs, the LSAK has been a vital institutional platform to ensure the participation of LCSDs in policy dialogues for the SDGs at national level. The LSAK has also played a significant role in building the capacity of LCSDs in policy and implementation of sustainable development. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

7. The 5 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>

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2016 VNR stresses that the national government is making efforts to strengthen domestic resource mobilization by expanding government revenue, so as to secure the financial means for SDG implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2018, the government launched a five-year Urban Regeneration New Deal with the aim of strengthening collaboration between local and national governments. In 2018 as well, a new **Presidential Committee on Autonomy and Decentralization** was set up. A revised bill, the Special Act on Autonomy and Decentralization and Local Administration, was promulgated in March 2018.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		28.3 (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	-
	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)		26.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

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

9. 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/kor>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Samoa is a unitary republic which comprises 11 political districts (*itūmālō*), which are further subdivided in 51 *faipule districts*. At the local level, there are 265 villages. Nonetheless, **there is no elected local government as such**. Local administration is based on traditional structures.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 **Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016-2020 (SDS)** has integrated the SDGs' approach as an important point of the national planning strategies. The SDS focuses on four priority areas of Economic, Social, Infrastructure and Environment.³ It is also linked to the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Pacific Framework for Regionalism, the Human Rights, Disarmament and Environmental Conventions.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Samoa's **SDGs Taskforce** and the **National Mechanism for the Implementation (NMIRF)** are key in the process of SDG implementation in the country. The National Policy Coordinating Committee, consisting of chief executive officers of government and public enterprises, guides overall policy advice to the government through the Cabinet Development Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, including SDG-related policies.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2020 VNR, the process started by institutionalizing stakeholder engagement for the SDGs through the SDS and sector reporting and review mechanisms. This had also the objective of working in a **participative approach**, involving representatives of all government ministries, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and public institutions, civil society, NGOs, private sector, academia, community representatives, regional and international organizations including the UN and development partners. Additionally, briefings and consultations were coordinated by the SDGs Taskforce with other important stakeholders. After this, separate meetings were held for the academia, media, and the private sector; followed by meetings with the UN Agencies, development partners and diplomatic missions present in Samoa.

1.3 MONITORING

Samoa developed a **roadmap** for review and reporting on the Human Rights Conventions and processes with the SDGs and its sustainable development sectors to help also with planning and coordinating related processes. This includes using the **Samoa Database on Human Rights Recommendations (SADATA)** to mine data for SDGs monitoring. Overall, a National Statistics Development Strategy has been set up in order to improve monitoring and data management systems. This strategy is accompanied with regular national surveys and significant administrative data, annual sector reviews, SDS progress tracking management and sharing of government data among government ministries. Monitoring has been improved with an important investment in the Samoa Bureau of Statistics. Since 2016, Samoa has also been the Pacific's representative on the Inter-Agency Experts Group on the SDGs Indicators Framework and has built capacity in developing indicators specifically on monitoring SDG indicators.

1. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>.

See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Samoa

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=872&type=12&menu=1807&template=1042&play=3121> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26429Samoa_Samos2ndVNR2020reduced.pdf (2020)

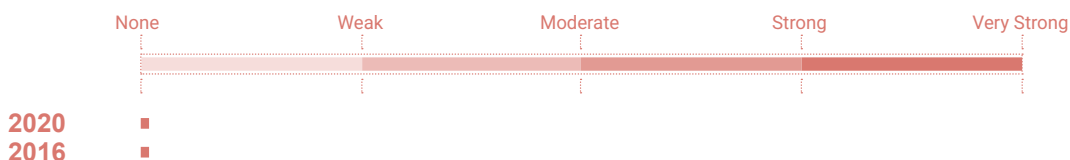
3. SDGs implementation is linked to the 14 sector plans and their existing Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and more importantly to the key development financing and projects for each sector and SDG.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

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

Information regarding the actions at the subnational level is found aleatory through the 2020 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 'City Development Strategy' is a key example that contributes to making **Apia**, the capital city, and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as specified by SDG 11. There are also existing community level development and environment plans based on stake-holder consultations.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2020 VNR mentions that Samoa's national planning, public financial and aid management systems are well regarded globally and within the Pacific region with some good practices replicated in other Pacific Island countries. Samoa has a sector wide approach to development budgeting and reporting, enabling a multi-sectoral, cross sector approach engaging multiple stakeholders. There is no reference to advantages for local governments through this approach.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: One of the main initiatives involving the deconcentrated administrations are the **District Development Plan (DDP) programs**, a platform for districts and community leaders to guide, plan and coordinate their own inclusive sustainable development. The development plans are the basis for the development in the villages and districts, enabling coherent support by the government and all stakeholders. As of January 2020, 48 out of 49 districts have District Development Plans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Governance at the community level is led by the village councils supported by other village level committees such as the

4. More information is available at: https://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/projects/samoa/detail01_en.html

women village committees. The local government is represented by the *Sui o le Nu'u* (village male representative) and *Sui o tamaitai* (village women Representative) who work closely with the government on community development. In 2016, 121 out of 372 (32.5%) village representatives were women and in 2020, this number increased to 171 out of 390 (44%).

3.2 COVID 19

In April 2020, the government launched the first phase of its Stimulus Package totalling SAT\$66.3 million focusing on health, private sector, food security in the agriculture sectors, securing the purchasing power of people; and a multisectoral programme. In May, the second phase of the Stimulus Package was announced totalling SAT\$32 million with more targeted support for social protection measures to the vulnerable groups. These packages do not specifically mention the role of the local governments. Nevertheless, the 2020 VNR highlights that during the measles epidemic, the village community networks enabled the government and the development partners to undertake the two-day mass immunization for Measles (2019) resulting in the now 95% coverage achieving herd immunity in Samoa. Similarly, the government-community partnership networks have facilitated an extensive outreach program for public awareness of the preventative and preparedness measures for COVID-19.

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	37 (2020)
	Rural	50 (2020)
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)		10.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		50 (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/wsm>

SINGAPORE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Singapore is a unitary republic **without elected subnational governments**. There are however five community development councils (CDCs) which provide local administration. Each is governed by a board of between 12 and 20 members, including a mayor.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

Singapore adopted a whole-of-government approach to develop and implement integrated and sustainable policies as part of its **Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Inter-Ministry Committee on SDGs (IMC-SDGs)** was established in 2018 for the VNR and thereafter, to take stock of SDG implementation over the longer term. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Inter-Ministry Committee on SDGs (IMC-SDGs)** oversaw the interagency process for the 2018 VNR. Groups of agencies were assigned to work on each of the 17 SDG reviews, in accordance with the areas under their purview.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is only one reference to community development councils in the 2018 VNR, regarding women participation in political leadership positions (see below).

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19439Singapores_Voluntary_National_Review_Report_v2.pdf (2018)

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Singapore is a city-state with limited land and high urban density. These unique circumstances demand a prudent and strategic use of the land to ensure that the country develops sustainably in light of the increasing population and economic growth. It has therefore consistently drawn upon two key principles: sound and dynamic urban governance, combined with integrated long-term planning to ensure sufficient land for sustainable growth and a convenient and high-quality living environment for Singaporeans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Out of the five mayors chairing the community development councils, two are women.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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	100 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	100 (2020)
	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 (%)		100 (2012, Singapore)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		17.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/sgp>

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

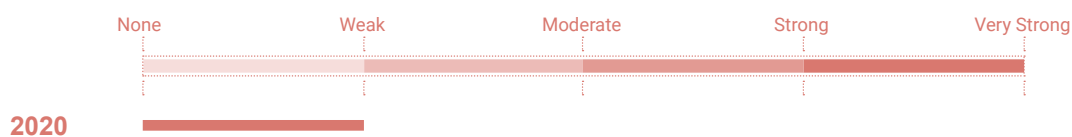
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26795VNR_2020_Solomon_Report.pdf (2020)

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.

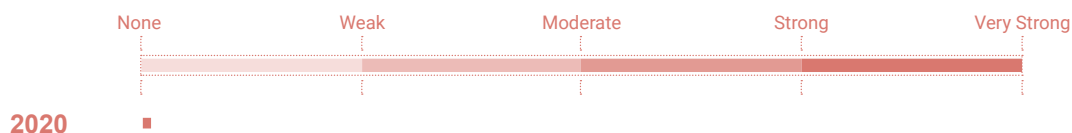
4. As part of this review, the MNPDC issued and circulated consultation guidelines with 15 questions addressed to government entities, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to answer.

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 (SIIFF) 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>

SRI LANKA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Sri Lanka is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The country is composed of 9 provincial councils and 341 municipal governments, which include 24 municipal councils, 41 urban councils, 276 rural councils.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

Sri Lanka's strategic development framework, reflected through its long-term development plan, **Vision 2025**, its current National Policy Framework (NPF) "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" 2020-2025,³ the Public Investment Programme (PIP) 2021-2024 and the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)⁴ submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have seen an increasing alignment with SDGs.

The **Draft National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development (NPSSD)** localizes and contextualizes the SDGs across all levels of governance (national, provincial and local authority levels) and relevant sectors through 115 overall strategies, and 7 enabling targets with 34 relevant strategic interventions which align with the SDGs. However, the NPSSD is yet to be approved by the cabinet and the parliament.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development** was created in 2017, but it has been dissolved.⁵ The **Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL)** was appointed at the end of 2018 as the national focal point for coordination, facilitation, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG implementation in Sri Lanka. Despite the initial commitments, no substantive action has been taken to ensure localized and decentralized planning for the implementation of the SDGs.⁶ The SDCSL had previously been under the purview of the Ministry of Environment and has been brought under the purview of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** in 2022. Although the shift under the MoF has increased the prominence of the subject area, the 2022 VNR acknowledges that the constant change in the ownership of the subject among institutions has resulted in drawbacks in policy measures and actions to adopt the SDG Agenda.

In addition, an **inter-ministerial steering committee** under the leadership of the Prime Minister has been established to provide political leadership and overall guidance to the SDG implementation process as well as to mobilize all stakeholders towards the SDGs by building strong national ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

There are also several other mechanisms for coordination at the national level, including the Ministry of Development Coordination and Monitoring, the Department of National Planning, and a parliamentary committee. Nevertheless, in practice, planning and implementation are fragmented. Whereas there is no clear national coordination mechanism to ensure the cohesive inclusion of all nine provincial governments and all local government entities in the SDG implementation process.⁷

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19677FINAL_SriLankaVNR_Report_30Jun2018.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sri%20Lanka%20Report.pdf> (2022).

3. The NPF identifies the SDGs as setting the objectives for the 10 key policies which form the core of the NPF. The NPF provides the strategic direction for the annual government budgets and the PIP 2021-2024 and therefore, by extension, integrate the strategies for achieving the SDGs and 2030 Agenda in the same. Nonetheless, the 2022 VNR states that while there is a strong commitment towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in the NPF, there is further scope to increase the integration of SDG targets into the NPF and its strategies.

4. Sri Lanka, in line with its commitment as a signatory to the Paris Agreement (COP21), presented at COP26 in 2021 an updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlining a set of progressive and ambitious targets on climate action. There are 41 mitigation NDCs across six sectors of electricity, transport, industry, waste, forestry, and agriculture. Another 47 NDCs relate to adaptation actions covering nine sectors which are at high risk due to climate change. These sectors are agriculture, fisheries, livestock, water, biodiversity, coastal and marine, health, urban planning and human settlements, and tourism and recreation.

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

6. In 2017, a Sustainable Development Act was passed in parliament and it was expected that the government would establish a Sustainable Development Council (SDC) in early 2018 to ensure the development of a national strategy for SDG implementation. The Act required every ministry, department and sub-national authority to prepare an SDG strategy. However, the process lost momentum. 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/sri_lanka_2022.pdf

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2018 reporting process, **The Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)** facilitated the VNR report preparation. A **VNR Task Force (TF)** was formed, consisting of representatives from the President's Office; the Prime Minister's Office; Ministries of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Mahaweli Development and Environment, and Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development; the Finance Commission; Department of National Planning (NPD), Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM), and with the UN Country Office as an observer. The reporting process was collaborative, with multi-stakeholder engagement, including representatives from the government, private sector, academia, development partners and CSOs. In addition, a **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)** and an **online platform** were developed to engage all stakeholders in the SDG implementation.⁸

The 2022 VNR process⁹ was guided by a **VNR Steering Committee** consisting of representatives from the Sustainable Development Council (SDCSL), Department of National Planning (NPD), Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM), Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Finance Commission of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). While the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were observers.

Primary data collection was done through focus group discussions and multi-stakeholder consultations conducted by the VNR Steering Committee in partnership with other national and provincial level agencies and consultative platforms (see below). The key VNR findings were then validated during four thematic validation sessions with the participation of over 400 stakeholders from all sectors.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)** is the national statistical organization responsible for collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating statistical information needed to track the progress of SDGs. The government launched a report and website for reporting on the status of the SDG indicators at the national level in 2017 which are being updated continuously. The **Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM)** established a monitoring mechanism to capture regular updates from all development projects. In 2019, DPMM has taken steps to mainstream evaluation by formulating the National Evaluation Policy (NEP) for Sri Lanka. The National Evaluation Policy Implementation Framework (NEPIF) was subsequently introduced for monitoring development programs and increasing the availability of scientifically validated data related to the SDGs.

Leading up to the 2018 VNR, a **committee** was appointed by the DCS to specifically map and study the availability of data on the SDGs for Sri Lanka. The committee found that the data for 46 SDG indicators are available through ongoing censuses, surveys, and administrative data. The SDCSL has increased the number of indicators from 46 to 106 based on available data. The 2022 VNR acknowledges that inconsistencies and gaps within the government's subnational data ecosystem could impact assessments of SDG implementation as well as evidence-based policy formulation (see VNR, 2022, p. 46).¹⁰ Although each capital expenditure for the upcoming years is linked to applicable SDG codes, a vast discrepancy between capital expenditure requested and capital grants approved and disbursed from the treasury is observed.

In addition, the national SDG Data Portal Sri Lanka gathering information from over 80 government institutions has been developed by the SDCSL.¹¹ The UN SDG Data Tracker has also been integrated into the Data Portal for a combined platform with enhanced visualization and disaggregation capabilities. The SDG Data Portal provides a snapshot of progress made under the indicators of the 17 SDGs. Moreover, the National Data Sharing Policy which is in the final stages of adoption is expected to improve information sharing between the government and the private sector.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments' participation is significantly limited in Sri Lanka.¹²

As part of the 2018 VNR process, a regional consultation was organized in the North Western Province. This workshop was specifically aimed at bringing together representatives from the provincial, district, and divisional levels of government as well as CSOs/CBOs operating at the grass-root level, in order to ensure that no one was left behind in the VNR process.

Regarding the 2022 VNR preparation process, data collection involved the direct engagement of different stakeholders at subnational levels, via various thematic consultations. In particular, representatives from the provinces participated in five provincial consultations.¹³ The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) stated that it worked closely with the Sustainable Development Council to bring in inputs from the local council level in the VNR development process.¹⁴ However, the VNR does not mention the VSR prepared by the FSLGA and has not leveraged the potential of the VSR for a

8. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan has two major objectives: (1) to consult all stakeholders involved in the SDG process in the country to get inputs for the preparation of the VNR as well as to raise awareness; and (2) to set up the platform for continuous stakeholder engagement after the 2018 VNR period.

9. Since 2018, the country has been faced with the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic which has had grappling effects, especially on its economy. The second VNR was conducted at a time of unprecedented challenges associated with the economic downturn stemming from the above.

10. For instance, the 2022 VNR states that the lack of gender disaggregated data affects the visibility of women's role as income generators and direct taxpayers, which would skew the policy approach to gender responsive interventions and budgeting.

11. See: <https://data.sdg.lk/>

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

13. See the list of provincial level government institutions that participated in Annex B (see VNR, 2022, p. 173-176). The provinces were selected for consultations on the basis of demographic and geographical factors. The representation of ethnic and religious diversity as well as post-conflict dynamics, economic and social disparities and vulnerabilities were guiding factors in this determination.

14. Answer of the FSLGA to the GTF Survey 2022.

territorialized review of the state of SDG localization and subsequent policy change.¹⁵

Provincial councils and local authorities, alongside other government ministries and departments, were tasked with preparing SDG mainstreamed public service delivery strategies through a presidential circular in 2019. The formulation of public service delivery strategies helps mainstream the SDGs in every state institution while making the appointment and training of a dedicated SDG officer necessary. The 2022 VNR also states that provincial councils, as the main subnational-level planning bodies, have also made increasing efforts to align their annual plans and budgets with SDGs (see VNR, 2022, p. 37).¹⁶ Despite the profound social and political crisis in Sri Lanka, some progress is reported at the subnational level in SDG alignment, mainly due to the circular issued by the national finance commission to the provincial and local councils to formulate their 2022 budgets. However, the 2022 VSR indicates weak connections among the national, provincial and local levels, especially regarding policy formulation on SDGs.¹⁷ A majority (83%) of the 90 local councils (out of 341) that responded to the survey conducted by the FSLGA for its VSR prepared their budgets in line with the SDGs. Additionally, 59% allocated funds, and 18% even made progress in the implementation of the SDGs. These local councils primarily focused on health care, infrastructure, waste disposal, water and sanitation, education, environmental protection and public spaces. However, these LRGs are still a minority overall, and SDG implementation remains limited. The absence of quality local and provincial-level SDG indicators to measure progress on the goals and targets is a drawback. Whereas local authorities' revenue losses and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of human and financial resources, staff transfer issues and political instability have negatively impacted local authorities' enthusiasm to localize the SDGs.¹⁸

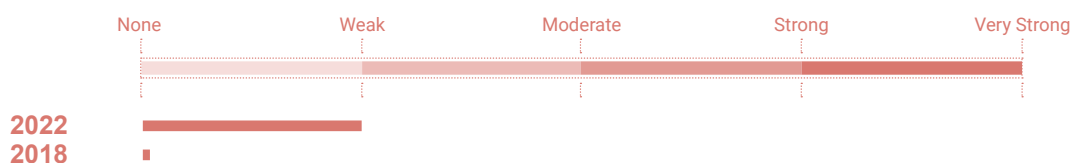
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities contributed to the development of the 2022 VNR by sharing its VSR with the Sustainable Development Council (GTF Survey 2022). However, there is no reference to the VSR in the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities works closely with the national institutions and supports local councils in aligning their budgets to the SDGs (GTF Survey 2022).

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

LRGs are quickly presented (see VNR, 2018, p. 36) and are referred to throughout the 2018 VNR. There are examples of national programmes implemented at the provincial/local level, but no reference to locally-led initiatives.¹⁹

The 2022 VNR refers to subnational governments, mostly provincial authorities. It also includes a section titled "Ownership at National and Sub-National Level," which contains a table accounting for the "Mapping of Sector Domain with SDGs" in the Sabaragamuwa Province (see VNR, 2022, p. 36-37).

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

16. Despite the increasing efforts in subnational level planning, it is stated in the conclusion of the 2022 VNR that the SDG targets have not yet adequately cascaded towards ministries, subnational and local levels. This results in an uncoordinated approach to SDG implementation, despite the formulation of higher-level policies. It is recognized that there is an imminent need for clear policy directions that provides mechanisms for ministries, subnational and local government authorities to take ownership of planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs (see VNR, 2022, p. 162).

17. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sri_lanka_2022.pdf

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

19. For example, the Western Region Megapolis Project, Strategic Cities Development Programme and the Urban Regeneration Programme are mentioned as important projects that aim to address most of the issues related to urbanization. The National Physical Planning Policy and the Plan 2050 were being revised at the moment of publishing the 2018 report. They will provide guidelines for all the development activities which should be adhered to by all the development agencies.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Budget 2022 has outlined rural development programs that were identified by community participation through rural committees, while proposing an increased allocation of resources to **Grama Niladhari Divisions (GNDs)** that are closest to the people. The Rural Development Programme to uplift the standard of living of the people through community-driven development programs is currently underway.

► In collaboration with the Finance Commission of Sri Lanka and local authorities, the **FSLGA** contributed to preparing the 2023 budgets of the local councils by identifying specific requirements aligned with the SDGs and preparing special guidelines for local councils.²⁰

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

The **Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA)** prepared a VSR in 2022.²¹

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2018 VNR mentioned existing procedures to “allocate recurrent and capital funds for [...] district administration units (districts, divisions) as well as procedures for providing supplementary finance to subnational government units (provincial councils, local Government authorities),” to channel necessary fund for implementing the SDGs.

The **Public Investment Programme (PIP)** 2017-2020 prioritized job creation and economic development under its five goals. The PIP 2021-2024 incorporates nine key principles in its commitment to achieving the SDGs, while setting out the planned public investment programmes for the next three years in line with the NPF aligned with the SDGs (see VNR, 2022, p. 52).

The **“Sri Lanka Sustainable Finance Roadmap”** developed by the **Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL)** in 2019 sets out plans to develop sustainable finance in Sri Lanka, through guidance and support for financial institutions in managing environmental, social and governance risks associated with greener, climate-friendly and socially inclusive businesses, including green/ climate bonds which raise capital for environment/climate specific projects. The CBSL has also launched the **“Sri Lanka Green Finance Taxonomy”** in 2022, which defines and categorizes economic activities that are environmentally sustainable, enabling financial institutions to identify green investment opportunities.

The SDCSL and United Nations Development Program Sri Lanka have initiated a process to introduce **“SDG Budget Coding and Tagging System to the National Budgetary Process”** in 2022, aiming at supporting the Department of National Budget (NBD) and the Department of National Planning (NPD) to improve the rationale of budgetary allocation and transparency and accuracy in analysis, thereby strengthening budgeting and policymaking processes.²²

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The constitutional assignment of powers to the two tiers of subnational government has not led to rearranging responsibilities based on the principle of subsidiarity. Indeed, the constitutional reform superimposed an additional tier of governance (the provinces) within the existing subnational government structure, which increased fragmentation in terms of planning and budgeting, as well as across service delivery sectors. The current political, economic and social crisis is also weakening local institutions.²³

The increasing frequency and intensity of **natural disasters** have been a key issue faced by many economic sectors of the country. The 2018 VNR specified that urban areas are highly vulnerable to climate-induced disasters, due to the high concentration of human activity and the built environment. The Ministry of Disaster Management, in collaboration with the Survey Department has prepared 1:5000 scale digital base maps for urban centers. The maps can be utilized to incorporate risk information into development planning in urban centers.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Sri Lankan government has focused on increasing the political participation of women, with an amendment to local electoral law to reserve 25% of all seats to women being passed in 2016. Although the 2022 VNR mentions that the 2018 local election has “opened doors to increased female representation” (see VNR, 2022, p. 124), there is no reference to the exact proportion of women in provincial and local councils in the 2018 and 2022 VNRs.

20. Answer of the FSLGA to the GTF Survey 2022.

21. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sri_lanka_2022.pdf

22. See: <https://sdc.gov.lk/en/event/185>

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

3.2 COVID 19

The Sri Lankan government supported and strengthened the activities that mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by mobilizing resources through private sector and public contributions, i.e. the Itukama Covid-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund, established mainly with the contributions of the private businesses and the public through a crowd sourcing funding modality. There is no reference to local initiatives in the 2022 VNR.

4. SDG INDICATORS²⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		10.9 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	93 (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 (%)		77.3 (2007, Moratuwa); 81 (2007, Dehiwala, Mountlavinia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		25.2 (2019)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		9.4 (2022)

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

THAILAND

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Thailand is a unitary monarchy, with two tiers of subnational government. The country counts 76 provinces (including the metropolitan city of Bangkok) and 441 municipalities (cities, towns and subdistricts).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 SDGs are integrated within the **20 Year National Strategy Framework (2017-2036)** and the **12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021)**. Overall, the country has been guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP).³ Providing guidelines for inclusive, balanced and sustainable development, SEP is in conformity with the core principle of the 2030 Agenda. Thailand's **SDGs Roadmap** provides the blueprint to move forward in six key areas: policy integration and coherence, enabling mechanisms, partnerships, pilot projects, monitoring and evaluation, and awareness-raising.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, represents the central mechanism to advance all SDGs. The CSD has designated government focal points for each of the 169 targets, while its four **Sub-Committees** support the integration of all government efforts at the central and local levels, and ensure that sufficient funding and resources are available to promote effective implementation and concrete outcomes.⁴

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The VNR taskforce for the 2017 VNR comprised lead agencies of 17 SDGs and the National Statistical Office. Several rounds of consultations were conducted to gather relevant information. For the 2021 VNR, the **Working Group on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**,⁵ presented a draft to various sectors to garner additional information, case studies, and views. The Working Group ensured the participation of all sectors by leveraging the coordination of network representatives from each sector, in order to disseminate the draft VNR to all relevant stakeholders. In addition, online tools and methods were also utilized in lieu of physical consultations, given the limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included local government authorities who have played a key role in SDG localisation, deepening the engagement of local communities in advancing sustainable development.

1.3 MONITORING

To advance the SDGs implementation, the CSD has established a coordinating body for each of the SDGs, formulated roadmaps for all 17 SDGs, identified 30 priority targets, synthesized examples of SEP for SDGs model projects, examined gaps and discrepancies between the national baselines and the proposed global indicators. One of the four Subcommittees within the CSD is the **Sub-Committee for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Sustainable Development**. The Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation of National Strategy and Country Reform (eMENSCR) functions as the main means of monitoring and evaluation of progress on strategies and plans at all levels.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16147Thailand.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279482021_VNR_Report_Thailand.pdf (2021)

3. Conceived by His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

4. These four Sub-Committees are: (1) Sub-Committee for the Advancement of the SDGs, Sub-Committee for the Promotion of the Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, Sub-Committee for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Sustainable Development and (4) Sub-Committee for Strategic Environmental Assessments.

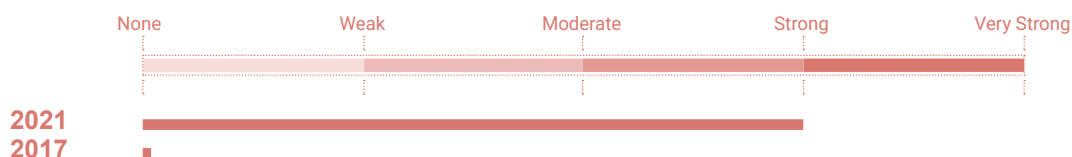
5. This Working Group was appointed to replace the Voluntary National Review Working Group, which was disbanded as a result of the motion taken at the meeting of the CSD on 10 December 2019. The new Working Group is made up of the National Statistical Office and the government sector focal points for all 17 Goals.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Thailand is among the Asian countries with weak enabling environments at local government level, (along with Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam). That is to say, it follows a traditional top-down approach, with limited or no consultation of LRGs. LRGs are not mentioned among the participants of the CSD. However, the 2017 VNR specifies that local authorities were consulted during the reporting process, along with other stakeholders. Indeed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as chair of VNR Taskforce, organized public consultations in three regions: **Bangkok** (central region), **Chiang Mai** (Northern region) and **Songkla** (Southern region). In 2021, local government authorities were part of the consultations set up by the Working Group on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

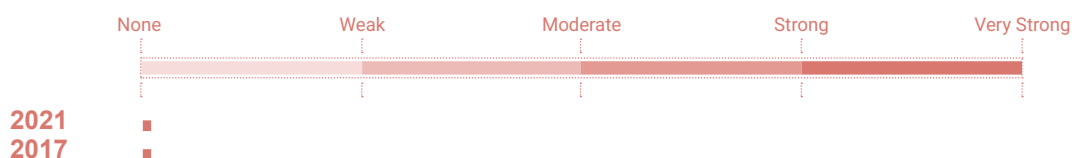
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments were consulted in the 2021 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

Different LRG initiatives are mentioned throughout the 2017 report, including in dedicated boxes at the end of the follow-up of the progress on each SDGs. The 2021 VNR has a specific section called "SDG Localisation" and it presents initiatives such as the assessment that the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and other relevant agencies, has set up to identify the capacities and readiness of various areas across the country in terms of SDG implementation. As such, 9 provinces and 5 local government authorities from 6 regions and 4 development groups within Thailand were selected as pilot areas.⁶

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- The municipality of **Umong** successfully used the SEP approach to make local residents more financially secure through the establishment of a Community Welfare Fund.
- Starting with the establishment of the "Mae Wong Care for Forest Network", the village of **Mosawan** has addressed water scarcity: now every household has enough water for domestic use throughout the year.
- **Bangkok** Metropolitan Administration has come up with the project on Urban Regeneration and Conservation aiming to turn 17 old districts into livable spaces.
- Phuket committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate Change and Energy (GCoM).
- The **Baan Mankong programme** is a successful example of collaborative approach for slum upgrading. Implemented by the national Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), in close collaboration with community organizations and with the support of local governments, the programme has provided secure land and housing to two thirds of the country's urban poor over the past decade. The institutionalized participation of informal communities in the development of the urban fabric has renewed the city's policy practices and the authorities' vision of the future of the metropolis.

6. These areas will be supported in their awareness raising efforts on the SDGs, the promotion of the participation of all sectors in SDG advancement, and integration of the SDGs into provincial and local development plans. This implementation will be expanded into other areas in the future. Pilot Provinces: Kalasin/ Narathiwat/ Nan/ Yasothon/ Loei/ Lopburi/ Phetchaburi/ Surat Thani/ Chachoengsao
Pilot Local Government Authorities: Sri Saket Municipality/ Baan Rai Tambon Local Government Authority (Uthai Thani Province)/ Krabi Local Government Authority/ Wang Phai Municipality (Chumphon Province)/ Surat Thani Municipality.

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

The municipality of **Nakhon Si Thammarat** has implemented a joint project with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to develop a VLR. At present, the following actions have been implemented as part of the project:

- ▶ A project inception meeting was organized in February 2021 in order to build understanding of the SDGs and to identify an approach and priority issues for the VLR.
- ▶ The municipality organized a training workshop in March 2021 to raise the capacities of local officials and personnel with regards to the drafting of the VLR.
- ▶ A SWOT analysis conducted by the municipality showed that Nakhon Si Thammarat has strengths in the capacity of personnel and education infrastructure. challenges remain with regards to the management of water resources, traffic management, unemployment, and environmental issues.
- ▶ At present, the municipality is in the process of gathering information and data, as well as best practices from stakeholders in local communities, in order to draft the VLR.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017, the national government has been restructuring land tax by replacing the Building and Land Tax Act 1932 and Local Maintenance Tax Act 1965 with the draft Land and Building Tax Act in order to empower local governments to efficiently and adequately collect taxes in consistent with the present situations as well as to have sufficient resource to run their local projects. The draft Acts will provide just and reasonable tax schemes, stimulate efficient land use, encourage land tenure distribution, and reduce disparity in land ownership.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Thailand, **decentralization** has slowed significantly because of instability in the political system in the country; the Ministry of Interior can intervene in or modify local policies.

Thailand has integrated the National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan 2015 and Climate Change Management Master Plan 2015-2050. One of the initiatives is the Community Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) designed to create a warning and evacuation system for communities to be self-reliant. In 2016, CBDRM was implemented in 972 communities/villages.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Women's Development Strategy (2017-2021) serves to promote women's role in the national development process. The Strategy also ensures that all government agencies and local governments allocate funds and develop policies that respond to the needs of women. This strategy has been extended in order to align it with the 20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037). The 2021 VNR acknowledges that "women's participation in politics remains low in Thailand, and there is a need to raise the capacities and skills of women in this area, especially at the local level. This includes creating incentives for women to increase their participation in politics or in the public space even further".

3.2 COVID 19

No reference to LRGs.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		17.9 (2020)
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	30 (2020)
	Rural	22 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		23.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		45 (2015, Bangkok)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		29.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		52.24 (2020)

⁷ 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/tha>

TIMOR-LESTE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Timor-Leste is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government, made of 12 municipalities/districts and one special administrative region, and of 442 villages (with elected *suco* councils).



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **SDG Roadmap**, produced in 2017, outlined how the global goals align with the national **Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030**. The SDP sets out the pathway to sustainable and inclusive development in Timor-Leste through focusing on state-building, social inclusion and economic growth.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **SDG Working Group** was established, which comprises government ministries, parliament, academia, private sector, media, religious organizations, and representatives of civil society, with the United Nations as observer. The creation of a National Commission for the SDGs has been proposed. In the Office of the Prime Minister, the **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA)** co-chairs the SDG Working Group.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The process for developing the 2019 VNR has been led by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the General Directorate of Statistics, with support from the United Nations. A **VNR secretariat** (including the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA)) was established to manage the data collection, writing and consultation process for the report. It convened the **SDG working group** (see above).² SDG 16 was chosen as the overarching theme of the report. The data collection process involved working with the General Directorate of Statistics.

1.3 MONITORING

A key recommendation of the 2019 VNR is to elevate the working group to create a National Commission for the SDGs that would review progress against the goals and coordinate future VNRs in line with reviews of the government's programme. It will also play an important role in overseeing alignment of the SDP with SDG indicators. As for now, the establishment in 2015 of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA) in the Office of the Prime Minister has supported the government to effectively integrate planning, budgeting and monitoring processes. As part of the continued reform of program budgeting (see below), the national government has been reviewing all programme outcome indicators to ensure alignment with the SDG indicators.³

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23417TimorLeste_VNR_2019_FINAL.pdf (2019)

2. In addition to civil society being represented on the SDG Working Group, a CSO advisory group was established. The group was made up of the national NGO Platform, the National Youth Council, the network of women's organizations, and a conflict-prevention NGO. The purpose of the group was to advise the VNR secretariat on how to effectively engage excluded groups in the consultation process. The advisory group supported the design of the consultations and assisted in the facilitation of the consultation meetings in Dili and Baucau (Timor-Leste's second biggest city).

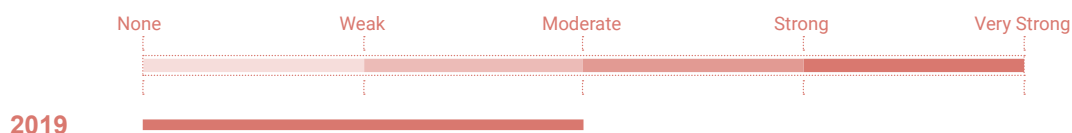
3. Data availability for each SDG is detailed in the VNR, 2019, p. 111.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

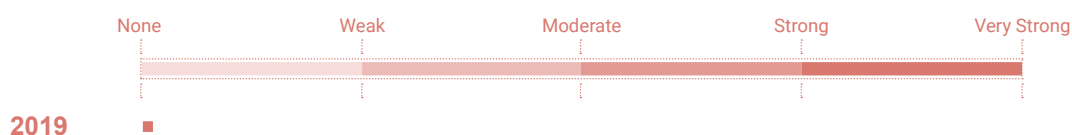
As part of the 2019 VNR process, multi-stakeholder consultations were held in **Dili**, the capital, and **Baucau**, the second biggest city. These consultations involved local government officials from both municipalities, as well as members of the government officials, the private sector, CSOs, youth, women's organizations, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ groups, among others. The 2019 VNR emphasizes that further work is needed for the sustainable development goals to be mainstreamed into municipal development plans and budgets and to strengthen the public financial management and financial capacities at municipal level.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

LRGs are mentioned throughout the 2019 VNR, which highlights that “strengthening public institutions at municipal level is critical for achieving the SDGs” and that “decentralisation can play an important role in tackling disparities between municipalities and ensuring no one is left behind” (see VNR, 2019, p. 41). However, there are no examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A **budgetary governance roadmap**, developed in 2017, with support from the OECD to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of budgeting, is a key lever for supporting implementation of the SDGs. The 2019 VNR states that more efficient budgeting will also improve the effectiveness of government resources and reduce the need to finance development from withdrawals from the oil fund. Crucially, the budgetary governance roadmap is part of broader public administration and public financial and fiscal reform. An inter-ministerial council, chaired by the Prime Minister, will oversee the reform. Medium-term planning and budgeting are underway to link sector plans and budgets to the SDP, to help with implementation and crucial costing of commitments in the SDP, and thereby the SDGs. The introduction of programme budgeting across all government ministries and agencies, as part of public financial management reform, has allowed the alignment of government programmes to the SDGs. The VNR also indicates that the planned decentralization of services to municipalities will also strengthen the capacity for programme budgeting and medium-term planning at the municipal and local levels. Through promoting five-year plans and expenditure frameworks this will support the implementation and crucial costing of commitments in the SDP, and thereby the SDGs.

Dalan Ba Futuru is an innovative new government planning, monitoring and evaluation web-based information system. It was rolled out in 2018 for use in the 2019 budget and planning process. Each ministry, public agency and municipality will have, by the time it is completed, access to the system to prepare their annual and multi-year plans, monitor their performance and track progress against targets. *Dalan Ba Futuru* will provide performance information matched against budget and actual

expenditure, which is vital in monitoring progress against the SDP and the SDGs. The transparency monitoring dashboard is designed to promote transparency of the national budget and will be accessible to all citizens of Timor-Leste and all stakeholders.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: **Decentralization** plans in Timor-Leste have been included as part of the SDG implementation process, with the aim of modernizing the public administration (including its budgeting and planning), strengthening public services and reducing disparities at local levels. However, in recent years, the country has been severely hit by natural disasters (cyclones, climate deregulation and volcanic activity), which have hampered the implementation of such initiatives.⁴

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Currently no women are appointed as administrator at municipal and sub-district levels. However, the Village Election Law, which requires at least one woman to stand for election in every suco (village), has led to an increased number of female village chiefs from 2.5% in 2009 to 5% in 2016, although this is still very low. This rise in female village chiefs can partly be attributed to the innovative '100% *Hau Prontu*' advocacy initiative ('100% I'm ready'), which encourages and prepares women for leadership regardless of party affiliation.⁵

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		3.9 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		33.4 (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)		16.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

5. It is a government-NGO partnership which encourages and prepares women for leadership. This programme aims to increase the number of female candidates standing for upcoming Suco and municipal elections. The "100 percent Hau Prontu" campaign began in 2014 through an alliance of Government partners, civil society organizations, and international agencies. The campaign identified 319 women leaders and prepared them to stand for election. The Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Equality and Inclusion also provided financial support to the Fundação Pátria organization to implement leadership training for potential women candidates in three municipalities, giving them guidance on electoral law, gender equality, public speaking, campaigning and advocacy.

6. 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/tls>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Tonga is a unitary monarchy. **There is no system of organized local government**, but 23 district and 155 town officials are elected by popular vote and report directly to the Prime Minister's Office.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 **Tonga National Development Framework (TSDF) II 2015-2025** is the country's roadmap for the achievement of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Planning Division** in the **Prime Minister's Office** coordinates the implementation of the SDGs in Tonga, supported by the **Tonga Sustainable Development Taskforce**, which is a multi stakeholder body,³ and a **Technical Working Group**, which supports the Taskforce. The Taskforce's main purpose is to consider and endorse annual reports on progress made in the implementation of the TSDF II 2015-2025 and the SDGs. The Technical Working Group focuses on preparing the technical aspects of reporting including strengthening data capacities and collection systems, monitoring and analysis.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

As a country-led initiative, various national stakeholders including civil society partners participated in drafting the 2019 VNR. The Prime Minister's Office led the process of consultation and drafting, with the support of UNESCAP and UNDP. The report precises that "in consultation with various stakeholders, locally driven messages were identified to support implementation going forward" (see VNR, 2019, p. 9).

1.3 MONITORING

The **Tonga Strategy for the Development of Statistics (TSDS)** has been developed to enable the production, management and use of statistical information and indicators that are needed to inform the development and implementation of policies, interventions and the monitoring of progress towards achieving the SDGs.

With UN support, Tonga has established a monitoring system which maps key policy, planning and budget documents related to the SDGs, including the TSDF II 2015-2025.⁴

Tonga's Office of the Auditor General, provides an independent oversight mechanism for assessing the performance of government in ensuring institutional and enabling mechanisms are in place for TSDF II and SDG implementation. It has prepared a performance audit of SDG implementation processes in the country and a report will be tabled in the national Parliament for scrutiny and debate.

Existing designs were improved to include the 'small area estimation' technique: collected information is now disaggregated at the main island level, as well as all rural islands, and by villages, districts and constituencies.⁵

1. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf. The 2019 VNR specifies that "In Tonga, due partly to its size, there is little distinction in tiers of government. Decisions taken by the central government provide direction for the sub-national and local levels of government. The subnational and local levels of government do not have authority to collect any form of tax, and their budgets and operation are all funded by the central government" (see VNR, 2019, p. 22).

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23588Kingdom_of_Tonga_Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Report_web.pdf (2019)

3. Its membership includes representatives from Government, Civil Society Organizations, Church Leaders Forum, United Nations Joint Presence Office Coordinating Officer and Chamber of Commerce.

4. More details on the planning and monitoring system developed to integrate the SDGs into the TSDF II can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 17.

5. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In 2016, the national government launched 126 **Community Development Plans (CDPs)** to document disaggregated needs and priorities. CDPs reflect the SDGs and the TSDF II principles.⁶ Community development planning follows the national multi-sectoral consultation model. The consultations are driven by NGOs to all communities, and the implementation of development plans is a joint collaboration of NGOs, private sector, and communities themselves.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are limited references to local officials in the 2019 VNR, and no example of locally-led initiative for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Tonga is committed to improving the links between national sector plans and budgets in order to ensure that development priorities are resourced for implementation as planned. In this context, a tailored tool called **One Process** has been operationalized in order to better allocate resources for targeted outputs.⁷

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

A National Climate Change Policy and Joint National Action Plan 2018-2028 provide strategies for climate actions. A Climate Change Trust Fund has been established to strengthen coping capacities of all vulnerable communities. The dispersed geographical nature of Tonga, with many small communities on many small islands, requires particular effort for sound development and management of urban and rural areas. The dispersion of Tonga has important consequences for access to development and participation to promote greater inclusion. The 2019 VNR states that it is impossible to have equal levels and quality of infrastructure, equal access to services, and equal development on all islands.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2016 local elections, 1.1% of local government officers were women.⁸

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

6. These plans are formulated according to key national regulatory instruments directed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs which oversees the implementation of the SDGs related to local government, women's affairs and youth.

7. More details can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 18.

8. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tonga.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

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	51 (2020)
	Rural	23 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	23 (2020)
	Rural	37 (2020)
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)		11.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		66.7 (2020)

⁹ 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/ton>

TUVALU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Tuvalu is a unitary constitutional monarchy with a single tier of local government: there is a *kaupule* (island council) for each of the 8 main inhabited islands.¹ The ninth island, Niulakita, is under the administration of Niutao Kaupule.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) Main Messages.³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The *Te Kakeeg III* (National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020) was linked with the SDGs, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Samoa Pathway, and the Paris Agreement.⁴ The *Te Kete* (National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030) was introduced in 2020. The *Te Kete* is a high-level planning and result-oriented strategic plan which identifies climate change and disaster resilience as a matter of national priority. The *Te Kete* maps out a 10-year strategy in achieving the country's national vision 'Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu'. The plan highlights the outcomes of stakeholders' consultations at the National Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2020, including 5 strategic priority areas, 20 national outcomes, and 89 key strategic actions.⁵ The *Te Vaka Fenua o Tuvalu* (National Climate Change Policy 2021-2030) also outlines policies aligned to global targets including the SDGs and UNFCCC Paris Agreement.⁶

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

No reference.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2022 VNR Main Messages states that 'stakeholder consultations were the most important phase in the preparation of Tuvalu's VNR Report'.⁷ However, there are no further details available on the VNR elaboration process.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

The assessment was not possible since the 2022 VNR of Tuvalu has not yet been published.

1. Each *kaupule* has six members elected for a maximum of two four-year terms. The *pule o kaupule* (council president) is indirectly elected by a simple majority from among the councilors, and appoints a *tokolua pule o kaupule* (deputy council president) from among the council members.

2. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

3. Until March 2023, the 2022 VNR of Tuvalu had not yet been published.

See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Tuvalu%20Main%20Messages.pdf>

4. See: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf>

5. See: <https://australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Te-Kete-2021-2030-National-Development-Strategy.pdf>

6. See: https://www.tuvaluclimatechange.gov.tv/sites/default/files/documents/Climate%20Change%20Policy_FINAL_0.pdf

7. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Tuvalu%20Main%20Messages.pdf>

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Not applicable.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: There is no constitutional provision for local government. The Local Government Act 1997, which came into effect in 1999, empowers the implementation of a national strategy that envisions the development of the outer islands through the devolution and decentralization of governmental functions to local government,⁸ and there have been no major changes in terms of decentralization ever since.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2015 *kaupule* elections, 10.4% of councilors were women, up from 4.2% (2/48) following the 2011 elections. Also following the 2015 *kaupule* elections 25.0% (2/8) *pule o kaupule* (council presidents) were women, up from none (0/8) following the 2011 elections.⁹

3.2 COVID 19

In 2022, Tuvalu remained the only country in the Pacific Island region that was still COVID-19-free. However, COVID-19 had a severe impact on the island nation's food security.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		12.5 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	50 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	5 (2018)
	Rural	8 (2018)
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)		8.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

8. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

9. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

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

VANUATU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Vanuatu is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, made up of 9 local councils (3 urban councils, and 6 provincial councils for rural areas).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

Vanuatu 2030 The People's Plan, the national sustainable development plan (NSDP) of Vanuatu for the period 2016-2030, embraces the SDGs. It is also aligned with the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2014, a **Core Group** was formed to guide the drafting of the NSDP with the **Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC)** of the Prime Minister's Office acting as the secretariat. The group was composed of high-level government officials, technical officers in their respective fields and members of civil society organizations.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **Peer Review team** reviewed the initial draft of the 2019 VNR and provided feedback and recommendations. Public engagement was also integrated into the reporting process.

1.3 MONITORING

DSPPAC is responsible for implementing the **NSDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**. It produces the **Annual Development Report (ADR)**, which provides an annual update on the progress of the plan. The **NSDP Final Technical Report**, also produced by DSPPAC, provides more in-depth information regarding the ownership and process of designing the NSDP and enduring the integration of the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Vanuatu, as in other countries such as Timor-Leste for example, **decentralization** plans have been included as part of the SDG implementation process, with the aim of modernizing the public administration (including its budgeting and planning), strengthening public services and reducing disparities at local levels. However, in recent years, Vanuatu has been severely hit by natural disasters (cyclones, climate deregulation and volcanic activity), which have hampered the implementation of such initiatives.³

The first national consultation for determining the successor of the Priorities Action Agenda (PAA) was held in 2013 in Mele Village, in the form of the National Development Symposium. Following the Mele Symposium, a high-level team was tasked to consult with all provincial government councils. There were six months of consultations, during which DSPPAC staff visited 15 locations over all six provinces.

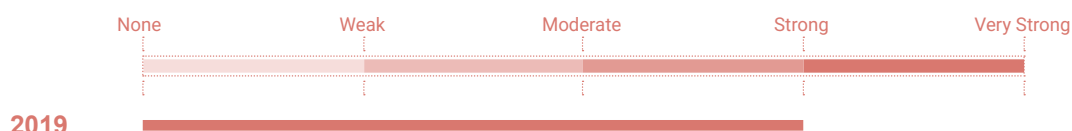
1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Vanuatu.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23336Republic_of_Vanuatu_VNR_2019.pdf (2019)

3. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

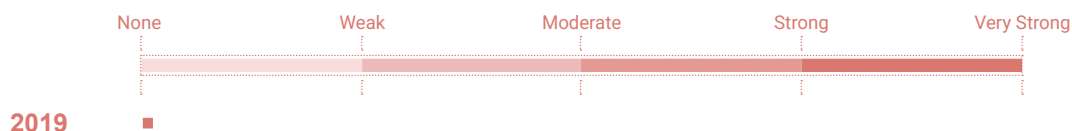
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: Provincial consultations were held in 2013-2014 (not necessarily on the SDGs).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR contains references to local councils and emphasizes the need for the national government to strengthen decentralization and their resources.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Planning Framework** is designed to improve the implementation of the NSDP and to coordinate ministry planning and budgeting at all levels of government with a focus on improved performance and service delivery. The section of the 2019 VNR on the next steps stresses that "it is the intention of the government to continue to improve the alignment of planning with resource allocation. One way to do this will be the continued development of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) that links the NSDP (The Plan) with the budget process (as outlined in the NPF)" (see VNR, 2019, p. 49).

The NSDP includes an indicator on revising the annual budget going to provinces and municipalities towards operations/ programs ("Devolution of funding authority").

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR emphasizes that the implementation of the **Decentralization Policy 2017-2027** brings the government closer to its citizens by providing them control over decision-making processes and allowing them to take direct participation in public service delivery.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2017 provincial elections, there was one elected female councillor plus 6 appointed by the Department of Local Authorities to represent women in each provincial council. For the municipal councils, 11 women were elected through the reserved seats arrangement, 6 out of 17 in Port Vila Municipal Council in 2018, up from 5 out of 17 in 2013, and 1 out of 14 in 2009; and 5 out of 13 women were elected in Luganville Municipal Council (2015), up from 1 out of 13 after both the 2011 and 2007 elections. There were no women elected to Lanakel Municipal Council. This increase follows the introduction of special temporary measures to increase women's participation at the municipal level, which are to run for four election cycles.⁴

4. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Vanuatu.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		10.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	57 (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)		10.5 (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/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/vut>

VIET NAM

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Viet Nam is a unitary socialist republic with a three-tier local government system. The country is divided into 58 provinces and 5 centrally-run cities at the regional level. At the intermediate level, there are 546 rural districts, 49 urban districts, 51 district-level towns and 67 provincial cities. Finally, there are 8,978 communes, 1,581 wards and 603 commune-level towns at the local level.¹

Within the framework of the Law on Organization of Local Administration adopted in 2015, Viet Nam's local governments are considered part of the national government's administrative body and organized according to a centralized structure. Local assemblies are elected but executive bodies are appointed. Local budgets are a part of the state's budget and must be approved by the National Assembly.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs have been adapted and integrated in the **National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (NAP)**. The NAP will be implemented in two phases: 2017-2020 and 2021-2030. The **Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2020)** is therefore aligned with the SDGs. Moreover, sustainable development principles have been thoroughly mainstreamed into the 2011-2020 Social and Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) and the 2016-2020 Social and Economic Development Plan (SEDP). In the coming years, the SDGs will be fully and further integrated into Viet Nam's 2021-2030 SEDS and 2021-2025 SEDP.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Improvement**, established in 2005, plays a consultative role to the Prime Minister regarding the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. The **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)** is the lead agency to implement the 2030 Agenda and the NAP. Also, an **inter-sectoral working group** on the SDGs was established as part of the 2018 VNR process, to strengthen coordination between ministries, related agencies and organizations in implementing the NAP.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was prepared on the basis of extensive consultations with many stakeholders, including the National Assembly, ministries and related agencies, socio-political organizations, socio-professional organizations, UN agencies, development partners, local and international non-governmental organizations, representatives of the private sector and research institutes. The process also received comments from structurally discriminated and/or vulnerable groups (such as women, ethnic minority people and people with disabilities) on matters related to sustainable development, following the principle of leaving no one behind.

1.3 MONITORING

Viet Nam formulated in 2019 a **Roadmap for the implementation of Viet Nam's SDGs to 2030** and a **set of sustainable statistical indicators** to monitor and evaluate the SDGs.⁴ The country has established a **statistical working group**, composed of representatives from ministries, related agencies and led by the **Ministry of Planning and Investment's General Statistics Office**, to oversee SDG monitoring and evaluation.

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

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

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19967VNR_of_Viet_Nam.pdf (2018)

4. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

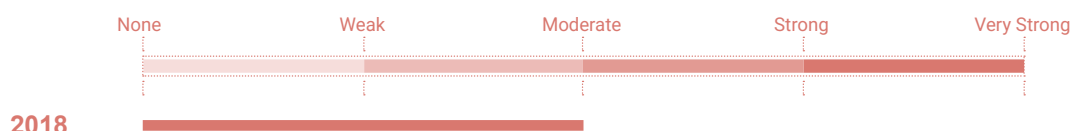
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

22 provinces issued action plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Following the Prime Ministerial Decision on the National Action Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda (No.622/QĐ-TTg, May 2017), provincial governments are the key coordinators at the local level for implementing and reporting on the achievement of indicators to the central government. Provinces oversee SDG implementation and reporting in the cities and towns under their jurisdiction.⁵

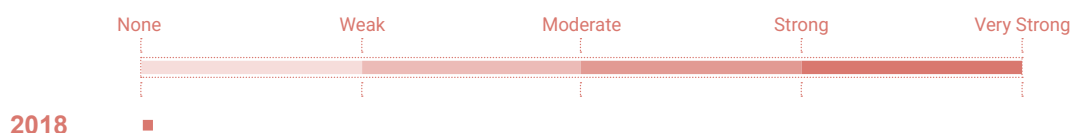
The **Association of Cities of Viet Nam** was consulted for the 2018 VNR process and participated in several national workshops on the SDGs. In 2018, it also organized two meetings on SDGs in the Mekong Delta region and in the country's northern region. It reports a regular consultation as part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.⁶

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are many references to LRGs in the 2018 VNR, but limited examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance Initiative was launched in 2014 to build the partnership between government agencies, businesses and communities to promote conservation activities and protect the Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba archipelago. The initiative is coordinated and implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to engage stakeholders in biodiversity conservation through the high-level, business-led Alliance Leadership Committee. Members of this committee include representatives of businesses, local and international NGOs, **local authorities of Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong city**, the government of Viet Nam and the USA government.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)** is the lead agency to implement the 2030 Agenda and the NAP. The **Planning-Finance Departments** of other ministries and related agencies, as well as the **provincial Departments of Planning and Investment (DPI)**, are focal agencies to implement the 2030 Agenda. The 2018 VNR states that the majority of funding for medium-term public investment plans (2016-2020) is being channeled towards implementing the SDGs. Nonetheless, resource mobilization for SDGs implementation in coming years is predicted to be very difficult, especially with the vastly negative impact from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic worldwide.⁷

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

6. Answer of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam to the GTF Survey in 2021.

7. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Viet Nam is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, especially storms, flash floods, landslides and droughts. Such events have intensified during the period 1990-2017 and have caused losses of human life and damage to the economy. Nonetheless, the organization of the apparatus for natural disaster prevention and search and rescue from the central to local authorities has gradually been enhanced towards professionalism, concentration and full competence. The localities have reviewed the formulation of annual, 5-year natural disaster prevention plans and plans to respond to different types of natural disasters according to the level of natural disaster risk. Thereby, natural disaster prevention and control has gradually shifted from passive response to proactive prevention, considering prevention as key.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

While the rate of female leaders at ministry level tended to increase from nearly 19% in 2016 to 23.5% in 2018, the rate of female leaders at the commune and district levels dropped, and the rate of female leaders at the provincial level stayed almost unchanged.⁹

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.8 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		13.8 (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)		22.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

8. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

9. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

10. 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/vnm>



EURASIA



ARMENIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Armenia is a unitary republic. Its subnational structure is two-tiered. The country is divided into 10 provinces (marzes), whose authorities are appointed by the national government, plus the capital Yerevan, which has a special status. The provinces are subdivided into 502 municipalities (*hamaynq*)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

After the Velvet Revolution in 2018, **Armenia's Transformation Strategy 2020-2050** involves actions from the government, but also from the private sector, civil society and the Armenian people. It is a living document that contains actions linked to 16 "mega goals" (except SDG 14), with interrelated elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social cohesion and protection of the environment. The **Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement**, signed in 2017 and currently being implemented, also comprises reforms relevant to the 2030 Agenda and includes SDG-aligned targets and indicators.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council on the Sustainable Development Goals**, headed by the Prime Minister, includes representatives from ministries, state agencies and NGOs. Vested with advisory functions, it ensures the coordination and monitoring of the SDGs. It was reformed in 2020 with new composition and rules of procedures to ensure competition for involvement and rotation of NGOs. Representatives of legislative and executive bodies, Human Rights Defender's Office, UN Resident Coordinator, business, scientific and education, trade unions, international experts can also be invited.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was developed with the involvement of almost all state bodies. Due to COVID-19, stakeholders and NGOs were invited to submit proposals online. The document was the result of meetings, analysis, surveys and data collection facilitated by the launching of the National Reporting Platform (NRP) for SDG indicators.

1.3 MONITORING

The Law on Official Statistics (HO-194-N) was adopted in 2018, and is based on the fundamental principles of UN official statistics. The **National Reporting Platform (NRP) for SDG indicators** is the tool to disseminate and communicate national statistics and information related to SDG indicators.³ Nevertheless, no specific indicators can be found for the subnational level or elaborated from the LRGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any LRG participation in the National Council on the SDGs. The government of Armenia coordinates with municipalities through the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development (MTAD). All municipalities in Armenia are legally obliged to design and adopt development plans (such as **Yerevan's** 2019-2023 Development Strategy, adopted in 2018). There is no specific reference to LRG involvement in the drafting of the 2020 VNR.

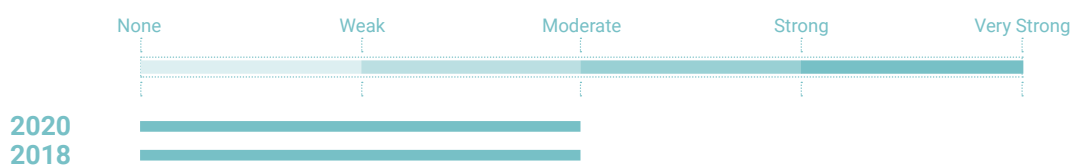
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20315Armenia_SDG_VNR_report.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26318Armenia_VNRFINAL.pdf (2020)

3. See it here: <http://sdg.armstat.am/>

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 identifies the following challenges for territorial development: the need to implement reforms and capacity building of the territorial administration system in particular, for financing, the need to expand inter-community cooperation and to improve disaster preparedness. It proposes the development of "growth poles" to reduce regional disparities.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Initiatives on climate change include the Green Cities and De-Risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retro-fits projects funded by the Green Climate Fund. 18 municipalities have committed to developing sustainable energy action plans (SEAPs).

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: To address weak disaster preparedness, the government approved a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and action plan, involving 207 communities engaged in activities to identify the impending hazards, community vulnerability and capacities. Over 20 Armenian cities joined the UN Making Cities Resilient campaign.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The total number of members of the community councils is 3849, 389 of which are women. 9 out of 502 municipalities of Armenia have female leaders. In addition, 24 settlements of the enlarged communities have female administrative leaders. The first female city mayor was elected in October 2018: Ms. Diana Gasparyan won the mayoral election in the city of **Etchmiadzin**. The proportion of seats held by women in local governments is: 2015: 8.7%; 2016: 10.9%; 2017: 9.4%; and 2018: 9%.

3.2 COVID 19

The government passed 19 decisions to implement some measures mitigating COVID-19 consequences. However, they are not specially conceived for the local level. LRGs are in charge of primary healthcare (medical centers) and prevention healthcare (maintenance of hospital buildings and ambulances).

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		9.1 (2020)
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	71 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		9.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		75.9 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		33.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		49.2 (2020)

⁴ 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/arm>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Azerbaijan is a unitary republic in which local government is exercised both through local bodies of state administration and through elected municipal governments. There are 66 regions in the country, and 11 cities including the capital city of Baku, Gyandja, Sumgait, Khyrdalan and Shirvan. With the exception of Khyrdalan, the countries' largest cities do not have the status of municipality. They do not have elected representative bodies and their executive governments are centrally appointed.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 government had aligned the “Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future” Development Concept and “Strategic road maps for the national economy and main economic sectors” with SDGs and their targets. After that, Azerbaijan prepared and approved a new development strategy for the post-pandemic and post-war period covering the period 2021-2030 on the implementation of the SDGs: “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-economic Development”. In this framework, the government has established five national priorities: a sustainable and growing competitive economy; a dynamic, inclusive and social justice-based society; competitive human capital and modern innovations; great return to the liberated areas; a clean environment and green growth. In line with these priorities, a strategy and an action plan for 2021-2025 will be formulated and approved.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development (NCCSD)** coordinates fulfillment of duties of the state agencies arising from the commitments under the 2030 Agenda. It is led by a chairman, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, and a deputy chairman who is the Minister of Economy. Also, a permanent **Secretariat** and **thematic working groups** in 4 areas (economic growth and decent work; social issues; environmental issues; monitoring and evaluation) were established.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2019 VNR, a broad consultation workshop was conducted on the nationalization of the SDGs and the results of the MAPS Report with the participation of UNDP. For the 2021 VNR, the **National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development** and the **Ministry of Economy** lead the reporting process, through consultation with various stakeholders including Parliament, line ministries, public institutions, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions.

1.3 MONITORING

According to the 2019 VNR, one of the four **SDG Working Groups** was created for monitoring. It is responsible for providing policy advice to decision makers to better mainstream, implement, monitor and report on the progress made on SDGs. The 2021 VNR emphasizes advancements in the statistical framework, yet these do not seem to include or relate to LRGs. There are two main advancements: the nationalization of the statistical database for the 2030 Agenda and the State Program on Improvement of Official Statistics between 2018 and 2025. Moreover, during the VNR process, the “SDG: Statistical Review” was made available to the National Information Portal on SDGs. Six new indicators were

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16005Azerbaijan.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23411AZERBAIJAN_VNR_Report.pdf (2019); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23411AZERBAIJAN_VNR_Report.pdf (2021)

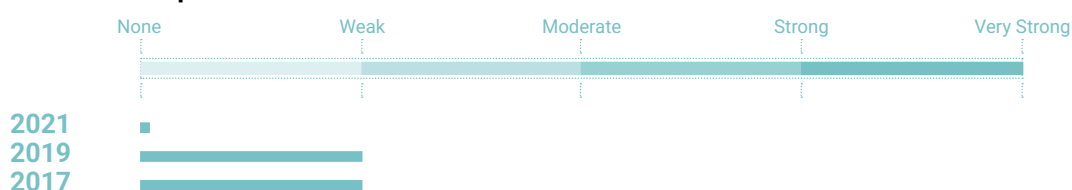
developed in collaboration with relevant government agencies. There is no mention of LRG involvement despite the fact that one indicator is “11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated by cities”.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Neither LRGs nor their association are members of the National Coordination Council. Local executive authorities are mentioned in the 2019 VNR as important actors to gain national ownership of the SDGs and contribute to its implementation. On the contrary, there is no explicit mention of LRGs in the 2021 VNR, although perhaps they are included as “public institutions”. The report also states that a written request was sent to stakeholders to provide information on the status of actions taken to achieve the SDGs, but there is no mention that LRGs are included among those stakeholders.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No reference to LRG participation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



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 only two “large” references to LRGs in the whole 2021 VNR and both feel generic: “By integrating the SDGs into the national development agenda the 2030 Agenda can be amalgamated with national, regional and local plans, as well as relevant budget allocations”; and “The action plans prepared for implementation of the 2030 Agenda focus on national and regional governing organizations in terms of the importance of supporting the implementation of goals and targets at the central executive level and the significance of the role of regional and local governments in achieving the SDGs”.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► A notable example is the [Sustainable Land and Forest Management project](#) in 11 districts in northwestern Azerbaijan implemented by local governments over 2013-2018 with the assistance of UNDP. District governments’ actions are aimed at mitigating climate change by managing natural forests, emphasizing the importance of promoting natural regeneration through improved grazing and wood collecting in forests.³

► Based on SDG 11 targets, the government took the decision to start the alignment of smart city and smart village standards in newly established cities and villages.

► Regarding SDG 2, land plots were selected for the construction of modern (stationary, modular and mobile) slaughterhouses in the regions and in [Baku City](#), to promote the establishment of slaughterhouses in compliance with

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

veterinary-sanitary and sanitary-hygienic requirements, together with the establishment of coordination mechanisms between the relevant central and local executive authorities.

► Regarding SDG 16, local staff has been provided training on criminal procedures.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2019 VNR states that the sectoral strategic plans (started to be developed in 2019) associated with the “National Expenditure Priorities” under the “Education”, “Agriculture” and “Environmental protection” sections of the functional classification of budgetary expenditures and their action plans are planned to be coordinated with the sustainable development goals and targets.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Decentralization in the country is more a case of wishful thinking on the part of the central government which is more aware of the potential role of local governments (rather than actual) in citywide and regional economic development. Since 2009, the number of municipalities, i.e. the decentralized level of self-government, has been reduced by 40%. Current legislation only vaguely describes the relationship between the municipalities and local deconcentrated bodies of central government. In reality however, municipal governments appear to be subordinate to the deconcentrated bodies of the central government.⁴ The **Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic**, with its own constitution but subordinate to the Azerbaijan national constitution, has only two layers of government: the state government and municipalities. The 2021 VNR is marked by the end of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in November 2020: “in this respect the rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of its liberated and conflict-affected areas will constitute the key dimension of the development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the coming years”.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

A guidebook on SDG 5, namely “Practical recommendations for implementation of Gender Equality Policy in Municipalities”, was published by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs under the framework of mutual cooperation between the State Committee and the GIZ. The National Action Plan on Gender 2021-2025 intends to implement actions to enhance the participation of women in public life, but there is no further information in the VNR on whether this means increasing women’s participation in LRGs.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR provides an exhaustive list of actions taken by the national level to address the crisis, yet no involvement of LRGs is recorded.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		35 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	96 (2020)
	Rural	78 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	9 (2020)
	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)		21 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/aze>

BELARUS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Belarus is a unitary republic with a three-tiered subnational structure, made of 7 regional governments (6 regions and the capital city of Minsk), 128 local governments at the intermediate level (118 districts and 10 cities of regional subordination), and 1,190 municipal governments (14 towns of district subordination, 10 urban settlements and 1,166 rural councils).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 SDGs are a “cross-cutting element” of the [National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2035](#), which was approved in 2021 (see VNR, 2022, p. 6). The Program of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus (2021-2025) approved in 2021 is closely connected with the provisions of the National Strategy and covers the first stage of its goal-setting. Action at the regional level is prioritized, and regional sustainable development groups are organized in all areas.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The [National Coordinator](#) for achieving the SDGs oversees the interaction between governmental bodies, the parliamentary body, the business community, the academia, non-governmental organizations, and SDG youth ambassadors selected from various universities in Belarus. Under the leadership of the National Coordinator, a national [Sustainable Development Council](#) was established in 2018. It includes 38 government bodies and organizations, a parliamentary group, and public associations.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

There is no available information on the elaboration process of the 2022 VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The [National SDG Reporting Platform](#) established in 2018 provides access to 229 out of 267 international indicators; 166 indicators correspond to the global level (131 in 2017). A regional SDG indicator list with 145 indicators is formed to monitor the SDG achievements in different regions within Belarus (85 correspond to the indicators of the national list and 26 reflect the specifics of regional development).

There has been a significant improvement on the availability of data in the past years. In 2017, for instance, complete information was only available for 38% of the indicators, partial information for 22%, and data and calculation methodology were missing for almost 40% of the indicators. In 2022, 86% of the indicators are available, with depth of time series where possible since 2000.

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

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16357Belarus.pdf> (2017, the report is only available in Russian); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Belarus%20Report%20English.pdf> (2022)

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26862Belarus_General_Debate_English.pdf

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In 2017, Belarus presented its first VNR to the HLPF on its strategy to align and integrate the SDGs into national, sectoral, **regional and local development plans**, as well as the **expansion of LRG powers in the area of sustainable development activities**. This was further supported by development strategies towards a regional approach nationwide Conference on Strategies and Partnership for the SDGs held in 2018.⁴

The **Sustainable Development Council** of Belarus includes local government representatives, although the VNR provides no specific information in terms of the quality of their participation. Some LRGs, such as Mogilev, are only involved at the consultative level in the national coordination mechanism, without any decision-making power.⁵

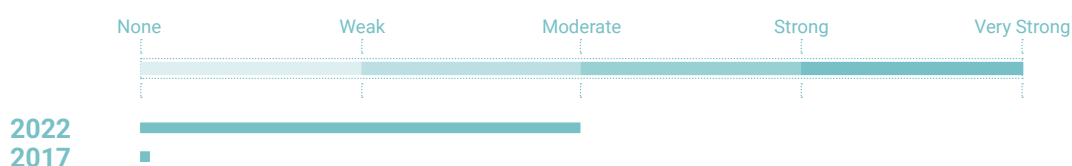
The Council upholds a commitment to build on joint efforts of central and local governments to improve monitoring of SDG implementation, as well as a commitment to localize the SDGs appears to serve as a trigger for **decentralization** reform in Belarus. Members of the Council representing regions and the capital city of Minsk are heading up SDG focal groups. These groups, along with local government officials, also include business and civic association representatives. Moreover, future plans pay particular attention to strengthening the capacity of regional SDG groups, introducing national SDG indicators into local-level policy documents, as well as conducting an information campaign in the regions.⁶

Subnational governments are required to align their plans with the national strategy, which integrates the SDGs.⁷ Strategies for sustainable development have been developed for all six regions and for a number of cities and districts.⁸

The 2022 VNR provides very limited information on local governments' role in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period up to 2035 and the Programme of Social and Economic Development for 2021-2025. Whereas there is no specific information in terms of the quality of local governments' participation. In terms of participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, subnational governments have representatives in the National Council for Sustainable Development. With regard to their involvement in monitoring and reporting processes, some local governments such as Mogilev participated in the 2022 VNR through a survey.⁹

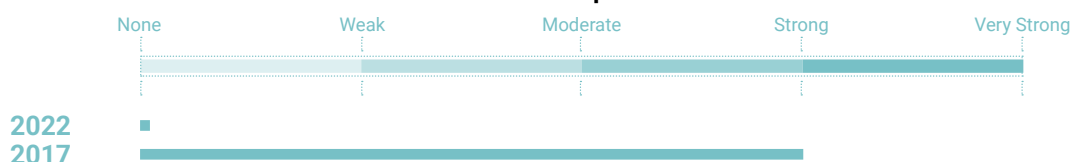
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Some LRGs such as Mogilev participated in the 2022 VNR through a survey.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The 2022 VNR provides no specific information in terms of the quality of LRG participation. Mogilev indicates regular participation in the national Sustainable Development Council, but only at the consultative level (GTF Survey 2022).

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 2022 VNR has very limited references to LRGs and locally-led initiatives. Although it includes an analysis of SDG 11, no action carried out directly by municipalities is mentioned. The VNR also mentions reducing interregional disparities as an aim of several initiatives, but the few references to LRGs do not make them appear as strong, proactive actors.

4. See: <https://www.belstat.gov.by/en/o-belstate/news-and-events/events/belstat-representatives-took-part-in-the-conference-on-sustainable-development-strategies-and-partne/>

5. Answer of Mogilev to the GTF Survey 2022.

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

7. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_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

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Minsk** adopted in 2005 its 2020 Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development. Minsk's strategic objective in particular is based on the "Five cities in one" formula. This implies five development priorities towards the achievement of SDG 3, 8, 9, 16, and 17.¹⁰

► The region of **Vitebsk** adopted in 2015 its 2025 Development Strategy.¹¹

► In 2020, the region of **Mogilev** adopted its Sustainable Development Strategy towards 2035, as well as a plan for disseminating the SDGs in its territory together with the national government.¹²

► The **Puchavičy District**, located near Minsk, suffered greatly from unauthorized solid waste dumps which contaminated the environment. As a response, Puchavičy launched a project with the objective of improving environmental conditions in the district. The local government developed a three-year municipal waste treatment strategy (2016-2018) and established a system for collecting electrical and electronic equipment and elimination of unauthorized dumps. It also promoted large-scale awareness-raising efforts aimed at bringing waste management to the attention of the local community.¹³

► The national government launched the Smart Cities of Belarus project for the 2021-2025 period, as well as several wastewater treatment projects, a project to empower women's leadership and entrepreneurialism and another project called Healthy Cities and Towns.¹⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

It is reported that about 70% of the national budget is allocated to the implementation of the provisions of the 2030 Agenda (see VNR, 2022, p. 7). The implementation of the SDGs is also ensured through the expanded application of results-based budgeting in various sectors of the economy and areas. In the financial sector, the state programme "Public Finance Management and Financial Market Development" is implemented until 2025.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Although Belarus accords *de jure* autonomy to local councils, local councils have neither the real authority nor the resources to make and execute decisions. The Law on Local Government and Self-Governance, adopted in 2020, has not much altered this situation.¹⁵ This law regulates competencies of local councils and of the executive committees of regions, basic (districts) and primary (towns, settlements) levels. According to the law, the regional councils are superior to the councils at the "basic and primary" levels and basic-level councils are superior to the councils at the primary level. Executive committees of the upper level of government can cancel the decisions of lower executive bodies if they do not comply with their provisions. Belarus has not signed the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

In Belarus, there are no LGAs hitherto. In 2018, the Belarus parliament conducted a seminar to discuss the establishment of local councils associations in partnership with the Council of Europe.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

More than 30% of local self-government bodies are headed by female mayors.¹⁶

3.2 COVID 19

To foster a sustainable recovery from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, Business and Career Days for Women were held. The 2022 VNR has no reference to initiatives at the local level.

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

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

12. Answer of the Mogilev region to the GTF survey in 2022. See also: UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

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

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

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

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

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		48.2 (2019)
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	80 (2020)
	Rural	49 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		2.3 (2020)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		17.5 (2019)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		5.5 (2021)

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

KAZAKHSTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Kazakhstan is a unitary country with a three-tiered subnational government structure. At the regional level, the country is divided into 17 regions (*oblasts*) and 3 cities of national sub-ordination (Astana, Almaty and Shymkent).¹ At the intermediate level, there are 37 large “cities of regional significance” and 179 districts (*rayons*).² At the municipal level, Kazakhstan counts 48 small “cities of district significance,” 2186 rural districts, 85 villages, 26 urban settlements, and 4593 rural settlements (*aul*).³

The regional and district governments are “quasi-decentralized.” Indeed, local self-governments are elected and hold powers to approve their budgets and issue regulations in the area of their competence. However, each tier of government is subordinate to the tier above (and the regional governors are appointed by the President). Heads of local executive bodies (*akims*) are accountable to those who appoint them.⁴ Nevertheless, the 2022 VNR mentions that direct elections of rural *akims* were introduced.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).⁵

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **Strategy Kazakhstan-2050** defines the long-term strategic goals for the country's development and highlights the need for a transition to the principles of sustainable development, to which all medium and short-term national, sectoral and regional development documents are aligned. The principles of sustainability and inclusiveness form the basis of the new **2025 Strategic Development Plan**, while the Five Social Initiatives of the Head of State and the “Ruhani Jangyru” programme aim at creating a sustainable economy and improving the quality of life of all segments of the population.

The 2022 VNR reassures that principles of sustainability and inclusiveness form the basis of the new **National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2025**, while the **localization** of strategic goals is ensured through national projects and regional development programs. A new state planning system containing national SDG indicators has been in effect since 2021.⁶ Other strategic and program documents, such as the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Territorial Development Plan, national projects, and regional development plans, correspond to SDG targets and indicators.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government established a **SDG Coordination Council**,⁷ chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister, with **permanent interagency working groups** in five areas corresponding to the five sustainable development pillars, namely “People,” “Planet,” “Prosperity,” “Peace,” and “Partnership.” Each interagency working group includes representatives from government agencies, civil society, international organizations, the private sector, as well as independent experts. In addition, the **SDG Secretariat** has concluded a number of memorandums on cooperation in implementing the SDGs, while building “a dialogue with business structures” (see VNR, 2022, p. 48).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process was prepared by the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy, with the support of the five interagency groups of the SDG Coordination Council. The preparation of the 2022 VNR was similarly led by the **SDG Coordination Council**, its interagency working groups, and the Ministry of National Economy. Discussions took place in all

1. They are headed by a regional governor (regional/city *akim*) appointed by the president, and have a regional/city council elected by universal suffrage (regional *maslikhat*).

2. District executives are appointed by the regional governor (or by the mayor in the case of city districts) while they have a directly-elected council (city or district *maslikhat*).

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

4. Since 2013, local *akims* are elected through indirect suffrage by local level councils. See UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

5. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/23946KAZAKHSTAN_DNO_eng_4.Juli19.pdf (2019); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Kazakhstan%20Report%20English.pdf> (2022)

6. See: <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000790>

7. The SDG Coordination Council was referred to as ‘Coordination Board’ in the 2019 VNR.

regions of the country, engaging more than 2,500 citizens including representatives of local executive bodies, representatives of civil society, independent experts, persons with disabilities, pensioners, representatives of the academic community, youth, representatives of the private sector, and international organizations. The organization of expert discussions, development of the main theses, and summary of the report were carried out by the [Economic Research Institute](#). Based on the results of seminars in the regions, the top five SDGs of 2022 for Kazakhstan, SDGs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 (compared to 3, 4, 6, 8, 11 in 2019), were selected.

1.3 MONITORING

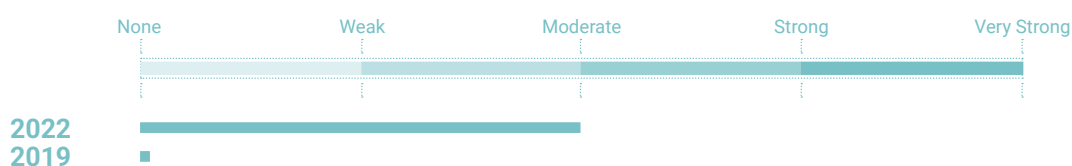
The [Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan \(BNS ASPR RK\)](#) collected statistical data and prepared a national list of SDG indicators in close interdepartmental cooperation with government bodies responsible for SDG implementation, non-governmental sector, and international institutions. Currently, the national list of SDG indicators approved by the SDG Coordination Council includes 262 indicators, 190 of which are UN global indicators and 30 national indicators are proposed to replace global ones as alternatives. 42 additional indicators reflecting national priorities for sustainable development have been proposed in the process of consultations with national stakeholders. Government agencies are responsible for calculating projected values up to 2030 regarding all current indicators.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. While there was no information available on LRG involvement in the 2019 VNR, in the 2022 VNR, regions are included in the list of organizations that participated in the preparation of the report (see VNR, 2022, p. 251). Regional centers and cities of national importance have hosted training seminars for local executive agencies on the nationalization and localization of the SDGs in Kazakhstan, as well as discussion seminars on the draft of the VNR for regional residents. The VNR mentions the active participation of local executive agencies' staff and the sharing of experience in SDG-related projects. The problems and prospects of localizing the SDGs in each region were discussed.⁸

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local executive bodies took part in discussions for the 2022 VNR elaboration.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms.

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 some references to LRGs in the 2019 VNR, but almost all of them concern the regions, and there are no examples of specific locally-led initiatives for the implementation of the SDGs.⁹

Whereas in the 2022 VNR, localization is mentioned in a dedicated subsection: 'Regarding the localization of the SDGs' (see VNR, 2022, p. 47). In the section 'Next Steps', the report identifies the need to 'improve the effectiveness of local and regional institutional mechanisms that promote and facilitate the implementation of the SDGs' (see VNR, 2022, p. 198).

8. Two cities have also mentioned specific contributions to the VNR. Answers of Semey and Shymkent to the GTF survey in 2022.

9. Nonetheless, the next steps presented at the end of the report put forwards the aim of "focusing on the specific characteristics of each of the 17 regions of Kazakhstan, including advantages, disadvantages, and systemic problems that have a significant impact on the implementation of the SDGs until 2030," as well as "continue work to improve the effectiveness of local and regional institutional mechanisms that promote and facilitate the implementation of the SDGs" (see VNR, 2019, p. 137).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Almaty** adopted in 2017 its 2020 Development Strategy. Also, a project based on participatory land planning and upgrading of city grounds was launched. The local government engaged the city's residents in the decision-making process regarding the future of disused and abandoned parts of the city, such as the Almaty tram depot, to make these zones into people-oriented public spaces.

► In the city of **Nur-Sultan**, 51 outpatient clinics will be opened as part of the project "Doctor near the House." The aim of the project is to provide citizens with access to medical services within a 20-minute walking distance. Outpatient clinics will provide basic medical help: vaccination, medical certificates, day hospitals, ultrasound or ECG among other services.

► The UN's community development programmes in East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Mangystau and Aktobe are important channels of assistance related to the implementation of SDGs at the subnational level. This is supported by the Ministry of Investment and Development as the key national government agency to create and manage the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Kazakhstan which are located in particular cities. Currently, there are ten SEZs in the country, including, for example, the SEZ Ontustik located in **Shymkent city** and aimed at developing the textile industry, or the SEZ Pavlodar located in **Pavlodar city** and created to develop the petrochemical industry.¹⁰

► A pilot project on gender-responsive budgeting was implemented using the example of the **Akmola** region. A methodology for gender-responsive budgeting was developed within the framework of this project, which can later be used to form a consolidated gender-responsive budget.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2020, the **SDGs Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** was launched with the support of the United Nations Joint SDG Fund. Kazakhstan is one of the few countries that has begun work on implementing the INFF. The study into the feasibility of implementing the INFF began with the Development Finance Assessment (DFA). The first stage of the DFA was conducted at the national level, while the second stage of the DFA was conducted at a local, regional level in a pilot mode. Three regions were selected: one industrial region; one agricultural region; one city of republican status, where the service sector is actively developing. The DFA provided an opportunity to clarify some of the limitations to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. A Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of budget programs was conducted with the expert support of the UN Development Programme in Kazakhstan. The DFA has found that SDG principles are not integrated into the budget process and weak integration of SDG principles into monitoring.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Kazakhstan has engaged in a **decentralization** process since 2012. In 2020, a reform was implemented to strengthen local self-governments, which led to the first direct elections of over 700 rural heads of local administrations in 2021. This reform is scheduled to be extended to larger cities and districts in 2024, which, to date, have had heads appointed by the central government.¹¹ The 2025 Strategic Plan comprises a "Strong Regions and Urbanization" reform.

In 2021, UNDP and the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan signed a contribution agreement to start the implementation of a project on setting up a **regional knowledge-sharing SDG Platform** for Central Asian countries. The platform was launched at the end of 2021. The main goal of the platform is to work with governments and civil society in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to achieve the SDGs, integrating country-level efforts regionally through SDG monitoring and financing process.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2019 VNR acknowledged that "despite the progress made, problems related to the low representation of women at all levels of decision-making remain relevant." The share of women was 22.2% in local representative bodies. The 2022 VNR mentions that the president has proposed the introduction of a 30% quota for women and youth on the electoral lists of the final parliamentary parties.

10. The three practices presented above are mentioned in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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

3.2 COVID 19

There is no reference to locally-led initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		22.3 (2020)
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	91 (2020)
	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)		17.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

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

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kyrgyz Republic is a unitary country with three tiers of subnational elected governments. At the municipal level, the country counts 470 local governments (453 rural communities and 17 “cities of district significance”). At the intermediate level, it has 12 “cities of regional significance”. Finally, Bishkek and Osh are the two “cities of national importance”. The country also has deconcentrated subnational governments (40 districts and 7 regions) whose chief executives are appointed by the Prime Minister.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 Kyrgyz Republic committed to the 2030 Agenda through the **National Development Strategy (2018–2040)** and the “**Unity, Trust, Creation**” (2018–2022) Program. It strongly adheres to the ‘leave no one behind’ principle, with special emphasis and focus on prioritizing the most vulnerable groups in the country.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Following a ‘whole of government’ approach, the **Coordination Committee on Adaptation, Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs**, chaired by the Prime Minister, was created in 2015. It involves relevant ministries and agencies, the Parliament, the Office of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Supreme Court, the National Bank, and the National Institute for Strategic Research, with additional representatives from the United Nations Country Team, non governmental organizations and the private sector. Besides, to institutionalize ‘bottom-up’ monitoring and review mechanisms, a **Coordination Commission** was established under the direct supervision of the Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic along with the working groups involved in the VNR process.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Coordination Committee** was in charge of facilitating the operationalization of the 2020 VNR process. The government established **5 working groups** (on the 3 pillars of sustainable development, plus on monitoring and governance) tasked with the preparation of the VNR. They are composed of experts from state ministries and agencies, representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector and the United Nations system. They were integrated into pre-existing government structures and met regularly to discuss progress in implementing the SDGs. The National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC) led the data collection process. The VNR evaluates data for the period 2013–2019, with measures taken to track progress across 16 of the SDGs and 139 of the targets (SDG 14 was not considered). A multistakeholder forum was organized to validate the final content of the VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

In the National Statistical System of the Kyrgyz Republic, the **National Statistical Committee** is the main body responsible for collecting data, producing statistics, and creating an evidence base related to the SDGs. An inventory of the SDG targets and indicators was carried out in 2017 taking into account national priorities. Besides, much attention has been paid to the disaggregation of SDG indicators, following the ‘leave no one behind’ approach (gender, age, geographical location, education, income level, nationality and disability).

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26458VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_English.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments have had active consultative roles in initial target prioritization exercises for SDG implementation and rather informative roles in the 2020 VNR process. Two workshops for local authorities were organized during the VNR preparation to promote the exchange of knowledge on SDG progress at the local level, inform on the 2020 edition of the HLPF, and lay the ground for training and capacity building activities in subnational governments. However, the conclusion of the VNR states that there is still a need for further localization of the SDGs and the establishment of ownership at the local level.

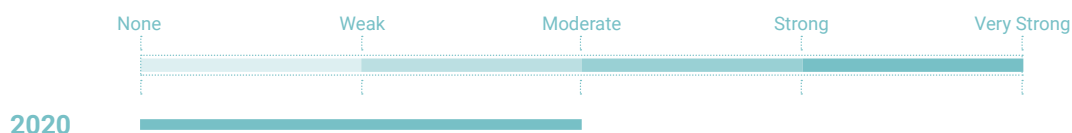
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: According to the VNR, LRGs had mostly an informative role, and there is very little mention of them in the report. However, the city of Bishkek claims it was represented in the working group, and the city of Naryn, to have presented its own contribution to the report (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The coordination commission does not include representatives of local authorities. However, the city of Bishkek mentions a regular participation through consultations. The city of Naryn mentions ad-hoc consultations (GTF Survey 2020).

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 is a short subsection on "Local Authorities and SDGs Localization" in the section on "Institutional mechanisms and multi-stakeholder SDG and VNR ownership" (see VNR, 2020, p. 24), in which local authorities are briefly mentioned but recognized as crucial entities to ensure bottom-up change in localizing the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

There are very few mentions of initiatives led by local governments in the 2020 VNR.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A unified digital municipal service platform will be introduced for all 63 municipalities. It will capture 17 modules including project cycle management, spatial planning and asset management and thus will enable LSGs to manage their capital investments and fixed assets efficiently and transparently.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: With the aim of implementing the 'leave no one behind' approach, the methodologies used in monitoring the achievement of the SDGs enabled to look beyond national averages and pinpoint the diverse range of specific situations encountered by those groups left furthest behind by the development in the Kyrgyz Republic. Indeed, national data shows that there are substantial in-country geographic variations in the development level, with concentration of prevailing multidimensional poverty 'hotspots' in rural and remote areas. A multi-dimensional approach also focused on the intersectionality of inequalities and discriminations.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The inclusion of gender equality in the governmental sustainable development agenda was facilitated by the adoption of strategic documents: the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality 2012–2020, and the National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. But female leadership decreased both at the national (in the Parliament) and local levels. Female representation in local representative bodies decreased from 19% in 2016 to 11% in 2018, well under the established 30% quota. In political positions in municipal administrations, women fill only 20 (3.8%) out of 513 available positions.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions the measures taken by the country to combat the pandemic in a specific section (see VNR, 2020, p. 27). The government shifted the country into a state of emergency and introduced further emergency mode coverage in three cities and in portions of two provinces.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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	92 (2020)
	Rural	57 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	86 (2020)
	Rural	96 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		9.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		83 (2010, Bishekek)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		23.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		10.1 (2019)

3. 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/kgz>

MONGOLIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mongolia is a unitary republic with a three-tiered system of subnational government. At the regional level, the country counts 21 provinces (*Aimags*) and the capital city. At the intermediate level, there are 330 regions (*Soums*) and 9 districts (*Duuregs*). The country comprises 1 568 communities (*Bagh*) and 152 neighborhoods (*Khoroos*).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

In line with the 2030 Agenda, Mongolia has adopted a **Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (MSDV-2030)** in 2016. Nonetheless, the coherence assessment between the MSDV-2030 and the SDGs carried out by the National Development Agency (NDA) found that only approximately 50-60% of the SDGs were reflected in the MSDV-2030. Thus, to strengthen alignment, the government has undertaken in 2019 a systematic review of all effective medium and short-term policies, assessing their coherence with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals** under the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science of the State Great Khural was established in 2017 with the mandate to monitor the implementation of the MSDV-2030 and SDGs. The **National Committee for Sustainable Development**, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, was created in 2017 as well and is led by the **National Development Agency (NDA)**. The NDA is mandated to provide technical policy support to the government in mainstreaming the SDGs into long-term strategies and ensuring their coherent and coordinated implementation in the medium- to short-term.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2019, the first VNR of Mongolia has been prepared based on a decision by the **National Committee for Sustainable Development**. The National Development Agency was mandated to lead the reporting process, and headed the **Working Group** established for this purpose. It consisted of representatives from the government, non-government organizations, academia, and private sector. In addition, an **Advocacy Team** created within the Working Group was mandated to raise public awareness of the SDGs. A series of multi-sectoral consultations, discussions, and trainings was organized, with the representatives of the central government, local administration, academia, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

The task of strengthening SDG indicators and data collection is the role of the **National Statistics Office**. Eight government **Sub-Working Groups** were established to identify national SDG indicators and targets. Out of the globally recommended 244 SDG indicators, 233 indicators are applicable to Mongolia, while 11 are not relevant to the country. By the end of 2018, 50.6% of the indicators were available in Mongolia. A progressive improvement in SDG indicators, including strengthening capacity, calculation methodologies, and establishing data floors, are identified as key priority areas for monitoring, recognizing that what is not measured is often not done. Disaggregation of data by regions, urban-rural, gender, and other population groups, will help identify and better include disadvantaged groups, and ensure their participation so that no one is left behind. The National Statistics Office has carried out a data readiness assessment on SDG monitoring four times. The assessment defined indicators, methodology, and information sources for calculating 50% of the recommended SDG indicators.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26422VNR_2020_Uzbekistan_Report_English.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

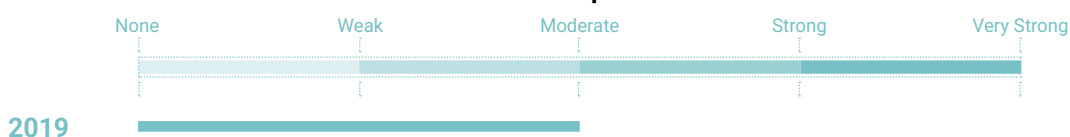
Local governments were involved in the consultations organized as part of the 2019 VNR process. The VNR states that this allowed “involving subnational government representatives in national dialogue, to address regional concerns and inequalities and exchange ideas across subnational entities” (see VNR, 2019, p. 16).

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR states that “it is important to reach a common understanding on the broader scope of the SDGs and recognize that the SDGs are not just national-level responsibilities. Local participation is key, as SDG implementation will largely depend on activities to be carried out locally” (see VNR, 2019, p. 45). The presentation of SDG 11 focuses on the situation in Ulaanbaatar, but without mentioning initiatives led to achieve the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Ulaanbaatar**, the local government has developed the nationally recognized Women and Business Incubator Centre (WBC), which provides technical assistance, training, personalized advice and financial consultancy services for women. This also offers a co-working space with a playroom for children to reconcile maternity with career development and employment opportunities.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Developing a financing strategy for the implementation of priority objectives towards achieving SDGs is critical. It needs to include not only the estimated financing needs, but also allocations aligned with policy priorities, sources of funding from public and private stakeholders, and resource mobilization strategies. Three years have passed since the adoption of Mongolia's long-term policy but a financing strategy has not yet been developed.

Recognizing the importance of financing for the SDGs and the need for the mobilization of substantial financing sources, Mongolia supports the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which reflects concrete measures on the mobilization of public and private funding from both domestic and external sources.

Mongolia initiated the process of Development Finance Assessment in 2018. The assessment has recommended introducing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for setting up a broad based integrated management system to support the achievement of future long-term development. Nevertheless, the government has not been able to develop an Integrated Financing Strategy on resource mobilization for MSDV-2030 and SDG implementation, mainly due to lack of coherence between medium-term planning and budgeting of sectoral ministries and the current practice of defining the Mid-term Fiscal Framework Statement based on short-term sectorial policy targets.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR features the issue of air pollution in a dedicated chapter. It is a much-discussed topic in Mongolia, arising from a pre-existing policy focus on aggregate economic growth per se, without ensuring inclusion and environmental protection. This problem will be best tackled by applying a transversal SDG lens.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.7 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	39 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	59 (2020)
	Rural	49 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		38.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		58.5 (2015, Ulaanbaatar)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		42.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		54.5 (2019)

3. 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/mng>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Russian Federation is a democratic federative law-governed state with a republican form of government. Russia has a complex multi-tiered administrative structure, including 83 subjects of the Federation (21 republics, 46 provinces (oblasts), one autonomous oblast, 9 territories (*Kraj*), 4 autonomous areas (autonomous *okrugs*), and 2 cities with federal status (Moscow and St. Petersburg)); an intermediate level (1784 municipal districts (*rayons*) and 567 cities (*okrugs*)); and the local level (1589 urban settlements, 18101 rural settlements and 286 intra-city districts and territories).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 Projects** and the **Comprehensive Plan for the Modernization and Expansion of Main Infrastructure** up to 2024 cover, directly or indirectly, 107 of 169 SDG targets. National goals and objectives were endorsed in 2018 by a Decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 2019.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

There is no authority formally responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda nor a country-wide coordination mechanism.³ However, coordination of efforts with the focus on the SDG climate component is the responsibility of the **Inter-Agency Working Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development** at the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.⁴ The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is a mechanism for interaction between citizens, government bodies and local authorities. It is responsible for considering the needs of citizens, protecting their rights and freedoms in the formulation and implementation of government policy, and exercising public control over the activities of government bodies. Nevertheless, the Chamber does not have a specific mandate for the SDGs. Public chambers are also established at the regional level.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Analytical Center** for the Government of the Russian Federation was in charge of the preparation and coordination of the 2020 VNR elaboration process. To prepare the report, 17 **thematic working groups (TWGs)** were formed, one for each SDG. These TWGs included representatives of federal and regional executive authorities, municipal governments, CSOs, experts, research organizations and the private sector.

1. Cities of federal importance are defined as distinct regions despite being geographically enclaved in other regions. The four autonomous areas are large territories with, in general, a low population density that can be part of the other subjects (oblasts) while remaining subjects of the Russian Federation. Chukotka Autonomous District is an exception, as it is not part of any other subject.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26959VNR_2020_Russia_Report_English.pdf (2020)

3. OECD, 2021, A Territorial Approach to the SDGs in Moscow, Russian Federation,

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/733c4178-en.pdf?expires=1639223321&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=19863DFB52B096215BFFE870605662FC>

4. The purpose of the Inter-Agency Working Group is to ensure efficient interaction, including information sharing, of federal executive authorities, other public authorities, public associations, research and other organizations in the course of implementation of the state policies related to climate change and sustainable development, including the Concept for the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development approved in 1996.

1.3 MONITORING

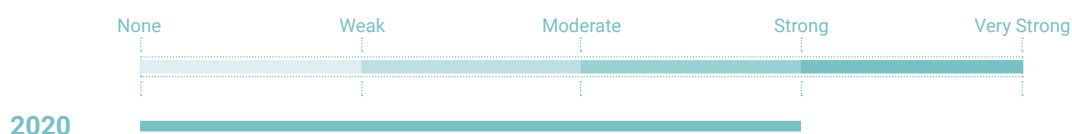
The **Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat)** is responsible for generation of official statistical information on SDG indicators and it prepared a statistical annex to VNR that included particular SDG indicators for Russia.⁵ The complete set of SDG data is presented on the web-portal of the Federal State Statistics Service in the subsection Sustainable Development Goals.⁶ Also, to coordinate national efforts, the Inter-Agency Working Group established a panel of experts on information and statistical support of SDG monitoring chaired by Rosstat.⁷ Also, the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation conducted an audit of the public administration system preparedness for the integration of the 2030 Agenda in 2019-2020, which assessed the extent of the Agenda's integration into the public administration system.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

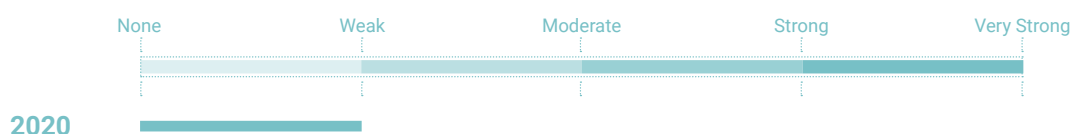
As part of the 2020 VNR process, representatives from local governments participated in the thematic working groups (TWGs). In addition, the **All-Russian Congress of Municipalities (ARCM)** and the **Association of Volga Region Cities (AGP)**, with the support of UCLG Eurasia, took part in a national working group on SDG 11 and made proposals for the working groups on SDGs 5, 9, 13 and 17.

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

There is no specific mention of LRGs' role in SDG implementation in the 2020 VNR. Nevertheless, in each SDG review there is a case study and sometimes it highlights good practices from LRGs. A box is dedicated to an initiative of the Eurasian Regional Section of UCLG, which conducted a survey to estimate the number of women deputies in large-population cities in the Eurasian Region (see below and VNR, 2020, p. 73).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Several frontrunner cities (such as **Kaluga**) are adapting their local development plans to integrate the SDGs. Other cities (e.g. **Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad, Kazan, Makhachkala, Nizhnekamsk, Novosibirsk, Vologda, and Yakutia**) have developed projects related to different SDGs (social aid, healthy food and school nutrition, quality education, gender equality, microbusiness, open government, participatory budgeting).

► **Moscow** is implementing a project called "Aktivniy Grazhdanin" (Active Citizen).⁸ The "Dobry Avtobus" (Bus of Kindness) social project is implemented with the support of the Moscow City Government. Its goal is to support senior citizens, to increase their mobility and social activity, and to include them in the cultural life of the capital. In Moscow, since 2017, at the initiative of the City Government, is annually hosted the Climate Forum of Cities with the participation of representatives of cities, private sector and science, leading experts in the field of sustainable development and climatology from Russia and foreign countries. Within the framework of the Climate Forum "Green and Healthy Streets", a declaration was signed in September 2019.

5. In 2017, subsection 2.8 "Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in the Russian Federation" containing 90 indicators from the Global SDG Indicator List was included in the Federal Plan of Statistical Works.

6. The web site is available at: <https://eng.rosstat.gov.ru/sdg>

7. Rosstat is also in charge of the development of the national SDG indicator set. In 2019, it published the statistical yearbook "Sustainable Development Goals in the Russian Federation". The yearbook is available at: <https://eng.rosstat.gov.ru/sdg/report/document/70355>

8. For more information, see: <https://ag.mos.ru/home>

► Another important initiative is the “Lean Smart City” project implementation in the city of **Sarov**, in the Nizhny Novgorod region, which ranks among the best practices of sustainable development according to the UN Human Settlements Programme. According to estimates of Sarov’s city administration, the introduction of the technology of “Lean Smart City” annually saves at least 7% of the city budget.

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

Moscow developed its first VLR in 2021.

In addition, in 2019, the **Rostov region** presented a report reviewing SDG implementation (Towards the Sustainable Development Goals). The report “Regions of the Russian Federation: the Republic of Tatarstan and the SDGs” was launched in 2020.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2020 VNR refers to the different strategies that the government has undertaken in order to strengthen the mobilization of resources. The report shows, for SDG 17, specific actions that the government is developing at the domestic and international level, but there is no specific mention of how these measures impact the local and regional governments.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country is working on the strengthening of the regions in the frame of SDG 11, pursuing strategic planning and socio-economic development of its territories. In this sense, territorial planning is aimed at ensuring sustainable, integrated (including balanced socio-economic) development of the Russian Federation, its regions and its municipalities. For this reason, the **Strategy of Spatial Development of the Russian Federation 2025** includes the strengthening of interregional cooperation and coordination of the socio-economic development of the regions within the macro-regions of the Russian Federation (a total of 12 macro-regions have been identified). In the same sense, given the vast territory and uneven population distribution (from 0.1 persons per 1 sq. km to 4,900 persons per 1 sq. km), Russia has been focusing on the development of transport infrastructure, which plays a key role in the development of various sectors (industry; agriculture; economic, social and information interrelations between different regions).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2017, the National Action Strategy for Women 2017-2022 was approved. It determined the principal directions of the state policy in respect of women and is aimed at ensuring full and equal participation of women in all social life areas. It is worth mentioning that the Eurasian Regional Section of UCLG conducted a survey to estimate the number of women leaders in city administrations and the number of women deputies in large-population cities in the Eurasian region. The survey showed that women are best of all represented in the city council in Moscow (40 %, 18 women of 45 deputies). It also showed that the average women representation rate in city administrations in Russia is 27.6% and in city councils, 18.5 %. The general average women participation rate in city leadership is 23.1 %.

3.2 COVID 19

In March 2020, the national government approved the Plan of High-Priority Measures to ensure the sustainable development of the economy. This plan includes, among other measures: the prompt monitoring of consumer prices at the regional level; increased budget allocations for subventions from the federal budget to regional budgets to provide social benefits; additional financial support to regions of 200 bln rubles.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

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	64 (2020)
	Rural	52 (2020)
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)		9.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

⁹ 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/rus>

TAJIKISTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Tajikistan is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational government. The first comprises 2 state governments of national subordination, 1 autonomous region and the capital city. The second includes 7 cities and 45 districts of regional subordination, and 4 cities and 9 districts of national subordination. Finally, the third tier of government is made up of 369 local self-government bodies.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

Adopted in 2016, the **National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS)** is Tajikistan's main strategy around which SDG implementation is organized. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be ensured through three five-year medium-term development programs. The first is the **Medium-term Development Program (MPD) 2016-2020**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **National Development Council (NDC)** was established and is headed by the President of the Republic. The **Ministry of Economy and Trade** oversees the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Tajikistan. There is also a Secretariat and multistakeholder technical working groups.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT)** coordinated the preparation of the 2017 VNR and held a series of consultations, including with local governments.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments were consulted as part of the 2017 VNR process, but are not involved in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. Tajikistan recognizes the importance of local governments in achieving the SDGs, but according to a strong top-down approach.³ However, local governments are expected to participate in monitoring and evaluation systems together with relevant branches and territorial bodies of state governance, civil society organizations and private sector, as well as development partners. This is in line with a process that involves central ministries, line agencies and the State Statistics Agency.⁴

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf. Local governments of national subordination have representative bodies elected by citizens, while the executive is appointed by the central government. Local governments of regional subordination have representative bodies elected by citizens, while the executive is appointed by the regional government. Local self government bodies have a council elected by their citizens, and their executive is elected by the council. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16021Tajikistan.pdf> (2017)

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

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

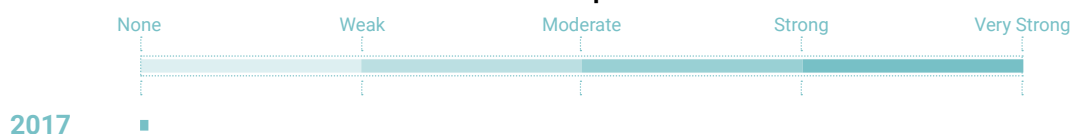
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2017

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2017

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

References to subnational governments in the 2017 VNR are limited.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In Tajikistan, the low coverage of early childhood education services remains a major area of concern. To tackle this issue, LRGs are particularly involved in the construction of pre-school facilities in their territories. An example can be found in the city of **Penjikent**, where the local government has opened a three-stored kindergarten in 2019. This will provide pre-school education to 200 children and, by city government initiative, training will be conducted in three languages.⁵

► Over the period 2014-2017 and with the assistance of UNDP and the Russian Federation, nine of Tajikistan's most vulnerable districts implemented over 50 priority initiatives embedded into new and updated district development programmes. These initiatives were aimed at improving inhabitants' employment opportunities in the districts, as well as at reinforcing local authorities' capacity to support local economic development.⁶

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017, Tajikistan planned to integrate the 2030 Agenda in its national and sub-national plans and budget allocations.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Urban development policy and implementation is centralized in Tajikistan. Urban and regional plans must be designed within the framework of strict national regulation and legislation. The technical elaboration of plans and strategies is monopolized by a national state-owned agency (Shahrofar), although this does at least work in collaboration with the local governments involved — even though their actual responsibilities are confined to the mere provision of information necessary for the implementation of plans. Better-farming regions are expected to pay for the Shahrofar's services; weaker or lagging regions are assisted by the central government to (partially or totally) cover the costs. This mechanism has been at the core of urban development plans put into practice by over 30 Tajik LRGs in the last few years.⁷

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

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

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

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

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

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	59 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		26 (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)		34.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

⁸ 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/tjk>

TURKMENISTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Turkmenistan is a unitary republic where at present, **there is no elected local government system**. Turkmenistan is divided into 5 provinces, 50 districts, 24 towns, 76 villages and 553 rural councils. All the heads of its administrative divisions are appointed and depend on the higher level of government.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Programme for Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan until 2030** and the **Programme of the President of Turkmenistan for Social and Economic Development for the period 2019-2025** are aimed at achieving sustainable development and consistent implementation of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A national coordination mechanism was established in the form of a **Working Group** composed of the Deputy Heads of ministries, agencies, public organizations, academic and research institutions, which oversee the issues relating to SDG implementation and monitoring and their further integration into national, sectoral and regional programmes. The coordinating body is the **Ministry of Finance and Economy** of Turkmenistan.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

An **Interagency Working Group** comprising representatives from the state institutions, with active participation of the UN agencies, academia, private sector and non-governmental organizations has been established to prepare the 2019 VNR. The Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan was assigned as a state agency responsible for the report's preparation. The VNR process was accompanied by the participation, among others, of public organizations and civil society, private sector, youth and the UN agencies.

1.3 MONITORING

To monitor the progress of SDG implementation and prepare reporting, the **State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (TurkmenStat)** was defined as an agency responsible for methodology of state and sector statistics, collection of state reports, coordination of activities on compilation of administrative data and sector statistics, and creation and maintenance of the SDGs database. The monitoring and reporting systems of the 2017-2021 Presidential Programme were aligned with the SDGs after the programme had been adopted.

One of the key lessons of the 2019 VNR process was the need for continuing the work on improvement of national statistical capacity. Turkmenistan will continue its activities focused on the development of a national system of SDGs indicators, collection of comprehensive, reliable and disaggregated data, as well as on the creation of the SDG database. This will help to complete the process of defining the baseline indicators for implementation and monitoring of relevant policies of the country, as well as tracking the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24723Voluntary_National_Review_of_Turkmenistan.pdf (2019)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2019 VNR only mentions that “local authorities ensure the participation of local populations in the process of [SDG] implementation” (see VNR, 2019, p. 11).

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is almost no reference at all to local authorities in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2019 VNR stresses that domestic public financial resources should be the main source of financing for 2030 Agenda. According to the Programme of the President on Social and Economic Development for the period 2019-2025, the share of budget expenditures in the social sphere is 70%, including education, health and social security. According to the Budget Code of Turkmenistan adopted in 2014, the reform of the public finance system and transition of the national budgeting process to the principles of mid-term planning and program targeted financing are currently being implemented. This will ensure the greater integration of SDGs into financial plans of the country and targeted use of public funds for SDGs implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In relation to the leave no one behind principle, the Research Center under the Institute of International Relations of MFA supervises the work on conveying the key provisions of the 2030 Agenda to every citizen of the country, and local authorities ensure the participation of local populations in the process of its implementation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		21.9 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	97 (2020)
	Rural	92 (2020)
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)		18.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

2. 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/tkm>

UZBEKISTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Uzbekistan is a unitary republic with a three-tiered subnational structure. It has 12 regions and 2 territories with specific status: an autonomous republic and an independent city (Tashkent). The regions are further divided into 201 intermediary levels of local governments: 170 districts, 30 cities of regional significance, and 1 city of republican significance. Executive bodies are appointed by the national government, but local councils are elected. There is also a third level: local assemblies.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

A **Roadmap for the Implementation of the SDGs** was adopted in 2018, following a UN-WB mission on Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) for SDGs. 16 national SDGs and 125 targets were approved in 2019. The implementation of the SDGs in the Republic of Uzbekistan coincided with large-scale reforms in the framework of the **National Action Strategy for 2017-2021**. It is split in five stages, each of which is carried out as a separate annual State program. The first stage of reforms was reflected in the State Program on the Implementation of the National Action Strategy for Five Priority Development Areas in 2017-2021 in the Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests. Current coverage of SDG targets by the national programs and strategies is 84%. National SDGs are supposed to be integrated into all sectors and regional strategies and development programs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **interagency Coordination Council** headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and by the Minister of Finance was created in 2018. There is a Parliamentary Commission to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was prepared by the government ministries and agencies under the general coordination of the **Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction** and the **Institute for Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research**. The information sources for the report came from the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics and governmental agencies. Between November 2019 and May 2020, a public consultation and review of the national SDGs and the draft VNR report was held in the regions of the country, as well as with the Parliament and NGOs.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2019, a web-portal on SDG indicators was launched by the **State Statistics Committee**. Currently, data is available for around 100 out of 206 approved national SDG indicators. Nevertheless, none of them are explicitly created for local and regional governments.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

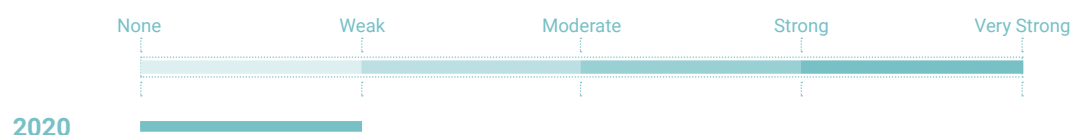
The interagency Coordination Council includes the chair of the **National Council for the Coordination of Local Self-Governments**, but no direct participation of local governments has been observed so far. However the local government of **Karakalpak** autonomous region, and the capital city of **Tashkent** are named among responsible bodies for implementation of the whole range of national SDGs.

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

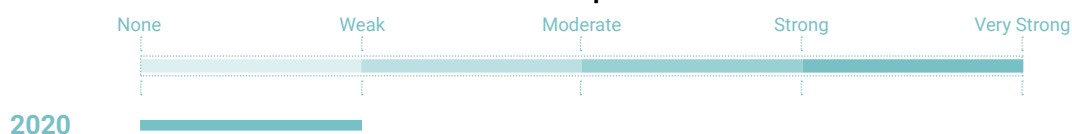
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26422VNR_2020_Uzbekistan_Report_English.pdf (2020)

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

Overall, LRGs are mentioned only a very few times.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- The government developed a "Clean City" project to improve the communal billing system.
- In 2019, the city of Tashkent launched the program "Hashar Week", in order to promote domestic waste sorting amongst its citizens.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The annual publication "The Citizens Budget" includes a section on public financing of national SDGs. In the 2020 VNR, there is no specific information about budget allocation for the subnational level regarding SDG actions.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR acknowledges challenges such as certain weaknesses in the effectiveness of public administration, the rule of law, weak market institutions, structural imbalances in the economy, insufficient capacity to collect statistics, lack of funding, and the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic threatening to slow the country's progress in achieving the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR just mentions a "still low proportion of women in leadership positions". All of the mayors (*hokims*) are still male, yet since the introduction of the **30% female quota** for political parties' lists of candidates, the proportion of women in Parliament has increased from 9.4% in 2004 to 16% in 2017, while female councillors represent 23% of local councils

3.2 COVID 19

The role of local and regional governments is not specified in the package of anti-crisis measures that the national government created to provide social and economic support to the population.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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	86 (2020)
	Rural	31 (2020)
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 (%)		52.2 (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)		28.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

³ 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/uzb>

EUROPE



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Albania is a unitary republic with a two-tier subnational government structure, made up of 12 regions and 61 municipalities.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 Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI II)** is closely aligned with the SDGs. As of 2018, drafting an SDG Roadmap was considered to help in identifying roles and responsibilities of the key institutions and other stakeholders in SDG implementation. It is worth noting that Albania has established links between the SDGs and the EU integration goals, including reference to the Albanian National Plan for European Integration (NPEI) 2014–2020 and the EU *acquis* chapters of EU accession negotiations.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The coordination and leadership of SDG implementation is provided by the **Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs**, chaired by the deputy prime minister of Albania and comprising key government institutions, as well as other stakeholders from the business community, civil society, academia and international organizations. It also counts with the technical support provided by the **Department of Development and Good Governance (DDGG)** in the Prime Minister's Office, the **SDG Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group** and the contribution of the UN agencies. The Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group includes technical level representatives from all Albanian institutions participating in implementation of Agenda 2030.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR is based on the inputs received from the main government institutions leading the reforms in each priority area under the coordination of the **SDG Technical Working Group**, and the contribution of UN agencies. A consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all stakeholders, including local governments, academia, civil society and the business community in the country, was held to discuss and validate the main findings and recommendations of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)** is the coordinator of the National Statistical System. The latter is composed of INSTAT, the Bank of Albania and the Ministry of Finance and Economy. INSTAT is a member of the Inter-Institutional Working Group.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2018 VNR mentions the consultation of local authorities, while the Association of Albanian Municipalities does not report any involvement during the preparation of the report.³

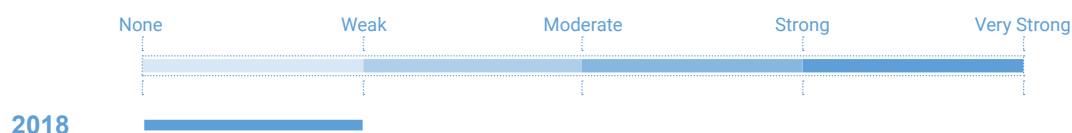
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFL2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20257ALBANIA_VNR_2018_FINAL2.pdf (2018)

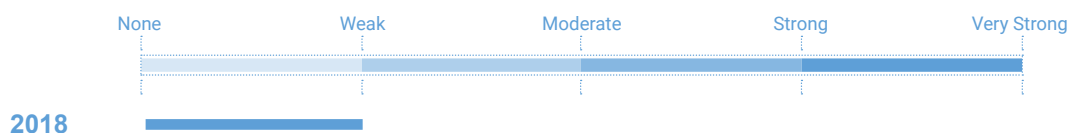
3. Answer of the Association of Albanian Municipalities to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

LRGs are mentioned in the 2018 VNR. It stresses that "implementation of the SDGs calls for improved institutional capacities not only at the level of central government ministries but also for local governments". However, there is no reference to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

The municipality of [Shkodër](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/shkodra_2021.pdf) published its VLR in 2021.⁴

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Considering that NSDI II provides for the national policy framework for implementing the SDGs, the costing and budgeting for SDGs includes the budget analysis along the lines of NSDI II. The possible SDG Roadmap would include financial implications deriving from the national commitment to the SDGs.

The urban renaissance programme supports the local and regional development policy in Albania through the Regional Development Fund. This fund is a development instrument and a competitive financial mechanism that supports the national policy on regional and local development, to ensure territorial cohesion in the country through balanced growth and economic, social and environmental development. Through this fund, the government allocates grants for local governments on a competitive basis for implementing projects with an impact on economic development at the local and the regional level. The fund has a specific section in the annual national budget adopted by Parliament.

The Territorial-Administrative Reform of 2015 is being supported by the planning reform where the government supports technically and financially local municipalities to draft General Local Plans, their main tool for territorial development. As of 2018, 32 municipalities have adopted a general local plan, eight have a plan being drafted, to be adopted in 2018, while 17 others will start this year and complete the process early in 2019. By next year, all 61 municipalities will have in place a General Local Plan. These planning documents are available to the public through an online Web GIS platform, for instant information and participation in decision making.

Albania has worked on making gender equality a central element of planning and budgeting for national development and EU integration. Since 2012, it has introduced the application of gender mainstreaming in the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP).

4. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/shkodra_2021.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The fight against marginalization is a main pillar of the country's strategy. New laws have been drafted, providing broader education, housing and facilitating access to the work market for the Roma community, the LGBT community, and other minorities in the country. In 2018, a new law on ethnic minorities was implemented, focusing on protecting the rights of freedom of expression, association, and self-identification.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of seats held by women in local governments was 36.1% in 2016 and 36.9% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		43.6 (2019)
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	44 (2020)
	Rural	54 (2020)
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 (%)		90 (2017, Tirana)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		18.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		43.6 (2019)

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/alb>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Principality of Andorra is a unitary country with 7 municipalities.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 2030 Agenda has been integrated into Andorra's policies and plans. As of 2016, the government decided that all actions subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers should be associated with one or more SDGs, so that the 2030 Agenda becomes the basis for the decisions of the executive. The preparation of the 2018 VNR showed that Andorra needed to create an SDG coordination mechanism at the national level. Thus, the Council of Ministers approved in 2019 the **National Strategic Plan for the implementation of sustainable development by 2030**. In addition, in 2020, the Andorran government approved the **Action Plan 2020-2023 – Horizon 23**, a set of policies and actions entirely aligned with the SDGs, in order to respond to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage an economic recovery laying the foundations for more sustainable development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Strategic Plan adopted in 2019 provides for the creation of an **Open Working Group (GTO)**, composed of representatives of all relevant sectors. It is responsible for promoting and coordinating policies and actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This group includes representatives from ministries or technical departments, the statistics department, the general council, municipalities, the private sector, civil society, and other institutions.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

To elaborate the 2018 VNR, an inter-ministerial team was set up, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of experts from other ministries. For the 2022 VNR, a **drafting group** was created, composed of four diplomats from the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. The group also counted on the participation of other ministries and departments. For this second VNR, the government invited parliamentarians and local authorities to actively participate in the process and to send their contributions, which were directly included in the report. The Andorran population was also involved in this project. A public consultation, accessible to all, was carried out online, and the number of responses (623) increased compared to the consultation held in 2018 (130).

1.3 MONITORING

The 2018 VNR recognized that a major challenge for the Principality was to strengthen the production of statistical data given the growing need for official statistics. In order to remedy this, the government approved in 2018 the Statistical Plan 2018-2021, as a fundamental tool for ordering, regulating and systematizing the statistical activity of Andorra. Despite these advances, the law on this plan did not provide for the production of data and indicators relating to the SDGs. It is for this reason, and thanks to the conclusions of the first VNR, that the government has presented a new draft law for the **Statistical Plan 2022-2025**. The latter consolidates the previous plan and provides for the production of indicators and data relating to the SDGs.

1. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf.
See also: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paroisse_\(Andorre\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paroisse_(Andorre)) and <https://books.openedition.org/putc/1618?lang=es>.
2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19898ANDORRA_VNR_2018.pdf (2018);
https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/ods2030_ANDORRA_fr_FINAL.pdf (2022)
3. See: https://www.exteriors.ad/campanya_ods/Pla_estrategic_nacional_Agenda_2030.pdf

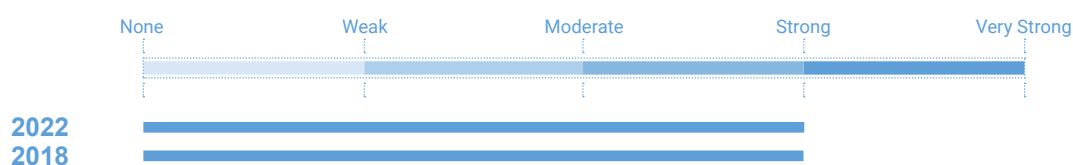
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The municipalities participated in the 2018 VNR process by reviewing a first draft of the report, as well as other stakeholders. In contrast to the 2018 process, in 2022 LRGs were able to directly participate in the reporting process and submit their contributions. The VNR portrays several best practices from the municipalities and includes them in the analysis of the SDG they belong to.

Local authorities are involved in the [Open Working Group](#) coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (see above).

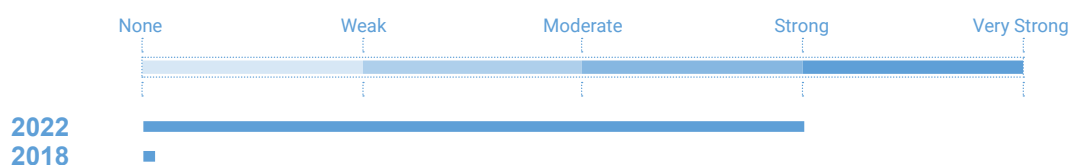
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in the 2018 VNR by reviewing the report, and in the 2022 VNR through direct contributions.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Municipalities are involved in the Open Working Group.

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

While the 2018 VNR contained very little reference to the municipalities, they are mentioned throughout the 2022 VNR, which also presents several examples of SDG localization.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipality of [Escaldes-Engordany](#) and the Andorran National Committee for UNICEF signed an agreement to convert Escaldes-Engordany into a child-friendly municipality. This denomination includes the maintenance and extension of social benefits for children, such as exemptions from childcare centers and leisure activities, as well as the detection and referral of vulnerable children or potentially at risk. Escaldes-Engordany also launched the campaign "Do not throw anything away, the sea begins here", as part of World Water Day in 2021.

► In the municipality of [Encamp](#), in order to transmit to the younger generations the practices of the Andorran national cultural and agricultural heritage, urban gardens with auto-composters have been allocated to primary schools. These are fertile lands where children can learn and practice an agricultural activity, as well as know, produce and appreciate km0 products with high nutritional value. Encamp has also taken various joint initiatives with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and other partners, to raise awareness among school students about road accident prevention measures. It has also encouraged the creation of peaceful urban spaces to give priority to pedestrians and reduce car traffic. Finally, the municipality promotes equality between women and men and organized training for leaders on the management of innovation from a gender perspective and specific training for particular professional groups. In addition, the annual grant allocated to sports clubs and associations that promote equality policies has been increased.

► The municipality of [Ordino](#) received the UNESCO label of biosphere reserve in 2020.

► While the national government manages the existing national bus lines, the municipalities have created several public transport services at the local level. These municipal lines allow people living in areas far from national public transport lines to benefit from a service connecting with these lines. Municipalities such as [Escaldes-Engordany](#), [Canillo](#) and [Encamp](#) offer a free on-demand bus service, while others such as [Andorra la Vella](#), [Sant Julià](#), [La Massana](#) or [Ordino](#) have established regular lines to connect the different towns of the municipality.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Recently, the government broke down the state budget according to the SDGs. It is still only a project, but the goal is to distribute the budget items of the Andorran government according to the 17 SDGs in order to measure the contribution attributed to each of them.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Local authorities have equal representation with four women mayors for seven municipalities.

3.2 COVID 19

Andorra has a 2020-2023 action plan focused on promoting economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that lays the foundation for more sustainable development. There is no reference in the 2022 VNR to measures taken for and/or with local authorities regarding COVID-19 and recovery.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		41 (2019)
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	100 (2020)
	Rural	100 (2020)
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 (%)		100 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		8.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Austria is a federal republic. Its subnational structure is two-tiered and made up of 9 autonomous states (*Bundesländer, Länder*) and 2 098 municipalities (*Gemeinden*) governed by elected councils. The capital Vienna is both a municipality and a federal state.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

In 2016, the Austrian Council of Ministers advised all federal ministries to incorporate the SDGs in all relevant strategies and programmes, as well as to draw up corresponding action plans. The SDGs are anchored in [nation wide strategy documents](#) and federal ministries are implementing the SDGs within their respective sectoral competences. The [Government Programme 2020-2024](#) is the base to coordinate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 with the systemic involvement of civil society, scientific community and business.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The [Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda \(IMAG\)](#) focuses on general coordination and on dialogue with relevant actors, including federal states, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, social partners, civil society, business and the scientific community. The coordination with federal states is assured through the NHK-K, the conference of sustainability coordinators for the Austrian federal states and the Austrian federal government, which merged in 2019 with [federal states' SDG Focal Points](#). The Working Group coordinates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda among the federal states and the federal government as well as the preparation of reports from the federal states for joint national reporting.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Austrian Council of Ministers set up an [Inter-Ministerial Task Force](#) under the joint chairmanship of the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs to coordinate the reporting at the federal level. Within the Task Force, representatives of the federal states, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, social partners, business, civil society and the scientific community were consulted through "editorial groups". Over 40 organizations were involved in consultation rounds, and more than 320 responses were collected.

1.3 MONITORING

Progress in SDG implementation was measured on the basis of independent data in the [2020 National Indicator Report](#). Since 2017, Statistics Austria has produced national indicator tables every year. Around 200 indicators incorporate information from federal ministries, the Environment Agency Austria, the Austrian Development Agency, the Austrian National Public Health Institute, the federal states, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, and the Austrian Association of Municipalities.³

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26511VNR_2020_Austria_Report_English.pdf (2020)

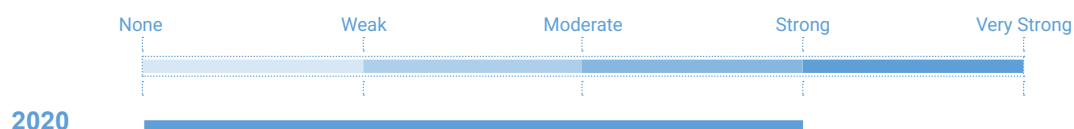
3. However, the Association of Cities and Towns consider that there are no initiatives to develop local indicators (GTF Survey 2020).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The [Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda \(IMAG\)](#) promotes the exchange of information and experience with the regional and local levels. The Association of Cities and Towns, nevertheless, considered that they do not participate and that they have only ad hoc consultations with the federal government, asking to enhance coordination across levels of government.⁴ The former ministry responsible for sustainability joined with the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, and Upper Austria to stage the first conference for networking the local actors. The conference will be held annually to deal with specific local and municipal policy challenges associated with the 2030 Agenda. As part of this event, awards will be given out to local role models. The nine federal states of Austria are taking varied strategic approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Some of them refer to the SDGs in their strategy documents. The [Austrian Association of Cities and Towns](#) and the [Austrian Association of Municipalities](#) participated in the Task Force in charge of drafting the 2020 VNR.

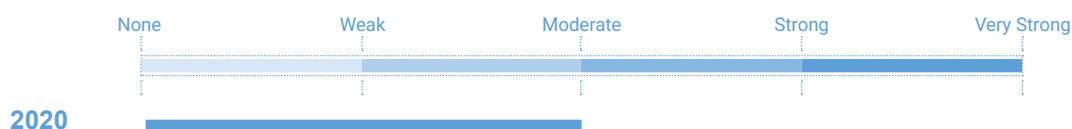
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRG participated in conferences and consultations (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Ad hoc consultations of LRGs (GTF Survey 2020).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are subsections in the 2020 VNR on federal states and cities, towns and municipalities as part of the presentation of the different actors involved in the governance of SDG implementation (see VNR, 2020, p. 20-21). It states that "cities, towns and municipalities form the strong, citizen-centred backbone of Austria" and that "the 2030 Agenda is implemented at the level of the federal states, cities, towns and municipalities in a cooperative process involving the Sectorial Departments in the federal state governments, social partners and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society".

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The [Austrian Association of Cities and Towns](#) and the [Austrian Association of Municipalities](#) have drawn up the model resolution '2030 Agenda for Cities, Towns and Municipalities' in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. In this declaration, cities, towns and municipalities commit to pursuing sustainable development, to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to acting in accordance with SDG 11 to evolve into sustainable cities and communities. Attention is focused on awareness-raising measures and activities. The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns also issued a guideline to implement the SDGs at local level. It lays out numerous examples and ideas on how the 2030 Agenda can be achieved locally.

► The [BundLänder-Netzwerk](#), a network between the federal government and federal states for implementing regional and local sustainability strategies, is currently responsible for more than 500 Local Agenda 21 processes in municipalities and regions.

► In 2016, the state government of [Styria](#) was the first to adopt a resolution on the 2030 Agenda.

► [Vienna](#) adopted in 2019 the "Smart City Wien Framework Strategy 2019-2050, Vienna's strategy for Sustainable Development" and developed sustainable economic growth and climate action through the initiative OekoBusiness Vienna – Doing Business for the Greater Good.

4. Answer of the Association of Cities and Towns to the GTF Survey in 2021.

► The regional development action plan 'Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030', the 'Climate and Energy Strategy SALZBURG 2050' and the 'Smart City Wien Framework Strategy 2019–2050', 'Leben mit Zukunft' in Tyrol, 'Zukunft durch Beteiligung' in **Upper Austria** are also mentioned.

► For Upper Austrian municipalities, '**GemeindeNavi Agenda 2030**' was developed as a tool for participatory self-evaluation and future planning to help to implement the SDGs.

► To achieve sustainable cities, towns and municipalities, the Federal State of **Carinthia** has been teaming up with partner institutions since 2018 to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions Programme (KLAR!). Seven Carinthian regions with nearly 140,000 inhabitants are already involved.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Austria follows an impact-oriented management of public administration model, where planning is done in the form of yearly budget targets, with performance indicators to assess the success of the measures. At municipal and regional level, the **Climate and Energy Fund** has initiated the Climate and Energy Model Regions Programme, which supports regions in making best use of their local renewable energy resources, exploiting energy-saving potentials and operating sustainably. So far, more than 4,000 successful projects have been supported in different areas, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and awareness raising. There are currently 91 Climate and Energy Model Regions in Austria. With the SDG Model **Styria**, an instrument is now available for continually improving strategic alignment and reconciliation with the impact goals while implementing a reporting system for the 2030 Agenda at the same time.⁵

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR focuses on three areas that are particularly relevant to Austria and "require accelerated action": 1) Digitalization, 2) Women, youth and 'leaving no one behind', 3) Climate action and adaptation to climate change. The VNR presents many success stories and flagship initiatives to illustrate SDG implementation in Austria and provide possible solutions to existing challenges. An SDG website focusing on the success stories and flagship initiatives was created.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

As the 2020 VNR presents the SDG implementation status at early March 2020, the analysis carried out by Statistics Austria does not reflect the impact of the pandemic or measures related to the COVID-19 crisis.

5. The Styrian model and process of integrating the SDGs into the departmental budgets began with an SDG interdepartmental working group. This working group met to conduct workshops and exchange information with other ministerial departments. One of the goals was to link the Styrian impact goals with the SDGs. Instead of linking the Styrian impact goals with the broader 17 SDGs, the government departments drew links to the 169 sub-goals.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		24.6 (2020)
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	100 (2020)
	Rural	99 (2020)
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 (%)		100 (2015, Vienna)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		12.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		40.6 (2018)

6. 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/aut>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Belgium is a federal monarchy with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 6 federated entities, 10 provinces and 581 municipalities.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 federal **Long-term Vision for Sustainable Development** for 2050 that was adopted in 2013, as well as the **regional strategies** (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels-Capital, German-speaking Community), are aligned with the SDGs. In addition, a first **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)** was approved in 2017. It focuses on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Belgium and aims to create the basis for a coherent approach to sustainable development policies.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Three institutions are key in the preparation, adoption, implementation and improvement of sustainable development policies: the **Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)** which is in charge of the planning and monitoring part of the process, a **task force within the Federal Planning Bureau** which reports on the current situation and makes policy evaluations and forecasts, and the **Federal Council for Sustainable Development**, an advisory stakeholders' council. Directly linked to the 2030 Agenda, the **Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD)**, composed of federal, regional and community ministers responsible for sustainable development and development cooperation, is the central coordination mechanism for dialogue between the various federal and federated authorities implementing the SDGs in Belgium.

- ▶ In Wallonia, an independent sustainable development advisory unit was set up in 2013 within the Walloon administration.³
- ▶ In Flanders, a cross-cutting working group on sustainable development is guiding the translation of the SDGs into goals relevant for Flemish policy and to further their implementation.
- ▶ In the Brussels-Capital Region, it is the Minister for Environment and Energy who, historically, and in the absence of a regional coordinating body for sustainable development, follows the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ For the German-speaking Community, the Minister-President is responsible for the sustainability theme.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In order to prepare the 2017 VNR, a **political steering committee** was set up which was chaired by the Prime Minister and received support from representatives of the various federal and federated entities directly involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The **Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development** had the responsibility of collecting data relating to the implementation within Belgium, while the federal **Foreign Ministry** collected data regarding external action. The **Inter-Federal Statistical Institute** collected statistical data. Civil society involvement was ensured at different stages of the reporting process.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15721Belgium_Rev.pdf (2017)

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

1.3 MONITORING

The [Inter-Federal Statistical Institute](#) is responsible for the systematic monitoring of the progress made in achieving the SDGs, and has set up a specific [working group](#) to that end.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

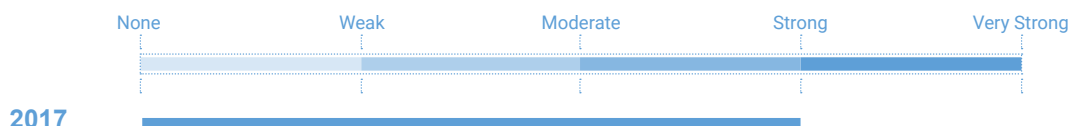
The local government association [VVSG](#) was asked by the regional Flemish government to deliver written inputs for the VNR 2017, on the local integration of the SDGs. However, this information is not clearly reflected in the report. Over the previous years, localizing the SDGs really picked up in Flanders, resulting in growing attention for local governments by the regional and federal governments. For example, VVSG was recognized in 2018 as 'SDG voice', an initiative of the federal government. The city of [Ghent](#) was 'SDG voice' in 2017 and the city of [Harelbeke](#) in 2020. More fundamentally, there are structural consultation mechanisms between VVSG and the Flemish government on the SDGs.⁴ VVSG is indeed represented in the [Flemish Council for Sustainable Development](#) as well as involved on an ad hoc basis.

One in five Flemish municipalities has already signed up to the [Global Goals, Local Focus Declaration](#), thereby acknowledging the importance of the SDGs and the need to develop local actions in support thereof. Pilot projects have been launched in 20 municipalities aiming to fully integrate the SDGs in overall policy and long-term plans by the end of 2018.

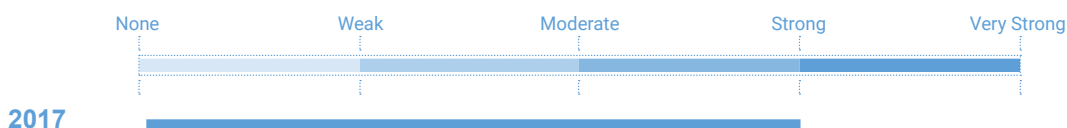
Regions also are represented in the [Federal Council for Sustainable Development](#).

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: VVSG mentioned a puntual participation (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2017 VNR mentions the contribution of local governments,⁵ and contains some examples.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The poverty reduction strategy of the [Walloon region](#) includes a series of measures aimed at the provision of access to housing as well as improvements in terms of housing quality and energy efficiency. Also, by way of promoting sustainable mobility for all citizens, the Walloon government set up a plan which encompasses a whole series of actions aimed at improving the conditions of cycling and significantly increasing its use in the region by 2020. Among the many initiatives already launched are funding to ten pilot municipalities, awareness-raising with workers and improvements to the cycling infrastructure. Municipalities themselves are equally drafting all-encompassing mobility plans, focusing on soft mobility and incorporating measures benefiting vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

► The [Flemish](#) instrument for urban renewal (an annual call for projects) supports cities in developing urban projects with particular attention to environmental sustainability and/or climate neutrality, mobility, spatial quality and core compaction, family and child-friendliness, green-blue features, as well as balance between private and public spaces. Projects such as the reconversion of a disaffected railway site in [Leuven](#) into housing units, social services and public spaces combine ecological concerns with social viability and are linked to community development and cooperation initiatives between public, private and civil society actors.

4. Answer of VVSG to the GTF Survey in 2021.

5. A paragraph mentions them as follows: "As front-line authorities rooted in local practice, they embody a bottom-up approach in the search for solutions to global problems, and they endeavor to offer adequate public services accessible to all citizens. In this effort, they are supported by specialized associations such as the Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie, Brulocalis and the Vereniging voor Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten" (see VNR, 2017, p. 6).

► Cities such as **Ghent**, **Brussels** or **Antwerp** are establishing and/or enlarging pedestrian areas as well as low emission zones, in deliberate efforts to reduce their adverse per capita environmental impact.

► Belgian local governments are also promoting the role of technology and innovation in sustainable urban development through targeted 'smart city' approaches rolled out at the different levels. Examples include the Flemish iMinds/imec Smart Cities Programme, the Smart City Wallonia Conference, the smart city e-platform at Brussels level, or the Smart Cities Community established by the Belgian technology industry sector organization (Agoria). To many urban challenges, the Smart Flanders program offers solutions such as reducing congestion, sustainably distributing goods to and from downtown, improving air quality, promoting health, ensuring optimum parking policies, and eliminating barriers for disadvantaged groups. The City of Things test bed in **Antwerp** is being used as an interoperability lab. Concrete examples include the low-emission zone in Antwerp, which is facilitated by a public authorities' data-sharing platform, or the Flemish Institute for Logistics, which has launched a project to investigate whether the Internet of Things can help to organize freight transport logistics in a city in a smarter way from both a traditional economic as from a more holistic sustainability perspective.

► The municipality of **Harelbeke** fully embraced the momentum of local elections in 2018 and the subsequent development of the multi-annual strategic plans for 2020-2025 to move towards a more sustainable local policy aligned with the SDGs. Harelbeke has created broad support for the SDGs within the local administration, council and with external stakeholders such as citizens, private sector and schools. For example, a participatory analysis of the municipality was developed around the five P's of sustainable development (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership). Moreover, in the run-up to the local elections, the civil advisory boards of the municipality wrote a manifesto aimed at the politicians, structuring their demands on the five P's. Furthermore, new multi-annual strategic plans integrate the SDGs with the municipality's sustainability priorities (e.g. mobility, smart cities and housing for the elderly); and Harelbeke is also using the SDG framework to communicate about a city-to-city link with Eenhana (Botswana), and to revise this particular programme.⁶

► The Beninese city of Dogbo and the Belgium city of **Roeselare** agreed on a partnership in the area of birth registration. Birth registration is key to gain a legal identity and ensure access to basic rights and services. The two cities were twinned in 2010 and work closely on projects ranging from water schemes to cultural exchanges. Because of the birth registration project, all the children born in the city of Dogbo had their births registered, compared with only 40% in 2010. This received an award from PLATFORMA, the European network of local government associations, in 2018.⁷

► The many **city alliances for poverty reduction and social action** – for example between Flemish municipalities and their counterparts in Guatemala and Nicaragua, or between the Brussels and Walloon municipalities and their counterparts in Benin, Senegal, the DRC or Morocco – show the active and direct contribution Belgian local authorities are making towards poverty eradication, inter alia when it comes to issues related to land registration, local administration or microcredit schemes.

► SDG monitoring and reporting is now an important area of work for the local government association **VVSG**. It developed a local SDG indicators' set in 2018, and supported the creation of an online SDG monitor by Idea Consult. This tool gives an overview of the current state of affairs in Flemish municipalities for a fixed set of about 65 indicators. Also, each municipality is given a score based on the concept of best and worst performers.⁸ Moreover, VVSG created a working group with about 15 municipalities on SDG monitoring and reporting. Within this group, the association shares lessons learned from international examples, and exchanges information on practices and indicators. This will result in an inspirational guide for all Flemish local governments. In the context of this working group, VVSG has also looked into the federal and Flemish SDG indicators to see where there is a match with local indicators. Besides, the week of the Sustainable Municipality was held for the third time in 2020.⁹ This format allowed for raising awareness on the SDGs among local governments through the designation of local heroes for global goals. These are citizens, organizations, schools, businesses, etc. who in their daily life or work contribute to sustainability. In 2020, the focus was on COVID-19 heroes. 92 (out of 300) local governments participated.¹⁰

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

The city of **Ghent** produced three VLRs, in 2020, 2021, and 2022, with follow-up reports planned in the coming years.¹¹ The region of **Wallonia** also published VLRs in 2017, 2019, and 2021.¹²

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2017, **VVSG** receives funding from both the federal and the Flemish government to support municipalities in localizing the SDGs.

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

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

8. See: www.sdgmonitor.be

9. See: www.duurzamegemeente.be

10. Answer of VVSG to the GTF Survey in 2021.

11. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ghent_2020.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ghent_2021.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/ghent_2022.pdf

12. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Wallonia%20\(2017\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Wallonia%20(2017).pdf);

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/wallonia_2019.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/wallonia_2021.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Belgium appointed a [national focal point for the implementation of the Sendai Framework](#) in 2016. The subsequently established Belgian Sendai implementation platform draws on expertise of all interested Belgian authorities to assess existing initiatives, crisis-response structures, coordination protocols and civil protection responsibilities. Making the paradigm shift from crisis response to risk management should pave the way to a national disaster risk reduction security strategy.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

VVSG has been part of multiple national working groups / task forces related to COVID-19 measures, for example on care, local economy, vulnerable groups, vaccinations, youth, childcare, etc. The association is currently trying to involve local governments in national decisions regarding European recovery funds. It also provides information to members through a dedicated webpage and webinars.¹³

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39.0 (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	-
	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 (%)		100 (2015, Brussels)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		12.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

13. Answer of VVSG to the GTF Survey in 2021.

14. 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/bel>

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is a federal republic with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into two entities (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS)) and the autonomous region of Brčko District. Then, the country is subdivided into 10 cantons at the intermediary level and 141 local governments at the municipal level. Among the latter, there are 79 municipalities and cities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 62 in the Republic of Srpska.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

In 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina was still in the process of defining their national strategy and **SDG Framework**.³ The latter is “a key document that will define Vision 2030 for the country as well as the development pathways and accelerators for development that will in turn inform all key strategic planning processes in the country at the state, entity and Brčko District level”. This framework has been developed through an extensive and reiterative consultative process with various institutions, CSOs, the private sector, academia and citizens at large. This citizen consultation process during 2018 – ‘**Imagine2030**’ – was to be finalized in 2019.⁴

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Joint activities of all institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to the SDGs began in 2018 with the creation of the **SDGs Rollout Working Group**. This group was established for elaborating the SDG framework and the 2019 VNR. Members of the working group comprise representatives from the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Directorate for Economic Planning and the governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District. The SDGs Rollout Working Group formed three subgroups in 2018, responsible for leading the process of crafting the VNR, drafting the SDG Framework document and dedicated work on data/statistics for the SDGs. Besides, a Private Sector Group established with respect to the SDGs and several other stakeholders from civil society and academia were also very active. The SDG Rollout Roadmap document was to be developed in 2019.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR was elaborated by the same working group responsible for drafting the SDG Framework. Consultations for the elaboration of the SDG framework also contributed to the VNR process.

1.3 MONITORING

One of the subgroups of the SDGs Rollout Working Group is dedicated to data and statistics. **SDG Dashboards** were created for the state and entity level and a specific dashboard was initiated for **Brčko District**.⁵ The 2019 VNR states that such dashboards “support the adaptation of SDG targets and indicators within a particular country context. The process behind the creation

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23345VNR_BiH_ENG_Final.pdf (2019)

3. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

4. More details on the ‘Imagine2030’ initiative in the VNR, 2019, p. 12.

5. United Nations support under the MAPS approach was instrumental in this respect.

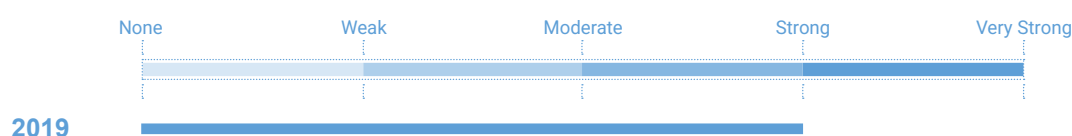
of SDG dashboards initiates a review of the systems and capacities that are available, improves interoperability between different data systems and better integrates data from external sources” (VNR, 2019, p. 18). Right after that, the report refers to the necessity of a whole-of-government approach to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. Based on the dashboard data, a complexity analysis was conducted for the country, SDG complexity maps produced for Bosnia and Herzegovina and a network of SDG targets and their mutual influence identified.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 2019 VNR gives particular emphasis to the **SDG localization** process. The report also stresses that for the upcoming SDG Framework to be made operational, the government must include subnational levels of government and their associated organisms within the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. Nonetheless, the three state governments seem to have been a lot more engaged than cantons and municipalities.⁶ Indeed, states are represented in the **SDGs Rollout Working Group**. At the local level, the 2019 VNR specifies that “SDGs are to be implemented in accordance with internal organization through the chief coordinator, who will maintain direct communication with the ministries responsible for local authorities, the associations of municipalities and cities in the entities and local departments” (see VNR, 2019, p. 33).

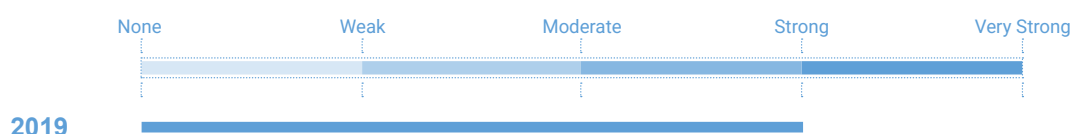
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs are mentioned throughout the VNR (with specific examples and dedicated sections). No evidence of LRG participation in the drafting of the report, although it could have happened via consultations.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: States (FBiH, RS and the District of Brčko) were represented in the working group in charge of drafting the SDG Framework.

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

LRGs are mentioned in the 2019 VNR. There is a paragraph on the “Localization of the SDGs” (see VNR, 2019, p. 10) which acknowledges initiatives from different cities, with special emphasis on **Bijeljina** (see below). There is also a very brief paragraph on the “Local level” as part of the presentation of the institutional mechanisms for SDG implementation (see VNR, 2019, p. 33). There are specific sections on the planning strategies for SDG implementation of the three state level entities (see VNR, 2019, p. 28, 29, 30; see also institutional mechanisms p. 32). A few of the boxes on “good practices”, in the presentation of the different SDGs, refer to LRGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Brčko District** planned to initiate the process of designing its Development Strategy 2020–2027 in early 2019, also with a highly participatory approach. Also in 2019, Brčko District was to adopt a decision on introducing mid-term and annual planning and reporting within the entire administration. It is through these mid-term and annual plans that the measures defined in the development strategy will be implemented.

► Similar to the Brčko District, the **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina** is about to launch its planning process (in late 2018, early 2019). There is the legal obligation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to align its strategic documents with the 2030 Agenda and the relevant strategic documents at the state level. Consequently, the design of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Development Strategy 2020–2027 will be structured around the four pillars of sustainable development and

6. Indeed, in order to “engage in and inform all institutions” about the VNR process and the creation of the SDG Framework document, dedicated sessions were organized for the Republika Srpska institutions, for Brčko District and for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

the five 'P's, namely people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership. The planning process will be a consultative one that engages a broad spectrum of stakeholders (institutions, cantons and local government and socioeconomic stakeholders). The 2019 VNR also acknowledges that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Development Strategy 2020-2027 will serve as a **platform for the design of the development strategies of the cantons and local governments**. Therefore, subsequent planning processes at the cantonal and local level will follow the same approach, logic and principles and thus ensure that all levels of government in the entity will contribute cumulatively to the achievement of the SDGs. Institutions at all three levels of government in the entity will be responsible for monitoring progress, which is to be captured annually through 'development reports'.

► **Republika Srpska** initiated a policy dialogue on its future strategic planning and development management system. More specifically, a working group was created in 2018, consisting of representatives of institutions at the entity level and local government. It was tasked with proposing improvements to the entity's current system. Republika Srpska does not have an overarching development strategy in place that could define the development priorities for this entity and serve as the key platform for designing sectoral strategies at the entity level and local development strategies. Recognizing this limitation, the government of Republika Srpska is considering initiating the design of a sustainable development strategy 2030. This strategy would serve as the key reference document for local governments in the entity. The 2019 VNR adds that "annual reporting on the level of attainment of the SDGs would be part of the reporting mechanism within the overall strategic planning and development management system, where relevant indicators from the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina are taken over at the entity and local level. In addition, the entity institutions and local government would be able to add additional indicators as per their specific needs".

Regarding education (SDG 4), the Republika Srpska Education Development Strategy for the period 2016–2021 recognizes persons with disabilities. Since 2010, the government of Republika Srpska has financed assistants for autistic children in education and scholarships are awarded to pupils with disabilities. When it comes to learning the Roma language in primary school, the possibility of using textbooks from Serbia is under consideration for the education of Roma pupils. The legislation in Republika Srpska allows Roma children to enroll in primary school even without all of the necessary documents.

► Several local administrations, such as **Tuzla**, **Zivinice** and **Sarajevo**, have started to consider the localization of the 2030 Agenda into their everyday work and strategic planning at the local level.

► The City Administration of **Bijeljina** has advanced furthest in the localization process. To date, it has conducted awareness raising training sessions with partner groups at the city of Bijeljina level (the private, public and civil sectors and the academia) through 18 training sessions attended by 190 representatives, including those from the banking sector, private companies, NGOs, entrepreneurs, the municipal/city administrations, the **Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska**, social welfare centers, the police and public institutions from 26 cities/municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2018, a systematic approach to the localization of the SDGs began with their inclusion into the revised Development Strategy of Bijeljina for the period 2019-2023. Bijeljina is the first city in Bosnia and Herzegovina to adjust and include relevant SDG targets and indicators into its development strategy. In addition, in partnership with the local NGO 'Centre for Promotion of Sustainable Development' (CePSuD), Bijeljina has raised awareness on SDGs in the private and banking sectors as well as in the media and the public sector. It emphasizes partnership and mutual support in future actions as the only successful formula for a more human and sustainable way of life.

► The Canton of **Sarajevo** has the best developed air quality monitoring network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, consisting of six reference AQ monitoring stations which send real-time data to regularly updated websites for public information. Sarajevo is also the only canton that has an active peak pollution days intervention plan.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is little information on means of implementation for the SDGs in the 2019 VNR. It states that "the SDGs will be implemented in accordance with the available budgets and international financial support for development". It also mentions that "over the forthcoming period, new business models that could unlock investment potential and attract an inflow of development investment will be in focus and explored in collaboration with international financial institutions and international organizations as well as with the private sector and domestic financial institutions" (see VNR, 2019, p. 92-93).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR specifies that "in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agenda 2030 is equally about peace as it is about development. Given the country's governance structure, it is more about the connective and collaborative process that Agenda 2030 has helped unlock than about the end destination itself" (see VNR, 2019, p. 6).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Electoral Act Amendments Act of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its harmonization with the Gender Equality Act from 2013 ensure a 40% quota for the underrepresented gender on political party lists. Yet despite this, women continued to remain underrepresented in politics. According to the Central Electoral Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina data on the gender structure of elected officials in legislative authorities, as of April 2015, women held 20.1 % of all seats in the House of Representatives and at the levels of BiH, the FBiH, the RS and the cantons.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		19.6 (2020)
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	30 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		7.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		74 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		28.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2018)

7. 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/bih>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Bulgaria is a parliamentary democracy and a unitary country. It has a single-tier subnational structure divided into 265 municipalities.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 principles and policies laid down in the **Government's Programme for the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2017-2021** are in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda on good governance and guaranteeing the rights, security and well-being of citizens, tolerance, non-discrimination and nondisintegration. Adopted by the end of 2020, the **National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030** addresses three main strategic goals: accelerated economic development, demographic upswing and reduction of inequalities. It outlines 13 national priorities in five development areas. Their implementation will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **Development Council** at the Council of Ministers was established and, for consultation, a working group within the Committee for Management, Monitoring, Control, and Implementation of the National Development Programme 2020. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** leads the international commitments and reporting. More than 70 advisory and coordination councils function to coordinate activities between individual public institutions and other stakeholders. The **National Platform of Partners for Good Democratic Governance at Local Level** was created in 2019 as a public body for the implementation of the Council of Europe's Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at the local level. The **Bulgarian Platform for International Development** assists the promotion of the SDGs in the country. Its activities include teachers, young scientists, politicians and LRG representatives.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

As part of the 2020 VNR process, roundtables and discussions were held with the participation of experts from the non-governmental sector and the academic community. An online survey was sent to non-governmental organizations through the database of the Bulgarian NGO's Information Portal; focus groups were organized with business representatives; individual interviews were held with trade union representatives. The review also contains the results of an online survey of Bulgarian Youth Delegates to the UN on the priorities of young people, which they fill out at the beginning of each term. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs collected information from government institutions and other stakeholders on policies and activities related to the SDG implementation.

1.3 MONITORING

The **MonitorStat** information system, based on a statistical database of surveys of the National Statistical Institute and other statistical bodies, is a national platform for monitoring of the performance on the indicators set out in key national strategy documents, including the implementation of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26289VNR_2020_Bulgaria_Report.pdf (2020)

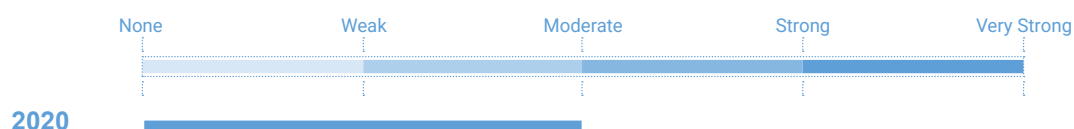
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **National Association of Municipalities (NAMRB)** is not represented in national coordination mechanisms, but participates in a number of advisory councils to the Council of Ministers (e.g. SMEs, Persons with disabilities, social inclusion, child protection, gender equality) and in the **National Platform of Partners for Good Democratic Governance at Local Level**. The Platform is a form of partnership between state bodies at the national and regional level, local governments and the NAMRB, the organizations and structures of the economic and social partners, civil organizations, academia, the mass media and the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria.

LRGs participated in consultations as part of the 2020 VNR process.

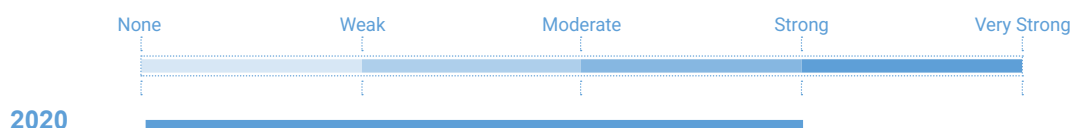
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs are not mentioned as participants of the discussions, interviews or roundtables. The National Association of Municipalities (NAMRB) mentions that it was not directly consulted (GTF Survey 2021), although the 2020 VNR mentions the NAMRB and includes examples of LRGs.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The NAMRB is partially involved in advisory councils, but not in the coordination mechanism.

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 2020 VNR, there is a subsection on municipalities as part of the presentation of the national policies and coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, which includes specific examples (see the VNR, 2020, p. 14). Other examples are provided throughout the report.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► As an output of the first plenary session of the final conference for the term 2015-2019, organized by the **National Association of the Municipalities (NAMRB)** in 2019, a general vision from the municipalities was established: for the 2021-2027 period, it is scheduled to have a national development programme and adequate national resources for its implementation instead of hundreds of strategies for each sector and subsector.

► Modern systems for waste collection and processing have been set up in **Sofia, Plovdiv** and the **Vratsa-Mezdra region**, and others.

► 25 Bulgarian municipalities have joined the European Covenant of Mayors initiative: plans are being prepared for climate change adaptation in the cities of **Sofia, Burgas** and **Dimitrovgrad**.

► Four municipalities (**Burgas, Smolyan, Sofia** and **Varna**) participate in the URBACT initiative to support sustainable urban development through six of its various thematic networks.

► The **Jugozapaden region** is participating in the Mild Home initiative together with partners from seven countries to develop a concept for eco-settlements that can meet the needs of middle and low-income families.

► In order to reduce regional disparities, 246 municipalities (92.8% of the municipalities in the country) have registered on the WiFi4EU portal for free access for citizens to wireless internet connection in public places.

► The **Association of Danube Municipalities (ADO Danube)**, together with partners from Bulgaria and Romania, developed an integrated ecotourism route "Protected natural heritage within the cross-border region Romania- Bulgaria". The route brings together 60 sites with protected status and corresponds with several of the SDGs: partnership, biodiversity conservation, local

tourism development. The project is presented as a local stakeholder engagement initiative. Another cross-border project, "Clean Access in Calarasi-Silistra cross-border area", is focused entirely on the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda, building a network of bicycle lanes, purchasing electric bicycles, and solar parking for electric cars.

► **Sofia** has been participating since the beginning of 2018 in an international project on "Mobilizing European young people in support of the Sustainable Development Goals" (Walk the Global Walk) under the EuropeAid Programme of the European Commission. The project aims to strengthen cooperation between local authorities, the civil sector and educational institutions in countries within and outside the EU.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Resources are being channeled to address local challenges. Following the launch of the **financial decentralization process** in 2003, the activities related to organizing and providing public services financed through the budgets of municipalities are divided into state delegated and local activities. Much of the main activities for the implementation of the SDGs, such as health and education, social security and care, are carried out on the basis of state delegated budgets with clear standards. Specific tasks are carried out on a project basis using the EU Operational Programmes and beneficiaries' own contributions. Through these grants, municipalities can fund initiatives such as infrastructure, culture, social activity, etc.

The Operational Programme "**Human Resources Development**" 2014-2020 is another important source of grants for municipalities. The main priorities of this programme are: improving job quality and access to employment, reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion, modernizing labor market institutions, social inclusion and health, as well as transnational cooperation. The Operational Programme "**Environment**" 2014-2020 is also one of the main programmes providing opportunities for financing the municipalities. In addition, municipalities are beneficiaries of the Operational Programme "**Regions in Growth**" 2014-2020. The main priorities of the programme are sustainable and integrated urban development, development of regional educational, health and social infrastructure, development of regional tourism and improvement of the regional road infrastructure. Municipalities also receive grants under the Programme "**Rural Development**" 2014-2020.

The transfers to the municipalities from the state budget for financing social services, which are state delegated activities, have been increased. In 2019, their amount was 130 million EUR, 15 million EUR more than in 2018.

To plan and finance local sustainable development programs and projects the government has developed a "community-led local development" approach, creating employment by using local potential. The approach is applied bottom-up through the creation of **Local Action Groups** for territories with 10,000 to 150,000 inhabitants.³

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR analyzes and identifies the areas of progress and challenges and proposes possible solutions for all 17 SDGs. It outlines the progress on the most important indicators related to poverty and inequality reduction, as well as to the care for the most vulnerable in the fields of education, health and social protection.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Regarding women participation in politics, the 2020 VNR mentions that 14% of the mayors of municipalities are women, including the mayor of the capital city.

3.2 COVID 19

The laws, policies and measures decided by the national government to minimize the hardships of the crisis are summarized at the end of the 2020 VNR. Presented by themes (anti-epidemic, social, economic, information and assistance, education, and international cooperation), the measures are linked more generally to the SDGs in which they participate. There is no specific reference to initiatives led by local governments.

3. These groups include representatives of local community stakeholders who jointly, while maximizing publicity, set territorial development priorities and integrate them into community-led development strategies.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.2 (2019)
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	76 (2020)
	Rural	60 (2020)
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 (%)		100 (2011, Sofia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2017)

4. 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/bgr>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Croatia is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational government system, that comprises 20 counties (*županije*) and the capital city at the regional level, and 428 municipalities (*općina*) and 128 towns (*grad*) 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

Croatia started to prepare its **2030 National Development Strategy (NDS 2030)**, which was to be adopted in the first half of 2020. It shall form the foundation for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and subnational levels.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development**, chaired by the Prime Minister, was established in 2018. Its members are heads of relevant ministries and agencies of the government, the Office of the President and the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. It is also planned that representatives of other sustainable development stakeholders will participate in the work of the Council in an advisory role, namely representatives of regional self-government units, the economic sector, interested scientific and professional public and civil society representatives.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Information System for Strategic Planning and Development Management** was established with the purpose of creating a comprehensive framework to effectively monitor the success of SDG implementation in 2019. In particular, it will allow for electronic collection and storage of statistical and financial data required for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of strategic planning acts at national, regional and local level. For the purpose of disseminating the results and the status of realizing the sustainable development key indicators to the wider public, the **Croatian Bureau of Statistics** has designed an **internet portal** modelled after the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **National Council for Sustainable Development** includes local government associations.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23943CROATIA_UN_final.pdf (2019)

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

Comments: The Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia only participated through a survey (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: LRGs are represented by their associations in the National Council for Sustainable Development.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is limited reference to LRGs in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The city of [Split](#) is developing the project Shaping fair cities – Integrating Agenda 2030 within local policies in times of great migration and refugees' flows, a campaign and advocacy project led and implemented by local authorities.³

► Out of 128 towns in Croatia, 40 are developing intelligent solutions for mobility and transport. Over the past few years, investment projects aimed at purchasing new buses have been launched in nine cities across Croatia, which will lead to better public transport services for at least 1.6 million Croatian citizens. Tram infrastructure in two cities is currently undergoing modernisation for the purpose of improving public transport services.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: To reduce the risks of disasters and strengthen the resilience of the country and the society, the [Croatian Disaster Risk Reduction Platform](#) was established, aimed at exchanging experiences, expressing the views, making suggestions and sharing contributing achievements. Reducing the risks of disasters is both the national priority and the priority of the local community, thus a strong institutional basis for achieving this goal has been established. In order to avoid large accidents and disasters, especially in highly urbanized zones, the frequency and the intensity of which increases year after year, all three levels of government are encouraged to adopt physical plans promoting the building of resilient, sustainable cities. The sustainability of local communities is in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which promotes the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies.

3. Answer of the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia to the GTF Survey in 2020.

4. There is no detail on these cities in the 2019 VNR.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Local elections held in 2017 showed a certain amount of progress with regard to the percentage of women in the representative and executive branches of local government, and the percentage of municipal council women amounts to 26%, that of city council women amounts to 27% and of county council women 27%. The percentage of women deputy county prefects has increased to 30%.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.4 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	94 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	76 (2020)
	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 (%)		100 (2006, Zagreb)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		17.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2017)

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/hrv>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cyprus is a unitary republic which has a single-tier local government system, comprising two categories of local government: urban municipalities and rural communities. In the Northern part of the island there are 9 municipalities and 137 communities. In the rest of the island there are 30 municipalities and 350 communities. Cyprus belongs to the group of EU members that have a centralized governance. There is government supervision over the exercise of the regulatory powers of local authorities.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 **Action Plan for Growth** and the **National Reform Programme** prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy are aligned with all three dimensions of sustainable development. With the National Reform Programme, key horizontal and sector-specific policy actions are being promoted aiming to address key economic challenges in order to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Commitments towards the implementation of the SDGs will also be addressed within the **Long-Term Economic Strategy** currently being under preparation.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The institutional mechanism for the coordination and implementation of the 2030 Agenda is composed of ministries and other governmental services, such as the Statistical Service, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A relevant line ministry has been assigned as coordinator for each one of the 17 Goals. The Council of Ministers (CoM) appointed in 2018 the **Ministry of Finance**, through its Development Service (the **Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD)**) as the national coordinator for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The National Coordinator's competency comprises the effective incorporation of the SDGs in the national policy framework, the regular monitoring of progress and awareness raising events.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A consultation between all government departments, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has identified certain SDGs priorities for the 2017 VNR process. In 2021, each SDG has been allocated to the most pertinent ministry to prepare the input in cooperation with other Ministries involved and by also securing the input of the non-governmental stakeholders that are related to its area of activity. The DG EPCD initiated a mapping exercise in cooperation with line ministries in terms of national policies, strategies and action plans relevant to the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

The National Coordinator's competency comprises the effective incorporation of the SDGs into the national policy framework, the regular monitoring of progress and awareness raising events. A new project named "Implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national policy framework in Cyprus" was launched in December 2020, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It is a Governance and Monitoring Mechanism for the effective integration of SDGs into national policies and for their successful implementation.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15886Cyprus.pdf> (2017);

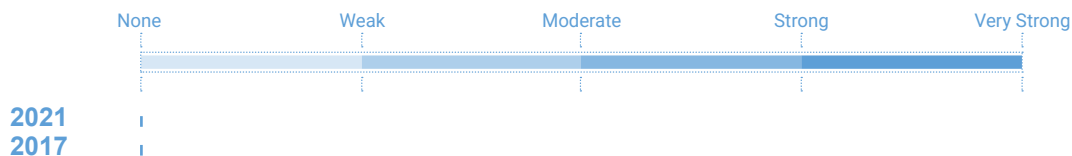
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021_VNR_Report_Cyprus.pdf (2021)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

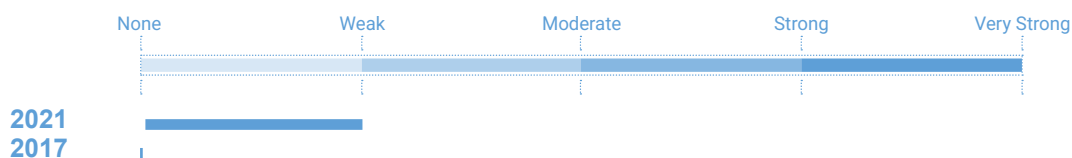
The VNR presented in 2017 established that reaching out to local authorities was a necessary step for SDGs awareness and action. Engagement of the local authorities in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is indeed targeted, as a necessary step towards creating ownership and involvement of the totality of the Cypriot society. The 2021 VNR highlights that the public consultation process involves local authorities, social partners, businesses and other stakeholders in the formulation of most policy measures and initiatives at departmental and ministerial level.

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

There is no specific subsection referring to the LRGs. Their role is mentioned through the document in a dispersed manner.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Envision project that was aiming at social inclusion included LRGs and civil society from Greece and Cyprus. The project didn't not explicitly mention SDG16 but it was within its spectrum.³ The project was implemented in collaboration with the [Union of Cyprus Municipalities \(UCM\)](#).⁴ A new project named "Implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national policy framework in Cyprus" was launched in December 2020, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

► Many municipalities (e.g. [Strovolos](#), [Ypsonas](#), [Latsia](#), [Ayia Napa](#), [Athienou](#)) and local communities (e.g. [Louvara](#), [Mazotos](#), [Ayios Theodoros](#)) have conducted environmental evaluation studies to help them adapt to climate change.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2017 VNR stated that government grant schemes were under revision for better targeting on needs, and that new grant schemes need to be developed in order to boost the main components of the SDGs. The funds provided to Cyprus through the Multi-Annual Financial Mechanism of the EU offer significant support in implementing the Sustainability Agenda up until 2030. Additionally, through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)'s holistic approach and support of sustainable development in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental – the implementation of the measures under the NRRP is expected to contribute to the improvement of the country's performance on the SDGs. Overall, a total amount of €1.2 billion (~6% of annual GDP) has been budgeted to promote 135 investments/reforms in total in all sectors of the economy. During the 2017-2020 period, urban local authorities were allocated €115 million to implement projects for the main historic centres of the four urban municipalities.

3. See: <https://www.project-envision.eu/site/en/project/about>

4. Answer of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities to the GTF Survey in 2021

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2017 VNR specified that due to the continued illegal occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military forces since 1974, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control over all of its national territory. Consequently, all information and data included in the Voluntary National Review concerned the government-controlled areas.

An extensive local government reform will reduce the number of municipalities, leading to economies of scale and better services to citizens. It also aims at ensuring viability, creating community clusters for the provision of centralized services, introducing a new model of administration, transferring new competences from central government and its decentralized units to the municipalities to increase the range of services at a lower cost where possible, and improving the efficiency of water supply, sewerage and solid waste management by creating district organizations to undertake this task.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the 2021 VNR, there is no reference regarding women participation in the decision making processes at the local level. The VNR highlights the advancements made with the Protection of Maternity Legislation which improved the level of protection afforded to pregnant women.

3.2 COVID 19

The government has adopted a support package for employees, the self-employed, vulnerable groups and businesses, which in 2020 amounted to €2.6 bln or 12.5% of GDP. Cyprus' pioneering mobilization of its volunteer network, under the coordination of the Office of the Commissioner for Volunteerism and NGOs, received EU wide recognition for its prompt and effective support of vulnerable groups following prescribed security protocols.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		16 (2019)
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	86 (2020)
	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)		14.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/cyp>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Czech Republic is a unitary country which has a two-tier subnational government system, made of 14 regions and 6,258 municipalities, with no hierarchical link between them. Prague has a dual status: it is both a region and a municipality, and has only one assembly and one board.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

SDGs are integrated in the [Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework \(CR 2030\)](#). It was prepared in cooperation with the Government Council for Sustainable Development. It has been adopted by the government and came into effect in April 2017.³ It is complemented by the [Implementation of the 2030 Agenda action plan](#). While CR 2030 is the main content guide for the achievement of SDGs (although it is primarily based on the internal developmental needs of the country), the action plan is the formal link between national goals and SDGs.⁴

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The [Ministry of Environment](#), with the support of the [Ministry of Regional Development](#), is in charge of the SDG coordination process. They seek advice from the [Government Council for Sustainable Development \(GCSD\)](#), chaired by the Prime Minister, in which LRGs are represented by SMO CR, the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic and Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

As in 2017, the 2021 VNR has been prepared with the support of the [Government Council for Sustainable Development](#) and its Committees and consulted with the relevant stakeholders. Consultations within the Council took place twice in 2020 and once in March 2021.

1.3 MONITORING

The CR 2030 vision, as well as the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda action plan, are assessed every three years. The first assessment took place in 2020. The reports were approved by the government in January 2021, and the preparation of a new Implementation Plan CR 2030 began on their basis. There are in total an extraordinary volume of data: a total of 192 indicators for CR 2030 and 247 indicators for the 2030 Agenda, and another 140 indicators of the national set for quality of life.⁵ Also, a new online tool and methodology for territorial impact assessment (TIA) has been developed for municipalities and regions to enhance the sustainable planning of their projects and decisions about investment targeting. The tool reveals the potential positive and negative impacts of projects on the specific territory in all three areas of sustainable development.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15717Czech_Republic.pdf (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279492021_VNR_Report_Czech_Republic.pdf (2021)

3. For the elaboration of this document, the drafting phase was carried out in close cooperation with ministries, local and regional authorities, parliamentary representatives and a wide range of other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and the labour unions.

4. The first assessment reports on both these strategic documents were approved by the government in January 2021. The content of the VNR is based on these.

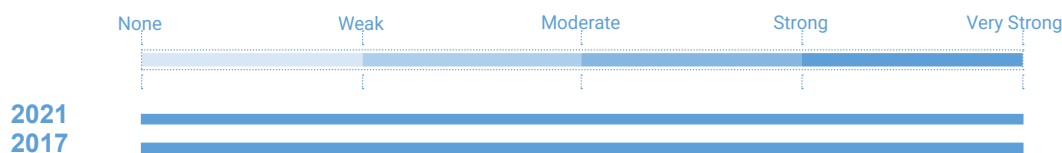
5. However, the 2021 VNR does not include data based on these indicators, even though it is based on the assessment of CR 2030 and the Implementation action plan. On the contrary, it offers a qualitative assessment of the progress made for each SDG target.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participated in the drafting of the 2030 Strategic Framework. **SMO CR** (Union of Towns and Municipalities) took part in the Government Council for Sustainable Development, in charge of the 2021 VNR. It was also involved in the preparation of the national reporting process, commenting on the draft report.

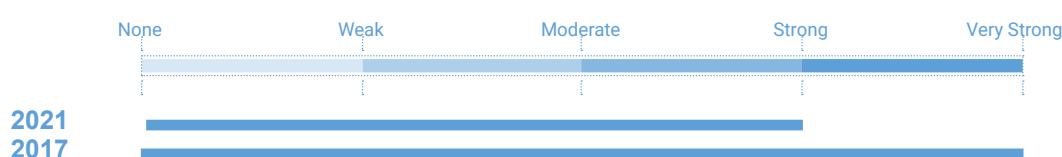
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: SMO CR (Union of Towns and Municipalities) took part in the Government Council for Sustainable Development, in charge of the 2021 VNR. It was also involved in the preparation of the national reporting process, commenting on the draft report.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular consultation, no decision making.

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 2017 VNR has as a Key Area "Regions and Municipalities" stating that by 2030, the Czech Republic will have completed its reform of regional public administration. It is also looking for strengthened coordination among public institutions as this will lead to more coherent and coordinated policies while respecting the principle of subsidiarity at different levels of governance, including local government. The government will give methodological and coordination support to regions and municipalities to set minimum standards for public services and ensure the exchange of information and good practices. "In order to enable the effective long-term planning and regular assessment of local policies towards sustainable development and public wellbeing, sufficient administrative capacity of regional institutions will be ensured."

The 2021 VNR also has a subsection on "Regions and their strategies", which includes municipalities. The references to regions and municipalities are constant, both in terms of specific SDG-related initiatives and concerning local actions for sustainable development that may not have the SDG-tag.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The 2017 VNR acknowledges that many municipalities set their citizens' participation strategies under Local Agenda 21 and, for example, legislation on environmental impact assessment enables citizens to be involved in local urban planning. They include implementation of sustainability principles, including ecological education and raising public awareness, nature conservation and sustainable development as a whole (e.g., Czech Union of Nature Conservation - Branch Veronica in Brno). The 2021 VNR reaffirms this point by stating that LRG awareness of and commitment to the SDGs is growing, and that "some newly created development strategies in individual regions are already based on CR 2030, although in most cases not directly but by means of a connection to the current Regional Development Strategy 21+, or use the Smart Cities concept". However, according to the VNR, "the regions often endeavour to apply sustainable development principles throughout strategic management."

► The **Liberec Region** has executed a Sustainable Development Strategy and a Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. It has also established an advisory climate commission and applies sustainable development principles in strategic development and during the creation of regional plans. Other regions also proceed in a similar manner (e.g. the **Moravian-Silesian, South Bohemian and Vysočina Regions**).

► The 2021 VNR acknowledges the role played in all pillars of sustainable development (plus culture) by the town of **Jihlava**, who has recently joined the URBACT IV – Global Goals for Cities programme network.⁶

6. Answer of SMO CR to the GTF Survey in 2021.

► According to **SMO CR**, LGAs and “Local Action Groups” also address sustainable development. In 2021, the Association launched a systemic change in its functioning in the context of sustainable development: the area of sustainable development is now among the Union’s priorities (Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic) for 2021-2023, a new working group for sustainable development will be established and the Association will continue to educate and support municipalities in implementing SDGs in more intensive and systematic way. The VNR acknowledges the effort of SMO CR, who in 2020 conducted a questionnaire survey to find out what the situation is in the implementation of SDGs at the local level. Based on this survey, which involved 400 municipalities, an analysis was performed which identified the current situation in implementation SDGs on the local level, priority areas, obstacles and what support from the national institutions or from SMO CR the municipalities need. The VNR acknowledges that “89% of Czech municipalities that took part in the questionnaire survey consider sustainable development an important aspect in decisions about development of their municipalities”.⁷

► Beyond the SDG-related experiences at local level, the VNR also includes several LRG-led actions contributing to sustainable development, such as that of the **Moravian-Silesian region**, rich in coal, to define new energy, environmental and economic goals.⁸

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic has created a pilot overview of state budget expenditure for the SDGs in 2020 (**SDG tagging**) that has not yet been tested (although the Executive Summary states that the first overview was carried out in 2020). An existing expenditure budget structure enables classification and identification of expenditure in the state budget depending on the content and purpose, up to the level of SDGs targets. However, the formation of the state budget and its structure is not currently prepared for decisions based on SDGs, or for actual sustainable budgeting (**SDG budgeting**). According to the 2021 VNR, around 75% of expenditure from the state budget is in accordance with SDGs, and it relies broadly from EU funds.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Czech Republic, in 2015, some municipal responsibilities were reallocated from small municipalities to larger municipalities (to overcome municipal fragmentation), and to the central government in the social reform framework.⁹ The 2021 VNR points out the importance of some towns/cities for the region in which they are located, often assuming more competent than foreseen. actions. “Towns that do so intentionally and thereby exceed the importance of their regions are for instance **Chrudim**, **Jihlava** and **Litoměřice**”.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The number of women in executive positions in the Czech Republic has not exceeded 30% over the long term. The number of women in local government is increasing regularly (28% in 2019), while the percentage of women in the Chamber of Deputies has never exceeded 22%.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR underlines that “the Czech Republic, as an [EU] member state, has the opportunity to prepare an ambitious National Recovery Plan focusing on digitalisation, environmentally friendly solutions, healthcare, modern education and the improved function of the public administration system in the 21st century.” However, no information related to LRGs is given.

7. Answer of SMO CR to the GTF Survey in 2021.

8. Answer of SMO CR to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		28 (2020)
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 (%)		99.2 (2015, Prague)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		15.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100

¹⁰ 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/cze>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Denmark is a unitary republic which has a two-tier system of local government resulting from the 2007 local government reform. In 2013, a new reform of the state territorial administration established one central office in Åbenrå and 8 regional representations. The country is subdivided into 5 regions and 98 municipalities. The capital city, Copenhagen, has a special administrative and political structure, as do three other major cities.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

A new Danish action plan on implementing the SDGs was adopted in June 2021, in which the government has indicated new actions such as status assessments on all SDGs, legislative screenings, an annual progress report and increased focus on the Leave No One Behind agenda. Its drafting has been debated with the multiple stakeholders at the same time as the 2021 VNR.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for coordinating the national implementation of the SDGs. Efforts are mainly coordinated through the **inter-ministerial SDG work group** and bilaterally between the Ministry of Finance and line ministries. The Parliament has created the non-partisan 2030 Network to ensure SDGs are present in all progress made, and this encouraged the Parliament to establish a working group to measure progress. The **2030 Network** has created the multi-stakeholder **2030 Panel** which is consulted by the national government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2017, the Ministry of Finance held an initial meeting with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, businesses, municipalities and regions, youth organizations and academia to discuss the process leading up to the HLPF. Denmark's second VNR, published in 2021, largely focuses on developments at the national and subnational levels and has broadly included them in the drafting process. Civil society actors, the private sector, organizations, academic institutions, **municipalities and regions** have contributed cases and insights regarding their work in support of sustainable development and the SDGs. The **Minister of Finance** met with the **2030 Panel** to discuss the Danish Government's future implementation of the SDGs and efforts thus far on the VNR report and the Danish Government's action plan. Also, the VNR draws on existing data and knowledge from independent studies and reports such as the "Our Goal" report by Statistics Denmark and the 2030 Panel, published in 2020. Finally, the Ministry of Finance also established an electronic mailbox (verdensmaal@fm.dk), where stakeholders could send input on the government's action plan. This has given businesses, municipalities, regions, organizations and others an opportunity to contribute to the policy development process.

1.3 MONITORING

Since the 2017 VNR, **Statistics Denmark** has developed a system for SDG follow-up built around the **Danish National Reporting Platform**. As part of the action plan, the government produces an annual progress report, which is public and sent to the Parliament. The first progress report was presented in 2018 and the next report will be released in 2022. Additionally, yearly status reports are foreseen with the new action plan.

As a complementary initiative, the multi-stakeholder 2030 Panel has taken the initiative to create the world's first supplementary

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16013Denmark.pdf> (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279532021_VNR_Report_Denmark.pdf (2021)

national indicators for the SDGs. The baseline project, “[Our Goals](#)”, which comprises representatives from all stakeholder groups, is the product of extensive work owned by the 2030 Panel and implemented by Danish Statistics. The National Danish Indicators consist of 197 indicators that will serve as a supplement to the existing global SDG indicator framework and are directly relevant for Denmark. The national indicators will – together with the other indicators – be measured every year, and thus serve as a baseline as well as an indicator of the status of implementing the SDGs in Denmark.

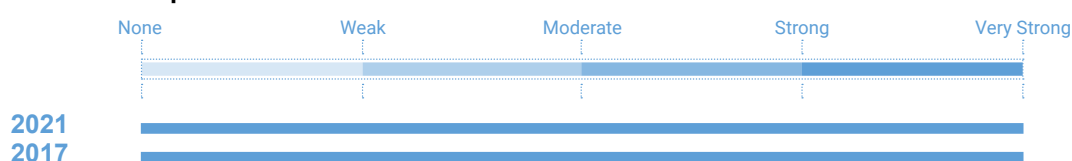
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

[Danish Regions](#) and [Local Government Denmark \(KL\)](#) participate in the 2030 Panel.

Municipalities and regions participated in both 2017 and 2021 VNR processes. Indeed, for the 2021 VNR the Ministry of Finance established contact through KL with a number of municipalities that are particularly active in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In November 2020, the Ministry of Finance held a preliminary meeting with KL, after which the Ministry engaged in dialogue with the municipalities regarding the possibility of preparing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) offering any advice and support along the way.

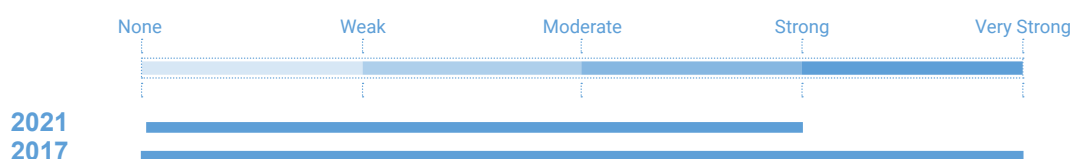
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: In the 2021 VNR there is a specific section compiling contributions from regions and municipalities, and one from the 2030 Panel (in which Danish Regions and KL participated). The Danish Ministry of Finance established contact through KL with a number of municipalities that are particularly active in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the UN's SDGs.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Associations of Danish Regions and Local Government Denmark are part of the “2030 Panel”, which has an advisory role close to the Parliament, CSOs and business sector.

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

As in 2017, in the 2021 VNR there is a special subsection dedicated to regions and municipalities as important partners in the implementation of the SDGs: it is entitled “Regions and Municipalities” (11 pages overall). It highlights the role of KL.³ It also highlights the role of Danish Regions that safeguards regional government interests. Also, an excerpt of [Gladsaxe Municipality's VLR](#) – the first-ever VLR from a Danish municipality – is presented. It also includes the contributions made by other Danish municipalities: [Copenhagen](#), [Sonderborg](#), [Guldborgsund](#), [Vejle](#) and [Aarhus](#), as well as a contribution from the 2030 Panel, in which LRGs’ views are reflected through the LGAs’ participation. References to regions and municipalities can be found often throughout the report.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Here are some examples mentioned in the 2017 VNR:

► Regions and municipalities have integrated the Agenda 21 within their planning strategies. For example, the municipality of [Gladsaxe](#) involves citizens in developing environmentally sustainable solutions.

3. KL is the national association of Danish municipalities and represents all 98 Danish municipalities. KL is primarily an interest group that safeguards the interests of the municipalities at a national and EU level.

- ▶ The municipality of **Sønderborg** adopted a 4-17-42 approach,⁴ in which the four pillars of social, economic, cultural and environmental are coupled with the SDGs and 42 key features.
- ▶ 10 municipalities are involved in the Green Generation project, which involves public awareness initiatives, developing “green” curricula, and increased cooperation between different municipal departments, mainly the departments of environment and education.
- ▶ The **North Denmark Region** is the first Climate Region in Denmark. The regional council has committed itself to reducing CO2 emissions by 2% each year until 2025. Each year, the North Denmark Region produces a climate accounting to show the amount of CO2 emissions produced by the regions’ services and activities.

Examples of Danish regions and municipalities, and their associations, abound in the 2021 VNR.

- ▶ All five regions in Denmark state they work with the SDGs. Some have chosen to formulate explicit and targeted SDG action plans, while others have chosen to integrate the SDGs into existing development strategies and plans.
- ▶ **KL**’s actions in favor of the SDGs include communicating with municipal priorities concerning the SDGs at a national government level; participating in national-level collaborations to strengthen focus on the SDGs across Danish society; collecting and sharing knowledge and best practices between municipalities; spreading the use of the Danish SDG indicators; conducting surveys and supporting research on the SDGs, for instance co-founding a PhD study on local collaboration on the SDGs at the municipal level; and offering physical and digital platforms for dialogue such as conferences, webinars, networks, etc.
- ▶ In a recent survey, nearly nine out of ten municipalities say they have decided to work with the SDGs. 24% have implemented local SDG strategies or action plans while 74% have incorporated the SDGs into existing strategies.
- ▶ Some Danish municipalities even conduct local monitoring efforts, e.g. tracking progress on six cross-sectoral goals in **Gleedsø Municipality** and tracking progress through the VLR.
- ▶ **Copenhagen**, by setting sustainability requirements in the organization of mega-events (such as the co-hosting of the UEFA European Championship in 2021), creates important incentives for the development of innovative and sustainable solutions.
- ▶ **Sønderborg** City Council recently approved a 2021-2024 Sustainability Policy and associated baseline.
- ▶ **Guldborgsund Municipality** is taking the SDGs as a basis for policy making, e.g. in helping people to restart their working life, building an SDG school and the plantation of new trees.
- ▶ **Vejle Municipality** has actively pursued the SDGs for a number of years, and particularly through its resilience strategy.
- ▶ **Aarhus** City Council explicitly addressed the SDGs in its budget reviews of the last two budget agreements.
- ▶ Local SDG committees involving participation from civil society have been established in the municipalities of **Aalborg**, **Aarhus** and **Odense**.
- ▶ In connection with the latest municipal elections, the civil society organizations UNA-DK and Nyt Europa collected SDG promises from local political candidates. For the upcoming elections, UNA-DK will assist municipalities in preparing for VLRS and local SDG implementation.
- ▶ Other examples tackle specific policy areas. For instance, as a tool for ensuring socioeconomically diverse cities and lower housing prices, Danish municipalities have the right to require 25% social housing in new residential development, which means the construction of affordable housing for citizens with normal and low incomes. They have engaged with the organization Global Seniors with regards to safe and sustainable cities which are able to accommodate the needs of older generations.

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

Gleedsø published VLRS in 2021 and 2022.⁵

4. ‘4-17-42’ is an approach to building and monitoring learning city development in Sønderborg, included in its LLL strategy with an emphasis on sustainability. ‘4’ stands for Sønderborg’s four political commitments to environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability. ‘17’ represents the city’s commitment to the UN’s seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. Sønderborg places special emphasis on quality education for all (Goal 4), sustainable energy (Goal 7) and global partnerships for sustainability (Goal 17). ‘42’ represents the forty-two features of a learning city as defined in UNESCO’s Key Features of Learning Cities.

More details here: https://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.centreforsustainablecities.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Alex-Howells-Educationalplanning-in-cities-Building-a-monitoring-and-evaluationframeworkforlifelonglearning.pdf&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1625156883556000&usg=AOvVaw3zLfNoGdkp3vIKxjemjh_S
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279532021_VNR_Report_Denmark.pdf (2021)

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/gleedsø_2021.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/gleedsø_2022.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2016, the SDGs have been integrated into the national bill pertaining to the budget for development cooperation indicating which SDGs are addressed by each budget allocation. As stated by the 2017 VNR, the municipalities account for 70% of public consumption. Each year the government negotiates the budget for the following year with and for the municipalities and regions. An agreement was reached with local governments and regional governments to cooperate to achieve the SDGs and integrate SDGs in policymaking. The 2021 VNR states that the implementation of the action plan and sustainable development in general is funded by budget allocations as approved by Parliament in the annual budget negotiations for the coming fiscal year. As such, every ministry and government agency is responsible for the allocation of sufficient resources. In the field of development cooperation, there is an SDG Investment Fund for Developing Countries that specifically targets SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9: eradicating poverty, ending hunger, securing clean water, sustainable energy as well as industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Municipalities and regions administer 64% of public expenditures, ranking Denmark third in economic decentralization according to international figures from the OECD.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The tasks of the regions, governed by elected politicians, include health, psychiatry and social services, public transport, education, environmental and nature protection and regional development, making the regions highly relevant for national SDG implementation. The municipalities are responsible for delivering welfare and developing local communities within a number of public sector areas that are related to the SDGs, e.g. health care, social service, employment, primary schooling, child care and economic development. Since January 2019, the regions have seen their role reduced in the implementation of structural funds programmes (the European Regional Development Fund – ERDF and the European Social Fund – ESF) and in business development.⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the last four local government elections, the share of women was rising, although there was a small decline in the last election in 2017. Women participation at the local level is very similar to that of the general elections. The share at regional elections is somewhat lower, but nonetheless increased from 28% in 2005 to 33% at the latest elections.

3.2 COVID 19

Danish Regions is fully involved in all COVID-19 issues related to health issues and the regions are compensated for all expenses related to COVID-19.⁷

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.3 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.001 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2015, Copenhagen)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		9.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. Answer of the association of Danish Regions to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

8. 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/dnk>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Estonia is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, which includes 79 municipalities with elected local councils.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

In 1995, the Sustainable Development Act was adopted. In 2005, the Parliament of Estonia (*Riigikogu*) approved the Estonian sustainable development strategy called “**Sustainable Estonia 21**”. It defines four main goals: the viability of Estonian cultural space, the growth of welfare, coherent society, and ecological balance. Three of them are essentially covered by 17 SDGs, and another one – the viability of the cultural space – is monitored additionally. The SDGs have also been used in the creation of Estonia’s long-term strategy “**Estonia 2035**”, that sets strategic goals for the country and determines the changes necessary to achieve them.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Government Office** coordinates sustainable development issues and the institutional framework. It also coordinates the preparation and monitoring of Estonia’s long-term strategy “Estonia 2035” and the Government’s Action Plan. The **Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development** was established in 1996 as an advisory body to the government. It consists of multiple organizations (research institutions, nature protection, child protection, companies, energy, heritage protection, youth associations, development cooperation roundtable, local governments, etc.). There is also an **inter-ministerial working group** on sustainable development, that consists of representatives of ministries and Statistics Estonia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of the 2020 VNR was coordinated by the **Government Office** of Estonia. Information for the review was provided by the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development and the many organizations participating in the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2017, the list of Estonia’s sustainable development indicators was updated to be in line with the SDGs. Key indicators are available on the web as a data-driven “statistics tree”,³ which provides an overview of the state of implementation of the goals by all areas of governance. The implementation of the SDGs is also monitored through a regularly issued report on sustainable development indicators prepared by Statistics Estonia in cooperation with the Government Office and ministries.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participate in the **Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development**.

LRGs only participated in the 2020 VNR by responding to a survey, also intended for various organizations, including NGOs.

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

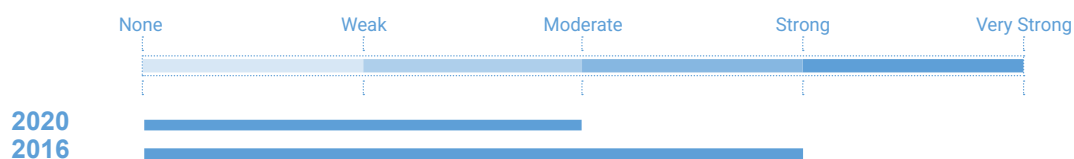
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10647estonia.pdf> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26284VNR_2020_Estonia_Report.pdf (2020)

3. See it here: <https://tamm.stat.ee/>

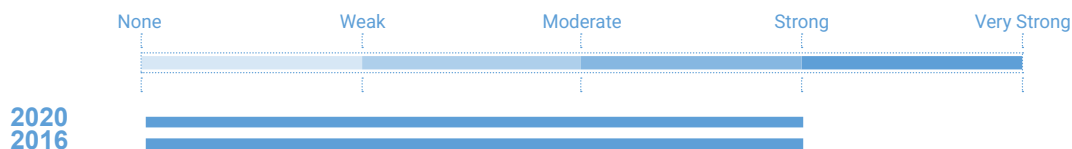
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs only participated in the 2020 VNR by responding to a survey, also intended for various organizations, including NGOs.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs participate in the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development.

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 2020 VNR, in the subsection on the implementation of SDG11, local governments are mentioned, as well as the reform that reduced their number and their new challenges in this new scheme of decentralization. However, there are not many references to locally led initiatives nor to the details of their participation in the national coordination process and in the VNR itself.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The city of **Tallinn** has been actively contributing to the creation of opportunities for business development and innovation since the early 2000s. The main focus of the activities has been on the growth of entrepreneurial activity and awareness, the support of development of start-ups, and the creation of a favourable environment for expanding business opportunities.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Ministry of Finance** has supported the preparation of the main strategic documents for directing spatial development for local governments, with the preparation of guidance materials, advice, and support measures.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In autumn 2020, a biennial Sustainable Development Forum has been held, entitled "**Cities and towns in a changing climate**". Throughout the report, this is one of the few signs of the recognition by the national government of the importance of LRGs in the implementation of the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The VNR highlights national measures to fight poverty among women, in the field of health, education and regarding inequalities in the labor market. There is no reference to initiatives from local governments. Although gender inequalities in the decision-making level and in particular in the representation of women and men in politics are raised, there is no data on the situation at the local level nor on the evolution of these inequality. UN SDG Statistics: 28.6% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

The report does not mention the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		28.6 (2017)
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)		6.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

4. 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/est>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Finland is a unitary republic with a decentralized and single-tier subnational structure. Its 311 municipalities have their own elected authorities. In addition, among its 15 regions, only the county of Åland has an autonomous administration.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 first national plan for the integration of the SDGs into national processes and policies was submitted in 2017 (Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development – The Future We Want 2050). The current government of the Prime Minister has been preparing a second programme, called '**Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society**', which has strong emphasis and concrete measures that contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national **2030 Agenda Coordination Secretariat** is part of the Prime Minister's Office.³ The **Sustainable Development Inter-Ministerial Coordination Network** includes all ministries to support the Prime Minister's Office Coordination Secretariat.⁴ Another important comprehensive forum for sustainable development is the National Follow-up Network.⁵ Two national commissions oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland: the **National Commission on Sustainable Development** (of which the **Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA)** is member) and the National Development Policy Committee in the Parliament. Also, among the most innovative institutional mechanisms supporting SDG implementation are the **Expert Panel for Sustainable Development**, which expresses an independent and critical scientific voice, and the **2030 Agenda Youth Group**.

In addition, the national strategy features an online platform that invites companies, educational institutions, political parties, cities and other actors to **make public commitments** towards sustainability. About 40 Finnish municipalities have made around 100 commitments.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Prime Minister's Office** has been responsible for the coordination and development of Finland's second VNR in 2020. All ministries have been involved, and several workshops, consultations and meetings were organized. The report relies on existing data and research studies made out by independent bodies like the National Audit Office, national statistical authorities like Statistics Finland, and other institutions.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Follow-up Network** is in charge of the development, maintenance and revision of national monitoring framework and sustainability indicators. The **National Audit Office** expressed its interest in assessing Finland's implementation and governance for the 2030 Agenda. Since 2016, there has been a regular dialogue between the auditors and sustainable development officials in different ministries. The **Parliament** has a key role in ensuring accountability of the work of the government. In addition to the Parliament, key forums for monitoring and reviewing the government's work on SDG

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10611Finland_VNR.pdf (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26261VNR_Report_Finland_2020.pdf (2020)

3. The secretariat consists of three officials and supporting assistants. The Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, based in the Ministry of the Environment, participates in the coordination function of the Prime Minister's Office.

4. The Coordination Network is mandated to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into all sectors and aims at ensuring and improving balance between the economic, social and environmental sustainability and enhancing Policy Coherence on Sustainable Development in the policy planning.

5. It is chaired by the Prime Minister's Office, and includes representatives from ministries, Statistics Finland, research institutions and various stakeholder groups.

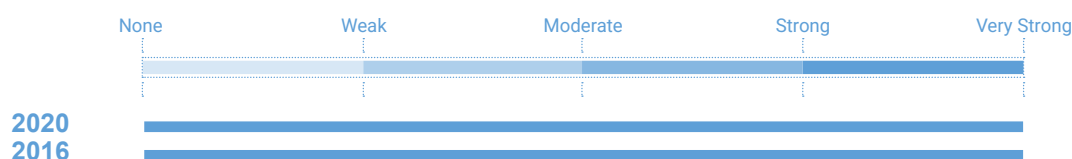
implementation are the [National Commission for Sustainable Development](#) and the [National Development Policy Committee](#). The national follow-up system includes innovative participatory elements, such as the [Citizen panel](#).⁶ For the 2020 VNR, the evaluation of the progress in each SDG is based on [two independent assessments](#): one by state authorities and the statistical office and one by civil society actors. The national government is raising awareness on the municipalities' core functions and the global SDGs, by offering local governments the [MayorsIndicators tool](#),⁷ which allows them to measure the progress made via 140 SDG indicators chosen to be transposable at the local level.⁸

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR highlights [the growing reliance of local governments on the SDGs as part of their strategic objectives](#). From March 2019 to April 2020, the [Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities \(AFLRA\)](#) has been participating in the [KESTO project](#)⁹ (Leadership and implementation of sustainability: Action research on the localisation of the SDGs in Finnish municipalities), that supports strategic and integrative approaches to sustainable urban development.¹⁰

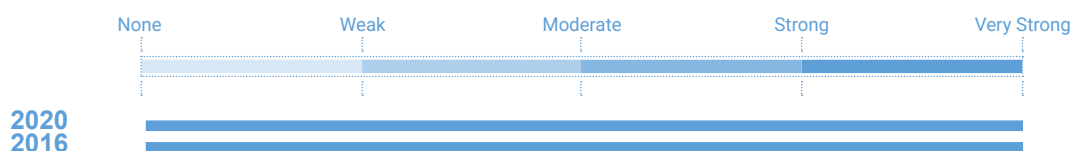
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The AFLRA presented its own contribution to the 2020 VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participation of LRGs and their association (consultative).

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 2020 VNR, as part of the section on "Policy and Enabling Environment", the subsection "Work in Regions, Cities and Municipalities" details the commitment of local governments to the SDGs and has been written by the AFLRA (see VNR, 2020, p. 42-43). Following, there are 3 boxes written by the cities of [Helsinki](#), [Espoo](#) and [Turku](#) on the VLRs they developed (p. 43-46).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2020 VNR underlines the work accomplished by the [autonomous region Åland](#) to integrate the SDGs in its core strategies. In 2014, the Parliament and the government of Åland adopted a goal of total sustainable development in Åland for 2051. A network has also been created for all citizens, organizations, authorities and companies, in order to participate in establishing Åland's sustainable agenda.

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

Many Finnish cities have already developed VLRs: the capital city [Helsinki](#) in 2019 and 2021, [Espoo](#) and [Turku](#) in 2020, and [Vantaa](#) and [Tampere](#) in 2021.¹¹ Helsinki was the first city in Europe to submit a VLR. Its 2019 report presents the objectives of

6. More information on monitoring and review mechanisms in the VNR, 2020, p. 96.

7. <https://www.mayorsindicators.com/>

8. See it here: <https://Mayorsindicators.com>

9. <https://www.demoshelsinki.fi/referenssit/kesto/>

10. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

11. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Helsinki%20\(2019\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Helsinki%20(2019).pdf) ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/helsinki_2021.pdf ; https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/espoo_2020_0.pdf ;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/turku_2020_0.pdf ; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vantaa_2021.pdf

the Helsinki City Strategy (2017-2021) and the mechanisms for monitoring it, and highlights the concrete processes by which the city is moving towards the SDGs.

Espoo's VLR reviews the actions that are implementing Espoo Story, the strategy and narrative that guide the city's operations and make them understandable for all, and maps them with the SDGs. The participative dimension of the development of the VLR is highlighted.

Turku's VLR focuses on examining the Turku 2029 City Strategy and its most important operations in terms of the SDGs. 4 of these were given special attention: SDGs 6, 10, 13 and 17.

Oulu is planning to prepare its VLR in 2022.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into the government's planning, budgeting and reporting processes. Recently, the Ministry of Environment launched the [Sustainable City programme \(2019-2023\)](#), that promotes the sustainable development of cities and municipalities through practical urban development and strategic management.¹²

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR pays very important attention to citizen participation and participatory mechanisms, which are regularly presented as the backbone of the Finnish sustainable development strategy. [Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development](#) (2016) is one of Finland's key instruments for engaging the whole of society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the public sector, businesses, civil society and private individuals. Special attention is also given to [minorities](#), for example the indigenous Sámi people and the Swedish speaking autonomous region Åland island, which were included among the members of the National Commission from the very beginning. In addition to youth (through the 2030 Agenda Youth Group) and women, other groups were included as well, in particular the disabled and immigrants. Regarding participation in the development of the VNR itself, multiple stakeholders not only have been consulted, but also participated in the assessment of Finland's performance on every SDG and independently wrote parts of the report.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women are one of the main targets of public policies and international cooperation in Finland. Regarding their participation in decision-making bodies, particularly political ones, women's participation has increased at the national level. The 2020 VNR does not mention data on the political participation of women at municipal level.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR makes very little reference to COVID-19, apart from reaffirming the country's commitment to the SDGs, despite the urgent changes and short-term measures that the national government had to decide in the face of the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39 (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	-
	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 (%)		100 (2015, Helsinki)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		5.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

12. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

13. 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/fin>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

France is a unitary republic with a three-tiered subnational government system. The country is divided into 18 regions, 101 departments and 35,357 municipalities.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

In order to achieve the SDGs, France decided to follow a **Roadmap**, which was adopted in 2019. This aims at defining priority issues and the national trajectory for the implementation of sustainable development, while mobilizing concrete levers of action and engaging all stakeholders.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Sustainable Development Delegation** coordinates the national aspect of the implementation of the SDGs, in close consultation with all the ministries. The **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs** is responsible for coordinating efforts towards achieving the SDGs at the international level. In order to ensure the transversality and consistency of France's action plan, an inter-ministerial steering committee has been set up in 2018: the **High-Level Steering Committee for the SDGs**. In addition, the Senior Sustainable Development Officials in each ministry constitute a network on which the Sustainable Development Delegation can rely to implement the coordination of public policies.⁴

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Interministerial Representative for Sustainable Development** and **General Commissioner for Sustainable Development** steered the drafting of the 2016 VNR. Workshops were organized by the Minister of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, in charge of Sustainable Development, and the Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, with participants from the international solidarity sector, the environment, education and social sectors, among others. National representative civil society bodies such as the National Council for Ecological Transition, the National Council for Development and International Solidarity and the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights were also consulted in the preparation of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)** ensures, in line with the different ministries and statistical services, the coordination of statistical work on indicators to allow the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. To define indicators adapted to France's specific and local priorities, a working group has been set up within the **National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)**. Associations (such as ATD Fourth World, France Nature Environnement, Secours Catholique, etc.), research institutes (such as the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), government institutions (such as the National Poverty and Social Exclusion Observatory) were thus invited to join the statistical services.⁵

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10729Rapport%20ODD%20France.pdf> (2016)

3. See: <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/feuille-de-route-de-la-france-pour-l-agenda-2030/> and <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/situation-et-organisation-de-la-mise-en-oeuvre-en-france#scrollNav-2-4>

4. See: <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/mobilisation-des-acteurs#scrollNav-1>

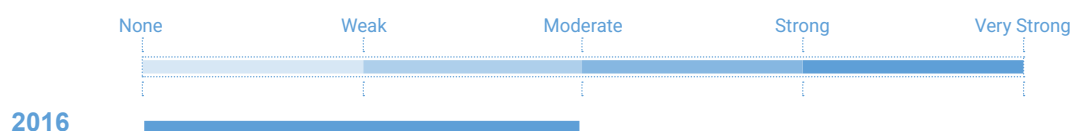
5. See: <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/agenda-2030/en-france/article/situation-et-organisation-de-la-mise-en-oeuvre-en-france#scrollNav-2-3>

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

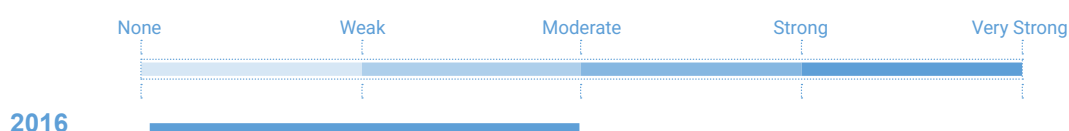
The **Association of Mayors of France (AMF)**, the French section of CEMR (AFCCRE) and United Cities France (CUF), as well as the Assembly of Departments and the French Associations of Regions (RdF), were invited to the **High-Level Steering Committee for the SDGs**. A number of them created a working group on the SDGs and decentralized cooperation bringing together various French cities and regions. Consequently, cities and regions began to align their plans with the SDGs.⁶ The 2016 VNR stated that regional consultative workshops could be held for local actors to take up the SDGs and contribute to the elaboration of a national action plan. Shared local diagnoses could be conducted to identify the assets and challenges of the French mainland and overseas regions with respect to the SDGs. The regional economic, social and environmental councils could be usefully associated with these diagnoses.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2016 VNR contains very few references to LRGs, and no specific example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► France has 19 eco-cities, 39 eco-neighborhoods and nearly 400 positive energy territories for green growth which roll out exemplary practical, innovative and effective solutions for a new way of shaping the urban fabric. 16 consortia of businesses and regions have been awarded the title "Industrial Demonstrators for Sustainable Cities" in order to develop exemplary and innovative urban projects, benefiting from technical assistance from the government for five years and support from the Investment in the Future programme. The key features of these demonstrators are a small carbon footprint, energy self-sufficiency, the circular economy, water protection, the restoration of biodiversity, functional and social diversity and community involvement.

► With a specific focus on the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, the city of **Besançon** has put forward a comprehensive set of actions to steer sustainable development in its territory, structured along the five axes of sustainability adopted after the Rio 1992 Earth Summit. These are: the fight against climate change; the preservation of biodiversity; the promotion of social cohesion; the protection of human life conditions; and the shift towards responsible production and consumption modes. The city council has developed initiatives along these lines, engaging a broad scope of local stakeholders, including a broad strategy to enhance energy efficiency (urban renewal, renewable energies), while reducing the ecological impact and improving environmental protection. Moreover, the city seeks to embed cohesiveness combining actions based on the promotion of culture and the inclusion of vulnerable populations with the elaboration of local development action plans via citizen participation.

► To advance gender equality in the **Île-de-France** region, a vast communication campaign across the public transport network was carried out in cooperation with Ile-de-France Mobilités, the Paris urban transit agency (RATP) and train company (SNCF Transilien): 'Never minimize sexual harassment: Victim or witness, speak up!'.

► During the COVID-19 pandemic, the city of **Bordeaux** created an orientation platform for workers in the cultural sector.⁷

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

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

► **Bordeaux Métropole** created a territorial observatory on the contribution to SDG implementation, as well as a food governance council, implemented a reforestation program ('1 million trees'), and established a support system for reducing energy consumption. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it also drew up a plan to support the local economy.⁸

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

The city of **Besançon** prepared VLRs in 2018 and 2019.⁹ **Niort** also presented a VLR in 2020.¹⁰

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2016 VNR mentions that under the "Breathable Cities in Five Years" initiative, France is helping 20 local authorities for a five-year period with funding of up to €1 million per action and grants for the purchase of clean vehicles.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: France's multifaceted local government reform in 2010 included several measures, such as the reform of the local taxation system (reduction of local taxing power) and equalization mechanisms; a streamlining of inter-municipal cooperation; and the creation of a new status of metropole. Important parts of the 2010 legislation were later revoked and the 2013-2015 Act III of Decentralization resulted in new territorial and decentralization reforms, including the law on metropolises (2014), regional mergers (2014) and the NOTRe law (2015). The latter modifies the allocation of responsibilities across different SNG levels, strengthening the responsibilities of regions (on economic development, territorial planning, environment protection and vocational training). Reforms since 2010 have been incremental, addressing metropolitan governance, reform of regional boundaries, subnational responsibilities and inter-municipal cooperation; greater powers are also envisaged for the French regions.¹¹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Local authorities are essential in the territorialization of the national recovery plan called "France Relance". Through contractualization, in particular with the regions within the framework of state-region contracts, but also through collaboration between the prefects and local authorities, local governments are a key player in the concrete and local implementation of the national recovery objectives. The plan covers four types of measures: allocations in the hands of regional prefects, measures which give rise to contracts with local authorities, national measures whose implementation will depend on local elected officials, measures passing through operators. In **Hérault**, for example, nearly 11 M € in the first endowment has been allocated by the state to support concrete projects around three main areas: ecological transition, sovereignty and economic competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion.¹²

The local government association **United Cities France** (CUF) advocated the national government not to forget its support for African countries and Haiti's local governments in the fight against the pandemic. It also held several meetings on the management of the pandemic by the African, Haitian and French LRGs. A capitalization document was drafted on these issues as well as an advocacy video.¹³

8. See: <https://ccgad.bordeaux-metropole.fr/> and <http://fondsurgencebordeauxmetropole.fr/FondsDeSoutienCOVID19>.

Answer of Bordeaux Métropole to the GTF Survey in 2021.

9. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Besancon%CC%A7on%20\(2018\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Besancon%CC%A7on%20(2018)_0.pdf) and https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/besancon_2019.pdf

10. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/niort_2020.pdf

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

12. Answer of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole to the GTF Survey in 2021.

13. Answer of United Cities France (Cités Unies France) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		40.0 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	100 (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 (%)		100 (2015, Paris)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)

¹⁴ 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/fra>

GEORGIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Georgia is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, made up of 72 municipalities: 5 cities and 67 communities, with directly elected mayors and councils. In addition, the country has 2 autonomous territories: the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.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

In 2019, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a [Strategy for Supporting and Monitoring of the Implementation of the SDGs](#) in the country. Also, the State Audit Office of Georgia (SAOG) assessed the national preparedness for SDG implementation and issued recommendations based on the audit results.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The key coordination body for implementation of the national SDG targets is the [Sustainable Development Goals Inter-Agency Council \(SDGs Council\)](#)³, chaired by the head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG). Besides, the [Policy Planning Unit](#) of the Policy Planning and Coordination Department at the AoG serves as the secretariat to the SDG Council.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The AoG closely worked with all line ministries and the National Statistics Office of Georgia. The 2020 VNR process was conducted in cooperation with the [SDGs Council Thematic Working Groups](#), composed of representatives of various state institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, private sector and academia. The draft report has been shared within an existing institutional framework consisting of CSOs, international organizations, think tanks, academia, development partners and private sector. It has also been made available on a dedicated website.⁴

1.3 MONITORING

The [Policy Planning Unit](#) monitors the implementation of the national SDGs through a special electronic system.⁵ The “[National Document for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)” was elaborated through wide consultation both within the government and with civil society stakeholders and it describes the nationalized targets (93) and indicators (200) and sets out the institutional and procedural structure for monitoring of their implementation.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

An action plan for effective localization of the SDGs was prepared, in line with the [Decentralization Strategy of the Government](#) adopted in 2019. Furthermore, an updated Statute of the SDGs Council ensured that deputy mayors of municipalities had become members of the council.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10680SDG%20Voluntary%20National%20Review%20Georgia-.pdf> (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26389VNR_2020_Georgia_Report.pdf (2020)

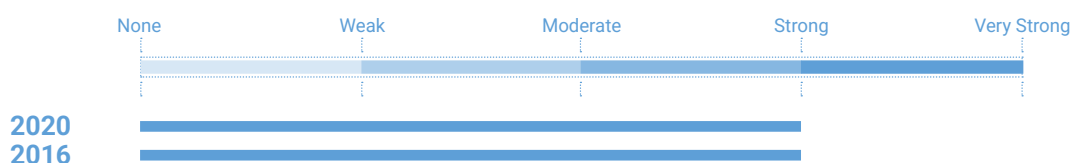
3. The Council has 4 thematic working groups on: Social Inclusion; Economic Development; Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection and Democratic Governance.

4. See it here: www.sdg.gov.ge

5. See: <http://sdg.gov.ge>

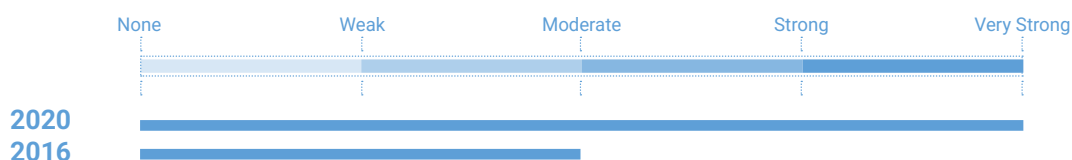
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report. However, the [National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia \(NALAG\)](#) states that its participation in the elaboration process has only been in a consultative mode (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participation at consultative level (GTF Survey 2020).

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

Even if the 2020 VNR does not dedicate a subsection for LRGs' actions or strategies, it does remark the need of decentralized development, as identified in the Decentralization Strategy of the Government. It also mentions that this process should be supported by locally-defined development priorities built on strengthened local institutions.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The [National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia \(NALAG\)](#) defends the interests of local self-government bodies at the national and international level, promotes development of local democracy in Georgia and cooperates with the national government on decentralization issues.⁶ NALAG has developed projects like the "Networking for Efficiency and Development" (N4ED) in order to promote inclusive policy making in local authorities to ensure active participation of citizens in local public affairs.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A unified digital municipal service platform will be introduced for all 63 municipalities. It will capture 17 modules including project cycle management, spatial planning and asset management and thus will enable LSGs to manage their capital investments and fixed assets efficiently and transparently.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country has adopted a [Decentralization Strategy for 2020-2025](#) (accompanied with a two-year action plan). This policy document aims to strengthen local self-government with additional powers, and build its material and financial capacity, as well as develop reliable, accountable, transparent and results-oriented local governance. The 2020 VNR mentions that "Russia's occupation of the Georgian territories continues to represent an existential threat to Georgia's statehood. While the government is committed to seeking peaceful solutions, stronger international involvement is needed to achieve lasting peace and security, including through creation of the international security and human rights mechanisms on the ground, and addressing the plight of those communities that are left behind the division lines".

6. More information about NALAG work and projects is available at: <http://www.nala.ge/ka>

7. See: <https://eu4georgia.ge/networking-for-efficiency-and-development-n4ed/>

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR presents the challenges of gender equality, as well as the progress made in refining the national legislative framework and institutional mechanisms. There are efforts on the part of the government to implement policies to better protect LGBTQ+ women, women with disabilities, rural women and / or ethnic minorities, who face multiple levels of discrimination. In politics, at both national and local levels, women's participation remains insufficient. Though their proportion increased by 2% in 2017 (11.4% in 2014 and 13.4% in 2017), women's representation in local self-government assemblies is still very low. However, a financial incentive for political parties was introduced in 2011, to encourage them to include women on their electoral lists (at least 2 women out of 10 candidates, and since 2013, 3 women). In 2016, the creation of gender equality councils was made mandatory at local elected councils, as was the appointment of a gender advisor at each local executive's office.⁸ Since then, most municipalities have complied with these obligations.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR presents various measures taken by the national government to contain the spread of the virus in the country and to cope with its social and economic impacts. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been coordinated through the AoG, which is also responsible for mainstreaming and coordinating the SDGs. The report does not mention local initiatives regarding the health crisis. However, the local level is mentioned in relation to the deficiencies in social protection for the most vulnerable groups. The government plans to revise the national social protection system and to include social assistance programs provided at the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		13.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	84 (2020)
	Rural	40 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	28 (2020)
	Rural	48 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		34.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		95 (2007, Tbilisi)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2018)

8. The 2020 VNR mentions the publication by the Public Defender's Office of an assessment of gender policy at the local level, which highlights the role of these councils. See: <https://www.ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2020061711084244176.pdf>

9. 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/geo>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Germany is a federal republic with three tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 10 799 self-governments at municipal level (*Gemeinden*), 401 at intermediary level (*Kreise*), 16 at the regional level (*Länder*). The intermediary level comprises 294 rural districts and 107 district-free cities.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

As early as 2002, the national government presented its first National Sustainable Development Strategy. Since then, it has reported on its implementation status every four years in the form of progress reports that also update the strategy's content. In 2015, Germany has fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda. The National Sustainable Development Strategy is the key framework for SDG implementation. In its new **Sustainable Development Strategy** adopted in March 2021 (it updates the previous one and is aligned with SDGs), coordinated by the Federal Chancellery, the government has identified transformative policies and measures for 6 areas, focusing on implementation and effect in Germany, international impact and supporting partner countries. With its **Maßnahmenprogramm Nachhaltigkeit** (programme of measures for sustainability) the federal administration has also undertaken to align its actions with the imperatives of sustainability.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development (SSCSD)** steers implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The 2016 VNR stated that the SSCSD comprises representatives from all the ministries and is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery. It invites external experts from the private sector, the scientific and research community, civil society, and from the federal states and local authorities to attend its meetings. In the 2021 report, this is not mentioned. The VNR only specifies that the SSCSD has been advised by a dialogue group made up of various societal stakeholders. National mechanisms for SDG implementation also comprise the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, and the **German Council for Sustainable Development** (an independent advisory panel, which include representatives of a municipal umbrella organization). Additional high-level interministerial liaison officers for sustainable development were appointed in each federal ministry in 2017.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Following a whole-of-society approach, the 2016 VNR process involved non-governmental stakeholders: representatives of NGOs, churches, local authorities, the scientific and academic community, the business community and the trade unions. For the 2021 VNR, in parallel to the final drafting process for the German Sustainable Development Strategy, the national government began in autumn 2020 to engage a dialogue with civil society, business, trade unions and the research community, as well as the Länder and local authorities, on the drafting and presentation of the report. It also requested input to it. The government organized two national HLPF conferences and a 2030 Agenda Dialogue Forum.

1.3 MONITORING

Since 2017, the three **German associations (of Cities, of Counties and of Towns and Municipalities)**, with the support of several partners created a working group on 'SDG indicators for municipalities', advocating for the application of the SDG indicators in

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10686HLPF-Bericht_final_EN.pdf (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279522021_VNR_Report_Germany.pdf (2021)

their respective member municipalities.³ In 2021, indicators were updated and a few new indicators added (e.g. an indicator on cultural heritage and access to culture). As a result, the Strategy now contains 75 indicators which are published by Germany's Federal Statistical Office. A new binding instrument for monitoring and evaluation is being developed by RNE and SKEW – the *Berichtsrahmen Nachhaltige Kommune* (reporting frame sustainable municipality) – and is currently being tested in selected pilot municipalities as of March, 2021.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Successful cooperation of the Federal Government, Länder, communities and national associations of local authorities is being continued within the framework of the **National Urban Development Policy** launched in 2007. The aim is to establish integrated urban development that addresses economic, environmental and social challenges in cities and communities and takes account of international experience.

In Germany's federal system, the federal states and local authorities are responsible for making and enforcing laws in important areas relating to sustainable development. As stated by the 2021 VNR, eleven Länder have adopted or are currently working on sustainable development strategies of their own. In 2019, as part of official federal-Länder cooperation, the Federal Chancellor and the heads of government of the 16 Länder adopted the **resolution Working Together to Promote Sustainable Development while Assuming Responsibility for a Bright Future in Germany, Europe and around the World**. The resolution describes sustainable development as a task that the federal government and Länder share.

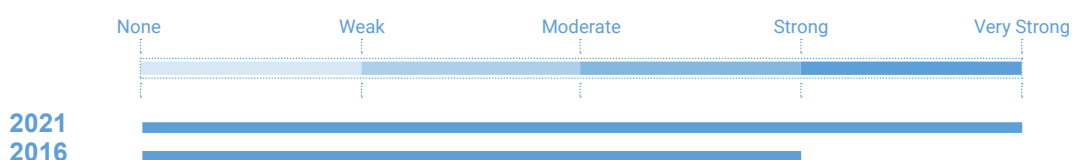
The Federal-Länder Exchange on Sustainable Development provides a forum for the federal and Land levels to discuss their activities in this field on a regular basis. Federal Länder representatives participate (and co-chair) the Federal Länder Experience Exchange for Sustainable Development that is also co-chaired by a representative from the Federal Chancellery. The drafting of the edition of the National Sustainable Development Strategy scheduled to be adopted in 2016 involved consultations with LRGs, along with parliaments, federal states and non-governmental stakeholders. Local authorities are also invited to participate in SSCSD's meetings. Between 2019 and 2021, the German Sustainable Development Strategy was revised by means of a participatory process and ultimately adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 10 March 2021.

The **German Council for Sustainable Development** gathers 30 German cities in the OB-Dialog to develop joint position papers or 'roadmaps' related to municipal sustainability policy. LRG representatives participate in working groups at an advisory level: LGAs take part in the **InterMinisterial Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development ('IMA-Stadt')**.

In Germany's first VNR, published in 2016, cities were not involved at all. In 2021, the three LGAs - Association of German Cities, the German Association of Towns and Municipalities and the Association of German Counties- contributed through a specific annex included into the 2021 VNR.

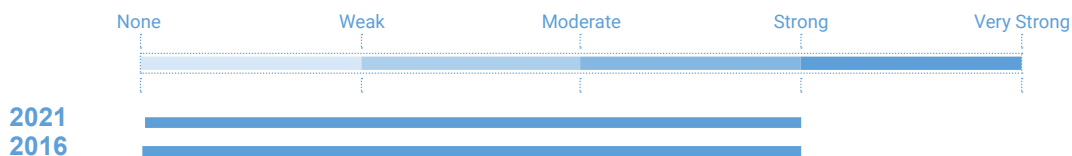
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Deutsche Städtetag has contributed to the 2021 VNR with its own contribution.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Punctual participation of the Deutsche Städtetag (but stronger compared to precedent years).

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

Local authorities and federal states are mentioned in the 2016 VNR, although without specific and concrete references to their role in localizing the SDGs. The progress made for each SDG is presented at the national and international levels, without mentioning the local level. In 2021, a summary of the VSR presented by LGAs has been included as an annex in the report.

3. The two most important products are an SDG indicator set and an SDG portal (see www.wegweiser-kommune.de and www.sdg-portal.de).
See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/germany_2021_0.pdf

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ LGAs have been active from the outset and 175 municipalities signed the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level Declaration**, calling on 'federal and state governments to involve local authorities and their representatives as equals when developing strategies to achieve the SDGs'. With the support of the Federal Ministry (BMZ) and the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), LGAs are assisting German municipalities in developing their local strategies to introduce the SDGs.⁴
- ▶ The Association of German Cities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, around 200 local authorities across the country, have committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda. They form a network known as the **Club of 2030 Agenda Municipalities**.
- ▶ The German Government supports the Länder and local authorities in their role as sustainability stakeholders through the **Municipalities for Global Sustainability** programme.
- ▶ Since 2019, model projects and implementation of the Smart City Charter have been supported within the framework of the national Smart Cities Dialogue Platform. The City of the Future Innovation Platform feeds the findings on sustainable urban development into the international context.
- ▶ The **Stadt.Land.Digital initiative** ("Urban.Rural.Digital") aims to improve people's quality of life, particularly in the fields of education, energy, healthcare, transport and administration, by fostering networks using digital technologies.
- ▶ Adopted in 2019, the Stadtnatur master plan is being implemented to support local authorities in protecting and creating high-quality natural spaces in urban areas.
- ▶ The city of **Münster** has involved the whole local administration (22 offices) in planning and implementation of SDG strategies, both from a political and technical perspective, and produced changes in the local governance approach.⁵

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

Many VLRs were developed in Germany: **North Rhine-Westphalia** (2016), **Mannheim** (2019), **Hannover** (2020), **Stuttgart** (2020 and 2021), **Bonn** (2020 and 2022), **Dortmund** (2022), **Düsseldorf** (2022) and **Kiel** (2022).⁶ Mannheim's VLR was one of the first VLRs published in Germany in 2019 and was based on the mission statement as representative of the whole community's commitment to implementing the SDGs, according to the motto "Think global, act local". Stuttgart's first report is called a baseline study depicting the SDGs' and is an executive summary of the making of the city's extensive, SDG-oriented sustainability report that was published in 2019. Hannover's VLR aims to stimulate discussion and strengthen cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development. Bonn's VLRs illustrate the state of SDG implementation along different fields of municipal action: mobility, climate and energy, natural resources and environment, housing, social justice, labour and business, etc. Düsseldorf's VLR was developed within the project Global Sustainable Municipality in North Rhine-Westphalia. Finally, the VLR published by Kiel reports on progress in implementing the SDGs, in line with its motto "For Kiel and the world: Thinking globally, driving change locally". In 2021, the **Deutsche Städtetag** foresaw a Voluntary Local Governments Review (VLGR), as a Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR).⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The capabilities of German municipalities and districts, in terms of budget and personal resources, vary dramatically within and between federal states. Thus, the degrees of localization and implementation of the SDGs on the local level are quite diverse.⁸ With its urban development assistance, the German government has supported cities and communities in their sustainable urban development, including action to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. As in previous years, it made EUR 790 million available for 2020. Integrated rural development is intended to foster attractive villages with accessible basic services, vibrant centres and the reactivation of vacant buildings. Strong cultural and creative industries will also help to revitalise cities and communities.

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

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

6. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/North%20Rhine-Westphalia%20\(2016\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/North%20Rhine-Westphalia%20(2016)_0.pdf) ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Mannheim%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Mannheim%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/hannover_2020.pdf;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/stuttgart_2020.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/stuttgart_2021.pdf;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/bonn_2020_en.pdf;

<https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/bonn-2022.pdf>;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/dortmund_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/dusseldorf_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/kiel_2022_germany.pdf

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/germany_2021_0.pdf. It focuses on municipal and district levels and does not take into consideration federal states.

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/germany_2021_0.pdf

The 2021 VNR mentions that as part of the Ending Violence against Women Together initiative, the German Government is providing EUR 140 million from 2019 to 2023 to assist the Länder and local authorities in further developing their aid structures for women affected by violence.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In addition to the VNRs, German cities' and communities' commitment to sustainable development also comes to the fore in Germany's first progress report on implementation of the New Urban Agenda (May 2021).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The equal participation of women in shaping society and in political decision-making in the Bundestag, in the Länder parliaments and in local politics is being reinforced, for example, by means of mentoring programmes.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR does not contain specific information on the local responses to the crisis. Nonetheless, it states that during the pandemic, city administrations have been receiving support and training for the move to digital tools and formats within the framework of the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF).

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		29 (2020)
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	99 (2020)
	Rural	92 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.01 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2015, Berlin)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2015)

⁹ 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/deu>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Greece is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational government structure. The country is divided into 325 municipalities and 13 regions.¹ Greece also has one autonomous territorial entity: the Community of Mount Athos Monasteries. Each region has a regional council and a head of the region elected by universal suffrage for a period of five years.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Both the **National Growth Strategy** and the **8 National Priorities for SDGs**⁴ were adopted in 2018 and are in line with the SDGs. The national **Recovery and Resilience Plan** (RRP, "Greece 2.0") adopted in 2021 is structured around four key pillars linked to the core priorities and objectives of the SDGs, including green transition, digital transition, employment, skills and social cohesion, and private investment, economic and institutional transformation. The **National Reform Plan (NRP)** sets out reform measures and government interventions carried out by the whole government and its ministries which integrate the main objectives and priorities of the SDGs. In addition, over the last few years, multiple strategies were adopted, including the Just Transition Development Plan (JTDP), the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), the National Rural Development Program (RDP) 2014-2020, with its extension for the period 2021-2022, and the National Strategy for Research and Innovation (2021-2027).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The overall responsibility for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national level lies with the **Presidency of the Government (PoG)**, which oversees the planning process and ensures the promotion of a whole-of-government approach for SDG implementation. The PoG comprises executive units and processes for policies related to SDG implementation, including the General Secretariat of Coordination (GSCO), the General Secretariat for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (GSLPA), and the Special Secretariat for Strategic Foresight (SSSF). The **Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for the SDGs**, which include representatives from the ministries and other governmental bodies, acts as focal points for SDGs-related issues (see VNR 2022, p. 12).

In recent years, the **Special Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection (SPPCEP)** has enhanced its role with regard to the promotion and implementation of a wide range of SDGs. It initiates and steers debates about the SDGs, integrates the SDGs in its annual reports and monitors government initiatives on whether they are effectively and comprehensively promoting the 2030 Agenda and ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for the SDGs** was responsible for the preparation and drafting of the 2018 VNR. Ministries, as well as other stakeholders (Economic and Social Committee of Greece, local and regional authorities, academia and research institutes, the private sector and civil society organizations), have contributed to the drafting of the report.

The preparation and drafting of the 2022 VNR were steered by a specific **Working Group on the SDGs** set up within the PoG in 2021, in close cooperation and consultation with key stakeholders, including the Hellenic Parliament, regional and local authorities, social partners, and civil society organizations, and guided by a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The 2022 VNR of Greece was the result of three rounds of consultations. The first and second rounds involved ministries and social partners, while the third round comprised a 10-day public deliberation and received comments from stakeholders such as civil society organizations, private citizens, ministries and UNICEF.

1. The 2010 Kallikratis Reform created 13 fully self-governing regions with new responsibilities in the area of regional planning and development, including structural funds (transferred from the prefectures) and merged municipalities.

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

3. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19378Greece_VNR_Greece_2018_pdf_FINAL_140618.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Greece%20Report.pdf> (2022)

4. The 8 National Strategies are presented in the VNR, 2018, p. 27.

1.3 MONITORING

The GSCO within the PoG manages a monitoring and review mechanism responsible for measuring progress towards the implementation of government work and evaluating systematically strategies, policies, and reform measures related to the SDGs. The whole monitoring process is performed by using a special management information system, called “MAZI”, in which all the implementation details, including responsible parties, deadlines, deliverables and intermediate milestones, are stored.

The **Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)**, as coordinator of the **Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS)**, identifies and produces the data required for the SDGs. The ELSS is the set of rules, tasks, and competent bodies responsible for the execution of statistical assignments, with the aim of developing, producing, and disseminating the official statistics of the country. The ELSTAT website contains a section dedicated to SDG-related statistics.⁵ In 2020 and 2022, **ELSTAT** reviewed and updated a comprehensive set of national indicators on the SDGs, after consultation with ministries, in order to monitor the quantitative progress made towards the achievement of the SDGs at the national level. These national indicators are subject to regular revisions, based on the available official statistics and data. As the statistical focal point, ELSTAT actively participates in United Nations Statistical Commission's Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and EU Working Group on Sustainable Development meetings.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

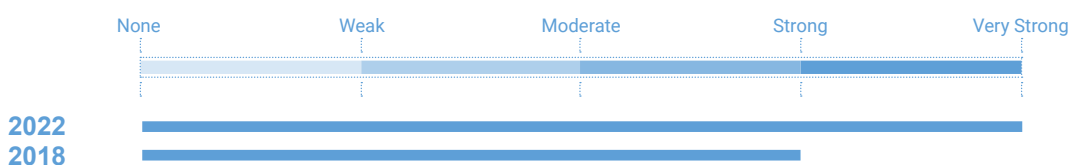
The 2018 VNR acknowledged that there were numerous important local government policies, services and actions related to the SDGs. However, the local and regional administrations that develop and execute these policies and projects were not often aware of their possible relevance to specific SDGs. Thus, the VNR stated that what was needed were actions to raise awareness and advocate for the active role of local actors, and support them in achieving the SDGs.

During the 2018 VNR process, the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE), the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) expressed their views concerning the national prioritization of the SDGs, along with many other stakeholders.

During the preparation of the 2022 VNR, regional and local authorities were consulted regularly through the **Working Group on the SDGs** within the PoG. Contributions from the **Association of Greek Regions (ENPE)** and the **Central Union Of Greek Municipalities (KEDE)** are included in the annex of the 2022 VNR.

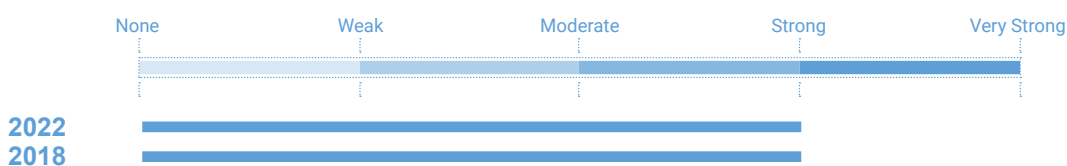
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated regularly in the 2022 VNR process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are engaged in the multi-stakeholder working group on the SDGs.

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 were numerous references to the local level in the presentation of the multilevel approach to SDG implementation in Greece, in the 2018 VNR. In addition, there was a subsection dedicated to LRGs and SDG localization (see VNR, 2018, p. 85): the report highlighted that “as all of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services, their involvement is absolutely essential for the success of sustainable development”. This section included examples of local government initiatives (see some of them below). Regions were also mentioned.

5. See: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/sdgs>

The 2022 VNR mentions local governments and includes a section dedicated to local and regional authorities, under the chapter on enabling environments (see VNR, 2022, p. 23). The VNR mentions the 2020 VLR by the municipality of Skiathos, the contributions of the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE), as well as the priorities and proposals made by the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE). A few good practices are also mentioned.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Athens** developed a series of policies and initiatives aligned with SDG 11, and aimed to support the most vulnerable populations of the city, address issues of transparency, social and digital innovation, as well as establish and promote a sustainable and resilient long-term strategy. The municipality managed to build a robust system for critical relief and welfare services as well as a data collection system, rationalized administrative procedures and logistics. Athens has done so with the support of a wide range of partnerships with civil society institutions and the private sector. Beyond supporting with food and other basic needs over 20,000 people per week, the municipality of Athens also established a network of one-stop-shops for health care, psychological, social and legal services, while implementing a series of initiatives for children, youth and senior citizens, and migrants and forged noteworthy partnerships that provided significant results (most noticeable in the tourism sector) addressing SDG 8.

The Athens Resilience Strategy aims to create a city that is open, green, proactive and vibrant, setting forth concrete actions that address issues of maintenance, safety, efficiency and accountability, crisis preparedness and management (more details in the VNR, 2018, p. 86-87).

Moreover, **Solidarity Cities** is an initiative on the management of the refugee crisis proposed by the Mayor of Athens. It seeks to constitute a framework under which all actions and initiatives could represent the city's political leadership in addressing social crises.⁶

► The municipality of **Thessaloniki** is promoting urban agriculture by allocating small plots to vulnerable groups. The municipalities of **Thessaloniki** and **Livadeia**, a city of central Greece, launched two programmes supported by the UNHCR and funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. Both projects, "REACT" and "ESTIA", aim to ensure decent living conditions, and provide health care and education to refugees and their children.

► The municipality of **Trikala** established five social structures: the Social Restaurant, the Social Grocery, the Social Pharmacy, the Homeless Daily-care Center and the Homeless Overnight Structure. In Trikala, technology-driven solutions are integrated into the daily life of the municipality, and government services are delivered to citizens through e-governance. From free Wi-Fi service throughout the city to tele-health care for the elderly, from driverless buses to the e-Dialogos platform where citizens can participate in the public life of the city and its decision-making, Trikala is using technology to increase transparency and improve citizen services.

► The municipality of **Halandri**, along with the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), and within the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme Waste4Think, has developed a pilot programme for waste separation at source and the valorization of household food waste for the production of products and energy.

► Some municipalities, like **Agios Dimitrios**, published a Sustainability Report, according to the G4 Guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative, setting 2016 as a reference year, and adopting the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact. The report presents the city's sustainable development strategy and initiatives, and it was based on a Materiality Analysis process, in which all the stakeholders were actively involved. In addition, the municipality has decided to take action towards the promotion of the SDGs by including initiatives and actions aiming to increase awareness by informing the citizens.

► A recent good practice example is the public agricultural livestock center of the city of **Kozani**. It consists of (i) a modern Agricultural and Veterinary Laboratory that will operate in collaboration with the Hellenic Agricultural Organisation Dimitra (ELGO DIMITRA) as a center of excellence in the agricultural and veterinary sector; (ii) the Agri-Food Partnership of Western Macedonia; and (iii) the Municipal Veterinarian. Supporting livestock as a natural environmental manager, utilizing innovative renewable energy sources and energy storage systems, and promoting triple-propeller partnerships, will result in enhanced cooperation on research, education and innovation.

► Another good practice example is the region of **Attica's** initiative "Social Network Attiki". It monitors, evaluates and implements social policy actions, related to social inclusion, employment, preventive healthcare, education and culture, and social and solidarity economy.

► The **Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE)** participates in the national effort to formulate a realistic plan for efficient use of the resources coming from the Recovery Fund, which will have a positive impact on the implementation of the SDGs. KEDE proposes projects and interventions that enhance extroversion, promote innovation and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the integration of new technologies in the daily operation of the Greek multilevel governance system. It supports horizontal actions aimed at both the alleviation of intra-regional inequalities and decentralization.

► According to the **Association of Greek Regions (ENPE)**, the regions have thus far implemented 30,000 projects promoting regional development and local economies, creating new jobs, supporting social solidarity structures, improving the environment and upgrading education, health, tourism and culture.

The ENPE has committed in: (i) the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity by utilizing modern grazing management plans that do not harm the environment and the water resources, and contribute instead to the enrichment of aboveground and underground water tanks; and (ii) the protection of the environment through many actions aiming at saving energy, reducing water waste, reducing mileage, and raising public awareness about environmental issues.

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

► The **Antonis Tritsis Programme** is a broad national initiative, involving 5000 projects and 3 billion euros. It provides the foundation for local and regional sustainable development. It includes actions for social protection and cohesion, schemes to improve water and wastewater, waste management, road safety and climate resilience, smart city schemes, flood protection, earthquake protection in schools and improving public health measures against COVID-19. In addition, the Antonis Tritsis Programme includes, among others, plans to invest in the exploitation of geothermal fields, renewable energy sources, smart distribution, storage, and energy consumption systems. The new sustainable urban investment initiative will scale up priority investment including urban regeneration and increase renewable energy use to improve the quality of life of local residents and attractiveness for business and tourism.

► Other social programmes implemented locally include “Help at Home” and “Prevention at Home”. The first one has been running successfully since 1998. It is implemented by the municipalities of the country and the primary objective is to provide assistance to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those living alone or having a low income, through the provision of a wide range of services, from at-home medical and nursing treatment to the supply of food and other basic necessities. The latter is a new preventive healthcare programme aimed at supporting the inhabitants of mountainous and remote/inaccessible regions, by making possible, on the one hand, medical examinations at home for the inhabitants of the above regions who belong to vulnerable groups of population and, on the other hand, the automated dispatch of the results to contracted practitioners through the use of information and communication technologies.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Greece, there is a wide range of financial instruments and means contributing to sustainable economic growth and the achievement of the SDGs, including the Public Investments Programme, the new Investment Law, the Public-Private Partnerships, the Hellenic Development Bank as well as the support provided by international financial institutions and other sources. They are presented in the 2018 VNR.

In 2021, the Greek government integrated sustainability and environmental footprint indicators in the process of drafting and implementing the state budget, within the framework of green budgeting, performance budgeting and spending review reform. The new Strategic Investment Framework is aligned with SDGs 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 17.

In 2020, the PoG published a new comprehensive and redesigned manual on **Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)**, which incorporates, for the first time, the SDGs into the regulatory policy and governance. The RIA plays a pivotal role in the promotion, integration and evaluation of the SDGs in the legislative process, mainly through the “explanatory report”, which describes, in a coherent and thorough manner, the main scope and objectives of the proposed legislative initiatives. The PoG is in the process of publishing a new comprehensive manual on **Ex-post Evaluation of Legislation**, which addresses the extent to which the existing legislation has contributed to the achievement of the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The contribution of other major stakeholders was mentioned as crucial in the 2018 VNR, including that of the **Economic and Social Committee of Greece (ESC)**, which is the constitutionally recognized institution responsible for the conduct of social dialogue, and in which the social partners and other key stakeholders are represented. More specifically, the ESC is working, following the model of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), on the basis of a tripartite structure representing the interests of three main groups: (i) one of employers-entrepreneurs; (ii) one of public and private sector employees; and (iii) one including other categories of interests groups such as farmers, self-employed people, professionals, consumers, environmental agencies, disabled people’s confederation, gender equality, multi-child parents associations, and **regional and local government** (through the **Central Union of Municipalities of Greece - KEDE**).

Greece’s process of decentralization entered its third phase in 2018. The country introduced a new electoral system with local and regional elections, a new system of representation in local and regional councils and a reorganization of supervisory authorities. In 2020, a draft law on multilevel governance was introduced to further increase subnational governments’ independence vis-à-vis the state and to extend their responsibilities, resources and staff accordingly.⁷ The **Annual Action Plan of the Ministry of Interior** for 2022 outlines key actions that aim to strengthen multilevel governance by redistributing responsibilities vertically among the national, regional, and local governments, as well as to clarify the framework for responsibility allocation.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2021, legislation was passed to encourage the participation of women in elections of local and regional authorities by setting a 40% quota.

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

3.2 COVID 19

The Greek government adopted a vaccination program through multi-sector collaboration between the central government, local authorities, and civil society. The program involved local authorities and, in particular, social services, migrant integration centers and community centers.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

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	100 (2020, all area)
	Rural	100 (2020, all area)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	97 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2011, Athens)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		16.2 (2019)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

HUNGARY

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Hungary is a unitary republic with two spheres of subnational government. The country is divided into 19 counties at the regional level, in addition to Budapest. At the local level, Hungary has 3177 municipalities.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

Although adopted in 2013, the **National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development (NFSSD) 2012-2024** is aligned with the SDGs. The Strategy defines the tasks of the national government and municipalities, adapting the sustainability goals to the Hungarian context.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development** was set up by the Hungarian Parliament as a conciliatory, consultative, and advisory body for issues in the field of sustainable development in 2008. It is chaired by the Speaker of the Parliament and it has about 30 members representing key national stakeholders, including political parties, representatives of the academia, the private sector, CSOs, and church organizations. It is supported by a **Secretariat** and **four working committees**. After the adoption of the SDGs, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)** was assigned the task of coordinating the national accomplishment of the sustainable development framework. Coordination is performed through the **Inter-ministerial Coordinative Committee for International Development Cooperation** established in 2014, consisting of high-level officials from government ministries.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR has been prepared through a newly established **interministerial coordination mechanism** set up in 2017, which has enhanced both policy coherence for sustainable development and the achievement of the sustainable development framework. Based on this mechanism, a platform has been created which facilitates the involvement of non-governmental entities as well, including the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and other consultative stakeholders, such as CSOs, the academia and the business sector. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** compiled the final text of the VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO)** has a fundamental role in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda by collecting data related to the SDGs and working out the national indicator system. Also, HCSO has developed an interactive website, where information on key indicators in connection with the 17 SDGs can be found.

Every two years, a progress report is prepared on the implementation of the NFSSD. Two reports were published in 2015 and in 2017 with the involvement of several participants (NCSD, the Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, and other stakeholders).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

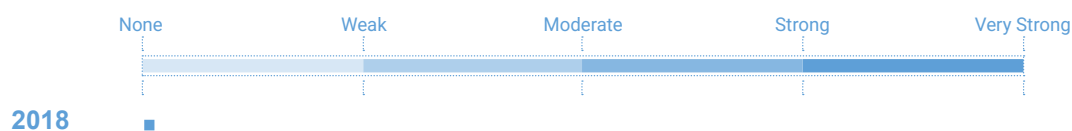
There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the reporting process that led to the 2018 VNR, nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. Details on the national programmes for more sustainable urban areas and cities can be found in the VNR, 2018, p. 42-45.

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

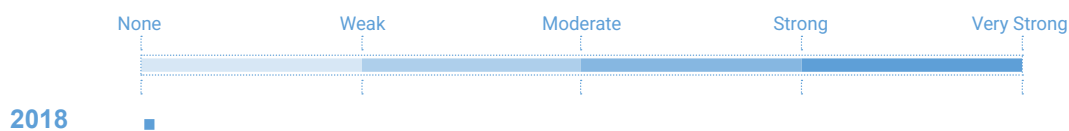
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20137Voluntary_National_Review_of_Hungary_v2.pdf (2018)

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

There are only a few references to counties and municipalities in the 2018 VNR, and no example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Contrary to decentralization processes in most EU Member States in Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary is the one major exception with **recentralization of powers back to the central government**, and with the share of subnational expenditure decreasing by 5% in the past 20 years. In Hungary, education, healthcare and some social services have also been recentralized, especially since 2012 (and the institution of Cardinal Law).³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		30.5 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	94 (2020)
	Rural	89 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	91 (2020)
	Rural	81 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		13.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		50 (2015, Budapest)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		16.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/hun>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Iceland is a unitary republic with a single tier of local governments, made up of 74 municipalities (*sveitarfelag*).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

Various new government policies and programmes have been linked to the SDGs, including a new development cooperation policy, the draft of a new education policy and innovation policy, as well as Iceland's climate action plan.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **inter-ministerial SDG working group** leads the work of the Icelandic government towards implementing the SDGs, involving all ministries, as well as the Association of Local Authorities, observers from the Youth Council for the SDGs and the UN system in Iceland. The representative of the Prime Minister's Office is chairman of the group and the Foreign Ministry is representative vice-chairman.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDG working group** has overseen the 2019 VNR process. It has cooperated with various parties on the analysis, implementation and presentation of Iceland's position relative to the SDGs, namely the University of Iceland, the private sector and civil society. The VNR was also made available in the government's electronic consultation portal³ to encourage public debate and invite the opinions of various parties. These opinions were taken into account in writing the final report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **SDG working group** has mapped Iceland's position for all 169 SDG targets and specified 65 priority targets. The selection of priority targets will be reviewed every two years, to ensure that priority is given to targets which are farthest from being met at any given time. Data has been gathered for 70 of the indicators for the SDGs, but more work remains to strengthen the statistical foundation of the SDGs in Iceland. **Statistics Iceland** manages the structure of the SDG statistics in the country. Follow-up mechanisms now include an annual assessment of progress towards priority targets in connection to annual reporting on the government's fiscal strategy policy objectives.

In 2017, the **Institute for Sustainability Studies (ISS)** at the University of Iceland was entrusted with evaluating the data collection that had already taken place. The objective of this project was to prepare two reports, firstly, an assessment of the quality of the data collected by the SDG working group and, secondly, to make proposals on behalf of the Institute on methodology for prioritizing the SDGs in Iceland. Following consultations with government experts, 65 targets were given priority in the government's work in implementing the SDGs in Iceland and in international cooperation for the next few years. The 2019 VNR specifies that "since the suitability of [SDG] targets for local implementation varies, it is up to local authorities to adapt them locally and ensure that their implementation is tailored to local circumstances" (see VNR, 2019, p. 14).

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23408VNR_Iceland_2019_web_final.pdf (2019)

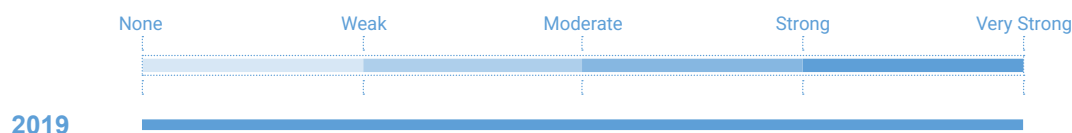
3. See: www.samradsgatt.is. This information portal on the SDGs was launched in 2019. It offers citizens, NGOs, companies, institutions, municipalities and others an opportunity to present projects that contribute to the promotion of the SDGs. The portal is thus a public forum for stakeholders to share information about the goals.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local authorities are increasingly linking their policies and plans to the SDGs. However, municipalities generally differ in how far work has proceeded and are still searching for practical routes and goals to set. According to the conclusion of the 2019 VNR, “a handful of municipalities lead the way in localizing the SDGs, but further efforts are needed to improve implementation at the local level. This will require increased collaboration between local authorities, including enhanced flow of information and knowledge-sharing and possibly defining joint priority objectives and means of implementation. To this end, an SDG forum for active collaboration at the municipal level is scheduled to start operating in the autumn of 2019” (see VNR, 2019, p. 111). A representative of the [Association of Local Authorities](#) participates in the government’s SDG working group.

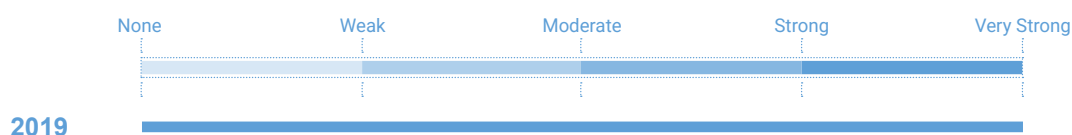
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Occasional participation of the Association of Local Authorities (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participation of the Association of Local Authorities at decision-making level (GTF Survey 2021).

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 2019 VNR considers SDG implementation as ‘a joint project of the state and municipalities, as they have an important role for successful implementation of the SDGs.’ A subsection is dedicated to local governments- without reference to specific mechanisms or initiatives (see VNR, 2019, p. 13-14). Another subsection emphasizes the local government association’s role for awareness-raising in the municipalities and SDG implementation (see VNR, 2019, p. 16). There is also a box on LRG sports and recreation grants, and another on the municipalities of Kópavogur and Mosfellsbær (see VNR, 2019, p. 72 and 77-78).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The [Icelandic association of local authorities](#) has established an SDG cooperation platform between municipalities and a municipal SDG working group. Work is underway on defining common municipal subgoals and indicators, as well as a tool box.⁴ In 2019, the association organized a seminar to encourage the country’s 72 municipalities to promote the SDGs. As a result, cities such as [Kópavogur](#), [Mosfellsbær](#), [Reykjavík](#) and [Akureyri](#) worked to integrate the SDGs into their local plans.

► Since 2000, a growing number of local authorities has offered grants to pay for participation of children in constructive leisure activities regardless of their economic or social situation. The grants are intended to increase equality in the local community, strengthen the social environment and positively impact children’s development, as well as to promote diversity in sports, arts and leisure activities. In recent years, the development of this unique funding system has been rapid, and it is now rare for a local authority not to provide some sort of support for constructive sports and leisure activities to 6-16 years old children.

► Municipalities take the initiative of becoming a Health-promoting Community, which is a holistic, interdisciplinary program managed by the Directorate of Health in collaboration and consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders.⁵ The mayor, on behalf of the local authority, signs a cooperation agreement to systematically work towards the well-being of all residents and a framework for implementation is consolidated by establishing a multi-stakeholder steering committee and nominating contact persons.

4. Answer of the Association of Local Authorities to the GTF Survey in 2020.

5. The primary goal of this program is to support communities in creating an environment and conditions that promote healthy lifestyles, health and well-being of all residents.

► **Kópavogur** is Iceland's second largest municipality and has integrated the SDGs into the municipality's overall policy. In selecting priority targets for its local strategy the municipality of Kópavogur considered three factors: the Icelandic government's priority targets, the position of UCLG as to what targets fit well with the municipality's tasks, and finally the projects which the municipality of Kópavogur is committed to, such as the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In connection with formulating the municipality's policy, it has been decided to implement measurements of the municipality's activities according to the ISO 37120 standard, which has been linked to the SDGs. This is a recent standard, the first standard in the world to measure the services of local authorities.⁶

► The municipality of **Mosfellsbær** has integrated the goals into its environmental policy. In this process, residents were mobilized to participate in a community meeting to set targets and prioritize projects. The result was then linked to the SDGs. Among the goals is to develop in a sustainable and progressive way, with nature conservation and increased welfare of its residents as guiding principles. The goals will be achieved through action in ten areas, all linked to one or more SDGs, such as environmental education, sustainable transport and waste management.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are linked to the government's **five-year fiscal strategy**. Also, a software solution is being implemented for the drafting of the fiscal strategy and its linkage to the SDGs. Such a database will provide an overview of the SDGs for policy experts and thereby increase the coordination of strategies and programmes in different areas of operation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR places special emphasis on children. The **Icelandic Youth Council for the SDGs** gives young people a platform to express their voice to policy makers (more information in the VNR, 2019, p. 19).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The Gender Equality Act stipulates that when appointing committees, councils and boards the state and municipalities shall take care to have their gender balance as equal as possible and not less than 40% of each gender. This also applies to the boards of public corporations and companies where the state or municipality is the main owner. It also states that both men and women shall be nominated as candidates for committees, councils and boards on behalf of the state and local authorities. The proportion of women in local government in 2018 was 47.2% and has never been higher. At the beginning of 2019 the proportion of women who were managing directors of local authorities was 36%.

3.2 COVID 19

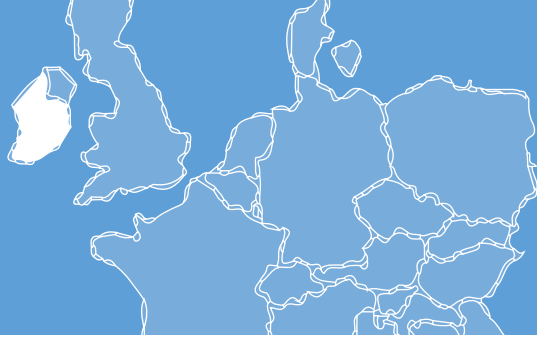
Not applicable.

6. See: <https://www.dataforcities.org/>

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		47.0 (2020)
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)		5.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

⁷The 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/isl>



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ireland is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, comprising 31 county and city councils.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

In 2018, the **SDG National Implementation Plan** was adopted for the period 2018-2020. It will be the first in a series of Implementation Plans, each of which will serve to integrate the SDGs into national policy. This Plan reflects Ireland's recognition of the importance of sustainable development, and the country's commitment to global cooperation and multilateralism. The Plan includes an ambitious '**2030 Vision**' for Ireland to fully achieve the SDGs.

Ireland's current national Sustainable Development Strategy, **Our Sustainable Future**, is an important component of Ireland's framework for implementing the SDGs, as is Ireland's Foreign Policy, **The Global Island**, which reinforces the commitment to contribute to international peace, security, human rights and sustainable development, and Ireland's Policy for International Development, **One World, One Future**, which sets out a vision of a sustainable and just world.

Many of the measures through which Ireland will achieve the SDGs will take place within the context of **Project Ireland 2040**, which is made up of the **National Planning Framework to 2040 (NPF)** and the **National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP)**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment** has overall responsibility for promoting the SDGs and for overseeing their coherent implementation across the government. To prepare the SDG National Implementation Plan as well as the VNR, the Minister established the **National Sustainable Development Unit** within his Department in 2017. In addition, a **Senior Officials' Group (SOG)** on the SDGs, made up of assistant secretaries from all government departments, has been established to provide strategic coordination and to report, as required, to Cabinet. It is assisted by an **SDG Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG)**, again composed of representatives from all government departments.

Also, Ireland has established a national **SDG Stakeholder Forum** to inform further development of the national SDG framework and to provide a mechanism for key stakeholders to be engaged on an ongoing basis in national implementation of the Goals. The Forum is convened and chaired by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The Forum is intended to provide a mechanism for all stakeholders to discuss national implementation and reporting processes, share examples of best practice in implementing the SDGs, discuss challenges to achieving the SDGs, and to be informed of SDG relevant events and processes taking place internationally. It comprises representatives from, among others, NGOs, civil society groups, the private sector, the trade union movement, the agricultural sector, youth, academia, the education sector, government departments, and local authorities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment** was responsible for coordinating the 2018 VNR. The **National Sustainable Development Unit** prepared a first draft, and the **Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG)** a second, based on consultations. A statistical annex accompanies this VNR, based on data provided to the National Sustainable Development Unit by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), using the EU SDG indicator set.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19382Ireland_Voluntary_National_Review_2018.pdf (2018)

1.3 MONITORING

The identification and management of national data needed to meet Ireland's SDG reporting requirements will be undertaken by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, in consultation with the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group.

In addition to Ireland's formal periodic SDG reporting, the CSO and Ireland's National Mapping Agency, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), have launched a website for exploring, downloading and combining publicly available national SDG data using geographic information systems. An innovative feature of the site is the combination of statistics and geography to create a set of 'Map Layers'. These can be used by both users and developers, and allow the public to create their own geospatial SDG visualization.

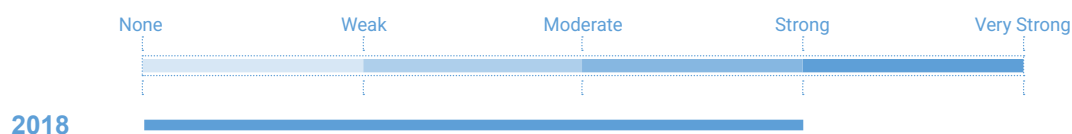
In developing the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, Ireland has mapped its sectoral policies against the 17 SDGs and all 169 related targets, in order to identify which national policies are most relevant to which SDGs and their associated targets, and the extent of interlinkages between different national policies which can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The resulting **SDG Policy Map**, which is publicly available, is aimed at enhancing the ability of stakeholders to track Ireland's implementation of specific SDGs and associated targets, and to assess Ireland's response to the SDGs for potential policy gaps. The Policy Map is intended to be a living document and will be updated on an ongoing basis. A copy of the latest version was included in the annex of the 2018 VNR.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

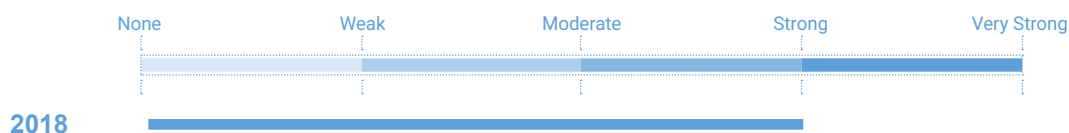
As stated in the 2018 VNR, increasing local government engagement with the SDGs is an important task during the lifetime of the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020. Local governments' representatives participate in the **SDG Stakeholder Forum**.

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 VNR 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 contains some references to LRGs, and acknowledges that they have "a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to deliver the SDGs at the local and community level" (see VNR, 2018, p. 17). However, there are no mentions of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2014, Ireland saw particularly dramatic changes through a **territorial reform**, resulting in 114 councils being reorganized into 31 local governments and the country's eight regional authorities being abolished. Local authorities were given an expanded role in economic development (but water was recentralized).³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		23.9 (2019)
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	89 (2020)
	Rural	73 (2020)
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 (%)		88 (2015, Dublin)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		8.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2017)

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

4. 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/irl>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Israel is a unitary parliamentary democracy with a single tier of subnational government, made up of 257 local authorities.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 integration of the SDGs into the government's strategic planning was being prepared as of 2019.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The 2019 VNR announced that a national mechanism for SDG implementation would be established, for coordination within the government and with other stakeholders.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Under the guidance of the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a **governmental team** headed by Israel's Special Envoy for Sustainability and Climate Change and the Deputy General for Strategy at the **Ministry of Environment Protection** was commissioned to lead the 2019 VNR process. In addition to the involvement of ministries and national agencies, the inputs of additional stakeholders are included in the annex of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS)** serves as the national focal point for all processes connected to collecting and reporting data on SDG indicators. Prior to the elaboration of the 2019 VNR, the ICBS had started a process of mapping available SDG indicators data. One of the main contributions of the 2019 VNR process in this respect is that creating an intergovernmental team facilitated cooperation between ministries and agencies to bridge data gaps. As for 2019, there were 123 available SDG indicators.

The **Ministry of Construction and Housing (MOCH)**, as the leading ministry promoting SDG 11, is considering the proposal of a **new local indicator for urban renewal** which could provide the basis for a global indicator within SDG 11.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The contributions of **Forum 15 - The Israeli Forum of Self-Government Cities** and the **Israel Urban Forum** are included in the annex of the 2019 VNR (see VNR, 2019, p. 419-422). The first represents the country's largest cities and submitted a contribution on SDG 11. The second is a civil society and multi-disciplinary team, also focused on SDG 11, highlighting the role of civil society in shaping cities.

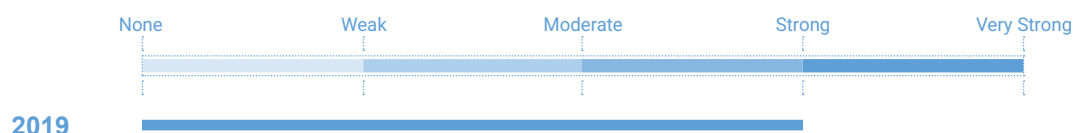
There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the national coordination mechanism mentioned as being developed in 2019 by the VNR. Nonetheless, the **Union of Local Authorities** participates in the Committee for the War on Poverty (the Alalouf Committee) that was created in 2013, along with government representatives, academia and civil society.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/235761ISRAEL_13191_SDGISRAEL.pdf (2019)

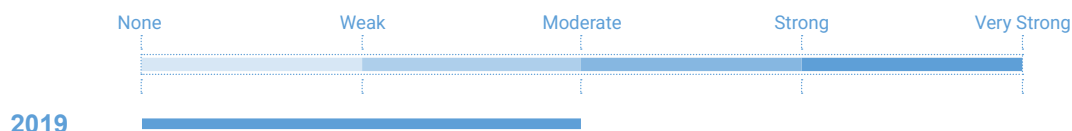
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

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

Local authorities are extensively referred to throughout the 2019 VNR. The report mentions many national programmes implemented at the local level, but very few locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. Some of the "Case Studies" presented in specific boxes relate to cities.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The country's largest cities are organized through the **Forum 15** network and launched a new strategy, in 2018, for mainstreaming sustainability. This strategy involves joint goals in six major fields of urban sustainability. It also delineates specific actions to be taken in every city and defines basic standards for promoting and measuring urban sustainability. Israel's Forum 15 cities advocate adopting a cross-departmental municipal strategy to pursue sustainability. This involves developing joint policies and best practices, providing information and opportunities, and encouraging peer learning, training, data collection and reporting.³

► The **Israel Urban Forum** was launched in 2015 and serves as a collaborative and inclusive platform for the civil society to foster better urbanization through bottom-up and interdisciplinary processes.⁴

► In **Jerusalem**, in the southern part of the city and confined between residential neighbourhoods, the Gazelle Valley Park is a unique site with a rich and significant biodiversity, including a herd of mountain gazelles. The site's development caters to the needs of the general public, and especially the surrounding neighbourhoods whose residents are active partners in the maintenance of the site. This park is a very popular and successful example of an urban nature park.

► As the "White City" of **Tel Aviv** was declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003, the municipality committed to prepare a statutory protection plan for the historical buildings and fabric of the site. The Tel Aviv conservation plan was approved in 2008, identifying approximately 1,000 historical buildings designated for statutory protection.

► As most of Israel's local authorities are small and lacking financial resources, a sliding index for resilience support has been developed to ensure that the budgetary standing of the municipality does not reflect on its disaster preparedness. While most local authorities have effective emergency systems in place, they do not have contingency plans for climate changes, in particular for the impacts of increased heat and infrastructure degradation due to extreme weather.

► Hundreds of community gardens have been created throughout the country with the support of local authorities, NGOs and government ministries. While most of them were originally established in central cities, recent years have seen the proliferation of such gardens in peripheral areas as well. In addition to helping to preserve urban nature and open space, these gardens have helped develop a sense of environmental responsibility and empowerment among residents. A National Committee for Community Gardening was established in 2009, with representatives from government ministries, municipalities and NGOs.

3. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf.

See more information on Forum 15 in the VNR, 2019, p. 419.

4. More information on the Israel Urban Forum in the VNR, 2019, p. 421.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: No major decentralization reform or devolution of powers has officially taken place and the central government retains most of the powers and strict oversight of local government activities and finances. However, some de-facto **decentralization of political power** has taken place since the 1970s, starting with the direct election of mayors and chairpersons by universal suffrage since the 1975 Law on Local Authorities, which went into effect in 1978. Previously, they were elected by local councils from among their members. Council members are elected on the basis of proportional representation for a five-year term. Also, some additional responsibilities have been transferred to local governments.⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women's representation in local authorities rose in the 2018 elections. In 2013, 386 women served as council members (13%). In the 2018 elections, 635 women were elected as council members (18%). The number of women heading local authorities rose from 6 to 14 during this period.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		17.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	99 (2020)
	Rural	99 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	95 (2020)
	Rural	93 (2020)
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)		18.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

6. 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/isr>



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Italy is a unitary parliamentary democracy that has a three-tier system of subnational government. It comprises 20 regions, 107 provinces (including autonomous provinces, metropolitan cities and free municipal consortiums) and 7,904 municipalities.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 SDGs are aligned with the **National Sustainable Development Strategy 2017-2030 (NSDS)**, organized according to the five sustainable development pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. The NSDS is an update of the former Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2010 and a first step towards a holistic policy framework widened to include social and economic dimensions, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The NSDS links the vision and objectives of the Ecological Transition Plan (ETP), which Italy approved in 2022, with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, building a common reference framework. The NSDS is actually under periodic revision. Three themes, namely policy coherence for sustainable development, localizing the SDGs, and stakeholder engagement, have been laid out.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE)** created in 2021 introduced an **inter-institutional roundtable** including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the line ministries, and the regions. Apart from the multistakeholder **National Forum for Sustainable Development**,³ a policy experiment has also been carried out to assess policy cohesion in achieving sustainability objectives. Launched in 2018, the Forum engages national and territorial institutions, non-state actors such as the academia, civil society members and experts. It focuses on linking reflections on the NSDS review to political contingency, and bridging high-level planning and programming and key actors.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Ecological Transition** coordinated the 2022 VNR preparatory process at the national level, while regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities have been involved through ad hoc VNR/VLR roundtables. The VNR followed the periodic revision of the NSDS, which is a three-year process mainly involving the **National Forum for Sustainable Development**. The Forum developed a position paper focusing on the three thematic areas of the 2022 VNR, which are policy coherence for sustainable development, localizing the SDGs, and stakeholder engagement. The Forum also produced a policy recommendations document about the interlinkages between the main sustainable development policies and the objectives of 6 Working Groups, which represent the following themes: "People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Youth, and Culture for Sustainability".

On top of that, the **National Council for Development Cooperation (CNCS)** served as a key participatory mechanism set out by the 2030 Agenda where stakeholders contributed to identifying national challenges and possible SDG-related actions accounted for in the VNR.

Whereas VLRs from regions and metropolitan cities provided an integrated perspective, combining the VLR experience from a region and its metropolitan city as well as from different regions working together on common 2030 Agenda issues.

1. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Italy%20Report.pdf>

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16341Italy.pdf> (2017); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Italy%20Report.pdf> (2022)

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

199 civil society actors including associations, foundations, universities, private sector entities, and cooperatives are represented in the Forum.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2018, the Ministry of Ecological Transition established a [Working Group on indicators](#) related to the implementation of the NSDS, building on statistical measures available in the Istat-Sistan (the National Statistical System) Platform. The [National Statistical Offices](#) play a crucial role in delivering statistical information at the national and subnational levels for monitoring the SDGs.⁴

The [Contribution of Regions and Autonomous Provinces to the National Reform Programme](#) aims at fostering SDG integration in all policy sectors. Every year the Contribution is drafted by Cinsedo and Tecnostruttura delle Regioni and then approved in the “Conference of Regions” in order to “analyze the programmatic, regulatory and implementation reform interventions undertaken by regional institutions in the previous year” (see VNR, 2022, p. 14). Besides being a tool for monitoring reform interventions, the Contribution was used as an exercise for the European Semester’s program linkage with Cohesion Policy and the SDGs.

Moreover, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei has developed SDG indices including the SDSN SDGs City Index, an index for provinces and metropolitan cities with reference to the SDGs, and a tool for the Italian regions capable of deriving the relative regional positioning, with respect to the regional average, in each of the 16 out of 17 SDGs.

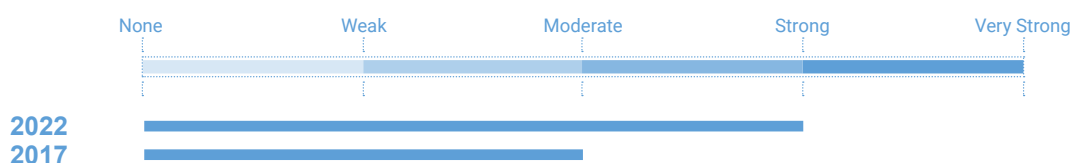
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The Italian national government is attributing great importance to adopting an integrated territorial approach and an effective multilevel governance system. The 2017 VNR stated that “given the importance of declining the SDGs on a local scale and provided that some of the areas of competence and responsibilities rely not only on the central administration, the government, through the [State and Regions Conference](#), will enhance local and regional authorities to be active and take part to the implementation process” (VNR, 2017, p. 5). Whereas the 2022 VNR confirms that LRGs will have to take part in the [implementation of the NSDS](#) according to their specific institutional mandates and competencies, given that the NSDS review process allows for the active involvement of regional authorities in fine-tuning the content of the strategy and identifying coordination actions.⁵

The [Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions \(AICCRE\)](#) regretted that municipalities and provinces were not adequately involved in the 2022 VNR process. Even if AICCRE has been presenting recommendations at an Italian side-event of the HLPF since 2019, its participation in the national reporting processes hasn’t improved. In 2022, the association prepared the first Italian VSR (see below).

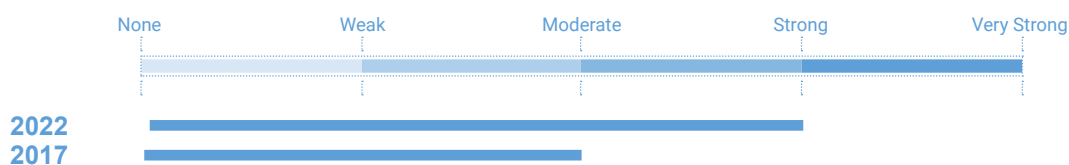
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: In 2022, regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities were involved through ad hoc VNR/VLR roundtables.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are included in the participatory mechanisms at the national level regarding the NSDS review process and policy cohesion.

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 2022 VNR has significantly more references to LRGs compared to the one in 2017. The effort in adopting an integrated territorial approach and an effective multilevel governance system is shown by dedicating a specific section to [SDG localization](#). It is acknowledged that territories will play a key role in reaching sub-regional and sub-metropolitan governments in achieving

4. The indicators are updated twice a year. 354 statistical measures for 135 indicators were published in 2021, and 367 statistical measures for 138 indicators, including the update of 135 statistical measures and the introduction of 12 new measures, in February 2022.

5. Although the national strategy emphasized the roles of regions and autonomous provinces, provinces and municipalities have received little attention.

the 2030 Agenda. One of the annexes of the report is entirely focused on the regions and on the metropolitan areas, including 12 new VLRs.

The 2022 VNR reflects Italy's effort in the past years after the adoption of the NSDS in localizing the SDGs and improving policy cohesion through horizontal and vertical integration within Italy's governance system.⁶ Regional and local authorities have been actively engaged in the VNR and have prepared VLRs (see below). These reports highlighted the engagement of different levels of government in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while showcasing the challenges encountered at the local and regional levels.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **AICCRE** is a member of the **Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)**, also a multi-stakeholder initiative. With the collaboration of AICCRE, the online platform **SDG Portal 16** of the Bertelsmann Stiftung has been created.⁷ The Portal provides an intuitive and comparative presentation of the current progress of the cities (municipalities, capitals of provinces) in their path towards achieving the SDGs.

► Since 2020, **ASviS** has been publishing its "Rapporto Territori", which analyzes the progress of different territories, namely regions, autonomous provinces, provinces and metropolitan cities, and urban areas.⁸

► **Abruzzo Region** has signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment (MATTM) to develop a regional Sustainable Development Strategy in the framework of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, the region is coordinating with some municipalities towards the elaboration of joint local plans on sustainable energy and adaptation to climate change. The region has also identified local SDG-related indicators, and reports a challenge in connecting the local to the national set of indicators.⁹

► The metropolitan city of Bologna published its "**Agenda 2.0 for Sustainable Development**".¹⁰ The metropolitan cities of Florence, Genoa, Messina, Milan, Reggio Calabria, Rome, Turin and Venice are working on their Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development as can be seen on the online portal "Agende Metropolitane per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile".¹¹

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

The **Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE)** published the first Italian VSR in 2022.¹² Many VLRs were developed in 2022 as well: that of the regions of Abruzzo, Marche and Umbria, Lazio, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna and the metropolitan city of Bologna, the Metropolitan City of Messina, the Piemonte Region and the Metropolitan City of Torino, the Puglia Region and the Metropolitan City of Bari, the Lombardy Region and the Metropolitan City of Milan, the Metropolitan City of Roma, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria and the Metropolitan City of Genova.¹³

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **2017 Budget law** was set up taking into account the NSDS and the measures were taken considering the SDGs. Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei also created a financial tracking tool that identifies how EU investment funds contribute to the various SDG targets, with the aid of budget categorization available in the European Structural and Investment Funds within the EU Cohesion Policy.¹⁴ The Ministry of Ecological Transition has ensured the implementation of the NSDS by promoting coherence at the local level through the provision to subnational governments of spaces for dialogue on vertical coherence as well as financial support.

6. "To better reflect the work carried out in the past five years as well as the challenges addressed, the VNR provides three thematic insights, respectively on policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD), localizing the SDGs and stakeholder engagement. By defining these three areas, the VNR attempts to describe the level of integration of the 2030 Agenda in the planning processes at national (horizontally) and local level (vertically) as well as the efforts to ensure and support participation in decision making processes" (see VNR, 2022).

7. See: <https://sdg-portal.it/en>

8. See: https://asvis.it/public/asvis2/files/Rapporto_ASviS/Rapporto_2021/Rapporto_ASviSTerritori2021.pdf.

9. Answer of Abruzzo Region to the GTF Survey in 2021.

10. See: https://www.cittametropolitana.bo.it/agenda_sviluppo_sostenibile/Engine/RAServeFile.php/f/allegati/QUADERNO_3_CM_Bologna.pdf

11. See: <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/agende-metropolitane-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile>.

12. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/italy_2022.pdf

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/abruzzo_marche_umbria_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/lazio_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/liguria_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/emilia-romagna_bologna_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/messina_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/piemonte_torino_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/puglia_bari_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/lombardy_milan_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/roma_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sardinia_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/reggio_calabria_2022.pdf;

14. See: <https://www.feem.it/en/publications/feem-working-papers-note-di-lavoro-series/the-contribution-of-the-european-cohesion-policy-to-the-2030-agenda-an-application-to-the-autonomous-region-of-sardinia/>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women's participation in political and economic life showed some improvements at the local level. In the regional elections held in 2020, the proportion of women chairing councils rose by almost one percentage point to 22%.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR outlined the upcoming challenges for Italian cities and regions related to the impact of COVID-19, which includes the slowing down of transition towards a circular and greener economy, setbacks in waste collection and recycling, the rise of social inequalities at the territorial level, climate change, declining fertility rates, the lack of territorial investments, and missing out sustainable tourism objectives.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		32.1 (2020)
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	96 (2020)
	Rural	94 (2020)
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 (%)		94.6 (2015, Milan)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		14.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Latvia is a unitary republic with a single tier of elected local governments. The territorial reform in 2021 divided the 43 local authorities into 10 state cities (*Valstspilsēta*) and 33 municipalities (*Novadi*). Municipalities include towns (*novada pilsēta*) and villages (*pagasti*), which comprise less than 5 000 inhabitants.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 SDGs are aligned with the **Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 (Latvia 2030)** adopted in 2010. The **National Development Plan 2021–2027 (NDP2027)**, approved in 2020, was created in an inclusive multi-stakeholder process involving representatives of the scientific community, NGOs, workers and trade unions, business and industry, state and municipal officials (see VNR, 2022, p. 10). The NDP2027 sets out four strategic goals, directions for action, and measures in six areas that contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Policy frameworks and plans have been developed in accordance with NDP2027, which defines government action regarding the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Cross-Sectoral Coordinating Centre (CSCC)** led by the Prime Minister is the focal point for the SDGs. The **National Development Council** is chaired by the prime minister and comprises key ministries, social partners and other government cooperation partners. The National Development Council is the collegial advisory authority to monitor and advise the prime minister on development planning across all levels, as well as to review the results of public consultation for the development of the NDP2027. Meanwhile, representatives of the scientific community, NGOs, workers and trade unions, business and industry, state and municipal officials collaborated in six working groups in contributing to the NDP2027.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Cross-Sectoral Coordinating Centre (CSCC)** coordinated the preparation of the 2018 and 2022 VNRs. The 2018 VNR is based on a mapping of the SDGs at the target level with Latvian policy, with the participation of all ministries, and on the Mid-Term Impact Assessment of the National Development Plan 2014–2020 (NDP2020) that also tracks progress towards Latvia 2030. An **informal advisory working group** for the SDG Review was established, which included representatives of line ministries and other institutions, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG), the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS), the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK), UNESCO Latvian National Committee, representatives of non-governmental organizations, etc.

In 2022, the analysis of the VNR was based on an assessment of the NDP2020 and Latvia 2030, NDP2027, the European Green Deal, and recent challenges. Stakeholders, including academia, trade unions, municipalities, and libraries, were contacted through a formal letter by the national government, and their contributions were included in the final VNR. A public consultation was held. However, according to the interview with the **Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG)**, no multi-stakeholder advisory working group was created for the preparation of the 2022 VNR.

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

See also: https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_structures_and_competences_2016_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19388Latvia_Implementation_of_the_SDGs.pdf (2018);

<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Latvia%20Report%201.pdf> (2022).

1.3 MONITORING

Latvia 2030 sets 55 specific policy outcome indicator targets to be achieved by 2030 in seven priority areas covering multiple SDGs). The **Central Statistical Bureau** and other national authorities provide data for Latvia's SDG indicator framework, representing priority targets from Latvia's medium-term and long-term development policies that envisage strategic priorities for achieving the SDGs. The new **Official Statistics Portal** was launched in 2020, providing detailed gender, age, ethnic and territorial distribution statistics, as well as a special section on gender equality and thematic publications focusing on specific age groups, such as the annual publication "Children in Latvia" and "Seniors in Latvia."

In addition, four Latvian scientists developed a mathematical tool that enables municipalities to plan and manage sustainable development in 2021 with the support of the Latvian Science Council. The data-based tool for selecting priority activities and projects, developed in line with the UN sustainable development paradigm, quantifies the level of sustainable development using indicators corresponding to the functionality of the municipalities. Released in 2022, the model can be used to determine key development priorities, justify the budget distribution and investment priorities, and compare projects between different sectors.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

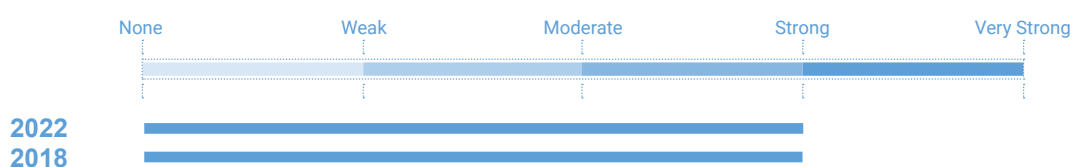
In 2018, the VNR noted that all local governments in Latvia had adopted **sustainable development strategies**. These are the most important territorial development documents at the local government level. They describe problems and instruments chosen by the local governments, and localize solutions for economic, social and environmental issues addressed in the SDGs. These local government sustainable development strategies have a long-term perspective that is based on Latvia 2030 and the Sustainable Development Strategy of their respective planning region. For the preparation of the 2018 VNR, the CSCC counted on the support of a working group in which the **Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG)** participated.

Regarding the preparation of the 2022 VNR, the national government engaged different stakeholders, including the LALRG and the municipalities, by sending out letters to collect information on activities related to the SDGs that they had implemented since the 2018 VNR; their opinion on SDG priorities in the coming years; and their proposals on how to improve, expand and promote Latvia's contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. According to the LALRG, however, no response was received after the submission of the survey letter and no further meetings were organized up to the presentation of the 2022 VNR.³

The **LALRG** also mentions regular, although consultative, participation in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. The national government is responsive to the association's proposals for activities devoted to the SDGs, which includes sharing useful information with municipalities. Yet, according to the **LALRG**, vertical coordination is not "clear" while some policies and plans seem to be implemented by the national government without LRG support or involvement of any kind.⁴

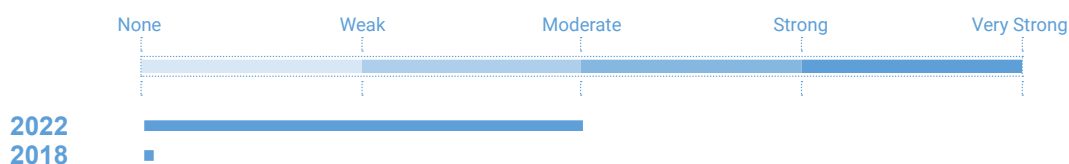
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Municipal governments were involved by sharing their key challenges and priority areas for action.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Municipalities contributed to the development of the NDP2027 by participating in working groups.

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. Answer of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments to the GTF Survey in 2022.

4. Answer of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments to the GTF Survey in 2022.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2018 VNR had a separate section on local government, which noted that all local governments have sustainable development strategies and acknowledged the work of **LALRG** (see VNR, 2018, p. 34-35). It stressed that “the global SDGs have a local dimension, and [that] action and multi-stakeholder dialogue at the local level are key to achieving tangible results.” The presentation of the progress made towards each SDG included some examples of LRG initiatives (see below). Whereas the 2022 VNR offers a summary of stakeholders’ responses (including LALRG, five municipalities and one region) and includes a link to a webpage where the complete responses from these institutions were uploaded (see VNR, 2022, p. 127).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **LALRG** provided two grant competitions for development education in Latvian local governments, and five winning projects were awarded financial support, in **Jelgava**, **Auce**, **Jekabpils**, **Rucava** and **Kekava**. In 2020-2021, the LALRG organized two seminars for the elected officials and administration of municipalities (one on SDG 4 and the other on SDGs 6 and 13). Likewise, reference to the SDGs was made during the European Solidarity Days activities implemented in November 2020 by several Latvian municipalities and their cooperation partners.⁵

► The city of **Jelgava** established a Municipal Operational Information Centre Public in 2016 to ensure safety, security, infrastructure monitoring and improvement of people’s well-being. The center provides immediate response in case of emergencies; takes Jelgava citizens’ complaints and suggestions; monitors infrastructure 24/7 (street lighting, pumping houses, meteorological stations, streetlight and intelligent traffic control systems); and supports and coordinates the work of local government specialists and partners.

► The city of **Valmiera** introduced smart lighting by installing LEDs in over 50% of its public lighting fixtures. The system ensures more efficient use of electricity by actively adjusting light intensity as traffic and pedestrian activity changes.

► The **National Healthy Local Government Network** unites 112 of 119 Latvian local governments that implement health promotion and prevention activities in Latvia’s four priority health care areas – cardio-vascular, oncology, maternal and child care, and mental health (2017 data). 105 educational institutions have joined the Health Promotion School Network and integrate health promotion activities into the school’s daily schedule. Although most local governments have institutionalized health activities, nation-wide data is not available on municipal budget allocations toward health promotion.

► Several Latvian municipalities have implemented information campaigns in 2020 on the SDGs. The **Kuldīga** municipality has made an informative video, and children and youth have created several animated videos on SDG 15. The youth from the city of **Liepāja**, involving local politicians, has made a video on their vision for all SDGs. The municipality of **Preiļi**, together with its cooperation partners in Georgia and Ukraine, has started a set of discussions on the SDGs to identify the most important ones in the daily municipal work and to define priority ones for the cooperation of three partner municipalities in these countries.⁶

► The historic center of **Riga** is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. To maintain this status, the Riga Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 calls for the protection of the distinctive silhouette, and building regulations prevent new development projects from affecting the skyline. Meanwhile, the city of **Riga** joined the Paris Climate Declaration “Cities leading the way to climate neutrality” in 2021. Riga’s approach is to begin with municipal infrastructure and renovating at least 2,000 multi-apartment buildings by 2030. The goal is to reduce vehicle emissions and to strive for net zero-emission heat production and heat supply. The city plans to rent out the roofs of its buildings for the installation of solar collectors and support energy community projects which require minor capital investments and could increase renewables in the city’s energy balance. Riga plans to localize and integrate the SDGs into the development plans and medium-term operational strategies of planning regions and local governments and their institutions.

► In **Ventspils**, the construction of the National Ventspils Music Secondary School (with a concert hall) contributed to education, culture and sustainability.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2018 VNR describes the early steps in sustainable finance by Latvian stakeholders, i.e. corporate social responsibility initiatives in the private sector, green public procurement, and green bonds issued by state-owned enterprises. Investments required to ensure the achievement of the SDGs are divided into twelve areas. The funding needs are broken down according to sources, including the national budget, EU funds, and other investments from abroad, **co-financing by local governments** and the private sector.

5. Answer of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments to the GTF Survey in 2021.

6. Answer of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments to the GTF Survey in 2021.

In 2021, the Latvian government adopted the [Financial Sector Development Plan 2021–2023](#), which envisages an innovative and accessible financial sector that promotes and supports sustainable economic development. The plan outlines the creation of an institutional framework for sustainable financial goals and a sustainable government bond framework, while ensuring the availability of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) data for assessing sustainability. The [Sustainability Bond](#) issued in 2021 contributed to state budget expenditures carried out and planned in 2020-2022 for measures aimed at achieving the SDGs, such as environmentally friendly transport, the preservation of Latvia's forests, waters and biodiversity, and the reduction of inequalities and poverty.

The 2022 VNR also mentions the collective input of various stakeholders. The Finance Latvia Association, the Financial and Capital Market Commission, Latvijas Banka, Nasdaq Riga, the Latvian Leasing Association, and the Latvian Insurers Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021 to join forces in raising public awareness on the principles of sustainability and sustainable finances for use in business and daily life. The agreement outlines the development of a unified policy for assessing the sustainability of public and private investment. Whereas the Finance Latvia Association has identified contributions that are needed to achieve SDG 11, such as securing funding for renovating apartment buildings and private homes, as well as the energy efficiency of housing.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2018, a comprehensive tax policy reform came into effect in Latvia that is aimed at promoting economic growth and well-being, including reducing income inequality. At the same time, it is aimed at ensuring sufficient and predictable tax revenues to finance state and local government commitments, shifting the tax burden from labor to consumption, environment and property taxes.

The 2018 VNR mentions that the Latvian government has developed a "service basket" model, which is used to determine different levels of service provision in culture, health, social services and education, to ensure service provision in areas where financial resources are limited and the population is decreasing. In 2017, this was used as a tool to restructure the school network and for designing social services for those persons leaving state long-term care facilities. A new challenge is the practical application of this model in public investment planning and value-for-money assessments of investment projects.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the nationwide municipal elections in 2017, 39% of all registered candidates were women. The election results were such that women make up 24% of all newly elected local government heads/mayors.

The local government of [Skrunda](#) has signed the [European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life](#), committing itself to the principles of gender equality and equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes. That involves carefully considering and incorporating the views of stakeholders of both genders into decisions made, and ensuring that good governance processes take account of women's and men's capabilities and needs.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR briefly mentions accelerated actions related to SDG 11 under COVID-19 that are mandated by the parliament, including investment in infrastructure for public safety and energy efficiency. There is no reference to initiatives led by local governments. Furthermore, the [LALRG](#) was involved in a policy-making process in producing a policy regulation draft for the procedure for ReactEU (recovery and resilience package), but recommendations had not been taken into account by the national minister of finance.⁷

7. Answer of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments in an interview conducted in 2022.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		34 (2020)
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)		15.6 (2019)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

LIECHTENSTEIN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Principality of Liechtenstein is a monarchy and has 11 municipalities.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 SDGs are integrated in the **2017-2021 Government Programme**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government established an **interdisciplinary working group** led by the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture** was tasked with producing the 2019 VNR. A broad-based survey of actors from the private sector and civil society was conducted in the course of drawing up this report.

1.3 MONITORING

The indicator system is currently not based directly on the SDGs. The 2019 VNR acknowledges that Liechtenstein's national indicator system covers few of the SDG indicators and stresses that it will be necessary to examine how the national indicators can be aligned more closely with the SDGs. The **interdisciplinary working group** is responsible for reviewing the data availability for measurement of the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

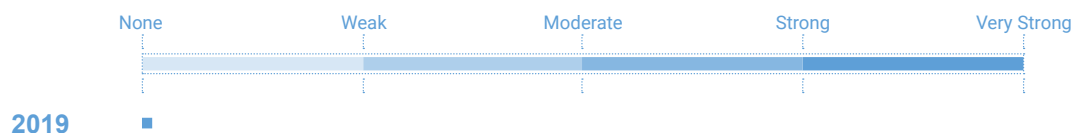
There is no evidence of any involvement of municipalities in the VNR process led in 2019, nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFL2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

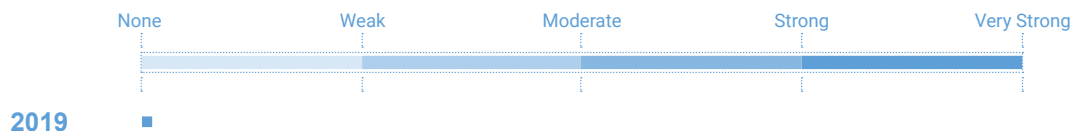
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23369Full_VNR_Liechtenstein_June_2019.pdf (2019)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Municipalities are mentioned a few times in the 2019 VNR, without reference to specific examples of initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Every municipality in Liechtenstein is strongly committed to increasing energy efficiency. As of 2012, all of them had been awarded the title "Energy City".

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the level of municipal councils, the proportion of women was 16.5% in the period 2015-2019. That figure increased significantly in the 2019 municipal council elections, reaching a historic high of 39.1%. In addition, for the first time two of the 11 municipalities are led by women.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		39.1 (2019)
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.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/lie>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lithuania is a unitary republic with a single-tier of local self-government composed of 60 municipalities (*savivaldybės*).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 Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) 2003-2020** was updated in 2009 with an aim to harmonize this Strategy with the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. Taking into account that the SDGs must be implemented by 2030, and those provided for in the NSSD by 2020, it is planned to update Lithuania's **Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030'**. It would lay down development goals for Lithuania until 2030 and a vision until 2050.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Lithuania has established a **National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD)** which is headed by the Prime Minister and includes the ministers and representatives of non-government organizations, business associations and research institutions. Coordination of NSSD implementation is overseen by the **Ministry of Environment** and an **inter-institutional working group** on sustainable development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Government Office** and the **Ministry of Environment** were appointed as the coordinating authorities of the 2018 VNR preparation. The latter established a **group of experts** for drawing up the report, which involves specialists of various ministries and representatives of non-government organizations and municipalities in its work.

1.3 MONITORING

The main functions of the **NCSD** are to analyze and assess reviews on the implementation of the NSSD.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Municipalities were involved in the work of the group of experts responsible for drafting the 2018 VNR through the **Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL)**. Also, a representative of ALAL attends the **NCSD** meetings.³

As stressed by the 2018 VNR, Lithuania devotes much attention to the sustainable development of cities and communities. The new general plan of the territory of Lithuania, to be developed in 2018, was supposed to integrate the SDGs. This plan would then become the key instrument for ensuring inclusive and sustainable urban development, reducing the socio-economic exclusion of cities and the negative impact of built-up territories on the environment, and securing the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19673VNR_Lithuania_EN_updated.pdf (2018)

3. Answer of the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2018

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2018

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few references to municipalities in the 2018 VNR, without examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2015, Lithuania approved the national Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning which recommend that cities with the population of more than 25,000 or the status of a resort prepare and implement **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)**. Eighteen municipalities of Lithuania have met this condition. At the end of 2017 nine municipal administrations of Lithuania had their SUMPs prepared, and the remaining nine municipalities were to have their SUMPs ready in 2018.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

With a view to enhancing women's leadership and participation in decision-making, leadership events and training are organized and support is provided to the activities of clubs of women politicians. The proportion of seats held by women in local authorities was 24.1% in 2015 and 21.3% in 2016.

3.2 COVID 19

The local government association **ALAL** and local authorities have been and still are consulted, and prepared some proposals for the national government.⁴

4. Answer of the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		20.4 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	99 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	98 (2020)
	Rural	86 (2020)
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)		10.7 (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/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>.
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/ltu>

LUXEMBOURG

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a representative democracy, in the form of a constitutional monarchy. Luxembourg is a unitary country with a single-tier of subnational government, made of 102 municipalities.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 **National Plan for Sustainable Development (PNDD)**, which was adopted in 2010 and revised in 2018, is aligned with the SDGs. Since 2019, the 2030 Agenda serves as the framework for the **third National Plan for Sustainable Development**. This document, "**Luxembourg 2030**", encompasses the policies and measures of all ministries and administrations. In 2021, Luxembourg has also adopted two strategies to promote a more systematic integration of cross-cutting priorities related to gender equality and environmental sustainability.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development (CIDD)** is the central instrument for ensuring the coordination of national policy for sustainable development. It is chaired by the **Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development** and all ministerial departments have a representative. The CIDD oversees the implementation of the PNDD and the development of national indicators to measure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Luxembourg. The **Nohaltegekeetsrot (High Council for Sustainable Development)**, composed of members of civil society, is a kind of think tank and platform for consultation on the concrete implementation of the SDGs by all stakeholders, guiding the government in the field of sustainable development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR was prepared by the **Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development**. No more details on the stakeholders involved in the reporting process can be found in the VNR. For the 2022 VNR, **consultations** were held through a survey and workshops with stakeholders such as NGOs, associations, the private sector, and other institutions.

1.3 MONITORING

The ministries and administrations united in the **Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development** evaluate their actions according to the SDGs and the targets set by the government. The **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (STATEC)** is responsible for centralizing data relevant to the monitoring of the SDGs, and compiling and publishing national monitoring indicators. An evaluation is conducted annually in January to measure progress on each of the selected indicators of the 2030 Agenda. In 2022, STATEC also carried out an overall evaluation of progress on each of the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2017 and 2022 VNRs don't provide evidence of any LRG involvement in the reporting processes nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. The **Syndicate of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities (SYVICOL)** has not been involved with the national government's VNR coordinating team.³

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

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/15709Luxembourg.pdf> (2017);

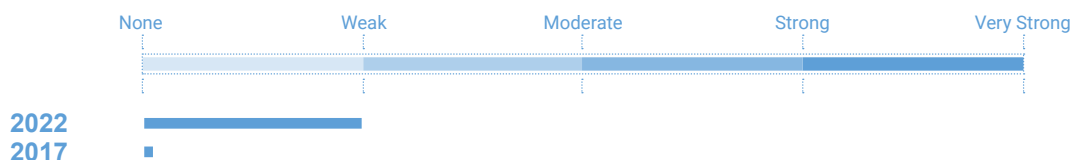
<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Luxembourg%20-%20Revue%20Nationale%20Volontaire%202022.pdf> (2022)

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

However, Luxembourg wants to accelerate its transition to a sustainable society by supporting all local actors, especially the municipalities, and has developed tools such as the [Pact for Climate](#), the [Pact for Nature](#) and the tool “[Municipalities 2030](#)”. The Pact for Climate and the Pact for Nature are agreements between the government and the municipalities and provide financial and technical support for the implementation of concrete climate and nature protection measures at the local level. The majority of the municipalities participate in the Pact for Climate and, more recently, in the Pact for Nature. “Municipalities 2030” is a tool allowing municipalities to measure, evaluate and highlight their sustainable development initiatives. After a successful pilot phase, “Municipalities 2030” will now be used to evaluate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the PNDD at the local level.

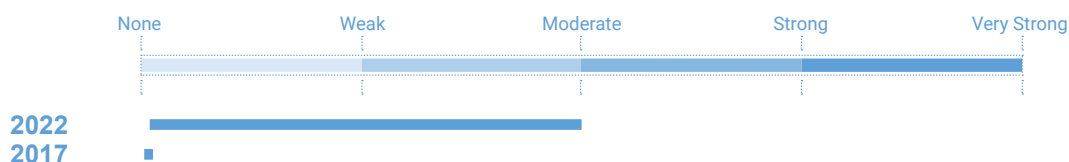
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Limited participation of the SYVICOL.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Ad hoc/punctual participation of the SYVICOL (2020, 2021 and 2022 GTF Surveys).

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 a few references to LRGs in the 2017 report. In the 2022 VNR, municipalities are only mentioned in a section called “involve and accompany territorial stakeholders” which describes national tools to support LRGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

There are no examples of locally-led initiatives in the 2017 and 2022 VNRs, only a few examples of national projects at the city/regional level.

► In 2020, the guide “Municipalities 2030” was shared with local governments. It was developed by the national government in partnership with several municipalities and allows for a structured subnational inventory of sustainable development initiatives.⁴

► The Ministry of the Environment and Esch 2022, European Capital of Culture, have worked together to develop ELO, a platform that provides guidelines and best practices to support project developers in their sustainable approach.

► The municipality of [Schifflange](#) received the European Energy Award Gold for its actions in favour of traffic calming and the reduction of its CO2 emissions by 50%. It also received the Climate Star award for its work on waste reduction and recycling. Schifflange has introduced a new waste management tax regulation that rewards households for sorting their waste. The municipality has been selected to participate in the pilot project “Municipalities 2030”.⁵

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

Not applicable.

4. The guide is available here: <https://download.data.public.lu/resources/guide-referentiel-dinventaire-des-initiatives-de-developpement-durable-au-niveau-communal-territorial/20200107-144537/communes-2030-guide-referentiel.pdf>. It was mentioned by SYVICOL in its answer to the GTF Survey in 2022.

5. See: <https://www.syvicol.lu/fr/bonnes-pratiques/fiche/2021/07/engagement-en-faveur-de-lagenda-2030-du-developpement-durable>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR points out that public investment alone will not be enough to achieve the SDGs and that mobilizing private capital has become a key priority. Luxembourg has adopted a strategy with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to become a leading international center for climate finance which led to a national strategy for sustainable finance.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Given the country's small territorial size, decentralization of spending responsibilities and fiscal resources remains limited in Luxembourg.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

The **Syndicate of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities (SYVICOL)** has been exchanging very regularly with the Ministers of the Interior, Health and National Education in areas that directly concern the municipalities (organization of services, schools, reception structures, vaccination strategy). At the start of the pandemic, SYVICOL also organized the distribution of masks in collaboration with the national government.⁶

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		25.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	100 (2020)
	Rural	97 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	97 (2020)
	Rural	89 (2020)
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 (%)		-

6. Answer of SYVICOL to the GTF Survey in 2021 and 2022.

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Malta is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational government system, comprising 68 local councils.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

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in 2015, the Maltese government has been working on the development of a national **Vision 2050**. Once adopted, it will be followed by a national Strategy and Action Plan to assist in its implementation. The Vision is based on the three pillars of sustainable development, along with some cross-cutting elements. It places a strong basis for a holistic governance framework, with an accentuation on increasing the awareness of sustainable development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Sustainable Development Act adopted in 2012 established a whole-of-government approach and a coordinating mechanism for sustainable development policy, through the setting up of a **Focal Point Network**. It falls under the organization of the **Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC)** and involves the participation of a senior representative from each ministry.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **Task Force** within the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion (MFTP)** was set up with the task of coordinating and collating input among ministries for the 2018 VNR, with the support of the Focal Point Network. The Task Force extended its consultations to include Parliament, the private sector, and civil society, as well as the National Statistics Office to discuss data relative to the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

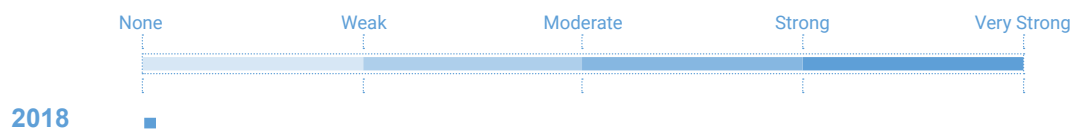
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any local council involvement in the reporting process that led to the 2018 VNR, nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

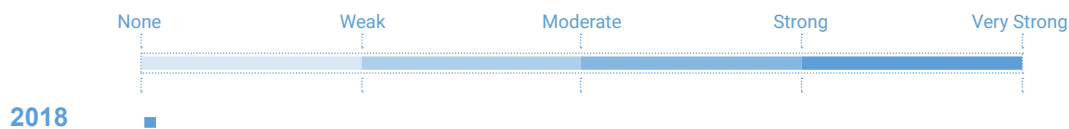
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
 2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20203Malta_VNR_Final.pdf (2018)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is little reference to local councils in the 2018 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2018 VNR mentions the setting up of the Malta Development Bank (MDB) in 2017 as an important contributor to sustainable development, as acknowledged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

3.RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

After the 2015 elections, about 19% of local councillors were female, down from about 25% in 2013, but up from 17.6% in 2006.³

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

3. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Malta.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.3 (2020)
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)		13.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/mlt>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Principality of Monaco is a unitary monarchy **without elected local governments**.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving the SDGs constitutes a priority axis of government action defined by the Monegasque government. All government entities have been mobilized to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **inter-ministerial working group** has been created under the authority of the **Minister of State** and is led by the **Department of External Relations and Cooperation**. It is made up of a referent from each ministerial department.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The **General Secretariat of the Government**, the **General Inspectorate of Administration** and the **Monegasque Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies** have been involved in the SDG monitoring process, their role being essential in data collection.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Not applicable.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

No reference.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

1. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15697Monaco2.pdf> (2017)

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3.RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

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	100 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	100 (2020)
	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 (%)		100 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)

2. 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/mco>

MONTENEGRO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Montenegro is a unitary state with a republican form of government and a one-tier structure of subnational government, comprising 24 municipalities.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 **National Strategy for Sustainable Development by 2030 (NSSD 2030)**, adopted in 2016, is aligned with the SDGs. An Action Plan has been adopted to implement the national strategy which defines 30 strategic goals with 102 measures and 602 sub-measures.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)** has a coordinating role. It was established in 2002 as an advisory body with the aim of strengthening the capacity to implement sustainable development policies. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. Its members are representatives of all ministers, the Secretary of the Parliament, the Chief Negotiator for the EU, expert institutions, financial institutions, business associations, universities, NGOs, and the media. A reform in 2021 redesigned the NCSD and five **working groups** were created as expert working bodies. It is supported at the expert-administrative level by the **Office for Sustainable Development (OSD)** created within the Secretariat General of the Government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Office for Sustainable Development** coordinated the 2022 VNR process. A **working group** was set up to prepare the report on the implementation of NSSD 2030 and the VNR. It included representatives from ministries, institutions participating in the implementation of the strategy, the private sector, universities, NGOs, and young people. Three consultative regional meetings were also held with representatives of local governments, educational institutions, civil sector and other stakeholders. Finally, a platform with short surveys about the SDGs was opened up to the public.

1.3 MONITORING

NSSD 2030 defined the system for monitoring national development sustainability. Its **Action Plan** defined target outcomes for every strategic goal and identifies indicators for monitoring their level of achievement. A working report on progress in the implementation of the NSSD was prepared in 2019 and a second one was expected in 2020. However, the availability of quality, up-to-date and disaggregated data/indicators for NSSD 2030 and the SDGs is not at a satisfactory level and there is an insufficient degree of involvement of various administration bodies and institutions in the process of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs.

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

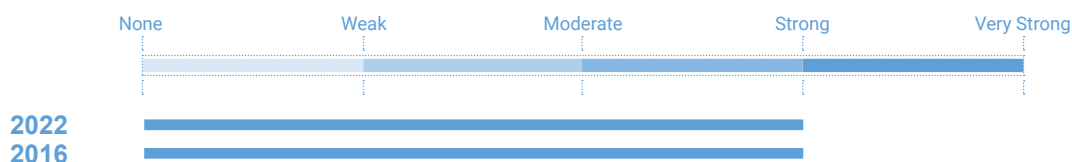
2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/10695Montenegro%20-%20HLPF%20Report.pdf> (2016); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Montenegro%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Montenegro, LRGs implement activities to localize the SDGs. However, municipalities which established councils for sustainable development or aligned their strategic plans for development with the SDGs are scarce. Representatives of LRGs participated in the consultations organized as part of the process of drafting NSSD 2030. The **Union of Municipalities of Montenegro** also participated in a consultative meeting. Three LRG representatives participate in the multi-stakeholder **National Council for Sustainable Development**.³ One of the new expert working groups of the reformed Council focuses on “sustainable development at the local level”. Moreover, LRGs participated in the 2022 VNR preparation through three **consultative regional meetings** with representatives from 17 municipalities as well as other stakeholders.

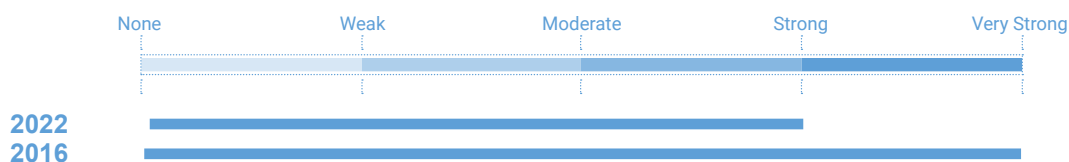
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultative regional meetings were held with representatives from the municipalities.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Three LRG representatives participate in the National Council for Sustainable Development.

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

Both 2016 and 2022 VNRs refer to LRGs but provide very little data on their progress towards the 2030 Agenda. There is a subsection, in the 2016 VNR, presenting the “efforts made by local authorities and non-state actors to implement the SDGs” (see VNR, 2016, p. 61-62).⁴ The 2022 VNR stresses that increased ownership is needed, and implementation has to be stepped up at all levels of government.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2017, the municipality of **Podgorica** was the first one to adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Montenegro, the financing of sustainable development relies on cooperation and joint action of the Parliament, the government and LRGs within their respective competencies and responsibilities. In the last couple of years, progress has been made in financing sustainable development through the gradual introduction of programme budgeting and the establishment of the Eco Fund. However, none of the VNRs provide information on means of implementation for the SDGs at the local level.

3. See: <https://www.ncsds.org/index.php/sustainable-development-councils/country-profiles/85-country-profiles/167-montenegro.html>

4. The 2016 VNR also includes a subsection on the “allocation of responsibilities among levels of government for implementation of the 2030 Agenda” but without much information regarding multilevel coordination (see VNR, 2016, p. 122-123).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Montenegro has been a candidate for European Union membership since 2010 and has been negotiating since 2012. According to the 2022 VNR, there is a strong complementariness between the processes of accession to the European Union and achieving the 2030 Agenda. By meeting the obligations in the process of joining the European Union, Montenegro will get much closer to achieving the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2022, in the municipalities of Danilovgrad and Gusinje, the mayors are women, while in five municipalities (Bar, Cetinje, Kotor, Plav and Šavnik) the presidents of the local assemblies are women. Although some progress has been made, the [Law on the Election of Councillors and Deputies](#), which stipulates that at least 30% of the names on electoral lists must be female candidates, at both the state and local levels, is not yet strictly applied.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 VNR only mentions national initiatives (mainly related to the socio-economic effects of the crisis).

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.8 (2017)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	87 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	49 (2020)
	Rural	39 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		27.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		75.9 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		20.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of North Macedonia is a unitary country. In 2016, there were 81 local government units in North Macedonia, including 80 municipalities (*opština*) and Skopje. The capital city, Skopje, is recognised as having special status and consists of 10 independent municipalities (which are part of the overall number of 80 municipalities). Eight regions are established for statistical and planning purposes only. They don't have any administrative role.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

North Macedonia has a **National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2009-2030**. The three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development are streamlined within the **Government Programme 2017-2020**, which rests on four pillars: economic development; politics and rule of law; human capital; and foreign policy. In 2018, the National Council for Sustainable Development identified SDGs 1, 4, 8, 13 and 16 as the five priority goals for the period 2018-2020. In addition, in 2016, the national government and the United Nations agreed on the Partnership for Sustainable Development, which promotes equitable and sustainable development and supports the country's integration into the EU.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development** was established in 2010, and is chaired by the Deputy President in charge of Economic Affairs. It consists of 12 ministers, members of Parliament, representatives from the National Academy of Science and Arts, from the chambers of commerce and from universities. An independent **Council for Cooperation with and Development of the Civil Sector** has been established as an advisory body of the government to promote dialogue with the civil society sector.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2020, a two-day "Stakeholder engagement" workshop was organized by Partners for Review and the GIZ as part of the VNR process. About 40 representatives from academia, chambers of commerce, civil society and government attended it. Following this, a two-day consultation process for the first draft of the VNR was organized, accompanied by a youth forum/consultation.

1.3 MONITORING

An **Agenda 2030 Indicator Framework** workshop was organized by the UN Resident Coordinator Office with the participation of 80 representatives from government and UN agencies. Participants and the State Statistical Office endorsed the proposed indicator framework of 100 indicators. In 2019, a preparatory workshop Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) was held for experts from the central and local government. Conducted with the support of the UN, the RIA mapped development policy planning documents and legislation against the SDGs, reviewed the role of state institutions in strategic policy planning for the SDGs, assessed EU requirements and its alignment with SDGs and estimated donor financial contributions for the SDGs.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26387VNR_2020_Macedonia_Report.pdf (2020)

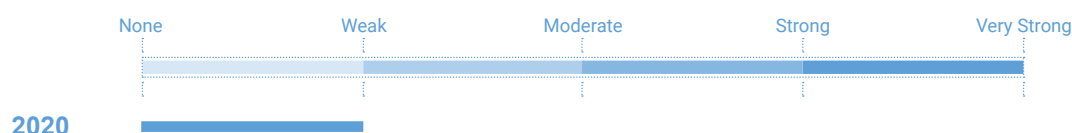
3. UNDP's vision is outlined in its Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which assists the country to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerate structural transformation for sustainable development and build resilience to crises and shocks.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

A policy for balanced regional development in accordance with the principles of the Law on Balanced Regional Development was adopted in 2009 as well as the Strategy for Regional Development as a ten-year planning document within the eight planning regions. In each of the planning regions, there is a Center for Development in charge of implementing the development programme.⁴ LRGs are not included in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. They are not mentioned in the presentation of the VNR process either.

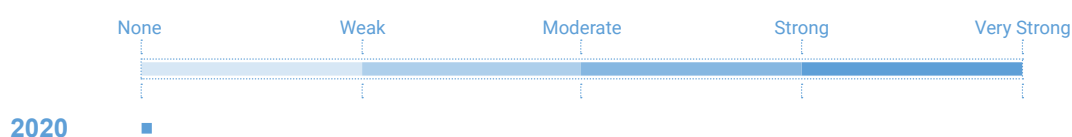
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The RIA may have involved LRGs regarding their planning processes. No specific mention is made regarding LRG involvement in the VNR process itself.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are not included in the coordination mechanisms. This is also stated by the Association of the Municipalities (GTF Survey 2020).

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 2020 VNR, LRGs are specifically mentioned in the evaluation of the SDG 11. This section highlights the role of LRGs pointing out the fact that they are responsible for urban or rural planning, local construction, environmental protection and ensuring their residents' wellbeing. Actually, each municipality, as well as the city of **Skopje**, is obliged by law to develop a master plan, also referred to as Detailed Urban Plan, to address settlements and the development of public spaces. The report also highlights that the **decentralization** process that started in 2001 has devolved a wide range of responsibilities from central to local governments but some municipalities still struggle to provide adequate services to their constituents.⁵

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The city of **Skopje** has recently adopted and is implementing its Strategic Plan 2020-2022. It has also established an Innovation Lab in support of sustainable development. The lab is designing solutions for a wide range of problems, including air pollution, public services like waste management, and transforming Skopje into a smart city. "Resilient Skopje: Scaling-up for Sustainability, Innovation and Climate Change" (with UNDP) aims to further develop the city's resilience to climate change and other environmental threats. Results include green cadastre, groundwater assessment, construction of green roofs at City Mall (GTC), inventory for water habitats, and flood risks assessment.

► The following are some national initiatives involving the LRGs:

► With UNDP's support, the Ministry of Local Self-Government is preparing a new Programme on Sustainable Local Development and Decentralization for 2021-2025 and Action Plan for 2021- 2023.

► A municipal sustainable development index aligned with the SDGs will be developed through the project Building Municipal Capacity for Project Implementation, which aims at strengthening the capacities of the municipalities to prioritize, formulate and implement development projects.

► A technical documentation fund will provide financial resources to less-developed municipalities to undertake preparatory work (infrastructure designs, urban plans, and feasibility studies) for development projects.

4. Planning regions are not administrative units, but are intended for development planning purposes only.

5. Data from the survey on local governance and local service delivery conducted by the Ministry of Local Self-Government in 2013 indicated that some municipalities do not provide all public services required by law.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is a Law on Financing Local Self-Government Municipalities, which regulates the financing of municipal and city governments. Nevertheless, some additional measures to improve public financial management in certain municipalities are being considered in order to better implement the SDGs. In 2020, according to the budget programmes for balanced regional development, 7 million denars (113,608 euros) were allocated for balanced local development.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: North Macedonia's adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 took place in the context of a protracted political crisis, which was resolved with snap elections at the end of 2016. This context is the consequence of its historical background. Actually, the accession of North Macedonia to the EU has been on the current agenda for future enlargement of the EU since 2005, when it became a candidate for accession. The Prespa Agreement, along with the Treaty of Friendship with Bulgaria, facilitated accession to NATO and helped to start accession talks with the EU in 2020. In this sense, the policies for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable growth of North Macedonia are compatible with the EU accession process and the 2030 Agenda.

The 2020 VNR constantly points out the role of young people as key stakeholders related to policies targeting youth. This is highlighted in the Law on Youth (2020) and the National Youth Strategy (2016-2025). Y-PEER, a youth network, has been actively dedicated to promoting the Agenda 2030 and through its work has involved many young people in different activities related to the SDGs and the building of a sustainable future.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2020, five women ministers were covering the key portfolios of Labour, Finance, Justice, Defence and Foreign Investment. However, at the local level the situation is less advanced. Only 15 women ran in the 2017 local elections out of 260 mayoral candidates, and only six were elected as mayors. Out of 1,388 local councillors, 415 were women.

3.2 COVID 19

There is no specific mention for measures at the local level or specific policies involving LRGs.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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	85 (2020)
	Rural	66 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	8 (2020)
	Rural	18 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		8.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		29.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. 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/mkd>

NETHERLANDS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Netherlands is a unitary monarchy that consists of four countries: the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Saint Maarten, and the three special municipalities Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba. The Kingdom is governed by the Kingdom Statutes; however, every country within the Kingdom is autonomous and has its own constitution.¹ The country is divided into 12 provinces and 344 municipalities.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the SDGs in the Kingdom of the Netherlands is organized differently in each autonomous country within the Kingdom. With their own national strategies, all four countries are committed to achieving the SDGs despite the absence of an overall strategy at the Kingdom level. In the Netherlands, the SDGs are mainstreamed in the **Netherlands Action Plan on Inclusive Development**. However, the government of the Netherlands has not drawn up a national SDG strategy or programme, while most of the 17 global goals and targets have also not been translated into tangible targets for 2030.⁴ Curaçao and St Maarten integrate the SDGs in their **National Development Plans**, and Aruba in its **Roadmap of the SDGs**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In the Netherlands, responsibilities have been assigned to all the ministries concerned, with the **Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation** in charge of overall coordination for SDG implementation in the country. An inter-ministerial **SDG Focal Points working group**, chaired by a special SDG coordinator, with representatives from each ministry and the **Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)** meets regularly to discuss progress on SDG implementation. Arbitration, if necessary, takes place at a higher policy level (Director General level) and ultimately within the Council of Ministers.⁵ Aruba established a **National SDG Commission** consisting of representatives of the Ministry of General Affairs and the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry (DEACI). In St Maarten, a **'Think and Act' commission** has been established, representing the three ministries that are most involved in SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

There are no details on the VNR process in the 2017 report. The VNR elaboration process remains unmentioned in the 2022 report. Sint Maarten and Aruba engaged NGOs, academic institutions and the private sector through dialogues in the drafting process of the 2022 report. In Curaçao, the **National SDG Commission** contributed to stakeholder engagement in the VNR process, while the **Social Economic Council (SER)** has independently reviewed the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The national statistical institutes of the Netherlands play a key role in monitoring SDG implementation, while each of the countries within the Kingdom has its own statistical institute. As of 2017, data are currently available for 37% of the SDG indicators. In 2018, the Parliament of Aruba established an SDG Parliamentary Committee on the progress of the SDG implementation. In 2019, SDG measurement was merged with the annual Monitor of Well-being, producing an additional 13% coverage through proxy indicators.⁶ In 2021, a resilience dashboard for shocks and stress was added to the Monitor to

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

2. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/the_netherlands_2022_vsr_eng.pdf

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

<https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Netherlands%20Report.pdf> (2022)

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/the_netherlands_2022_vsr_eng.pdf

5. See: https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/Country%20profile%20-%20The%20Netherlands_rev.pdf

6. See: <https://longreads.cbs.nl/monitor-of-well-being-and-sdgs-2022/>

examine the resilience of households and systems to crises. In the same year, the effectiveness of SDG implementation in the Netherlands was evaluated through a report, which recommended that well-being and the SDGs should be embedded in policy and the budget cycle.⁷

With regards to the subnational level, the [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#) and [Statistics Netherlands \(CBS\)](#) are working to create a set of indicators at the local level.⁸ CBS has set up regional monitors including the contributions from local and provincial government authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. A monitor for the Caribbean Netherlands, namely Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands), is also under development.

Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten are working in close collaboration with the UN system as well as the BES islands in mapping the current situation regarding the SDGs on the islands, and to make plans for SDG implementation. The three countries also work with the BES islands in the Dutch Caribbean Statistical System. Curaçao's CBS is actively involved in monitoring SDG implementation. Its research will enable it to properly define indicators for the four prioritized SDGs. Together with UNDP, the Central Bureau of Statistics is launching a National Socioeconomic Database, which will make it possible to monitor SDG indicators that are relevant to Curaçao.⁹ Currently, 28% of the indicators are available for six of the priority SDGs, while coverage is expected to rise to 48% after the 2022 census in Curaçao.

In 2017, an inter-ministerial SDG-Indicator Working Group (IWG) was established to support CBS Aruba, by developing data to measure SDG indicators. The IWG has now been able to measure 67 SDG indicators. St Maarten has introduced the StMaartenInfo database to compile development data, as well as a user portal for policy development initiatives. However, Sint Maarten's data are collected separately by the ministries, making integrated data management difficult.

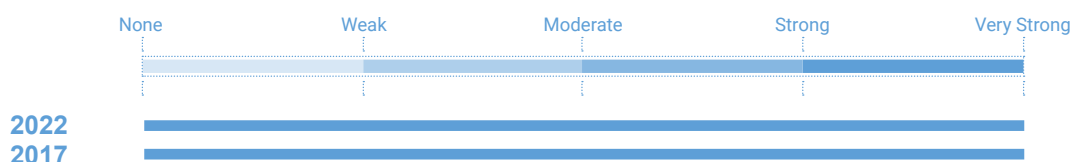
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local governments, as well as the private sector, civil society organizations, knowledge institutions and young people, are acknowledged by the 2022 VNR as essential partners of the national government in implementing the SDGs. There is regular dialogue between the national government, the [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#) and LRGs. The Netherlands supports cooperation with local governments through [City Deals](#).¹⁰ Also, the government, together with municipalities and civil society, is fostering growth, innovation and liveability in cities through the [City Agenda](#).¹¹

Input from LRGs is deemed important in the national reporting process and is taken seriously. Some inputs are included in the VNR, in a joint chapter written by all ministries and partners, even if the [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#) regrets the little space granted to information on subnational progress.¹²

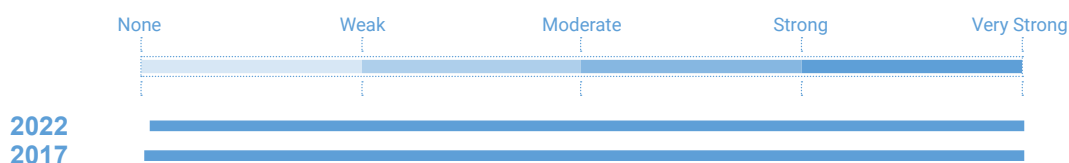
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs' inputs are included in a joint chapter written by all ministries and partners, despite that little space is granted to information on subnational progress.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Strong multilevel cooperation.

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.

7. See: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2021/02/15/evaluatie-van-de-aansturing-van-de-nationale-sdg-uitvoering-in-nederland>

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

9. Curaçao has published its first national review using inputs from civil society, its Central Bureau of Statistics, the private sector and the National Platform for Youth Development, including the National Youth Council.

10. With the City Deals, the Netherlands' government, municipalities, the private sector, civil society and knowledge institutions share insights and resources to solve problems linked to urbanization and promote innovation in the urban environment.

11. This agenda focuses on twelve priorities: inclusion of migrants and refugees, local employment, air quality, urban poverty, housing, circular economy, climate adaptation, energy transition, sustainable land use and nature-based solutions, urban mobility, digital transition, and innovative and responsible public procurement.

12. Answer of Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2017 VNR refers to multilevel partnerships between national and local governments, and comprises a specific subsection dedicated to subnational governments. It details their responsibilities, documents the work of the [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#) in SDG localization, and presents the initiatives led by the municipalities of Utrecht and Oss (see VNR, 2017, p. 38-39). Municipalities are more referred to than provinces. The 2022 VNR includes a subsection on Voluntary Subnational and Local Reviews (see VNR, 2022, p. 24), where VNG initiatives and its VSR (see below) are mentioned.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► [Curaçao](#) established a democratically elected [National Youth Council](#) in 2017 to engage young people in policymaking and in shaping their future. More than 300 young people participated in national youth dialogues aimed at ensuring broad support for the National Action Programme for Youth Development, which is also linked to the SDGs. A local Children's Rights Platform was set up in 2018. In 2020, the 'Curaçao education agenda' was conceptualized and implemented in the following years. In 2021, an assessment report on the feasibility to establish a sheltering framework for victims of domestic violence proposed recommendations that would be implemented in 2022.

► The government of [Aruba](#) has adopted the concept of smart growth for community development and has developed programmes for the renovation of the urban centers [Oranjestad](#) and [San Nicolas](#) and 20 other neighborhoods on the island. The Bo Aruba (Your Aruba) and Bo Barrio (Your Neighborhood) community enhancement programmes have created more parks and public spaces to promote physical activity and walking and bring people together, thus linking the promotion of health, happiness and wellbeing.

► The Netherlands has seen the emergence of a myriad of local projects thanks to the [Municipalities4Global Goals Campaign](#), fostered by the [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#). Examples of the projects of this initiative are the SDG 'Time Capsule', the annual most inspiring LRG competition, and the creation of communication materials. Each year, VNG International (VNGi), the international agency of VNG, organizes a competition for the 'most inspiring Global Goals municipality', as part of their New Year's reception.¹³

► All provinces and 86 municipalities in the Netherlands have joined the [Schone Luchtakkoord](#) (Clean Air Agreement) to achieve a level of air quality that meets the 2005 WHO standard.

► The local authorities are involved in the national [Economy Circular Implementation Programme](#). In 2020, the provinces presented a '[Krachtenkaart](#)' (Circular Economy Power Map) that examines the opportunities per region for the circular transition. In [Groningen](#), the strength lies in the greenification of chemistry, while [Drenthe](#) performs well in circular housing concepts.

► In 2021, the province of [Zeeland](#) won the European innovation prize for procurement, the Procura+ Award. Zeeland has entered into dialogues with stakeholders based on the SDGs and how an impact can be made with sustainable procurement. This was subsequently made concrete and tangible in the [Socially Responsible Procurement plan 2021-2024](#). This led to internal awareness among the Province of Zeeland, adjustment of the purchasing process and better cooperation between the departments. In the plan, seven SDGs have been selected on the basis of urgency, policy ambitions and dialogues, on which every procurement must make an impact in the coming years.

► [Utrecht](#) has a long tradition of sustainability. It was declared the first Dutch human rights city in 2012, features high on the national monitor of sustainable municipalities and has a sustainable procurement policy. In 2015, the Utrecht Council decided to become a [Global Goals City](#). One of the main priorities is the creation of a 'healthy urban living' environment, focusing on areas such as innovation, health economy and infrastructure, sustainable mobility, air quality, and reducing CO2 emissions. Working towards an integrated, interdisciplinary and multistakeholder approach, the city mobilized a large coalition of citizen initiatives and local stakeholders (business, NGOs, knowledge institutions): for example: the [HeelUtrechtU Campaign](#) to stimulate citizens, grassroots initiatives and businesses that contribute to the SDGs; Fairtrade Utrecht and Utrecht4GlobalGifts to promote fair trade and sustainable products from Utrecht-based businesses. In 2018, Utrecht4GlobalGoals organized the Climate Planet which attracted an estimated 70,000 visitors. Furthermore, the municipality developed the Global Goals Dashboard. Other cities, such as [Oss](#), have included the SDGs in their programme budgets for 2019-2022 and developed their own local indicators and dashboards. Meanwhile, Rheden has decided to base its municipal reorganization on the SDGs.¹⁴

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

The [Association of Netherlands Municipalities \(VNG\)](#), the [Dutch Water Authorities](#) and the [Association of Provincial Authorities \(IPO\)](#) have developed a VSR in 2022. The VSR mentioned how municipalities use the SDGs as a policy framework in a variety of ways, while the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) has taken on the role of actively driving the localization process forward since 2016. The VSR also presented LRGs' call to the national government to set up an SDG strategy with relevant sub-targets for different scales of government in setting clear, ambitious, achievable and measurable goals. [Amsterdam](#)¹⁵ has prepared a VLR in 2022.¹⁶

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

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

15. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/amsterdam_2022.pdf

16. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/the_netherlands_2022_vsr_eng.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government of Curaçao is using the SDGs, and particularly the SDG indicators, to enhance cooperation between ministries in drawing up multi-year budgets for policy programmes on youth, safety and economic growth. The Aruba Roadmap for SDG implementation relies on domestic resource mobilization through re-aligning expenditure and delivering existing financial resources more effectively. In 2020, the Minister of Finance outlined the alignment of the policy objectives to the SDGs until 2022.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Netherlands imposed some budget and transfers restrictions on the subnational level, with new devolution of responsibilities (e.g. youth health, long-term care, etc.) accompanied by a historical merger process, and compelled local governments to rationalize and develop new modalities for services delivery (e.g. implementation of Service Charters).¹⁷

The platform organization **SDG Nederland**, which was set up in 2013, has over 1,200 member organizations, including many umbrella organizations representing subnational authorities, the business community, youth, knowledge institutions and educational institutions.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

The **Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)** has been in continuous discussion with the national government on the topic of COVID-19 and economic recovery. It has been and still is being consulted about recovery packages. The VNG actively sought to influence recovery packages to make sure that the needs and priorities of municipalities are adequately represented and that the extra costs and missed revenue during the pandemic are compensated for. The COVID-19 crisis has further revealed the existing financial problems of municipalities and the skewed financial relations between national and local governments. This is VNG's most important point towards the new national elections: without adjusted intergovernmental relations and finances that fit this, municipalities cannot invest much in (sustainable) recovery.¹⁸

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		31.8 (2020)
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	97 (2020)
	Rural	97 (2020)
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 (%)		100 (2015, Amsterdam-Utrecht)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.1 (2019)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2017)

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

18. Answer of Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Norway is a unitary country, a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy with two tiers of subnational government. The country is subdivided into 11 counties at regional level, and 356 municipalities. Oslo is both a region and a municipality (not included in the aforementioned numbers).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 SDGs are incorporated into all policy documents, including budgets, strategies and action plans, but ensuring policy coherence and a cross-sectoral approach is still a challenge. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are included in the **White Paper "Long-term Perspectives on the Norwegian Economy 2021"**,³ the **National Transport Plan 2022–2033** and several other long-term sectoral plans. A 2nd White Paper and a first national **Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** were to be submitted to Parliament during Summer 2021.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Until 2020, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** coordinated international and national entities and policies for SDG implementation, through a project for the post-2015 development agenda and an inter-ministerial contact group. In January 2020, the **Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation** was appointed coordinating body for national implementation of the SDGs. This has increased cross-sectoral cooperation and a more holistic approach to sustainable development. The Ministry of Foreign Office coordinates global efforts. All line ministries are now represented in the **State Secretaries' committee for the SDGs goals**. An advisory Forum on Policy Coherence involves all other stakeholders.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Each ministry provided input on its respective goal(s) to the 2016 VNR. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for compiling and presenting the overall report. The **Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, was responsible for the preparation of the 2021 VNR. The Office of the Prime Minister, all ministries and several government agencies also contributed to the review. In particular, in February 2021, a **working group** led by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation was established. It held extensive discussions with ForUM (made up of CSOs), UN Global Compact Norway (business sector) and SDG Norway (academia) in order to channel their knowledge into the report.

The main focus of this VNR is the **local and regional commitment to achieve the SDGs**. To gain insights on the work for sustainability of Norwegian municipalities and regions, a partnership agreement with the **Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)** was reached at an early stage of the VNR process. KS sent a survey to LRGs, answered by 33% of the municipalities (118 out of 356) and 73% of the regional authorities (8 out of 11). Stakeholders wrote several chapters or sub-chapters, providing new perspectives and relevant examples.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2016, Norway planned to be part of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), and to adapt the indicators that are most relevant to the national context. Norway also planned to define other indicators of its own to ensure

1. As of January 2020, the number of counties decreased from 18 to 11 (including Oslo). Municipalities are undergoing continuous consolidation, and their number has also decreased from 422 in 2017 to 356 in 2020.

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10692NORWAY%20HLPF%20REPORT%20-%20full%20version.pdf> (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28233Voluntary_National_Review_2021_Norway.pdf (2021)

3. It is available here: <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/91bdfca9231d45408e8107a703fee790/en-gb/pdfs/stm202020210014000engpdfs.pdf>

comprehensive follow-up. The country already had systems in place for reporting on national targets and environmental indicators. The 2021 VNR presents the National Action Plan as a set of national targets and indicators that needs to be developed further. Statistics Norway will, together with different government agencies, organizations and regional and local authorities, develop indicators for different monitoring and reviewing purposes. Norway has been the first country to apply the **U4SSC Key Performance Indicators** for smart and sustainable cities to an entire cluster of municipalities. A **taxonomy** has been developed by Statistics Norway in partnership with KS, to classify SDG-related indicators. The 2021 VNR includes a report on the global indicators in its annex. The statistical overview is created by **Statistics Norway** in collaboration with several government agencies. In addition, many of the localized targets related to green transition are far more ambitious than the national goals.⁴

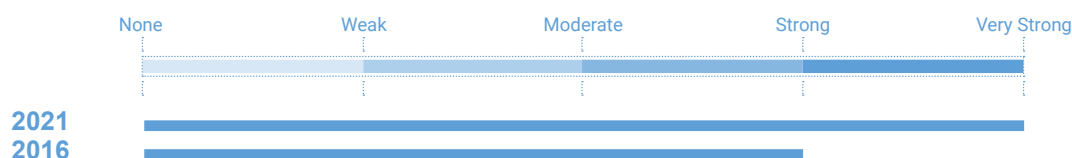
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2016 VNR states that the government makes use of existing mechanisms for cooperation with local and regional authorities. Consultative meetings are organized, and take the form of plenary meetings and bilateral meetings between the **Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)** and ministries. They also provide a forum for discussing the framework for distribution of revenues in relation to the tasks carried out by the local authorities, their financial situation, etc. However, there is no reference to specific mechanisms for SDG localization in the 2016 VNR. Five years later, the 2021 VNR states that the SDGs “concern all aspects of the local government sector’s work and contribution through regular service delivery, welfare production, local planning and development work is substantial. Implementation has gained momentum in municipalities and regional authorities” (see VNR, 2021, p. 7). LRGs are recognized as being at the forefront of the SDG localization process. Many of them use the SDGs as a guiding framework for planning, management and local development of their communities. Half of the municipalities have incorporated the SDGs in master plans. Some of them have even operationalized and integrated the SDGs in strategic plans and management processes.⁵ The municipal sectors’ political priorities are Adolescence and life quality; Climate and environmentally friendly development; Adaptable business community; Attractive places and cities; Diversity and inclusion and Citizens’ participation.⁶ Nonetheless, there are large variations in terms of commitment to, and implementation of the SDGs across municipalities. Larger municipalities have generally worked longer with the SDGs, and these municipalities seem generally to be more committed and to have come further in the implementation of the goals. They have also leveraged measures to cooperate with both internal and external stakeholders.

As mentioned above, **KS** directly contributed to the 2021 VNR.

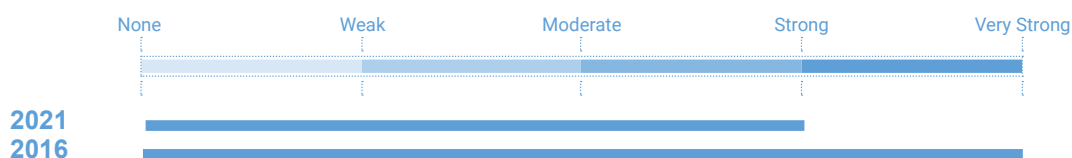
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Norwegian association of LRGs participated in the 2021 VNR through bilateral meetings, participating in the reporting unit, and with its own contribution (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Norwegian association of LRGs is regularly consulted (no decision making). National coordination mechanisms were only established in 2020 (GTF Survey 2021).

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 2016 VNR, there was a specific subsection on LRGs’ involvement in the national strategies and consultation processes

4. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/norway_2021.pdf

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/norway_2021.pdf

6. However, according to the CSO assessment included in the 2021 VNR, “there is no holistic approach and a lack of understanding of the connection between the different SDGs. The government has recently delegated a number of tasks to the municipalities without sufficient funding or guidance. This has, inter alia, contributed to the degradation of nature, outdoor areas and green structures in and around the cities.”

for SDG implementation (see VNR, 2016, p.7). KS was mentioned. In the 2021 VNR, several sections mention the LRGs, for instance section 5.3 (“The SDGs in Norwegian municipalities”. Chapter 7 is entirely dedicated to them. It is entitled “SDGs in Norwegian municipalities and Regions”, and it also presents key findings of the Voluntary Subnational Review conducted by KS this year.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Through the **Network of Excellence on SDG City Transition (Network of Excellence)**, several municipalities, regional authorities and organizations, together with KS, join forces in localizing the SDGs. To strengthen these efforts, KS is also working together with the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO), the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) and other labour organizations to develop a national sustainability pledge to strengthen the progress on fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

► “I Drive Green” is a yearly attitude and awareness campaign carried out by the municipality of **Kristiansand** in 2010, on behalf of the Area and Transport Plan cooperation in the Kristiansand region. The purpose is to contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health and limit local pollution. The campaign consists of an individual competition with registration of green travels, and a business competition in which large and small private and public companies compete to be the best on green travelling.

► The municipality of **Stavanger** was a pilot for Decidim. It is an open-source platform for participatory democracy and co-creation that allows citizens to digitally track and influence the content of a decision-making process. To stimulate youth participation, Stavanger has tested it on students in middle school. Through the network “Smart Cities Norway” eleven municipalities are now working together to develop ‘Decidim as a service’.

► As political commitment is vital for succeeding with the SDGs, the municipalities **Aremark** and **Bodø** as well as **Viken** regional authority have established a systematic approach for involving the political level in the operationalization of the SDGs by incorporating them in templates for the treatment and processing of background documents for political decisions. As such, the SDGs become an integral part of political governance.

► **Bergen** officially became a Human Rights City in 2018. The municipality provides financial support to the Church City Mission, which together with the Red Cross, offers health care to undocumented refugees.

► In 2020, following the amalgamation between Hurum, Røyken and Asker, the new **Asker** municipality came to life. Asker decided to use the SDGs as an overall integral framework for its development. Asker’s innovative amalgamation process has inspired others, including the new municipalities **Nordre Follo**, **Narvik** and **Ålesund** as well as **Viken** regional authority, who also have built their new authority with the SDGs as a foundation.

► The municipality of **Trondheim** uses SDG budgeting to integrate the SDGs into local finance structures: it has designed a data science approach to existing municipal finance systems that connects the 169 UN targets and local accounting standards.⁷

► Frontrunner cities integrated the SDGs in purchasing and procurement. **Oslo** has implemented social requirements in its contractual terms to prevent and combat work-related crime, social dumping and the exploitation of vulnerable labour in its supply chain. **Stavanger** has focused on responsible supply chains for several years and **Lillestrøm** recently launched a strategy for green procurement.⁸

► The **Sustainability County Møre og Romsdal** is a regional authority initiative to collectively boost the work on sustainability in the region. With this initiative, the county wants to position themselves as a clear contributor in developing a sustainable society for the future. The goal is to direct the regions’ efforts towards achieving the SDGs in a methodical and coordinated manner. To achieve this, on the regional authority’s initiative, all the municipalities in the region have collected data and measured performance and progress according to U4SSC’s KPIs.

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

Viken published two VLRs in 2020 and 2021 respectively,⁹ while the municipalities of **Asker**, **Bergen** and **Romsdal** carried out theirs in 2021.¹⁰ The **Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)** conducted a VSR in 2021, and it was used to complement the 2021 VNR.¹¹ It focuses its recommendations on multilevel governance, policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships; the importance of consultations with local and regional authorities at each step of the national decision-making process; the necessity of political commitment towards SDG implementation; and the need to enhance institutional knowledge and competence on sustainable development.

7. Using this SDG budgeting logic has a strong impact on planning and programming at the local level as it provides a new lens to analyse the way the city plans and uses financial resources. Together with the U4SSC KPIs, the budgeting makes for a more direct link between resources and impact and is a good starting point for funnelling resources from where they are to where they should be.

8. All examples mentioned above are extracted from the Norwegian VSR. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/norway_2021.pdf

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/viken_2020.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/viken_2021.pdf

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/asker_2021.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/bergen_2021.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/romsdal_2021.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/norway_2021.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2016, the national government decided that the follow-up of the SDGs, in order to be accountable, effective and transparent, should be incorporated into the **budget process**. Therefore, a plan for national follow-up of the SDGs was developed, linked to the budget process. Among the targets that are likely to remain the focus of political attention and policy development are those relating to sustainable consumption and production, health and education, equality, employment, and migration. The 2016 VNR showed that the government had taken important steps to integrate SDG reporting into the annual budget documents. It was decided that domestic reporting on the SDGs should take place via the budget process, with one ministry having responsibility for each SDG and the Ministry of Finance having responsibility for summing up the main points in the national budget.

The 2021 VNR highlights the fact that in 2020 the government allocated approximately NOK. 4,5 billion to a green transition package to reduce the negative effects of COVID-19. The funding was allocated to research, innovation and the transition to a climate-neutral society in the private sector and municipalities. NOK 11 billion, (approximately EUR 1,1 billion) has been added to the budget for 2021 to promote climate and environmental efforts. Approximately NOK 50 mill were granted to a planning programme. One of the projects focuses on developing a framework for localizing the SDGs in regional and local planning (see VNR, 2021, p. 112).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The indigenous peoples' assembly, the Sami Parliament (Sámediggi), is involved through dialogue with the line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms, and representatives of indigenous peoples provided input to the 2016 VNR.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2021 VNR acknowledges that Norway still has a problem with violence against women, but states that several local and national initiatives are being implemented to mitigate this. The report also mentions "equal representation in politics" as one of the main achievements regarding gender equality, and states that "giving priority to women's political participation and economic empowerment is crucial".

3.2 COVID 19

More than half of the municipalities report that they have less capacity to implement the SDGs due to COVID-19. Small municipalities seem to suffer the most. Nevertheless, the pandemic has not had any apparent impact on the work with the SDGs (in highlighting the importance of the SDGs, triggering more active work towards the goals, or improving LRGs' holistic perception of the goals). Some authorities even made remarks about the pandemic making it clearer that there is an important potential for working holistically and cross-sectorial with the SDGs.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		40.8 (2019)
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 (%)		40.8 (2019)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		0.001 (2018)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		100 (2015, Oslo)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		98.01 (2019)

¹² 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/nor>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Poland is a unitary republic with a three-tier system of subnational government, made up of 16 regions, 380 counties and 2 478 municipalities.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 key document through which the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are implemented in Poland is the **Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD)**, adopted in 2017. The convergence of the SRD and the Agenda is noticeable in their objectives, priority areas and actions, as well as indicators. The priorities of social and economic development in Poland have been defined in all three dimensions of sustainable development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Council of Ministers** oversees the implementation of sustainable development in Poland. Coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level was vested in the **Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology (MET)**. The **Coordination Committee for Development Policy** is a central platform for monitoring the process of management of Poland's development, including the implementation of the SRD. Established within the Coordination Committee for Development Policy to coordinate the 2018 VNR process (see below), the **SRD Coherence Task Force** is a key body of cooperation between the administration and social and economic partners for SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A dedicated **Task Force** for the coherence between the SRD and the 2030 Agenda was appointed to prepare the 2018 VNR. The Task Force included representatives of ministries, local governments, social organizations, social and economic partners, NGOs, public statistics, civil society, academia and youth. Ministerial coordinators have been appointed for respective SDGs and descriptions of individual measures and examples of best practices have been developed in cooperation with external partners. Moreover, the report was subject to extensive public consultations in accordance with the no one will be left behind principle.

1.3 MONITORING

The whole process of monitoring the SDGs has been entrusted to public statistics. Led by **Statistics Poland**, SDG monitoring activities include reporting on indicators, both nationally and globally.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **SRD Coherence Task Force** comprises representatives of the regional and local levels, including associations of subnational governments, as well as organizations associating cities and metropolises in the country. As stated in the 2018 VNR, "the achievement of the SDGs in Poland has been embedded locally, extending the commitment to the achievement of SDGs to lower administrative levels". This cooperation, based on the principles of subsidiarity and partnership, is supported by a system of territorial contracts and agreements, ensuring cooperation between local authorities and the national government in programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policy.

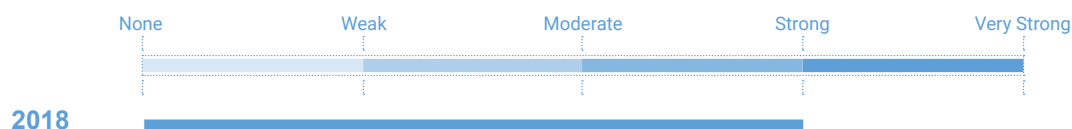
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=804&menu=3170> (2018)

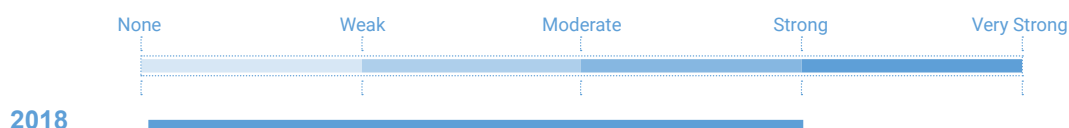
In particular, the [Joint Central Government and Local Government Committee](#) brings together representatives of organizations of local governments. The Committee sets economic and social priorities for the development of municipalities, counties and regions, assesses the legal and financial conditions for the operation of local governments and issues opinions on draft normative acts, programme documents and solutions concerning the issues of local governments (in particular the expected financial effects), including those that will result from the implementation of the SRD.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are some references to LRGs in the 2018 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Poland is committed to the [EU Urban Agenda](#), which is an instrument for the implementation of the UN New Urban Agenda at the European level. 16 Polish cities are participants in [URBACT III projects](#), which helps cities to develop practical, innovative and sustainable approaches that combine the economic, social and environmental dimensions of improving the functioning and quality of urban life.

► Through the [City Partnership Initiative](#), 34 cities of all sizes participate in the works of one of three pilot cooperation networks: air quality, revitalisation, urban mobility. The project focuses on solving local problems and formulates recommendations for policies at the regional, national or European level.

► The project [Human Smart Cities](#) – smart cities co-created by the inhabitants – is addressed to local governments and aims to support cities in creating, with the use of smart solutions, a living-friendly urban space, for which residents are also jointly responsible.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2010, 18.7% of women were members of *powiat* councils, and 9.5% were mayors or city presidents. In 2016, it was 20.6% and 10.8%, respectively.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		30.0 (2020)
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	94 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.01 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		80 (2015, Warsaw)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		21.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

3. 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/pol>

PORTUGAL

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Portugal is a unitary republic with a two-tier system of local government, consisting of 2 autonomous regions and 308 municipalities. There are also 3,091 parishes.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 Council of Ministers has adopted the first intra-governmental **guidelines for the 2030 Agenda** in 2016. The SDGs are integrated in the **National Reform Programme**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** oversees SDG coordination, together with the **Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures**. They lead the **inter-ministerial commissions** on foreign policy and development cooperation. A network of **focal points** from different government departments has been established to better coordinate and exchange information on SDG implementation and monitoring.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The country's baseline analysis on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda began with the collection of data and information in relation to all 17 SDGs, and, as a result, led to a mapping of national policies contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this exercise, **Statistical Portugal** and the **Agency for Development and Cohesion** played a critical role. The 2017 VNR also highlights the role of the **National Statistical Systems (NSS)** in monitoring the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

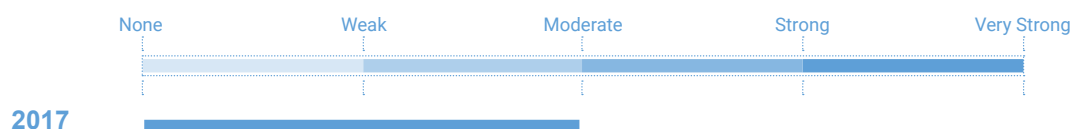
With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the national government intends to: i) review the planning, financing, development and management of cities, bearing in mind their relevance for sustainable development; ii) recognize the role of national, regional and local authorities as well as civil society in the definition and implementation of urban policies; and iii) adopt integrated, sustainable, citizen-based approaches based on age and gender.

Nonetheless, there is no evidence of any local government involvement in the national coordination mechanisms aimed at leading SDG implementation in Portugal.

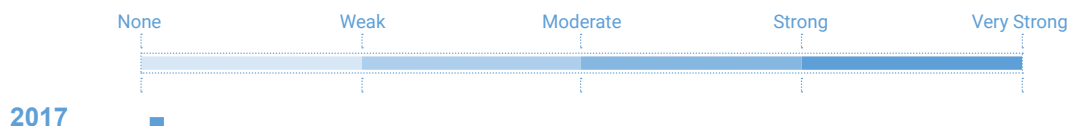
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017_EN.pdf (2017)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2017 VNR acknowledges that “local authorities play a significant role in implementing the 2030 Agenda within their territory, through a set of initiatives that, in respect of their local autonomy, undoubtedly contributes to the implementation process at the national level, as a result of proximity and concrete action” (see VNR, 2017, p. 9).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2017 VNR highlights the **municipal plans for gender equality**, elaborated in articulation with the Commission for the Citizenship and Gender Equality, as key instruments in the combat to inequalities. It points out the role of local council members for equality, as essential focal points for a constructive collaboration in the construction and execution of policies in this area.

► In line with the UN Resilient Cities Campaign, which promotes the implementation of disaster reduction measures by local authorities, as well as with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Portugal identified 25 towns as resilient.

► Recognizing that the Common Agenda for Integration of Third-country Nationals recommended that member states further promote integration policies at local level, Portugal points out the **Network CLAIM – A Local Network for a Service of Proximity**, which, apart from providing information, gives support for the reception and integration of migrants, in cooperation with local communities. As a reflection of the Strategic Plan for Migration for 2015-2020, the **Municipal Plans for the Integration of Migrants (MPIM)** can define and implement local policies for the integration of migrants in the territories, as a factor of development and strengthening of democracy and social dynamics. There are currently 19 MPIM under implementation, involving 21 municipalities, and it is expected to reach 50 MPIM by 2020.

► In 2015, Portugal adopted the **2020 Sustainable Cities Strategy** for sustainable urban development, which seeks to advance and answer the needs for urban territory planning and take action to strengthen and consolidate the prospects and vision of territorial development. Its implementation requires the active involvement of various actors in the city and in the development and strengthening of the national urban system, both for the central and local public administration, the private sector and all other stakeholders.

► In 2016-2017, the **Inter-Municipal Network for Cooperation and Development (RICD)**, with a membership of 20 municipalities, organized a travelling exposition on the SDGs and their localization.³

► The municipality of **Valongo** made commitments in line with European Union guidelines, as well as with national commitments, seeking sustainable solutions and the capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change, such as the National Green Roofs Association, Aalborg Commitments, Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Portuguese Pact for Plastics, “For a Country with Good Air”. Valongo is a partner of the **‘ODS Local’ platform**, a network for municipalities working towards achieving the SDGs at the local level, and of **‘CESOP Local’**, a collaborative network that took on the mission of carrying out studies applied in administrative territories, having as reference the 17 SDGs and their respective targets.⁴

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

4. See: <https://odslocal.pt/> and <https://cesop-local.ucp.pt/>. Answer of the municipality of Valongo to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

Cascais published a VLR in 2020.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The United Nations Global Compact Network Portugal coordinates the multi-stakeholder platform **SDG Alliance Portugal**, whose purpose is to raise awareness, inform, implement, monitor and evaluate the contribution of the private sector and other civil society partners to the SDGs at national level. Determined to build bridges for dialogue and cooperation, as advocated by SDG17, it creates a sustainable basis for the development of partnerships, projects, programmes and actions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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	97 (2020)
	Rural	93 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	93 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		90.1 (2015, Lisbon)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		7.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/cascais_2020.pdf

6. 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/prt>

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of Moldova is a unitary country with a two-tiered subnational structure. At the regional level, it counts 32 districts and an autonomous territory. At the municipal level, it has 56 cities, which include 13 cities with municipality status, and 869 communes and villages. Chisinau and Balti are two municipalities with both municipal and regional responsibilities.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 of the Republic of Moldova developed a strategic vision document, based on a large-scale participatory process: the **National Development Strategy 'Moldova 2030'**. It is intended to contribute to the fulfillment of the commitments assumed by the country for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2016, to create an institutional framework and ensure a participatory and transparent process to implement the SDGs, the **National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development** was established, led by the Prime Minister. Other important elements of the mechanism for coordinating the sustainable development policies include: the **Inter-Ministerial Committee for Strategic Planning (ICSP)**, the State Chancellery, and the sectoral subdivisions (PAMES) within the central specialized public authorities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR process was conducted following an action plan approved by the national government, under the supervision of the **Joint Steering Committee**, including national and local public authorities, civil society, private sector, press and academia. The report was drafted with analytical and informational support from the ministries and other public authorities, United Nations agencies and the National Bureau of Statistics, which supplied the statistics needed. The whole process was coordinated by the State Chancellery. A broad **stakeholder consultative process** was organized, including online and offline consultations with actors from civil society (youth, human rights organizations), the private sector, academia, development partners and all levels of government. In addition, the **leave no one behind approach** entailed focusing the analysis from the perspectives of multiple groups (gender, age, income, rural/urban, disability, ethnicity) to identify and take into account inequalities and diverse forms of exclusion and marginalization.

1.3 MONITORING

The Republic of Moldova was one of the first countries to adjust the 2030 Agenda's goals, targets and indicators to its national context. This process involved all stakeholders: national and local public authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners. However, the results of the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of the national policy framework show that the policy agenda is only partially aligned to the SDGs, and a third of the SDG targets are not included in any national policy papers. Besides, the 2020 VNR acknowledges that the SDG implementation monitoring and evaluation system is compromised by a lack of data for about a quarter of the nationalized SDG indicators, and by a shortage of disaggregated data for over 30% of the indicators. The data collection is delayed by the limited capacities of national and territorial institutions to prepare quality data and by their reluctance to provide them to the National Bureau of Statistics for validation.

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

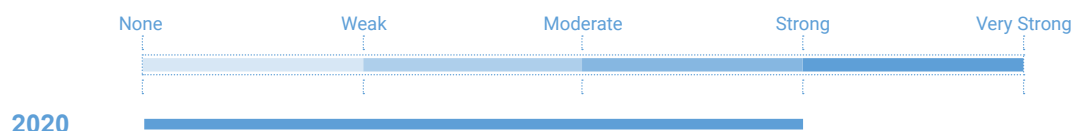
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26344VNR_2020_Moldova_Report_English.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The government strengthened its dialogue with local public authorities, including during the negotiations on decentralization and in the cooperation process for SDG implementation. The latter involved the **Congress of Local Authorities from the Republic of Moldova**. However, LRGs are not mentioned in the national strategic framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.³ Local public authorities participated in the **Joint Steering Committee** during the 2020 VNR process.

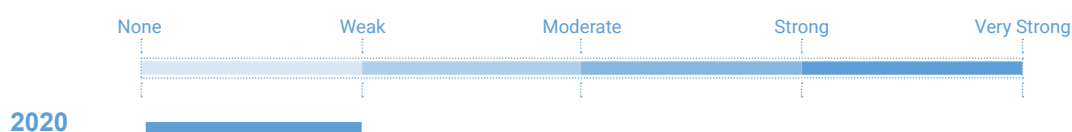
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs participated in the Joint Steering Committee.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Congress of Local Authorities from the Republic of Moldova was consulted. No mention of LRGs participation in national coordination mechanisms.

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 some references to the district and municipal levels in the 2020 VNR, but no specific section on LRGs and their role in implementing the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► With the highest urban population of the country, the municipality of **Chisinau** is also the main waste generator. But its waste management infrastructure is much more advanced than in other localities, including some recovery of fractions of municipal waste for recycling (eg. plastic, paper, glass, metal).

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF)** sets medium-term financial priorities for the country. However, this process is not linked to policy planning. There is no reference in the 2020 VNR to funds allocated to LRGs regarding SDG implementation. However, the report mentions the project called 'Supporting local public administration of the Republic of Moldova in implementing the National Regional Development Strategy for 2016-2020 through integrated and sustainable urban development for 2017-2019'. The corresponding example concerns programmes for the revitalization of degraded urban areas.⁴

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

4. For more details, see VNR, 2020, p. 98.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2016, the National Network of **District/Municipal Youth Councils** was created, which by 2019 had expanded to 23 districts/municipalities. Overall, the National Assistance Programme for the consolidation and development of the District/Municipal Youth Councils created conditions for participation of young people in community life. As a result, 54.6% of local authorities involve young people in decision-making processes.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Measures to encourage women participation in politics were adopted for the parliamentary elections as well as for the local elections in 2019: a **40% quota**. It resulted in the increase of the proportion of women standing and being elected. Moreover, the 'Women in Politics' programme implemented by UNDP and UN Women fostered a **higher participation rate for women from disadvantaged groups**. At the local level, 39 Roma women and 43 women with disabilities were encouraged to run for election. As a result, 6 women with disabilities and 7 Roma women were elected as local councillors.

3.2 COVID 19

The measures taken by the national government are detailed in a specific section (see VNR, 2020, p. 152-160), linking them to corresponding SDGs. **Transfers to local budgets** were increased to partially cover lost income due to the crisis.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		35.6 (2019)
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	79 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		59.2 (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)		13.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/mda>

ROMANIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Romania is a unitary republic with a two-tier system of subnational government, with no hierarchy in between. The first comprises 42 counties, while the second is made up of 103 municipalities, 217 towns and 2,861 communes.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 Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania – Horizon 2013-2020-2030** was adopted in 2008, which has been revised.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Sustainable development in Romania is currently a shared responsibility between the **Interministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies** led by the Vice Prime Minister, the Minister of Environment, and the **Department for Sustainable Development**, under the Prime Minister Office.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR process was conducted by the Secretariat of the **Interministerial Committee**. It established a **drafting working group** that comprised ministries and institutions, civil society representatives and academia.

1.3 MONITORING

As of 2018, Romania was in the process of updating its SDG indicators set – and this was to be an essential part of both the upcoming National Sustainable Development Strategy and the upcoming Action Plan. To achieve this, the **Department for Sustainable Development** has been closely collaborating with the **National Institute of Statistics** by bridging both the United Nations', and the European Union's indicator sets to choose the right indicators to address Romania's specificities.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

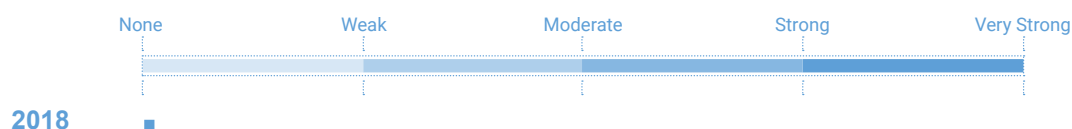
Local governments didn't participate in the reporting process that led to the 2018 VNR, nor are involved in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

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

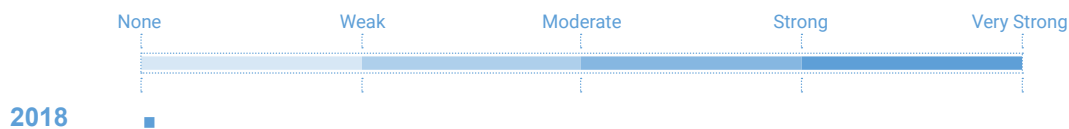
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19952Voluntary_National_Review_ROMANIA_with_Cover.pdf (2018)

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 VNR 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 contains very little reference to LRGs, although it states that "all ministries and institutions, all civil servants from central and local government, decision makers, and members of Parliaments should be part of the implementation process" (see VNR, 2018, p. 8).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipality of **Oradea** started developing an integrated strategy for digitizing the city in 2016, when it launched the "Oradea City Strategy for Informatics 2016-2020", which will be phased in. With regard to transport, the purchase of new electric buses or trams is planned.

► In 2011, the **Sibiu** City Hall created and put in place an e-administration platform for more effective communication with the community. The platform can pay online taxes and fees, petitions can be filed, information can be requested.

► **Bucharest** City Hall's plans for the medium and short-term implementation areas for the development of Smart City infrastructure in the city are the Traffic Management System, the bike-sharing system, the public transport, online system for public administration and the Emergency Situation Management System. Another measure will be the implementation of a municipality's own infrastructure to use LoRa Wan technology or a similar technology that will enable the building of intelligent objects networks with direct applications for parking systems, public, public lighting or alternative infrastructure.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		12.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	95 (2020)
	Rural	67 (2020)
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 (%)		12.1 (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)		14.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2019)

3. 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/rou>

SAN MARINO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Republic of San Marino is divided up into 9 castles (municipalities or “Township Councils”) (castelli): Acquaviva, Borgo Maggiore, Chiesanuova, Domagnano, Faetano, Fiorentino, Montegiardino, San Marino Città, Serravalle.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

A **Plan of interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals** is to be developed. It will be structured around the thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships and will provide for six-monthly reviews of the strategies using indicators necessary for a timely, objective and rigorous analysis of the data.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2017, the government appointed the **Intersectoral Working Group** to achieve the SDGs, composed of all the Public Administration Departments that were assigned responsibility for the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets. The **Working Group for Sustainable Development** was launched in 2020 and is coordinated by the **Ministry of Territory and Environment**, with the aim of drawing up the Plan of interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

In 2020, during a meeting of the Working Group for Sustainable Development, the Public Administration Departments were requested to prepare a written contribution on the state of implementation of each SDG (except SDG 14) in San Marino. The Working Group has met with civil society, professional associations, parliamentary representatives and stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

According to the 2021 VNR, the drafting of the report highlighted the difficulties for a state with a small administration such as San Marino to be able to benefit from an exhaustive collection of statistical data in compliance with the UN models and guidelines.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no reference to LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. There is no reference either to LRG participation in the VNR elaboration process.

1. Every five years, all residents over the age of 18 are called to the polls to elect the Township Council and the Head of the Township Council of their *castello*. At State level coordination between the Councils and State bodies is a responsibility of the Township Council Office.

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279402021_VNR_Report_San_Marino.pdf (2021)

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2021

Comments: No reference to LRG participation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2021

Comments: No reference to LRG participation.

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

LRGs are mentioned a few times, but the 2021 VNR does not focus explicitly on experiences from the 9 *castelli*.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The 2021 VNR mentions the development of urban regeneration policies to face the environmental impacts linked to widespread urbanization outside the historic centers of the 9 municipalities. The main strategic instrument aimed at urban regeneration and sustainability in San Marino is the recent draft [General Town Planning Scheme - SM 2030](#) "Garden of Europe - Microcosm of Biodiversity", which aims at increasing the safety, inclusion and sustainability of the Republic's urban settlements.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At national level, after the general elections in December 2019, 20 out of 60 members of the Great and General Council are female, namely 33.3%. At local level, *castelli* with more than 2000 inhabitants have Township Councils composed of 9 members and those with fewer inhabitants of 7 members. Out of a total of 79 representatives, 25 are women (31.6%) and 54 are men.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR refers to the pandemic, its impacts and measures to face it, without specific reference to the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

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)		10.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/smr>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Serbia is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational government system. It comprises 2 autonomous provinces at the regional level and, at the municipal level, the city of Belgrade, 23 cities and 150 municipalities.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 Strategy of Sustainable Development for the period 2009-2017 clearly set out that sustainable development is a general direction and commitment of the Republic of Serbia. Implementing the 2030 Agenda through achieving the SDGs in Serbia is indivisible from the process of Serbia's accession to the EU. The SDGs are aligned with the **National Plan for Adoption of the EU Acquis (NPAA) 2018-2021** and with the **Development Partnership Framework (DPF)** for the period 2016-2020.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Established in 2015, the **Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (IMWG)** coordinates the overall process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Serbia, by creating and implementing coherent government policies. It is chaired and coordinated by the minister without portfolio responsible for demography and population policy, and it consists of specially appointed representatives of 26 relevant line ministries, government offices and agencies for monitoring and coordinating activities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process was coordinated by the **IMWG**. All ministries, services, and agencies, as well as provincial, municipal and city governments participated. Consultations were organized with the youth, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

1.3 MONITORING

The institution in charge of official statistics in the Republic of Serbia is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS).³ The **IMWG** is mandated to propose the foundations for statistical monitoring of the SDGs and their targets as well as to prepare periodic reports on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In late 2017, the SORS established a **working group for SDG indicators**. Teams have been created to be specifically in charge of each of the 17 goals and their corresponding targets, and they are also in charge of connecting with other institutions for data collection.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23576ISRDEL_13191_SDGISRAEL.pdf (2019)

3. In 2018, the SORS launched a new website (www.stat.gov.rs), which also has a link to the SDG portal on its home page: <http://sdg.indikatori.rs/>.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

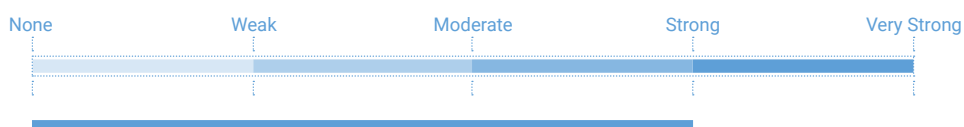
The **Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM)** participates in the Joint National Steering Committee. The local government association was also included in the 2019 VNR process, by providing key information regarding the current situation regarding the SDGs and relevant projects and activities of the organization that contribute to the implementation of SDGs in Serbia. Provincial, municipal and city governments were also involved in the reporting process that led to the 2019 VNR.

In 2019, the **local community-led hub** of the institutional network-integrated mechanism for national implementation of the 2030 Agenda was in the process of being established, a process in which the SCTM plays a key role.

Serbian LRGs and the SCTM have fostered cooperation with national institutions to achieve the SDGs and, with UNDP, they launched the project, 'Support for Improving Governance and Economic Planning at the Local Level for Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia'.⁴

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

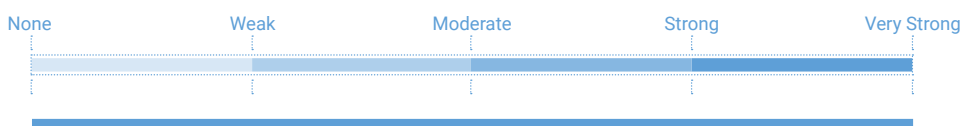
► In the VNR process



2019

Comments: The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities participated through bilateral meetings. Its contribution was taken into account and mentioned in the 2019 VNR (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: Regular (but not decision-making) participation of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR emphasizes the role of the SCTM (see below). Local governments' perspective and details on the role of the SCTM are included in a specific subsection on each one of the reported SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM)**, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and public health institutes, is supporting the development of the health care responsibility at the local government level. The priority is the support for development of public health plans, risk assessment for public health and plans for preservation of health in emergencies. The SCTM supports municipalities and cities in providing a functional system of patient rights protection at the local level and guaranteed rights for all, with emphasis on marginalized groups, through strengthening the visibility of patient rights, building the local self-government capacity to implement these responsibilities and networking all stakeholders. One of the localization mechanisms of SDG 3 are also the **Health Councils** – advisory, compulsory bodies at the local level, whose establishment and operation are governed by the Law on Patients' Rights and the Law on Public Health. Through continuous capacity building of LRGs and Health Councils, around 100 LRGs with their Health Councils are actively participating in the work of the SCTM Health Network. In 2018, 60 LRGs went through the cycle of support for the development of public health plans. So far, 25 cities and municipalities have adopted the plans in their local assemblies.

► The SCTM works to improve educational, health care and social support to children, students and adults, and in particular to analyze the existing roles and responsibilities in this area, map challenges and propose possible solutions, define common goals and future activities. Thus, after the adoption of the new Rulebook on additional educational, health care and social support to the child, student and adult, the SCTM in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development prepared a package of model documents and organized a series of trainings and round tables, with the aim of supporting local self-governments in implementation of this responsibility.

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

► The SCTM has actively worked on the promotion of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, and it has by now been adopted in 67 municipalities, while local action plans for its implementation have been adopted in 48 municipalities. New Law on Gender Equality is being prepared and should be adopted soon. The Law will introduce new steps and improve gender equality on the local level, and it is expected that it will significantly improve access to rights, as well as the position and capacities of gender equality mechanisms.

► The SCTM's strategic commitment is to support towns and municipalities in rational resource management, by improving energetic efficiency (EE) and utilizing renewable energy resources. In order to do this, the SCTM will support its members in the process of defining local policies in the field of energy, as well as in introducing the system of energetics management, and will accordingly promote use of renewable resources and improvements in energetic efficiency in public and private sectors. The SCTM also provides support in joining the European initiative Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which obliges parties thereto to undertake activities to decrease by 40% the emission of CO₂ by 2030, and to adopt an integrative approach to alleviating the consequences of and adjusting to climate change. One of the main mechanisms of the SCTM for supporting the members in this field is the [Network of Energy Managers and Commissioners for Energetic Efficiency](#), which gathers local government representatives with the aim to provide support, exchange experiences and build capacities.

► A possible mechanism for achieving greater sustainability of towns and municipalities is the [local green councils](#). They consist of representatives of units of local governments and advisory bodies with respect to local acts affecting environmental protection. By providing support to the establishment and operation of green councils in towns and municipalities, the SCTM is promoting the participation of the general public and all stakeholders in the planning and decision-making related to environmental protection at local level. For towns and municipalities to adequately and timely respond to the challenges and tasks in the field of risk management and emergencies, the SCTM is supporting a series of long-term measures and solutions, such as: strengthening the capacities of employees, building a civil protection system at local level, identifying tasks in this field and their introduction in proposed staffing plans of local governments and inclusion of this field in local strategic documents and plans.

► The SCTM recognized the relevance of fighting climate change at local level and is providing support to towns in order to find ways of adjustment to and mitigation of negative effects of climate change in their regions. By publishing the [manual for planning of adaptation to climate change in local communities in Serbia](#) in 2018, the SCTM has created a single methodological framework for this field in our country, based on global best practice. The first such plan of adaptation to climate change was developed with the support of the SCTM in the municipality of [Bečej](#) and as such it will serve other towns and municipalities as an example of best practice.

► Through the years 2019-2020 the SCTM organized several awareness raising events intended to bring the SDG localization process closer to LRGs. They were organized in cooperation between relevant government units and the GIZ (project "Public Administration Reform – Financing of the Agenda 2030"). Further close cooperation with LRGs related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is expected to continue during 2021 in an online format. Coordination has been likewise fostered among various project teams supporting the government, LRGs and CSOs. The SCTM also hosted a webinar on human rights approaches, non-discrimination and inclusion at local level.⁵

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing SDG implementation has explicitly received its own first-ever line in the 2019 national budget. It is now part of the budget allocation to the Office of the Minister without portfolio responsible for demography and population policy. The bulk of financial resources for SDG implementation in Serbia is provided through the use of the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: [Gender responsive budgeting \(GRB\)](#) was introduced to public finance in 2015, obliging all budget beneficiaries to implement by the end of 2020 the principles of GRB (53 budget beneficiaries at national level, 25 at provincial level, and all beneficiaries at local level). GRB has become an integral part of the Budget System Law, and institutions at national, provincial and local levels are subject to its implementation.

The normative and institutional framework for the [protection of the rights of national minorities](#) differs depending on the town and municipality. LRGs have different responsibilities with respect to the protection mechanisms. There are different mechanisms for ensuring that national minorities enjoy the right to the official use of their language and alphabet. Setbacks in the achievement of this right are caused by lack of capacities of local governments, and typical problems include the lack of funds for the functioning of this mechanisms, for the translation and printing of documents and forms in several languages, road signs for designations and topographical indications, for setting up special services and/or for the employment of

5. Answer of the SCTM to the GTF Survey in 2021.

translators, for setting up e-government services in several languages, and the impossibility to ensure adequate representation of national minorities in local government staff and staff members who speak the language of national minorities and the majority population.

Through the development and implementation of **Local Action Plans (LAP) for Roma Inclusion**, the local governments are directly improving the activity and coordination of local Roma inclusion mechanisms. As of 2019, the number of local governments who have a LAP for Roma inclusion in 2019 stood at 39, and, according to plans, 20 more LAPs were to be adopted. Also, in 2018, 10 local governments established units of **Local Multisectoral Coordination Bodies (LMCB)** as working bodies of the Municipality Council for managing the Roma inclusion policy and improving the position of Roma. This new mechanism in the form of a political body composed of the highest representatives of key institutions in the local community additionally guarantees the sustainability of Roma inclusion at local level.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

According to the state regulatory framework, provincial and municipal governments have obligations of establishing mechanisms of gender equality and securing participation of women of at least 30% in the authorities. The National Strategy for Gender Equality (2016-2020) states that participation of women in local governments' assemblies has increased from 7% in 2000, to 29% in 2014. The greatest difference between participation of men and that of women is when it comes to the highest position in municipalities/towns, that of mayor. Namely, in the total of 169 local self-government units, there are only 12 women mayors, or 7.1%. Furthermore, there are only 14% women among those occupying the position of president (speaker) of their respective municipal assembly/town council.

3.2 COVID 19

The SCTM has not been directly consulted by the government regarding national recovery packages. Nonetheless, it has provided information and data on subnational governments to the national level, which have been the basis for the elaboration of national recovery measures. The SCTM was not in a position to engage in influencing the priorities and resources mobilized by the national government, having in mind limited capacities of its employees and of the representatives of local governments in 2020-2021. Dialogue between the national and local levels regarding this topic is coordinated via the **SCTM Committee for Health and Social Policy**.

Also, there is a regional project implemented by the **Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)** and involving several LGAs from South East Europe in taking local social-economic recovery measures for disadvantaged groups. This is the project "Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the "Leave No One Behind Principle".

Serbian local governments are obtaining support from the SCTM in the form of rapid measures for socio-economic recovery of vulnerable groups (for instance, the municipalities of **Bosilegrad** and **Trgovište**).⁶

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		37.2 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	82 (2020)
	Rural	67 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	17 (2020)
	Rural	20 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.6 (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)		24.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		4.6 (2018)

6. Answer of the SCTM to the GTF Survey in 2021.

7. 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/srb>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Slovak Republic is a unitary country with a two-tiered system of subnational government, made up of 8 regions and 2,930 municipalities.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

Slovakia is dedicated to implementing the 2030 Agenda by integrating it into all public policies at the national, regional and local levels. In 2017, the government adopted a [roadmap](#) which outlined the most important steps towards integrating the 2030 Agenda into the overall strategic planning and governance framework of Slovakia. The first milestone was to adapt the SDGs to the national context by clustering them around six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.³ The next step will be to transform these priorities into strategic goals with measurable target values and outcome indicators. According to the roadmap, these goals should form the base of a [National Development Strategy until 2030](#).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is shared by the [Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization](#) and the [Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs](#). The main coordinating body for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Slovakia is the [Government Council of the Slovak Republic for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which involves key ministers, as well as representatives of NGOs, academia, the private sector, the regional administration and municipalities. The working body of the Government Council is the [Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the preparation of the National Investment Plan of the Slovak Republic for the years 2018-2030](#). It consists of two chambers, namely the Government Chamber, which involves analytical units of line ministries, and the Chamber of Stakeholders, where key non-governmental actors are represented.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

The [National Development Strategy until 2030](#) will include measurable goals and outcome indicators, which will enable effective monitoring of the country's progress in each national priority and in implementing the SDGs. Also, a biannual monitoring scheme has been proposed, which will ensure continual reporting and evaluation of Slovakia's progress in its six national priorities for the 2030 Agenda. The first report was to be issued in mid-2020, while the preparation of the 2018 VNR served as an important initial step in monitoring achievements.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The [Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia \(ZMOS\)](#) is part of the [Government Council](#) for SDG implementation. The National Development Strategy until 2030 is expected to integrate aspects of national, regional and territorial development, creating a framework for strategic planning and governance at all levels.

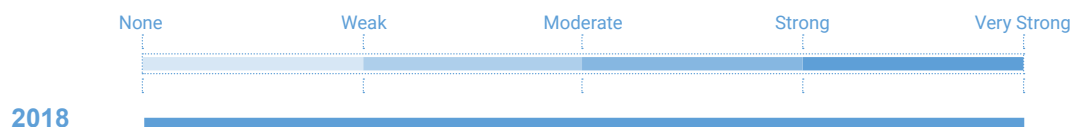
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20131Agenda2030_VNR_Slovakia.pdf (2018)

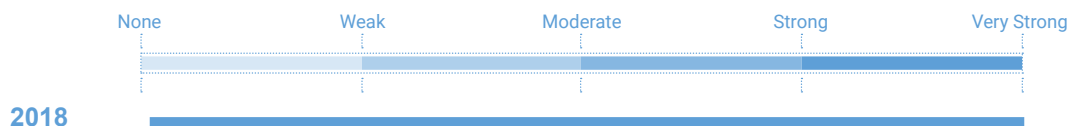
3. See the detailed national priorities in the VNR, 2018, p. 10-11.

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 VNR 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 acknowledges that SDG implementation requires “coordinated action by central administration bodies, regional authorities and municipalities”.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

At the moment, the 2030 Agenda and the national priorities are not integrated into the sectoral strategies of ministries and thus are not included in sectoral investment plans either. Therefore, as an essential part of the National Development Strategy, a [National Investment Plan](#) will be elaborated, which should bolster financing for sustainable development.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		25.9 (2020)
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	88 (2020)
	Rural	75 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.7 (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)		16.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/svk>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Slovenia is a unitary republic, with a single tier of local government consisting of 212 municipalities (*Občine*). 11 of them have the special status of urban municipality (*Mestne občine*).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

Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 has as its main objective "a high quality of life for all" and finds in the SDGs important goals and actions that contribute to this end. The Strategy lists five strategic orientations and twelve development goals. SDGs that relate to the strategic orientations and development goals were also incorporated into the strategy.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC)** acts as the national coordinator for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and is responsible for raising awareness and coordinating the flow of information between key stakeholders. Also, all ministries have appointed a contact person for the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was coordinated by the **GODC**. The preparation process was highly inclusive and it was reinforced with a specific website as a tool for socialization.³ The GODC held introductory meetings with the representatives of ministries, regional development agencies and other key national level stakeholders, which involved different levels: national level (cooperation among line ministries and other affiliated bodies); local level (regional development agencies and local stakeholders); regions, including municipalities and cities; civil society (NGOs and other non-state actors operating at the national level).

1.3 MONITORING

The implementation of Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 is monitored annually by the **Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD)** in its development reports. In the framework of the 2020 VNR, the ministries and the GODC, in cooperation with the **Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS)** and the IMAD, drafted a set of 54 indicators that best reflect the situation regarding sustainable development in the country. The indicators are, to a large extent, in line with the SDGs. Certain indicators are specific and are monitored at the national level in the scope of the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

11 urban municipalities adopted in 2016 **sustainable urban strategies** based on guidelines of the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning. The municipalities set out their development vision, identifying goals, measures and methods for implementing the strategies. The **Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia until 2050** highlights the role of cities and

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

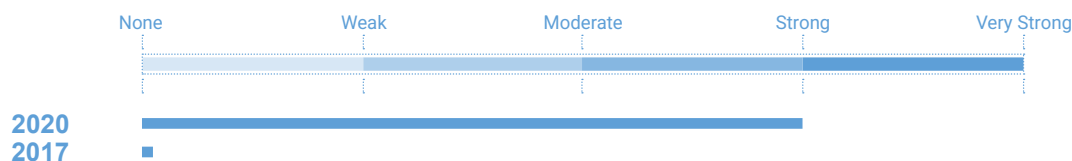
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16313Slovenia.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26450VNR_2020_Slovenia_Report.pdf (2020)

3. The website is available at <https://slovenia2030.si/>. It provides information about all the indicators for Slovenia from 2015 onwards, as well information regarding the process of inclusive preparation, reports from individual consultations and a tab with topical content.

identifies strengthening of their competitiveness as one of its primary goals. Slovenia supports the cities that have already prepared or implemented circular models or circular economic strategies, including [Ljubljana](#), [Maribor](#), [Kranj](#) and others.

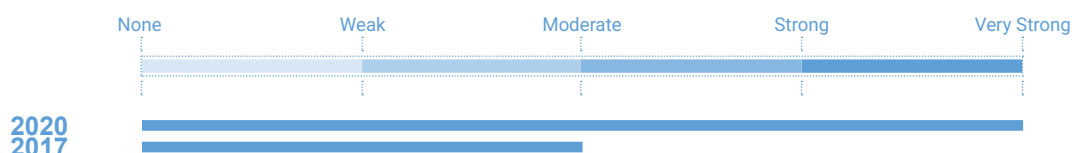
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: In 2020, the GODC involved local level representation in the VNR process.⁴

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs collaborate with the GODC, developing an important partnership (GTF Survey 2020).

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 is no dedicated section for LRG actions, but the 2020 VNR has, at the end of each SDG review, a "Good practices" section in which, in some cases, it is possible to identify local initiatives and experiences coming from the municipalities in order to contribute to that specific SDG.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The network business incubator *Mrežni podjetniški inkubator Vrelec d.o.o.* was established in 2009 by the municipality of [Rogaška Slatina](#) along with its partner, the municipality of [Šentjur](#). Their vision was to spread business ideas and innovation and to provide a stimulating entrepreneurial environment in the Obsotelje and Kozjansko regions.

► The Climate Path 2050 project included the [Local Climate Action Scoreboard](#), an online application that enables Slovenian municipalities to comprehensively compare their performance in preventing climate change. It also encourages the exchange of good practices between municipalities and gives insight into the actions of individual municipalities in several areas, such as buildings, transport, agriculture, etc.

► Slovenia has seven local energy agencies, which support municipalities in the implementation of their energy concepts.

► Thirty-seven of the municipalities are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which brings together thousands of local governments that have made a voluntary commitment to achieving the EU climate targets.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific mention is made for the LRGs regarding the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2020 VNR highlights the importance of the 'Trade for All' strategy introduced by the European Union. Member States are obliged to ensure responsible trade and investment policy as an instrument for the implementation of the SDGs.

⁴. Answers to the GTF Survey in 2020 indicate that some associations of municipalities were taken into account at the beginning of the process (introductory meetings). Actually, they mention that they were not taken into account for the first VNR, but recognize that they were included for the update in 2020. They said they had the opportunity to exchange experiences and dialogue with the national government.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR mentions the importance of the EU development strategy, and in particular, the European Green Deal, as it is conceived as a roadmap with specific goals (elimination of net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and the fair inclusion of all social groups). In this sense, at the intersection of the economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, Slovenia has designed a second priority area, namely the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy and society.

Besides, one of the main conclusions of the 2020 VNR is that the common sensation among local stakeholders in most regions is that there exists excessive centralisation of the state. Local stakeholders largely wished for **more integration and cooperation** in deciding on matters that directly affect their local environments. The VNR ends by mentioning that the development of Slovenia needs to take into account the diversity of the individual regions, which is currently not entirely possible at the level of statistical data collection, since statistical data for several indicators are not collected separately by region.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Slovenia made the most progress over the last decade in the domain of women's participation in political decision-making, which is the result of the amendments made to the electoral legislation. Electoral quotas were introduced: 35% gender quota on candidate lists for national parliamentary elections and **40% gender quota** and zipper system for candidate lists for local elections.

3.2 COVID 19

Slovenia was not only the first European country but the first country in the world to declare the end of the pandemic in May, 2020. One of Slovenia's measures was an increase in the volume of public procurement from local providers by public institutions.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.6 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.7 (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)		16.3 (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/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/svn>

SPAIN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Constitution of Spain, enacted in 1978, established Spain as a unitary parliamentary monarchy. In reality, Spain, also referred to as “the State of Autonomies”, is a quasi-federation, with a three-tier system of subnational governments whose autonomy is constitutionally recognised. The country is divided into 17 autonomous communities (*Comunidades Autonomas, CCAA*) at the regional level, 50 provinces, 8 124 municipalities and two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla) at the local 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

In 2018, the government approved the **Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda “Towards a Spanish Strategy for Sustainable Development”**. The Action Plan was conceived as a programmatic document and transition plan until the formulation of a **Sustainable Development Strategy 2030**. It has been presented with the 2021 VNR, at the 2021 edition of the HLPF. The Strategy identifies eight challenges, whose approach will be articulated through eight accelerating policies for sustainable development, defined from a multidimensional and multilevel perspective. Meanwhile, a strategy has been approved in 2019, ending in 2023.³ The **Spanish Urban Agenda**, approved by the Council of Ministers in 2019, constitutes the roadmap that guides the strategy and actions to be carried out, with a 2030 horizon, to achieve sustainability in urban development policies.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

As of 2018, the 2030 Agenda was elevated to the ministry level and a Secretary of State was created, with executive powers and mandate for the design, preparation, development and evaluation of the plans and strategies necessary for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and, specifically, the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The governance system for SDG coordination and implementation is three-tiered. First, the **Government Delegate Commission** for the 2030 Agenda is inter-ministerial. Second, the **Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda** is the cooperation body between the national government’s administration, the autonomous communities, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the local authorities, through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). A Sectoral Commission has been created to support it. Third, the **Sustainable Development Council** is an advisory, collaborative and participatory body composed of representatives from platforms and entities (academia, private sector, CSOs, etc.) and of 13 advisory councils at the national level.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR has two main parts. The first examines the progress made between March 2020 and April 2021 in relation to each of the nine prioritized lever policies in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda approved in 2018. The second presents the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/203295182018_VNR_Report_Spain_EN_ddghpbrgsp.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279422021_VNR_Report_Spain.pdf (2021)

3. It pays special attention to the fight against child poverty and covers areas such as income guarantee, education equitable and inclusive, training and employment, housing, social services and dependency, health or support for families, as well as a last related strategic area with the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of policies. Progress is presented in the first part of the 2021 VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The 2021 VNR indicates that LRGs have committed to accountability through reports on their progress and the monitoring of statistical indicators that allow assessing the challenges and progress in achieving the SDGs. Through the 2018 Annual Program, a new statistical operation called Indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was included in the National Statistical Plan, the objective of which is to constitute a framework of statistical indicators for the follow-up at the national level of the Objectives and Goals of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The National Statistical Institute is responsible for this, in collaboration with the statistical services of the ministries. The National Statistical System is collaborating with the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda in defining the set of indicators for monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

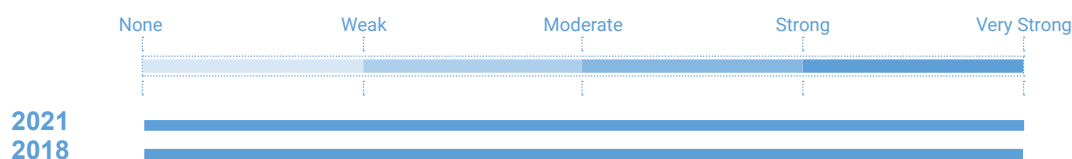
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **multilevel approach of the Sustainable Development Strategy** includes the commitments of the different autonomous communities, as well as local authorities. They participated in its elaboration (through a survey, then through a workshop co-organized by the FEMP).⁴ The autonomous communities and the FEMP participate in the **Sectoral Commission for the SDGs**, but without vote. Promoting the localization of the 2030 Agenda is one of the priorities of the institutional collaboration framework established between the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda and the FEMP, reflected in the Collaboration Framework Agreement signed between the two.

The 2021 VNR mentions participation in the reporting process from local and autonomous administrations. The FEMP participated through a survey, bilateral discussions and with a specific contribution (Survey 2021).

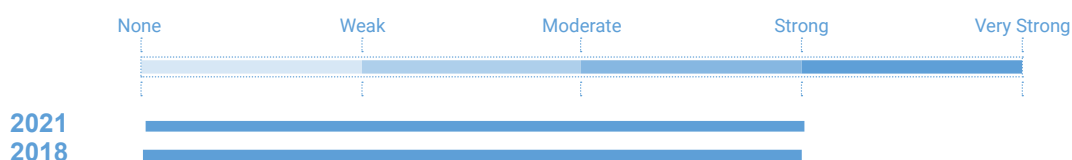
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2021 VNR mentions the participation of local and autonomous administrations. It contains subsections on their role and lists many of their initiatives. The FEMP participated through a survey, bilateral discussions and with a specific contribution (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The autonomous communities participate in the Sectoral Commission for the SDGs, as well as the FEMP. Regular participation (consultative).

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 partnership with LRGs is underlined in the 2018 VNR, with a section detailing the localization of SDGs in each region and at local government level, with particular focus on the role of the Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). There is a whole subtitle called "Localising the 2030 Agenda: a multi-level action" and it highlights the importance of LRGs in the implementation process.⁵ This subsection also includes specific actions that have been implemented by the LRGs in order to achieve the SDGs in each territory. In the 2021 VNR, autonomous communities and local authorities are mentioned many times throughout the report, and their role in implementing the 2030 Agenda is highlighted:

► Three tables list the initiatives of the autonomous communities and the FEMP towards the Action Plan. See the VNR, 2021, p. 45; 53; 68; 78; 87; 93; 99; 105. As part of it, initiatives towards the Spanish Urban Agenda are detailed p. 61.

4. See the report summarizing the results of this consultation here: <https://www.agenda2030.gob.es/recursos/docs/conclusiones-consulta-publica-eell.pdf>

5. "As concluded in the "Sevilla Commitment", the Final Declaration of the High Level Event on Localising the SDGs, held in Spain in February 2019 12, the SDGs can only be achieved through institutional and intersectoral coordination, in which an essential role must be played by dialogue and complementarity among local, national and international stakeholders"

- ▶ There is a subsection on the context regarding poverty and social exclusion in autonomous communities and local governments in the presentation of the first “country challenge” of the Sustainable Development Strategy (Poverty, Inequalities, Social Exclusion) (see VNR, 2021, p. 129).
- ▶ There are also lists of local initiatives from LRGs for the challenges 1 (Poverty), 2 (Climate action), 3 (Gender inequalities), 4 (Economy), 5 (Work), 6 (Public Services), 7 (Human Rights), 8 (Rural environment and demographic transition). See p. 142; 166; 194; 218; 234; 266; 288; 308.
- ▶ Two subsections are dedicated to autonomous communities and cities, and to local authorities, as part of the presentation of the multistakeholder and multinivel approach of the Strategy (see VNR, 2021, p. 322 and 324). In addition to mentioning their crucial role in, and commitment to implementing the SDGs, it is indicated that the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 will highlight the important international role that the autonomous communities have to play in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The role of the FEMP is also mentioned, as well as the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda created in October 2020.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ In 17 autonomous communities, there are government structures with specific responsibilities on the 2030 Agenda, mostly aimed at promoting, coordinating and monitoring policies for SDG implementation. These actions are carried out through cross-sectional coordination between different departments, as occurs in the [Autonomous City of Melilla](#), where the seven ministries have competencies in the matter, or through an interdepartmental commission for this purpose headed by the President of the Autonomous Government, as it happens in the [Autonomous Community of Navarra](#). In some cases, shared governance is carried out, such as in [Galicia](#), where the Ministry of the Environment, Territory and Housing leads the 2030 Agenda while coordinating three working groups: environment, social and economic. Something similar happens in the [Valencian Community](#), where the General Directorate of Social Dialogue has a coordinating role and each department develops its competences regarding the 2030 Agenda, and in the [Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands](#), where the General Directorate of Research and Coordination of the Sustainable Development, dependent on the Presidency of the Autonomous Government, receives support from the Modernization, Transparency and Participation and Telecommunications and New Technologies departments. Finally, in [Catalonia](#), the competence is assigned to the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development, configured as a strategic advisory body of the Government of the Generalitat in the field of sustainability. It should also be noted that in 15 cases, the autonomous communities have interdepartmental committees or commissions within the administration itself, to coordinate the alignment and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all government action.
- ▶ The [Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces \(FEMP\)](#) adopted a resolution on the SDGs at its General Assembly in September 2019 and an implementation strategy in May 2018.⁶ Since the approval of the strategy in 2018, a [Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda](#) and a specific [Sectoral Commission on the SDGs](#) were created in 2020 within the FEMP. In order to establish a local SDG Observatory, the FEMP has created a diagnostic map of localization actions associated with the 2030 Agenda, a training school on SDG-related issues and a digital platform for Ibero-American cities and the SDGs. The FEMP and regional governments drafted a document detailing subnational SDG achievements to be incorporated in the 2021 VNR; organized the Local Week for the 2030 Agenda and a decentralized cooperation meeting to share experiences and discussion around the SDG localization with national and international peers, and organized training sessions on SDG localization aimed at LRGs.
- ▶ In 2016, the [Barcelona Provincial Council](#), with its 311 municipalities, made a strong commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. It developed a comprehensive strategy to implement the SDGs within the institution while providing support to the province’s municipalities to localize the SDGs in their territories. A virtual web space was made available to local authorities to attend to the demands and needs of city councils. An internal working group of the Provincial Council has been working on the definition of a system of indicators of the social, economic and environmental reality of Barcelona: a set of local indicators to measure the municipal contribution to the 2030 Agenda, which will be published in early 2021. A tool that will incorporate disaggregated indicators at municipal level that will allow local authorities in the province to measure their degree of contribution to the Agenda and that will also provide provincial data, useful for the Provincial Council’s strategy.
- ▶ The government of [Viladecans](#) has started working on “the Viladecans 2030 Agenda” which defines a new strategic perspective of the city towards 2030 in accordance with the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ▶ [Terrassa](#) City Council has been actively working on the alignment and localization of the SDGs in municipal policy since the previous mandate plan. In the current mandate, the SDGs have already been incorporated into the municipal software structured in 10 major city goals and 178 lines of action, aligned with the Strategic Goals and 178 lines of action aligned with the SDGs, with a firm commitment to their implementation. Awareness-raising material has been published to facilitate the localization of the SDGs in the day-to-day activities and municipal services.
- ▶ The government of the [Balearic Islands](#) is currently formulating a governance model to incorporate the SDGs into government action in a cross-cutting, systematic way.
- ▶ The Strategy for Sustainable Waste Management in [Madrid](#) 2017-2024 was established for more responsible and sustainable production and consumption and to move towards a circular economy model, with the ultimate aim of “zero waste”.

6. To know more about this strategy: www.localizandoods.es

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

At the municipal level, **Barcelona** has published a VLR in 2019, 2020 and 2021, **Malaga** in 2018, **Alhaurín de la Torre** in 2019 and **Madrid** in 2023.⁷ The province of **Jaen** published a VLR in 2019 and that of **Cordoba** in 2020.⁸ At the regional level, the **Basque Country** published a VLR in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023 and the **Valencian Country** in 2016.⁹ **Castilla-La Mancha** also elaborated its first VLR in 2019.¹⁰

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda includes a transformative measure called “Budgeting for the SDGs: Alignment of the General State Budgets with the 2030 Agenda”. A report was developed on the Alignment of the General State Budgets with the SDGs, the first edition of which accompanied the Draft Law of the General State Budgets for the year 2021.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2021 VNR highlights that the autonomous communities stand out for the effort made in terms of collaboration with social and economic actors (civil society, private sector and academia), in addition to the implementation of other public participation mechanisms open to all citizens. In general, local and regional governments recognize and promote the work and key role of social, economic, cultural and environmental actors in the process of defining, promoting and monitoring policies aimed at implementing the SDGs. Cases such as the **Autonomous Community of Aragon** with the Council of the Future of Aragon, which also advises on the 2030 Agenda, or the **Community of Madrid** with the Advisory Council for the Development of the 2030 Agenda, illustrate some of the examples of multi-stakeholder dialogue at the regional/state level.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Currently, the process of defining a new Strategic Plan is being concluded. It is now called the **Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men (PEIEMH) 2021-2025**. It is conceived as a Master Plan whose basic principles are: gender and intersectionality, the sustainability of life, strategic planning, participation and advocacy as levers of transformation, transparency and accountability, and the sustainability of policies for the equality of women and men. Among other actions, there is the agreement for the distribution among the **autonomous communities** and the cities of **Ceuta** and **Melilla** of the appropriations earmarked for the development of the “Corresponsable Plan”, conceived as a seed policy that will make possible the creation of quality employment in the care sector, in addition to dignifying and certifying the professional experience of non-formal care, thus facilitating their transition to the formal labor market. This Plan is the first step towards the creation of a state care system that goes beyond welfare models to promote support models centered on people and based on a framework of rights. It focuses on the care of children and young people up to the age of 14. Similarly, another measure of enormous importance in the COVID-19 context was the agreement authorizing the proposal for **territorial distribution** among the autonomous communities, for submission to the Territorial Council of the System for the Autonomy and Care for Dependency within the Framework of **Inter-administrative Cooperation**.¹¹ The 2021 VNR presents other actions for gender equality, and contains a table listing the initiatives taken by the subnational governments (see VNR, 2021, pp. 46 and 53).

3.2 COVID 19

A COVID-19 Fund to support the autonomous communities has been approved, which involved a transfer of 16,000 million euros to the Autonomous Communities to finance the expenses derived from the pandemic, especially in the health system, as well as in education, offsetting the fall in tax revenues and guaranteeing the provision of essential public services. The **FEMP** launched a dedicated website¹² and created a specific response unit. It also elaborated a set of sectoral proposals for the recovery.

7. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Barcelona%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Barcelona%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/barcelona_2020.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/barcelona_2021_es.pdf ;
[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Ma%CC%81laga%20\(2018\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Ma%CC%81laga%20(2018)_0.pdf) ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/alhaurin_de_la_torre_2019.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/madrid_2023.pdf

8. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/jaen_2020.pdf ; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cordoba_provincial_council_2020.pdf

9. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/euskadi_2017_eng_0.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/basque_country_2019.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/basque_country_2020.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/basque_country_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/euskadi_2023.pdf ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Valencia%20Region%20\(2016\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Valencia%20Region%20(2016).pdf)

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/castilla_la_mancha_2019.pdf

11. This measure has had and continues to have a huge direct impact on caregivers, most of whom are women, who, because of the pandemic, have been severely overburdened and have suffered a significant loss of quality of life.

12. See: <http://covid19.femp.es/>

4. SDG INDICATORS¹³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		38.5 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	100 (2020)
	Rural	99 (2020)
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 (%)		5.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		94.3 (2015, Madrid)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		9.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

¹³ 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/esp>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. It has a two-tiered system of subnational government, composed of 21 counties and 290 municipalities. According to the legal framework, it is a unitary and decentralized state and the Constitution recognises local self-government and guarantees LRGs' autonomy.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 2030 Agenda has been included in every Statement of Government Policy since its adoption in 2015. This includes appointing a **Delegation for the 2030 Agenda**,³ issuing an action plan for the 2030 Agenda, appointing a national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda and drawing up a government bill on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The **Delegation's report** is one of the documents on which the government bill on the 2030 Agenda is based. In 2018, the government decided on an **action plan for the 2030 Agenda 2018-2020** to guide Sweden's work on the 17 SDGs. The action plan highlights six thematic focus areas and four key implementation factors. In June 2020, the government decided on a bill on Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The bill was adopted by the Parliament (*Riksdag*) in December 2020 and contains an overarching objective that consolidates and clarifies Sweden's commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda.⁴

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Implementation is based on a shared responsibility in which all ministers are responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda in their respective areas of work. The **Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister** is responsible for coordinating national implementation at the Ministry of the Environment. The Minister for International Development Cooperation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for coordinating international implementation. At inter-ministerial level, the government has appointed a group of state secretaries who meet regularly (including 16 state secretaries representing all ministries, except for Prime Minister and the Ministry of Justice). In the Parliament, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is tasked with the follow-up.

In February 2020, the government appointed a **national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda**. He was tasked with strengthening, promoting and deepening the work of all actors engaged with the 2030 Agenda by encouraging collaboration and partnerships.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR is presented as "**an inclusive process at national and regional level**". Indeed, it states that "consultations with stakeholders from civil society, the business sector, municipalities and regions, government agencies and the research community have been an important aspect of the review". The Government Office has worked with various networks and umbrella organizations to facilitate consultations with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the **Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)**, Formas (the government research council for sustainable development), Union to Union, and NOD (a national body for dialogue and consultation between the Government and civil society). Also, special youth consultations were held to ensure that the perspectives of children and young people are reflected in the report. Regarding data and inputs, the report is based on Statistics Sweden's various status

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16033Sweden.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279582021_VNR_Report_Sweden.pdf (2021)

3. In 2016, the government appointed the Delegation for the 2030 Agenda, tasked with producing a report. The Delegation was composed of representatives from politics, higher education, civil society, trade unions, and the business sector. The Delegation's final report *Världens utmaning – Världens möjlighet* (Global challenge – global opportunity) was presented in March 2019. The proposals were drawn up in consultation with county administrative boards and other government agencies, collaborative bodies, regions, municipalities, the social partners, the business sector, civil society and the research community.

4. The bill emphasizes mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda as an integral part of regular processes, guaranteeing human rights and gender equality, and "leaving no one behind". It tasks the government with submitting a written communication to the Parliament every two years. It also states that Sweden will conduct a VNR one every mandate period.

reports, the report by the Swedish Agency for Public Management and Sweden's government bill on the 2030 Agenda.⁵

1.3 MONITORING

As highlighted by the 2021 VNR, in total, 120 of the 169 targets in the 2030 Agenda are nationally relevant. The objectives set by the Parliament correspond well to 97 of the targets and correspond partly with 21 of the targets. Since March 2021, the coordinator for the 2030 Agenda has been working with **Statistics Sweden** to jointly make statistics available on how Sweden is performing in relation to the SDGs.

SALAR's board has also tasked its administrative office with analyzing how the organization's congress goals within each operational area relate to the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and with monitoring the implementation of the Agenda.

The **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)** has developed the "SDG synergies tool" to examine how the different SDGs interact and to identify synergies and trade-offs between the SDGs based on inputs and multi-stakeholder dialogues. SEI has conducted analyses based on this tool in selected pilot countries such as Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Colombia, and a number of regions (sub-regions) in Latin America as well as with the European Environment Agency (EEA). A pilot project has also been launched in Sweden in conjunction with the 2021 VNR process.

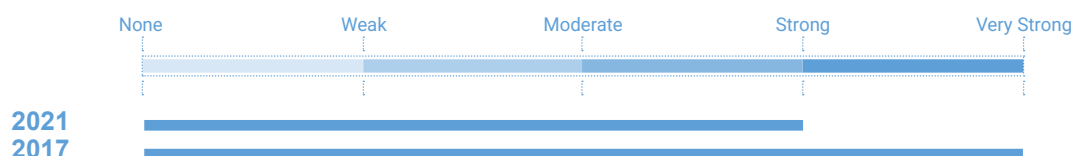
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Through the **national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda**, the government is strengthening efforts on implementation, particularly at the local and regional level. LRGs participate in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation through regular consultations (no decision-making). Overall, the VSR developed by **SALAR** in 2021 (more details below) has been an excellent vehicle for dialogue with the national government, which led to the opportunity to contribute to the VNR: SALAR participated in the consultations led by the National Government Office.

To a great extent, the political decisions in municipalities and county councils have a bearing on important parts of the 2030 Agenda. The municipalities also play a significant role in and for collaboration with the local business community and civil society organizations. As mentioned in the 2021 VNR, the Swedish Agency for Public Management's reports find that **the number of municipalities and regions making use of the Agenda increased between 2017 and 2019**. At the same time, sustainability work by municipalities and regions is not always directly linked to working on the 2030 Agenda.

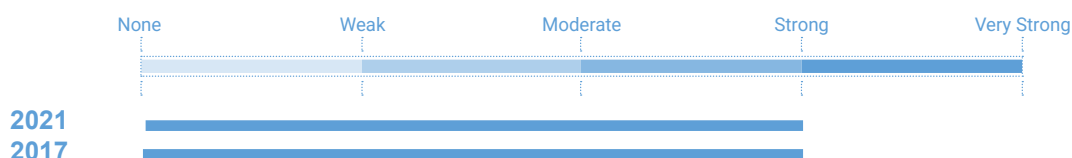
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: SALAR has not been involved in the 2021 VNR to the same extent as in 2017 when it was consulted and invited to participate with a representative in the national delegation to the HLPF. In 2017, they were also part of a reference group providing input to the report. Overall, LRGs were not directly consulted.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular consultation of the LRGs (without decision making). The VSR has been an excellent vehicle for dialogue with the national government.

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 2021 VNR, there is a section on "Regional and local level" as part of the presentation of institutional mechanisms for SDG implementation.

⁵ Other inputs include Sweden's implementation briefs to the HLPF in 2018 and 2019 on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 and Sweden's report to the HLPF in 2020 on the principle of Leaving No One Behind. The latter is available here: <https://www.government.se/information-material/2020/07/sweden-and-the-leaving-no-one-behind-principle/>.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2016, the **SALAR**'s board adopted a position paper on the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs, stating that LRGs are key actors if the SDGs are to be reached and that LRGs must be allowed to define their own strategies and goals adopted to local circumstances. Since then, SALAR's board has adopted a position on the government committee's suggestion to an overarching action plan for Sweden's implementation of the agenda (2019) as well as on the European Commission's reflection paper "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030" (2019).

► **SALAR** participates in the **Council for Sustainable Cities** founded by the government in 2017 and supported by a national strategy adopted in 2018 to develop green, healthy, safe cities in which people come together and which foster innovation (see below).

► The initiative "**Glokala Sverige: Committed to a stronger local engagement in the SDGs**" focuses on communication and knowledge capacity building amongst local elected representatives and civil servants in Sweden. The initiative is financed by Sida and co-organized by Svenska FN-förbundet, ICLD and SALAR. As of 2021, 163 municipalities and 18 regions are engaged in the network.⁶

► The **Council for Municipal Analysis** ("Rådet för främjande av kommunala analyser", RKA in Swedish), on behalf of SALAR and the Swedish government, has developed a set of 50 key figures for municipalities and 50 key figures for regions to monitor the implementation of the Agenda 2030 at local and regional level in Sweden. The set of key figures are built on already available statistics and data in Sweden.

► In 2020, SALAR launched the **Open Comparisons on the 2030 Agenda** based on key figures. Their purpose is to encourage local and regional authorities to analyze results, learn from each other and improve standards of quality and efficiency.⁷ RKA/SALAR has also provided municipalities and regions with guidelines on how to use the Open Comparisons on the 2030 Agenda.

► In 2020, the **report Public performance reporting on the 2030 Agenda in municipalities and regions** was released. The purpose of the report is to promote baseline comparisons and assessments in the transition to a sustainable future and to increase learning and inspire municipalities and regions to work even more vigorously than at present with the 2030 Agenda.

► The government of **Malmö** has also developed several local and international partnerships. In late 2016, the city held a major international conference with participants from 32 countries, Sustainable City Development 2016, concerning sustainable development and the local implementation of the global goals.

► **Åtvidaberg** is an example of a smaller town that conducts work to implement the 2030 Agenda. In December 2016, the municipal assembly adopted a sustainability programme for the municipality based on the 17 SDGs.

► The municipality of **Strängnäs**, which has 35 000 inhabitants, has reviewed existing goals in the municipality's comprehensive plan for 2014-2040 and other plans to see how they can be linked to the global sustainability goals. It has been found that there are links to almost all the 17 SDGs.

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

The municipality of **Gothenburg** published a VLR in 2019.⁸ In 2021, **Helsingborg**, **Malmö**, **Stockholm** and **Uppsala** have carried out VLRs for the first time.⁹ In conjunction with Sweden's VNR, **SALAR** has conducted a VSR in 2021.¹⁰ Studies presented in the VSR show the spread between local and regional governments in their progress towards sustainable development and also the structural factors that are constraining municipalities' work. The report states that to advance, SDGs must be integrated in a clear way in regular governance in municipalities and regions. The latter need to develop impact assessments, create scope for transition and innovation, and commit to new solutions that lead to wanted long-term effects (optimized production, balance between quality and cost, changes in ways of working and methods, etc). The VSR presents a selection of cases on the role of local governments as democracy actors, builders of society, producers of welfare services and employers and summarizes the four VLRs produced by the aforementioned cities.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In December 2020, the Parliament approved a government bill with an overarching objective for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Sweden will implement it to achieve economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development through a coherent policy nationally and internationally.

6. To know more about this initiative: <https://fn.se/vi-gor/utveckling-och-fattigdomsbekampning/agenda-2030/glokala-sverige/>

7. More information about the Open Comparisons on the 2030 Agenda:

<https://skr.se/tjanster/merfransOppna-jamforelse-Agenda-2030kr/oppnajakamforelser/agenda2030.33988.html>

8. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Gothenburg%20\(2019\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Gothenburg%20(2019).pdf)

9. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/helsingborg_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/malmo_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/stockholm_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/upsala_2021.pdf

10. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sweden_2021_0.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The **Council for Sustainable Cities** was founded by the Government in 2017. The Council's task is to support the municipalities in their work on SDG 11. It will operate until May 2022. It is a forum that gathers 11 government agencies plus the county administrative boards and SALAR. It publishes LRGs actions for sustainable urban development are presented in the website *Hållbar Stad* (Sustainable City). Sweden's urban environment agreements, which were introduced in 2015, involve central government and municipalities/regions sharing the cost of measures to promote sustainable urban environments. The measures should contribute to an increased share of transport by public transport or cycling or sustainable freight transport solutions. From 2018 onwards, the urban environment agreements have been incorporated in the National Plan for Infrastructure. Furthermore, since 2017, the government has introduced two different types of grants to increase urban greening and promote ecosystem services in cities and communities, a grant for greener cities (2018) and a grant for greener and safer communities (2020).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of women in municipal councils is just over 40% and the proportion of men just under 60%. In the regions, just under half of councillors are women and just over half are men. In municipalities in 2019, one-third of the chairs of municipal committees were women and almost two thirds were men.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR highlights the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced social challenges. Local governments are playing an important role as producers of welfare services and employers in the recovery after the pandemic, and in the transition needed towards a more sustainable society. In 2021, SALAR commissioned a study on how municipalities have integrated sustainability and/or the 2030 Agenda in their regular governance.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹¹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		43.8 (2020)
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	96 (2020)
	Rural	91 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.001 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2015, Stockholm)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		5.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2019)

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/swe>

SWITZERLAND

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Switzerland is a parliamentary federal state composed of 26 cantons. It is further divided into 2148 municipalities.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 2018 VNR indicates that “in Switzerland, sustainable development is an objective enshrined in the Federal Constitution. [...] Government bodies at all levels have the task of seeking a durable and balanced relationship between nature’s capacity to regenerate and the demands placed on it”. Switzerland’s **2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)** adopted in 2021 is aligned with SDGs. It defines specific national goals and strategic directions to enable the Swiss Confederation to achieve the SDGs. **Strategies, action plans and measures in all areas of policy and at all levels** have been adopted to implement the national strategy and integrate the 2030 Agenda (e.g., the 2021-2023 Action Plan for the 2030 SDS, the Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–23, the International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24, etc.).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on the **2030 Agenda Steering Committee**. It is composed of the most relevant federal government agencies from all departments, plus the Federal Chancellor, and it fulfils a strategic, cross-sectoral role and fosters the integration of the SDGs in sectoral policies. The **2030 Agenda Advisory Group** is another body that articulates the federal government and non-governmental sustainable development actors. It consists of representatives from the private sector, the scientific community and civil society. It provides expertise and encourages dialogue between different groups of actors. Moreover, Switzerland conducts a periodical **“2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development”** and an annual **Sustainable Development Forum** which gathers representatives from regions, cities and municipalities.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

An inter-ministerial working group drafted the 2016 VNR and the report was then discussed in a participatory approach. All VNR processes used quantitative data provided by the **comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system (MONET)**. 2018 and 2022 VNR processes relied on comprehensive baseline assessments evaluating the progress and challenges attached to all of the SDGs and targets, and recording action taken and activities planned. Those assessments were produced in a collaborative process involving all government departments and the Federal Chancellery. The process leading to the 2018-2022 baseline assessment was digitized using the **SDGital2030 IT tool**. The cantons, cities and municipalities, as well as organizations from the private sector and scientific communities and civil society, were given access to SDGital2030 to share information. 93 organizations and administrations, including 14 cantons and 26 municipalities responded.

1.3 MONITORING

Upon the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the Federal Council commissioned a **comprehensive baseline assessment** on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland. As mentioned above, a baseline assessment was also conducted between 2018 and 2022 to evaluate the progress attached to all of the SDGs and targets. In order to measure contributions to the SDGs, Switzerland uses its **MONET system** in place since 2003, which relies on approximately 75 regularly updated indicators.

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/10617Full%20Report%20HLPF%202016_Switzerland_EN%20fin.pdf (2016);
https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/20152Country_Report_Switzerland_2018_web.pdf (2018);
https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/LB_2022_EN_090620_Link_final.pdf (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

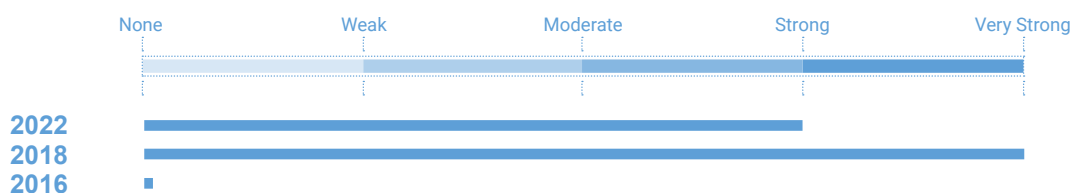
Switzerland is committed to integrating sustainable development principles into all levels of government, including the cantons and municipalities, to create and increase ownership. Most of the cantons (e.g., Ticino, Fribourg, Geneva, Valais and Vaud) and cities (e.g., Bern, Fribourg, Lausanne, Luzern, Yverdon-les-Bains, Uster and Zurich) have integrated the SDGs into their plans or developed their own strategies. Both the [Union of Swiss Towns](#) and the [Association of Swiss Municipalities](#) implement actions to contribute to the 2030 Agenda.³

Cantons have established coordination mechanisms to support SDG localization initiatives and serve as the first point of contact for the municipalities. The [Network on Sustainable Development](#) supports joint coordination efforts between the federal government and the cantons on sustainable development matters. Municipalities are less involved in federal coordination mechanisms. Finally, LRGs participate in the [annual Sustainable Development Forum](#).

Cantons participated in the 2018 VNR at consultative level. In 2022, both tiers of subnational governments contributed to the VNR process via the [SDGital2030 platform](#). 14 cantons and 26 municipalities shared information through this platform. The Cantonal Sustainable Development Network facilitates cantons' involvement. Nevertheless, all cities and municipalities have not clearly engaged in the reporting process. The city of Geneva, for example, stated that it did not participate and only received the VNR after it was finalized.⁴

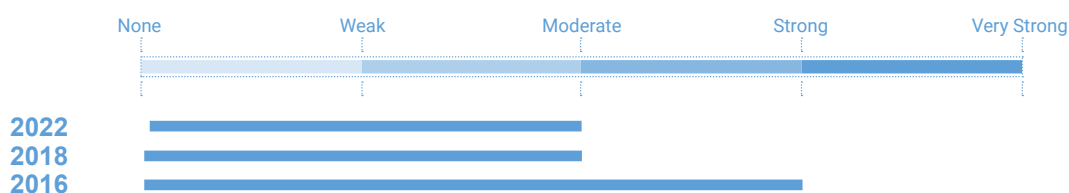
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments were consulted through the SDGital2030ITTool.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Cantons and municipalities participate in the annual Sustainable Development Forum. Cantons are more involved in national coordination mechanisms via their Network on Sustainable Development.

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 cantons and municipalities are mentioned more frequently in the 2022 VNR than in the two previous ones. In the three VNRs, there are more references to the cantons than to the municipalities. Switzerland's 2022 VNR includes one [section on collaboration with subnational governments](#) (see VNR, 2022, p. 9). It highlights the fact that cantons have a special part to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as they exercise primary responsibility for some key policy areas, such as health and education, and that successful implementation demands greater cooperation both horizontally between the cantons and vertically between the cantons and the federal government.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The cantons created a [Network on Sustainable Development](#).

► The canton of [Vaud](#) adopted its own 2030 Agenda which establishes sustainable development as a shared central reference point that affects all of the canton's public policies.

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

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

► The city of **Bern** adopted its RAN2030 Sustainable Development Framework Strategy geared to the 2030 Agenda and designed to do as much as possible towards achieving its goals.

► The city of **Geneva** promotes active ageing and solidarity between generations through different intergenerational projects. The Atelier-Vie Kindergarten, which opened in 2000, is the first intergenerational kindergarten in Geneva. In this space, children can discover the life cycle through activities such as reading, storytelling, theater, poetry and dance, with an educational team that includes volunteer older people from retirement homes, senior citizen associations and cultural centers. The city also chairs a network, Coord 21, with all the municipalities of the Romandy and Ticino region, and developed a guide for SDG localization in cantons and municipalities.⁵

► The city of Lugano conducts projects and initiatives to identify shared solutions to the challenges facing our planet. The aim of the “Lugano sostenibile” project, for example, is to bring the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs to life for the public with an inclusive and interactive approach.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3.RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Recent reforms are making clear progress towards further decentralization in Switzerland. The 2008 federalism reform, recently amended in 2020, improved the fiscal equalization system, clarified the assignment of responsibilities and provided incentives for the formalization of intercantonal cooperation agreements. In 2017, the tripartite conference (between the Confederation, cantons, cities and municipalities) was extended to rural areas and mountainous regions.⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2021, Switzerland adopted its Gender Equality Strategy 2030. It encourages both men and women to participate at all levels of decision-making in social, economic, political and public life. But there is no information on the representation of women in local authorities in the 2022 VNR.

3.2 COVID 19

In Switzerland, in response to the crisis, subsidies in the form of capital transfers from the Confederation to the cantons and from the cantons to municipalities, increased, thus maintaining subnational debt at its pre-crisis level.⁷

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

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

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		32 (2019)
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	100 (2020)
	Rural	99 (2020)
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 (%)		99.5 (2015, Zurich)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		50 (2017)

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ukraine is a unitary republic with three tiers of subnational government. Its regions are further divided into districts in urban and rural areas and cities of regional importance. Small cities, townships or settlements are the last tier of elected local government. At the regional level, there are 24 regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and 2 cities: Kyiv and Sebastopol. At the intermediate level, there are 490 districts and 186 cities. Finally, at the municipal level, there are 11 030 local governments.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

In September 2019, the **Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the Sustainable Development Goals for Ukraine up to 2030”** stated that the SDGs are benchmarks for policies and legislation in the country. To establish a framework for Ukraine’s sustainable development strategy, the Ministry of Economic Development launched a process of **national localization of the SDGs** that lasted during 2016-2017 and involved sectoral ministries and departments, the UN agencies in Ukraine, international organizations, the business community, experts, NGOs and civil society.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national government established the **Inter-Agency Working Group on SDGs** to coordinate the efforts to achieve the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine** was the technical secretariat responsible for the 2020 VNR preparation and the coordinator of the consultation process. It was supported by the **Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on SDGs** and **4 expert groups**, for the main thematic areas: economic, environmental, social and institutional. These groups included experts from ministries, executive authorities, academia, representatives of UN agencies in Ukraine, NGOs and CSOs, and representatives of the business sector. Besides, the Ministry of Economic Development initiated engagement of students and young people to contribute to the reporting process. As part of the methodology used, innovative approaches were introduced, such as the “Synergy of knowledge, experience and creativity for the future” initiative. Workshops were also held concerning long-term development directions and evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic consequences. And a methodology of integral assessment of the SDGs achievement progress was applied.

1.3 MONITORING

The process of adaptation of the SDGs for Ukraine resulted in 2017 in an SDG system consisting of 86 targets with 183 monitoring indicators. The **State Statistics Service of Ukraine** coordinates data collection for monitoring of SDG progress and the development of metadata for the chosen indicators. A special unit has been established within its structure to provide information support for monitoring of the SDGs. The State Programme for Development of Statistics up to 2023 was approved in 2019. Among the recommendations at the end of the 2020 VNR, the report mentions the creation of a **Knowledge-SDG Hub** (an interactive online platform) to coordinate systemic work on the SDGs in the country.

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

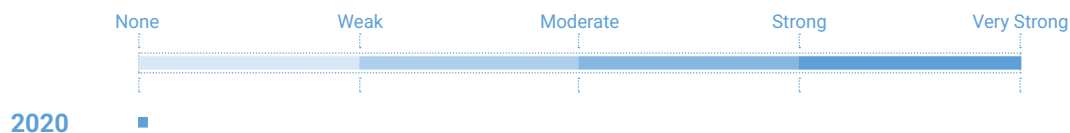
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26294VNR_2020_Ukraine_Report.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR doesn't mention LRGs' role and involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

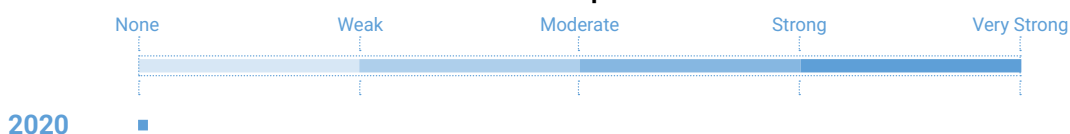
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2020 VNR makes some references to LRGs, without highlighting their role in the SDG implementation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs don't participate nor were consulted in the national coordination mechanisms (GTF Survey 2020).

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 references to regions and cities in the 2020 VNR, without much details.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Regarding SDG 5 and the increasing number of social services provided to meet the needs of the persons concerned, the 2020 VNR refers to the [accession of local governments to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life](#). This process began in 2017, and by now 60 local councils of different levels have acceded to the Charter. In particular, the accession of [Kyiv](#) to the charter, in November 2019, was an important event.

► Regarding SDG 11 and the implementation of public alert systems to enhance the level of civil protection in the regions, the VNR mentions the city of [Mariupol](#), which has fully modernized its local automated alert system. The modernization has begun in other cities: [Dnipro](#), [Lviv](#), [Kyiv](#), [Mykolaiv](#), [Odessa](#), [Ternopil](#), and [Kherson](#).

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Harmonizing budget planning with SDG financing is one of the key recommendations listed at the end of the VNR. All regions have approved and implemented regional development strategies developed with public participation. The availability of these strategies is a precondition for regions to receive resources from the state regional development fund. Besides, among the results of the programme on human beings traffic approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2016, there is the [full funding of regional programmes on combating human trafficking](#).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Ukraine gave major importance to SDG 8 as an accelerator of other transformations to achieve all SDGs.³

3. See the monitoring report published in 2019: "SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth: Ukraine".

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The share of women among the members of oblast councils and local councils of oblast significance was 25% in 2015-2019. The growth of the proportion of women in local councils occurred due to the reform of local self-governance as an impetus for greater representation of women at the local level, information and awareness-raising campaigns intended to overcome stereotypes concerning the role of women and encourage women to take part in politics, promotion of the work of organizations working to improve leadership skills for female candidates for local council members and chairs. In 2019, such schools were active in 15 oblasts.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference on LRGs initiatives to cope with the crisis.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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	89 (2020)
	Rural	90 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	69 (2020)
	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 (%)		19 (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 (%)		92.6 (2020)

4. 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/ukr>



UNITED KINGDOM

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a unitary monarchy with an asymmetrical decentralization system, composed of four constituent countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Local governments are governed by the devolved nations and by the UK government for England. Therefore, organization, responsibilities and finances as well territorial and decentralization reforms differ from one nation to another as well as within England.

England has a two-tier subnational government system whereas in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland there is only one tier of local authorities. England has 35 local governments at the intermediary level, comprising 26 county councils, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and 8 combined authorities. At the local level, England has 317 lower tier authorities responsible for local services. In Wales, there are 22 local authorities, 32 in Scotland, and 11 in Northern Ireland (formerly 26). In addition, there is a structured sub-municipal level of approximately 9 500 parish councils in England, 735 community councils in Wales, and 1 200 in Scotland.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 SDGs are reflected in the **UK Government's Programme of Work** and each government department has embedded the Goals in its Single Departmental Plan. Scotland's **National Performance Framework (NPF)** is the main mechanism for localizing and implementing the Goals in Scotland. Wales's efforts have been shaped by the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** which integrates the SDGs into domestic legislation through Wales's own 7 sustainable development goals. Northern Ireland has incorporated the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental, into the **Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS)** strategic plans. This has resulted in the principles of sustainable development being embedded in the Northern Ireland Executive's highest-level strategy, the **Programme for Government (PfG)**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Secretary of State for International Development** has overall leadership and policy oversight for the SDGs, with the **Minister for Implementation** in Cabinet Office playing an important role in ensuring a coordinated cross-government approach to the implementation of the SDGs. Officials in the UK government's **Department for International Development (DFID)** and the **Cabinet Office** co-chair a **cross-government group**, which meets regularly and provides a platform to coordinate SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Department of International Development (DFID)** was in charge of drafting the 2019 VNR, working closely with the other parts of UK government including the Cabinet Office; the devolved administrations; and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the UK's national statistical agency. The DFID organized sectoral consultation sessions. The report has been produced through collaboration with and input from the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as from the civil society and the private sector. It is worth noting that over 270 case studies were received from a wide range of groups, including non-governmental organizations.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23678UK_12072019_UK_Voluntary_National_Review_2019.pdf (2019)

1.3 MONITORING

UK data for the SDG indicators is reported to the UN by the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#), the UK's national statistics agency. This data is open, transparent and accessible via the ONS' National Reporting Platform.³ The ONS has been able to source good data on most of the SDGs – reporting data on 74% (180 of the total 244) of SDG indicators as of 2019.

"[Open SDG](#)" is a reporting platform developed for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the SDGs. Built exclusively with open source libraries and tools, it is freely available for any country or organization to reuse and can be hosted and maintained using free services. The Open SDG platform is the result of collaboration between the US Government, the ONS in the UK, and the non-profit Center for Open Data Enterprise. Several other countries around the world have adopted the platform, including Ghana, Poland, Armenia and Rwanda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

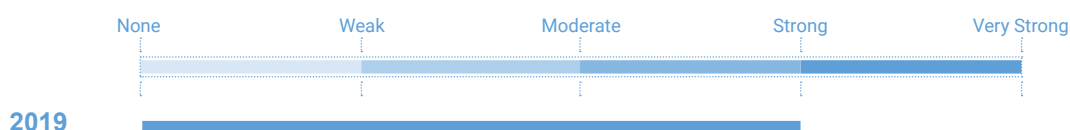
Local government associations have raised awareness among their members and contributed with positive experiences to the 2019 VNR, by submitting cases via the website launched by the Department of International Development of UK (DFID). In particular, the Scottish government worked with the [Convention of Scottish Local Authorities \(COSLA\)](#) to provide inputs to the VNR.

As well as agreeing a common strategic approach for the SDGs, COSLA has worked with the Scottish Government on the meaningful localization of the Goals by councils and communities and ran a summit on localizing the SDGs in early 2019.

The [Welsh Local Government Association](#) promotes local democracy in Wales. Local authorities were one of the early adopters for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and have produced a range of targeted resources to help councils adapt to a new way of doing business.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

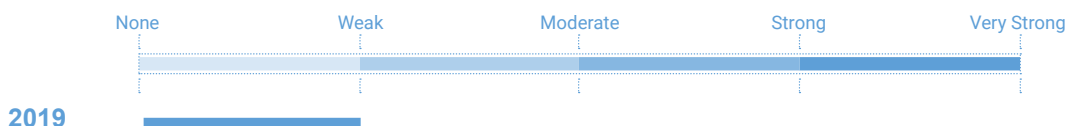
► In the VNR process



2019

Comments: COSLA contributed to the UK 2019 VNR and to the Scottish VNR published in 2020 (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is a subsection on "Local delivery" in the 2019 VNR, which highlights that "65% of the 169 Global Targets need local stakeholders to be involved if they are to be achieved" and that "there are great examples of local communities taking responsibility for sustainable development and reaching out to help others do so too" (see VNR, 2019, p. 16-18). It contains different examples and practices from LGAs and LRGs for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In Scotland, the local government association [COSLA](#) has also been engaged in the SDG localization process at the national level. It co-signed the National Performance Framework and this is now being used to mainstream the SDGs into Scotland's existing medium and long-term plans at the national and local levels.

► In England, the local government association and Early Intervention Foundation will work together to deliver a new Early Years Social Mobility Peer Review Programme, which will identify, share and promote good practice and knowledge across local authorities on how to improve early language outcomes.

3. See: <https://sdgdata.gov.uk/>

► The **Bristol**'s City Office stands out as a pioneer in SDG localization. The city is widely seen as the UK's most sustainable city and it has carried out a number of initiatives to achieve the SDGs. Bristol has committed to supporting SDG implementation through the appointment of an SDG Ambassador to the City Cabinet. The city also actively participates in the Bristol SDG Alliance, which is made up of various stakeholders. In 2018, the city also published a report about localizing the SDGs in Bristol. On top of this, in 2019, Bristol published its One City Plan, which has been aligned to the SDGs.⁴ The city has also led a wide consultation process, with the aim of producing a report on Bristol's progress towards achieving the SDGs. It has done this in parallel with the preparation of the UK government's national review and was the first UK city to undertake a review of this kind.⁵

► **Canterbury** City Council and the Canterbury SDG Forum have submitted reviews of the city's progress towards achieving the SDGs.⁶

► **Dundee** City Council has mainstreamed the SDGs into its local budget and aligned its local strategies with the SDGs.⁷ To implement SDG 11 the Council intends to: build 1,000 new affordable homes; develop the city's electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the Council's own fleet of electric vehicles; improve neighbourhood bus services, develop a financially sustainable model of accessible transport and implement a range of 'active travel' projects.

► The 2030hub in **Liverpool** was set up to help support the UN's Local2030 initiative. It aims to raise awareness of the Goals and the value they can add, facilitate innovation and bring together domestic and international actors to deliver against the SDGs.

► A pioneering "pop-up" hostel by Salvation Army Ilford and **Redbridge** Council, aimed at tackling homelessness in Ilford, received planning permission in 2018. Project Malachi aims to create a temporary hostel for rough sleepers and homeless people to rebuild their lives. It will use recycled shipping containers to create and provide training to teach bicycle repair skills to people classified as 'No Recourse to Public Funds' by local authorities, meaning they are not able to claim most benefits, tax credits or housing assistance paid by the state.

► **Aberdeenshire** Council has created a WorkPlus programme for young people experienced in care, providing them with an eight-week paid work placement in the local authority alongside employability and job-searching support.

► Led by International Service, the Bring the Global Goals to **York** project aimed to embed the SDGs locally, conducting rapid assessment of city strategies and plans and their alignment with the SDGs, analyzing the results and recommending ways to strengthen Goal delivery at a local level. The project increased understanding of the Goals amongst city stakeholders and their relevance to the UK and specifically at a city level. This was demonstrated through the inclusion of the Goals in all new strategies and plans, through the lens of the city's One Planet York framework.⁸

► **Sustainable Food Places** (previously Sustainable Food Cities) is a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming. Following a selection process, six cities have been selected from a shortlist of 12 to receive funding to employ dedicated Sustainable Food City officers over the next three years. The cities are: Belfast, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne and Stockport. All of them will share £1 million as seed funding to help them improve access to local, affordable and sustainable food.⁹

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

Bristol and **Canterbury** published their first VLR in 2019.¹⁰ In 2019 as well, a **Handbook on VLRs** for UK cities was published by the Cabot Institute for the Environment at the University of Bristol in partnership with the City Office of Bristol City Council.¹¹ **Liverpool** and **Scotland** published their VLRs in 2020 and **London** published its first report in 2021.¹² Moreover, Bristol published its second VLR in 2022.¹³

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Means of implementation are presented as part of the analysis of the progress made towards SDG 17, in the VNR, 2019, p. 204-212.

In England, the £1.6 billion **Stronger Towns Fund**, launched in 2019, is aimed at creating new jobs, training local people and boosting economic activity in England, with communities having a say on how the money is spent.

The **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal** was agreed in 2016 between the UK government, the Welsh Government and the ten local authorities in South East Wales. With £1.2 billion investment it aims to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and leverage an additional £4 billion of private investment.

4. See: <https://www.bristolonecity.com/sdgs/>

5. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

6. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

7. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

8. See: <https://www.york.gov.uk/sustainability-1/one-planet-york-1>

9. See: <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/about/>

and <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/uk-aims-100-sustainable-food-cities-three-years-first-six-announced/202591/>

10. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Bristol%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Bristol%20(2019)_0.pdf); [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Canterbury%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Canterbury%20(2019)_0.pdf)

11. It is available here: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/uk-cities-voluntary-local-review-handbook.pdf>

12. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/liverpool_2020.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/scotland_2021.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/london_2021.pdf. Scotland's VLR is a collaborative effort between the SDG Network Scotland, the Scottish government and COSLA.

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/bristol_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In 2016, the UK adopted the [City and Local Government Devolution Act](#), which provides a national legal framework to devolution and City Deals.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In the 2014-2017 election period, 28.4% (1,511 out of 5,328) of councillors were women, down from approximately 31% in 2007-2011. In the 2017 local council elections in England, 28.6% (681/2,385) of elected councillors were women. Whilst in Wales in the 2017 local elections, 28.6% (359/1,254) of councillors were women. Following the most recent local elections in Northern Ireland in 2014, 25.1% of councillors were women. In Scotland, the percentage of female councillors elected in 2012 was 23.9%.¹⁴

COSLA has launched a story sharing campaign and a safe online space which aims to provide peer support both for women considering entering local government and those already active within it. COSLA has also identified actions to improve women's representation in local government.

3.2 COVID 19

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, **COSLA** has redeployed a very significant part of its staff to deal with the pandemic's contingency. Building upon its previous role in environmental crises such as major snowstorms (as local roads are a municipal competence), COSLA has integrated the Scottish Government crisis centre known as the [Resilience and Recovery group \(SGoRR\)](#) during the first phase of the pandemic. Moving quickly to online meetings, meetings with ministers and senior officials have been organized at the height of the crisis, as well as almost weekly emergency meetings with the 32 Scottish Leaders (mayors). Somehow, the COVID-19 crisis has improved the level of cooperation between municipalities and the Scottish Government. In addition to the emergency financial provisions to deal with aspects of COVID-19 response, the Scottish budget for 2021-2022 is structured around the "build back better" principle. Nonetheless, according to COSLA's assessment, this is nearly enough to meet the increased demand for local services during and in the wake of the pandemic.¹⁵

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		34.3 (2019)
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	99 (2020)
	Rural	94 (2020)
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 (%)		99.5 (2015, London)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2021)

14. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/United_Kingdom.pdf.

15. Answer of COSLA to the GTF Survey in 2021.

16. 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/gbr>

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN*





TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Argentina is a federal representative republic with a two-tiered subnational government structure. The 23 autonomous provinces, plus the government of the city of Buenos Aires, have their own executive, legislative and judicial powers. They are subdivided into 2,327 local governments, with directly-elected authorities.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

In 2016, Argentina started to implement the 2030 Agenda. After the election of a new government, a new process of aligning the SDG targets and national strategies began in June 2020. A new national matrix for the execution of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring of progress was established, which includes indicators, public policies aimed at achieving the 17 SDGs, and budgetary investment linked to each target. A greater number of the goals for each SDG and a larger coverage of critical areas were achieved, reflecting the SDGs' centrality in the Argentine people and in the expansion of rights.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Inter-institutional Commission for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs** includes the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, 20 ministries, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) and the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS). The CNCPS, designated in 2015 and ratified in 2017 and 2020, ensures the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and promotes strategies of "territorialization".

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

As in previous reviews, the preparation of the 2022 VNR was in charge of the national SDG team of the **National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS)**, with the supervision of the National Inter-institutional Commission for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

The CNCPS and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) are in charge of monitoring the progress towards the SDGs. The Ministry of External Relations also participates to follow sensible issues related to external policies, as well as the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, Women, Gender and Diversity, to follow human rights perspectives. After a first prioritization process in 2019, in 2022 121 targets (72%) and 251 indicators have been prioritized; 19 of them have been adapted to the national context. For the follow-up of budget commitments, the CNCPS coordinates with the National Directorate for the Coordination of the National Budget (DNCBP) of the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, through the Directorate of Studies and Evaluation of the National Budget (DEyEPN).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

To promote the "territorialization" of the SDGs, the CNCPS signs tripartite or bipartite agreements with the provinces and municipalities. Twenty-two agreements were signed with the provinces between 2020-2022 (including with the government of the city of Buenos Aires). The provinces' engagement begins with the designation of a focal point responsible for implementing

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

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16117Argentina.pdf> (2017);
https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26386VNR_2020_Argentina_Report_Spanish.pdf (2020);
https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Argentina%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

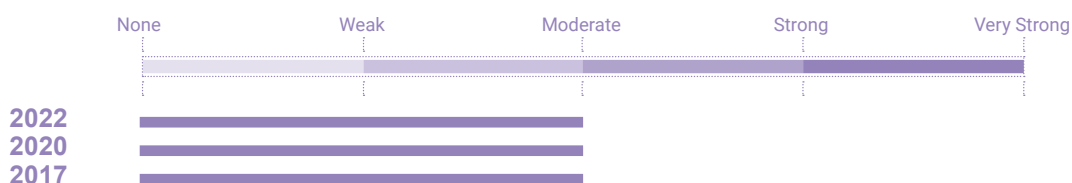
the process of adapting the SDGs to the provincial context. The CNCPS developed an *SDG Adaptation Process Guide for Provincial Governments* which presents a roadmap for the SDG implementation process and offers regular training, workshops and forums.

In 2018, a Federal SDG Network was created, to maintain peer-to-peer contact, deepen the exchange and learning of provincial governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.³ Between 2017-2020, 17 provinces have developed yearly progress reports on the implementation of the SDGs and developed their own SDG webpages (Catamarca, Cordoba, Entre Rios, La Pampa, La Rioja, and Tucuman). Similarly, many municipalities prepared VLRs (see below).

However, there is no evidence of LRGs direct participation in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation nor in the reporting process for the VNRs.

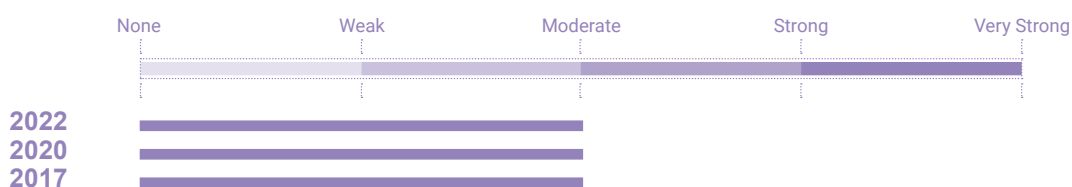
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: In 2022, the Argentine Federation of Municipalities (FAM) participated in “informative meetings” for the first time. However, the association and LRGs were not involved in the VNR preparation process (GTF Survey 2022).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Federal SDGs Network and the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) have held exchanges with different LRGs that presented a VLR (i.e. Santa Fe and Villa María) so as to showcase their experience in the VNR (GTF Survey 2022).

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 included a specific section on “Localization” while the 2022 VNR contains a section on the “Territorialization of the Agenda in Provinces and Municipalities”. The 2022 VNR refers to local and provincial governments (mostly to provinces).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In the province of Buenos Aires, the municipality of **Esteban Echeverría** developed a Neighborhood Improvement Program in 2011 to facilitate the integration of the most disadvantaged households in the population. Transversal gender policy guarantees access to rights through social action to marginalized women.

► In the municipality of **Lincoln**, a School for Women Leaders was created to ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political, economic, and public life. The project was presented in 2018 and was evaluated by UNDP through one of its “Innovation and Local Development” calls, being the third Women’s School promoted by the state authorities in Latin America.⁴

► In the province of **Córdoba**, the government began a training programme on the SDGs in 427 municipalities and, with the support of the OECD and the CNCPS, developed a territorial report in 2021 and a VLR in 2022. The government of the province also created an open management portal. It integrates the actions of the government linked to its plans and to the SDGs and their targets towards the year 2030.

► The municipality of **Villa María** implemented a consultation with the population on the level of knowledge of the SDGs and their relevance for the city within the framework of a local festival.

3. Its first meeting was hosted by the province of Cordoba. It was attended by representatives from 11 of the 17 provinces that had signed agreements with the CNCPS and were implementing the provincial adaptation of the 2030 Agenda. Different events organized are presented in the VNR, 2020, p. 81.

4. Answer of Lincoln to the GTF Survey in 2022. See: <https://www.lincoln.gob.ar/escuela-mujeres-lideres>

► In **Río Cuarto**, where 56% of the adult population has not completed primary schooling, the municipality has worked to improve the livelihoods and working conditions of families that collect recyclable materials for a living. The outcomes touch upon a number of SDGs: an increase in school enrolment linked to a decrease in child labour in the city (SDGs 4 and 8), an increase in the volume of recycled materials (SDG 12), new entrepreneurial projects (SDG 8) and an overall improvement in socially marginalized groups' conditions and access to material goods and culture.⁵

► The province of **Salta** presented a platform for Civil Society participation in the 2030 Agenda. It is a monitoring and evaluation system of the SDGs for civil society organizations and the business sector.⁶

► In the province of Santa Fé, the city of **Rosario**'s Participatory Budget promotes gender equality through women's parity in political participation.⁷ In addition, Rosario integrated the SDGs in its Strategic Plan 2030 in 2018, in addition to adopting an Action Plan on Climate Change in 2020 and an Action Plan on Open Government to develop several tools to facilitate access to data, among other activities.⁸

► The municipality of **San Justo**, carried out a program for social and sustainable housing called "Hogares 2030" seeking to consolidate universal access to habitat in the city, reaching 31% of households with housing deficits. The municipality developed an activity with the local media – due to its multiplier potential – on a publication it had made on government actions, detailing projects and programs linked to the SDGs.

► The province of **Tucumán** created a special website to show the commitments made to the citizens of the province through the Strategic Guidelines for the Development of Tucumán and its link with the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹

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

The first municipality in Argentina to present a VLR was the municipality of **Lincoln** (provinces of Buenos Aires) in 2016-2017 and 2018-2019.

The city of **Buenos Aires** presented a VLR for four years: in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.¹⁰ The localization strategy of the SDGs of the city of Buenos Aires is structured around three stages: local adaptation to the national strategies, awareness of multiple stakeholders, and partnerships. The second VLR presented in 2020 by Buenos Aires is in line with the previous one in terms of strategy and methodology. An interesting element throughout the report is how, in relation to the context in which it was written, it highlights the links between the measures taken by the city's government to face up to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last VLR 2022 underlines that the pandemic has accelerated digitization procedures, the promotion of public space, and new ways of moving.

The **province** and the **city of Santa Fe** also published their VLRs, in 2019 and 2022 respectively.¹¹ In 2021, the following municipalities presented VLRs: **Bragado** and **Vicuña Mackenna**,¹² and in 2022: **Partido de la Costa**, **Rio Grande**, **San Justo**, **Villa María**, and **Yerba Buena**.¹³ The provinces of **Catamarca**, **Chaco**, **Chubut**, **Corrientes**, **Entre Ríos**, **La Pampa**, **La Rioja**, **Misiones**, **Neuquén**, **San Juan**, **Tierra del Fuego**, and **Tucumán** presented their VLRs in 2021,¹⁴ while the province of **Córdoba** published its VLR in 2022.¹⁵ Some of the VLRs have been included in the 2022 VNR (e.g. Santa Fe, Villa María).¹⁶

The CNCPS developed guidelines for VLRs and, with the support of an EU programme (Eurosocial) launched a "Project for technical strengthening of municipalities for the monitoring and evaluation of local public policies and their link with the SDGs"

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

6. Available at: <http://ods.salta.gob.ar/>

7. See: <https://www.gold.uclg.org/reports/gold-vi>

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

9. Available at: <http://led.tucuman.gov.ar/>

10. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Buenos%20Aires%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Buenos%20Aires%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/buenos_aires_2020.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/buenos_aires_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/buenos_aires_2022_eng.pdf

11. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santa%20Fe%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santa%20Fe%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/santa_fe_2022.pdf

12. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/bragado_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/vicuna_mackenna_arg_2021.pdf

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/partido_de_la_costa_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/rio_grande_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sanjusto_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/villa_maria_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/yerba_buena_2022.pdf

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/catamarca_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/chaco_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/chubut_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/corrientes_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/entre_rios_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/la_pampa_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/la_rioja_argentina_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/misiones_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/neuquen_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/san_juan_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/tierra_del_fuego_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/tucuman_2021.pdf

15. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cordoba_argentina_2022_eng_0.pdf

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

that involved twenty small municipalities selected by the CNCPS.¹⁷ It also conducted 94 training sessions for municipalities in different provinces and provincial forums with the involvement of the civil society (e.g. 25 in the provinces of Buenos Aires).

The **Argentine Federation of Municipalities (FAM)** developed the first Argentine VSR in 2022, evidencing that progress has been observed in developing and materializing local programmes related to different SDGs. The VSR brings together 17 good practices reflecting these advances, while it also highlights limited awareness at the municipal level and insufficient dialogue with the national mechanism in charge of coordinating SDG implementation in the past.¹⁸ In the last year, the CNCPS and the FAM have made progress to develop a common agenda.¹⁹

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2017, the CNCPS collaborates with the the National Directorate for the Coordination of the National Budget (DNCNP) of the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, through the Directorate of Studies and Evaluation of the National Budget (DEyEPN) to monitor the implementation of the budget commitments for the implementation of the SDGs. The information is regularly published in the VNRs for each goal and target.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

The national government developed strong efforts to support the response of the health system and the vaccination process in the country. The VNR does not make a specific reference to the role of local governments in this process.²⁰ Many cities have developed initiatives to support the vaccination process (e.g. Buenos Aires) and assist the more disadvantaged and poor groups of the population. The FAM reports that it did not participate directly in COVID-related programs, but that there was an active national policy of coordination with the provincial governments and of these with local governments.²¹

4. SDG INDICATORS²²

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	47 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		14.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		82.3 (2015, Buenos Aires)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		12.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

18. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/argentina_2022.pdf. See also UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

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

20. See: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/putting-people-first?lang=en>

21. Answer of the FAM to the GTF Survey in 2022.

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

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Belize is a unitary monarchy with a single-tier local government system, comprising 2 city councils (Belize and Belmopan), 7 town councils, 181 village councils and 12 community councils.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

Belize's **Vision of the Horizon 2030** is built on four sustainable pillars: Democratic Governance; Education; Economic Resilience; Generating resources for long term development; Healthy Citizens and a Healthy Environment. The national medium-term strategy, **Belize's Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2016-2019**, is the conceptual and institutional mechanism through which Belize will implement its Horizon 2030 and the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Economic Development** is the implementing agency for the Horizon 2030 strategy. It also coordinates the implementation of the GSDS. In addition, the institutional arrangement for implementing and monitoring the GSDS comprises inter-ministerial committees. Membership in **five Technical Committees** has been drawn from various government ministries associated with achieving the five Critical Success Factors outlined in the GSDS.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Sustainable Development Unit (SOU)** of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration (MAFFESDI)** and the **Ministry of Economic Development**, led the 2017 VNR process, with the support of the **Inter-Ministerial Review Committee (IRC)**.³ A team of consultants was put together by the Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology (BEST) to facilitate a consultative process for the drafting of the report.⁴

1.3 MONITORING

In partnership with the Sustainable Development Unit, the **Ministry of Economic Development** developed in 2017 a monitoring and evaluation framework which was aimed at enabling the measurement of the achievement of the GSDS and the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any involvement of the local councils in the reporting process that led to the 2017 VNR nor in the general national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

1. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Belize.pdf

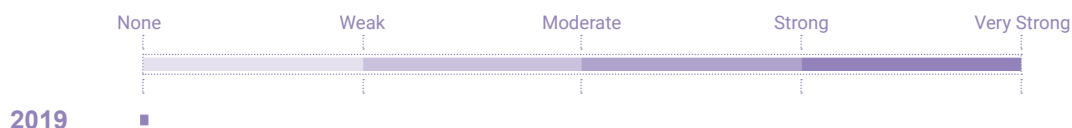
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16389Belize.pdf> (2017)

3. The latter included representatives from key line ministries whose mandates coincide with SDG priorities and targets for 2017 VNR.

4. BEST is one of the longest serving non-governmental organizations in Belize, with significant experience in encouraging civil society participation in the formulation of national development agendas.

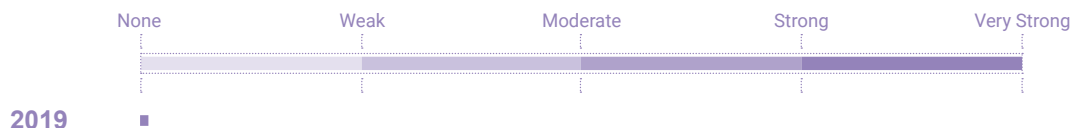
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is no reference to local councils' role in achieving the 2030 Agenda in the 2017 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A **Resource Mobilization Strategy** for the implementation of the GSDS and the SDGs has been completed (see VNR, 2017, p. 49). The **Ministry of Finance** has embarked on an initiative to move towards Program Budgeting in all line ministries to enable the monitoring of individual ministry performance in achieving GSDS and SDG targets.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Since 2009, the Women's Commission has been training women for political careers through their Women in Politics Programme. As a result, a small number of women have been running for national, municipal and village council elections though less than half of them have won seats.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		31.0 (2019)
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 (%)		5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		45.1 (2012, Belmopan)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		20.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/blz>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Bolivia is a unitary republic with 9 autonomous departmental governments, 336 municipalities and 4 indigenous autonomies and 1 regional autonomy in the department of Tarija.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **2025 Patriotic Agenda** and the **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES)** are linked to the SDGs. The implementation of the Patriotic Agenda is a shared responsibility of all levels of government, civil society, social organizations and the private sector, which has already had a first phase of implementation through the PDES 2016-2020 and will be continued with the PDES 2021-2025.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

There is an **Interinstitutional Committee for the PDES and Sustainable Development Goals (CIMPDS)**, which brings together a group of ministries to follow up on the Development Plans and the SDGs in Bolivia. This Committee is under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Development Planning. The technical coordination is in charge of the Unit for the Analysis of Social and Economic Policies (UDAPE) and the Institute of Statistics (INE).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR was prepared within the framework of the activities of the **CIMPDS**. **Technical working groups** were formed with the different ministries of the Executive Branch in order to define indicators, baselines, status and goals, in order to carry out the mid-term evaluation of the PDES and prepare the VNR. Eight technical commissions were formed to identify the PDES results related to the SDGs; they were made up of the 20 ministries and public institutions at the central level of the State.

1.3 MONITORING

The **CIMPDS** is the technical body responsible for the follow-up and monitoring of the achievement of the results and goals of the Economic and Social Development related to the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Among the ten largest municipalities, two have incorporated elements of the SDGs in their institutional planning, and one of the departmental governments has also applied SDG indicator methodology, which has been very useful when responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coordination with the national government has enabled municipal governments of departmental capitals, as well as **El Alto** and two intermediary cities, to participate in a project to territorialize the SDGs.³ However, a territorialization strategy is yet to be clearly defined.

The 2021 VNR process did not include support from local government associations (or only occasional consultations).

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28230Bolivia_VNR_Report.pdf (2021)

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

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

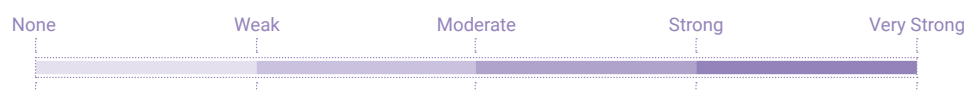
► In the VNR process



2021

Comments: The Association of Municipalities of Bolivia participated through a survey and occasionally. Nor the Federation of Municipal Associations of Bolivia, nor the capital city La Paz, participated (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2021

Comments: According to La Paz and the Association of Municipalities of Bolivia, LRGs are not included in national coordination mechanisms. The Federation of Municipal Associations of Bolivia participates on an ad hoc basis (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is no specific reference or sections dedicated to LRGs in the 2021 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipality of **Sucre** has defined its 'SDG localization strategy' with the support of UNDP and the extensive participation of the business sector, academia and civil society.⁴

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

La Paz published two VLRs in 2018 and 2022 respectively.⁵ **Cochabamba**, **El Alto**, and **Santa Cruz de la Sierra** published a VLR in 2022.⁶

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Beginning in 2006, actions were taken to improve collection levels in order to have more resources available for the execution of public investment projects and social social policies. However, the crisis caused by the pandemic has significantly reduced the country's revenues.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: "The Plurinational State of Bolivia undertook a Democratic and Cultural Revolution to build a decolonized, depatriarchalized country, without racism, discrimination, with social justice, common welfare, solidarity, complementarity and care for Mother Earth; principles that have been established in the Political Constitution of the State."

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference in the 2021 VNR. It is worth noting that the Association of Women Councillors of Bolivia (ACOBOL) was established to develop, support and promote women leaders. Indeed, women were largely absent from Bolivia's municipal government structure. ACOBOL has been instrumental in developing 'affirmative action' electoral legislation, The Law of Citizen Groups and

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

5. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/La%20Paz%20\(2018\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/La%20Paz%20(2018)_0.pdf);

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/la_paz_2022.pdf

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/cochabamba_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/el_alto_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/santa_cruz_de_la_sierra_2022.pdf

Indigenous Peoples, which promotes the participation of citizen groups and of indigenous peoples as well as women. The Law requires 30% of each political party's candidates to be women. The proportion of elected women councillors has increased from about 18% in 1991 to 46% by 2004, due to the implementation of the electoral law. However, this law does not apply to mayoral candidates, and only about 4% of Bolivia's mayors are women.⁷

3.2 COVID 19

In the 2021 VNR, there is no section devoted to government measures with respect to COVID-19. It only mentions how it affected the indicators on social and economic development issues. Regarding the VNR process, the report mentions that "due to time constraints and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, a summarized process would be carried out, not being able to count on the involvement of external actors to the Executive Branch this time".

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		50.5 (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	60 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		48.5 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		68.3 (2008, La Paz)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		26.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

7. More information can be found here: http://www.cib-ucig.org/sites/default/files/ucig-cib_gender_equality_publication_june2021.pdf

8. 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/bol>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Brazil is a federal republic with a two-tiered subnational government system. Brazil is formed by the union of 26 federal states and the Federal District, and comprises 5,570 municipalities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR),² which reports on a situation that is now totally different since the election of President Bolsonaro. For more details on the changes this brought about regarding SDG implementation, see section 3 of this profile.

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are aligned with the **2016-2019 Multi-year Plan (PPA)** of the Federal Government and the **Action Plan SDG Commission 2017-2019** (which has been revised by the government of President Bolsonaro).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Commission on the SDGs** was established in 2016. This advisory and parity body aimed at internalizing, disseminating and conferring transparency to the 2030 Agenda implementation process. Its composition was promising, with equal representation from governments, including LRGs, and civil society. Other governmental and civil society actors could participate as collaborators in the National Commission, especially through its **Thematic Chambers**.

However, the government under President Bolsonaro extinguished the National Commission (more details below, in section 3). In 2021, ordinances were published that indicated the beginning of the creation of an internal inter-ministerial and inter-institutional group within the federal government, to coordinate work on the 2030 Agenda; it does not involve other stakeholders.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR was written by the **Secretariat of Government** and the **Ministry of Planning, Development and Management**, under supervision of the **Secretariat of Social Communication** and the **Office of the Chief of Staff** of the Presidency of the Republic.

1.3 MONITORING

The Brazilian government has been working to build sound technical backing, not only to guide the discussion on global indicators, but also to prepare subsidies for the discussion on the definition of national indicators.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **National Commission on the SDGs** included two representatives from the **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** and two representatives from the **Brazilian Association of States Entities of Environment (ABEMA)**. Also, several strategic principles were established, one of which was to develop a territorialized plan for the 2030 Agenda that would include the creation of **commissions for the SDGs at state and municipal levels** to coordinate their implementation, taking into account the need to move towards a 'new federative pact' that fully involved LRGs. Some states have created committees for the coordination of SDG implementation at regional level. At the local level, more than 70 municipalities have undertaken projects related to the SDGs in at least 8 states: Goiás, Paraná (54 municipalities), Minas Gerais (8 municipalities), Amazonas, Piauí,

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15806Brazil_English.pdf (2017)

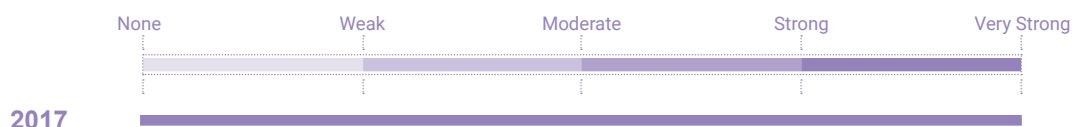
3. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Association of Municipalities of Pernambuco.⁴

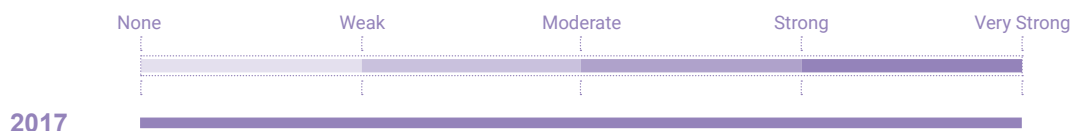
Furthermore, the 2017 VNR presents different tools supporting SDG localization, some of them involving local governments (see VNR, 2017, 22-23). These include the **SDGs Strategy** website, bringing together organizations representing civil society, the private sector, local governments and academia; and the **Municipal Vulnerability Atlas**, a platform comprising the Social Vulnerability Index (IVS), based on indicators of the Human Development Atlas.⁵ The **Sustainable Cities Program**, aiming to raise awareness, mobilize and provide tools for Brazilian cities to develop in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. The program offers public managers an agenda structured into 12 thematic axes, accompanied by a set of indicators and a database of good practices. Between 2012 and 2016, 285 Brazilian Municipalities, accounting for 33% of the national population, joined the Sustainable Cities Program. As of 2015, the initiative emphasized SDGs targets that can be adopted at the municipal and regional levels, precisely those on which Municipalities play a central role.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2017 VNR contains a specific section on subnational governments (see VNR, 2017, p. 37-38). It acknowledges their role, as well as that of the **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** and the **Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM)** in localizing the 2030 Agenda. It highlights the alignment of the SDGs with local planning and the adoption of new laws and decrees (**Barcarena**), the creation of working groups (**Paraná, São Paulo** and **Federal District**), the development of indicators (**Paraíba**) and the creation of awards to raise public awareness (**Rio de Janeiro**).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** has placed the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its advocacy strategy (in collaboration with the Brazilian government) to disseminate and promote localization. It has developed awareness campaigns, meetings (*Diálogos municipalistas*), published guides⁶ and organized training sessions (CNM Qualifica) on public management and the SDGs together with the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). Also, the CNM developed a followup system with indicators adapted to various categories of municipalities – the **Mandala** – which included 24 indicators aligned with the SDGs in economic, social, environmental and institutional areas.⁷ This interactive platform allows Brazilian mayors to assess how their municipalities are doing in the process of achieving the SDGs and makes it possible for them to prepare local reports and goal plans. An improved version of the Mandala is currently being developed, however, due to the unfavorable national political climate, the project has not been finalized.⁸

► Another association, the **National Front of Mayors (FNP)**, also actively participates in the multi-stakeholder SDG Strategy, together with representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and local governments. The association is running training sessions, delivering communications, aligning municipal management instruments with the SDGs and their indicators, sharing methodologies, and establishing and consolidating a bank of best practices.⁹

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

5. See: <https://www.estategiaods.org.br/> and http://ivs.ipea.gov.br/images/publicacoes/ivs/publicacao_atlas_ivs.pdf. Organized in three dimensions (Urban Infrastructure, Human Capital, and Income and Labor), the Social Vulnerability Index allows mapping out exclusion and social vulnerability in 5,565 municipalities and in Human Development Units of the main metropolitan regions of the country. This tool assists municipalities to assess and plan actions focused on the local level.

6. In 2016, the CNM launched the "Guide for Localization of SDGs in Brazilian Municipalities - What Municipal Managers Need to Know". The publication addresses the importance of the 2030 Agenda for local public action, as well as the relationship between the SDGs and municipal competences. The CNM also published the "Guide for Incorporation of SDGs into Municipal Multi-Year Plans for the period 2018-2021".

7. See: <http://ods.cnm.org.br/mandala-municipal>. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

8. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

9. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

► For its part, the **Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM)** has organized a large number of SDG workshops in the five regions of Brazil for more than 300 members, with the support of the European Union.¹⁰

► The state of **Minas Gerais** is aligning its development plan with the SDGs through the Secretariat of Planning with the support of the Rio + Centre (World Centre for Sustainable Development), a UNDP initiative. Notable aspects of this include the process of rapprochement with the territory through 17 regional forums held in various parts of the state, as well as a willingness to involve various sectors of society that have come together to discuss the future of local planning.¹¹

► The state of **Paraná** has undertaken major efforts to monitor the progress of the SDGs at both regional and local levels – in particular environmental sustainability – in collaboration with a public company (Itaipu Binacional) and the UNDP. A platform has been developed that gathers together 67 environmental and social indicators at municipal, state and federal level; these are then used in 110 municipalities in 14 states, as well as other cities in the Piauí region. It has also mainstreamed the SDGs within its budgetary planning.¹²

► **Barcarena** has aligned the SDGs with the new Government Plan 2017-2020 and Multiyear Participatory Plan 2018-2021 through a participatory process that has helped identify seven major issues: poverty and hunger, gender, health, education, economic growth and partnerships, environment and peace. In 2018, the city co-organized the 3rd National Meeting of Rede ODS Brasil: 'What are the opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the SDGs in Brazil?'.¹³

► The city of **Salvador** is promoting the Caravana da Mata Atlântica project to raise awareness amongst young people about environmental protection and in particular about its impact on marginalized communities and those affected by the deforestation taking place in Brazil.¹⁴

► Through the Restructuring Plan for Public Transport in the Metropolitan Region of **Belo Horizonte**, the city opted to establish an intermodal and integrated urban transport system that combines buses, underground trains and an inter neighbourhood system with direct, circular and peripheral lines.¹⁵ The municipality also created in 2015 a multi-stakeholder Millennium Observatory which has contributed to the monitoring of the SDGs.¹⁶

► **Rio de Janeiro** and **São Paulo** have integrated the SDGs into their strategic plans. São Paulo has created an Inter-Departmental Working Group on the SDGs pursued by the municipal government and developed a consultative process, in 2020, identifying at least 500 localized and locally measurable indicators.

► Linking the SDGs with the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of the **Federal District (Brasília)** published a report listing the main measures taken in line with the 2030 Agenda.

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

The municipality of **Bacarena** published a VLR in 2017, the states of **São Paulo** and **Santana Parnaíba** in 2019, the state of **Pará** and the cities of **Rio de Janeiro** and **Niterói** in 2020, **Belo Horizonte** in 2020 and 2022, and **São Paulo** in 2020 and 2021. The state of Pará published its second and third VLRs in 2021 and 2022.¹⁷ Moreover, in 2022, the state of São Paulo published its second VLR and the city of **Barueri** produced its first one.¹⁸

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Through the generation of data, analyses, and management reports regarding national efforts to achieve the SDGs, the **Integrated System for Budget and Planning** should allow the monitoring of the implementation of the 2016-2019 PPA as related to the 2030 Agenda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

17. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Barcarena%20\(2017\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Barcarena%20(2017)_0.pdf) ;

[https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santana%20de%20Parna%C3%81ba%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santana%20de%20Parna%C3%81ba%20(2019)_0.pdf) ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2019.pdf ;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/para_2020.pdf ;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/rio_2020.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2020_1.pdf ;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/niteroi_2020.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/belo_horizonte_2020.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/belo_horizonte_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2021.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/para_2021.pdf .

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/para_2022.pdf

18. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/sao_paulo_state_2022.pdf ;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/barueri_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

Brazil has been advancing its legal frameworks and structuring policies to strengthen subnational governance since the 1980s. The Brazilian government has developed several initiatives to create an enabling environment for local governments and states in what has been dubbed a 'new federalism' over the past decade, in order to strengthen the involvement of LRGs in national development, foster territorial development strategies, and improve multilevel and multi-stakeholder dialogue. With the adoption of the **Statute of Cities** in 2001, municipalities acquired a strategic role in urban planning. The master plan, a guiding instrument of local urban policy, became mandatory to define the social function of urban property. However, there is still a lack of technical and financial assistance to municipalities in the development of urban policy. The **Ministry of Cities and Council of Cities** is one salient example, acknowledged at international level as a national participatory mechanism comprising national and local governments and civil society institutions and organizations (all elected through the **Conference of Cities**). The Council has the legal power to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national urban development policies, particularly housing and public services, to advise on the necessary measures and to promote cooperation among governments at national, federal state and municipal levels, as well as involving civil society in formulating and implementing national urban policy.

However, under President Temer, the national government abolished the competences of the Council of Cities in organizing and implementing the National Conference of Cities and postponed the National Conference, disregarding the participatory processes that had been developed over almost 15 years.

With the election of President Bolsonaro, progress in defining an SDG action plan is currently on hold.¹⁹

The federal government under President Bolsonaro has abandoned many of its SDG commitments.²⁰ The National Commission on the SDGs, created in 2016 ceased to exist.²¹ Since its election, the impacts of its first initiatives regarding environmental protection (e.g. renewing the expansion of exploitation of resources of the Amazonian region as well as threatening to disengage from the Paris Climate Agreement), social policies (e.g. severe cuts in health and education expenditure) and respect for human rights (e.g. increasing violence against peasant organizations, indigenous and LGBTQIA+ communities) have not been encouraging. Brazil also decided to withdraw from the list of countries that reported to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019. The example of Brazil is symptomatic of the break from, and discontinuance of, public policies which have resulted in a weakening of the process of building mechanisms for participation and dialogue. Brazil's withdrawal from certain global commitments is likely to have an important impact, not just in the Mercosur area.²²

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The program Policies for Women includes the promotion of women's participation in politics and in decision-making bodies and authorities.

3.2 COVID 19

In Brazil, there has been inertia and resistance on the part of the federal government in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazilian states and municipalities therefore took their own initiatives (with their own resources) to mitigate the effects of the crisis.²³

► Via the "Full Plate" project (Prato Cheio), the **National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil (CNM)** has organized the distribution of products to meet basic necessities in municipalities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants and with low scores on the Human Development Index.²⁴

► The **National Front of Mayors (FNP)** has been promoting initiatives for economic recovery and fighting the COVID-19 virus together with the federal government, parliament and judiciary. It coordinated the implementation of a Public Consortium for the purchase of vaccines against COVID at the municipal level.²⁵

► **Maricá**, a municipality of the state of Rio de Janeiro created a local social currency for families experiencing economic difficulties.²⁶

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

20. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

21. See: <https://www.socialwatch.org/node/18506>

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

23. Answer of Belo Horizonte to the GTF Survey in 2021.

24. With the Association of Members of Courts of Accounts of Brazil (Atricon) and the support of Sebrae Nacional and the National Association of Members of the Public Ministry (Conamp). The project aims, by the end of its implementation, to benefit 3,399 municipalities and about 1.3 million families distributed throughout the country. See: <https://pratocheio.cnm.org.br/index.php>.

Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

25. Answer of the National Front of Mayors (FNP) to the GTF Survey in 2021. See: <https://consorcioconectar.org/>

26. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

See also: <https://brasil.elpais.com/sociedade/2020-07-19/marica-no-rio-preserva-empregos-e-negocios-na-pandemia-e-coloca-a-renda-basica-no-centro-do-debate.html>

► Also, many municipalities supported their inhabitants during the crisis by transferring emergency monetary aid to the most vulnerable (for example, **Guaxupé, Belém, Canoas, Bela Vista de Goiás, Rolândia**, etc.).²⁷

► To support the families most affected by the economic crisis, **Sao Paulo** hired the unemployed mothers of many students enrolled in the public school system.²⁸

4. SDG INDICATORS²⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		13.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	88 (2020)
	Rural	72 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	51 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		16.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73.8 (2015, São Paulo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

27. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

28. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021. See also: <https://g1.globo.com/sp/sao-paulo/noticia/2021/02/17/progrma-da-prefeitura-de-sp-que-vai-contratar-maes-para-ajudar-em-escolas-recebe-91-mil-inscricoes.ghtml>

29. 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/bra>

CHILE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Chile is a unitary republic with a two-tiered subnational structure comprising 16 regions and 345 municipalities.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 government's initiative is based on the **Governmental Programme 2018-2022**, 5 **National Agreements** (for integral development; children; health; public security; the Araucanía Region), and a **Country Commitment** for the more vulnerable.³ The 2019 VNR mentioned that a new national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would be proposed.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2016, the **National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda** was created, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREL), with the participation of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism (MINECON), the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) and the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MDSF), which was also assigned the role of **Technical Secretariat**. This Council advises the President of the Republic on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and serves as a coordinating body with government entities, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations. The National Council has generated three **Commissions** (Social, Economic and Environmental) and **Technical-Sectoral Working Groups** to study the progress towards the SDGs and to promote stakeholder involvement (**Working Groups on SDGs 16 and 17; Indicators Technical Group; Government SDG Network**, made up of focal points of the ministries of the central administration of the government). In 2019, it has been strengthened with the incorporation of the **Ministry General Secretariat** of the Presidency, which provides the multisectoral vision of the state system and interministerial coordination. Also, the creation of an **Intersectoral Group** was proposed, which would be made up of the state secretariats that are members of the National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **National Council** defined 6 priority SDGs for the 2019 VNR, and its **Technical Secretariat** led the reporting process. Updating the indicators of the 2030 Agenda was led by an **Indicators Technical Group** which consulted more than 25 public services. Civil society organizations and the private sector were involved through workshops and their contribution to SDG implementation is presented in the VNR.

1.3 MONITORING

The diffusion and dialogue plan for the ownership of and participation on the SDGs was accompanied by the installation of a system to monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda and the development of a web platform.⁴ There is a **Technical Group dedicated to indicators** led by the Technical Secretariat of the National Council and in which participates the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**. Collecting disaggregated data (at the territorial level and by population groups) for all the indicators that request them was among the priorities of the 2019 reporting exercise for the elaboration of the 2019 VNR. As a result, information was available for a total of 134 indicators, increasing by 20% what was reported in the 2017 VNR.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15776Chile.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23507Informe_Nacional_Voluntario_CHILE_Junio_2019_final_1.pdf (2019)

3. More information on the 16 vulnerable groups identified by the Country Commitment can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 40-45.

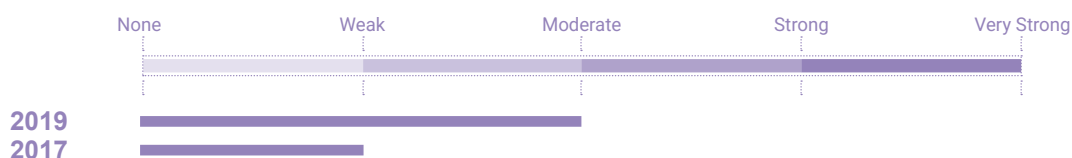
4. See: <http://www.chileagenda2030.gob.cl/>

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

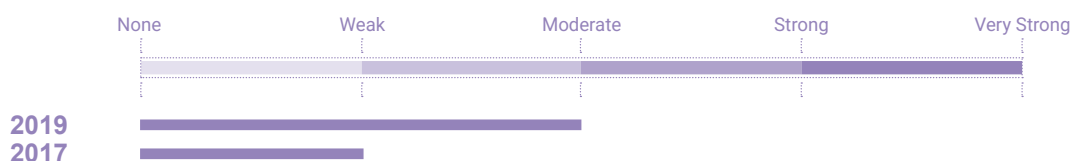
The **Chilean Association Municipalities (AChM)** and the **Association of Municipalities of Chile (AMUCH)** participated in the VNR process conducted in 2019. The AChM has been invited to participate in national coordination mechanisms but this has not been concretized yet.⁵

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Chilean Association of Municipalities (AChM) has been invited to participate but this has not been concretized yet (GTF Survey 2021).

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

Local governments' crucial role for achieving the 2030 Agenda is recognized in the 2019 VNR, and the work of the **Chilean Association of Municipalities (AChM)** is mentioned (see VNR, 2019, p. 22). There are no specific examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2018, the **Chilean Association of Municipalities (AChM)** held the first national workshop on SDGs for Chilean municipal authorities as part of the FLACMA Executive Bureau, and this included representatives from other associations in the region (Brazil, Bolivia and Costa Rica). In 2019, the AChM organized Municipal Training Schools. These activities, carried out in the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Los Lagos, Magallanes and Antártica Chilena y Metropolitana, counted with the collaboration of ECLAC, UNDP Chile, the Latin American Federation of Cities, the Canadian Association of Municipalities (FCM) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), among others. Also in 2019, FLACMA and AChM organized a Programmatic Congress in Santiago de Chile whose objectives were based on the integration of the 2030 Agenda and other global agreements.

► **La Pintana** is a known example regarding waste management. See for example its programme called "Incubadora de Cooperativas".⁶

► The programmes to encourage creativity and innovation promoted by the regional government of **Valparaíso** through its Regional Innovation Strategy have helped to position Chile as the most innovative country in Latin America.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

5. Answer of the Chilean Association of Municipalities (AChM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

6. See: <https://www.theclinic.cl/2021/01/13/dignidad-igualdad-y-trabajo-la-historia-de-la-cooperativa-que-mantiene-la-limpieza-del-corredor-santa-rosa-en-la-pintana/>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Decentralization has made some progress, with the election of regional councils in its 16 regions in 2013, although direct election of the executive (regional governors) only took place in 2021 – they were before appointed by the central government. Municipalities have limited powers and resources. The Decentralization Agenda proposed by the Presidential Advisory Commission for Decentralization and Regional Development (2014-2018) has not made any significant progress; in fact, it has actually led to recentralization in certain areas (e.g. education).⁷

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women representation in local government elected positions was 12,5% prior to 2015, and was 11,9% in 2016.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		23.3 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	99 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	81 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		8.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		83.2 (2001, Santiago)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		23.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		62.3 (2019)

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

8. 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/chl>

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".

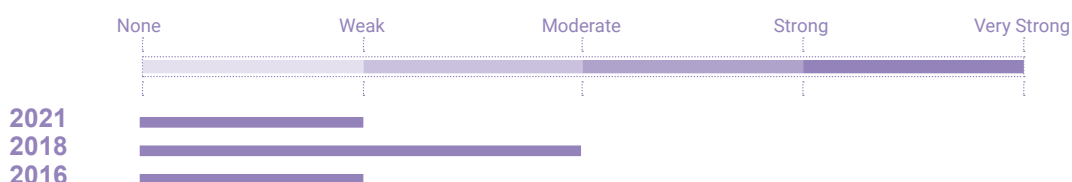
In 2019, the SDG Commission focused institutional efforts - in terms of territorialization - on the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in municipalities and governorates, taking advantage of the electoral situation defined by the territorial elections.

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.

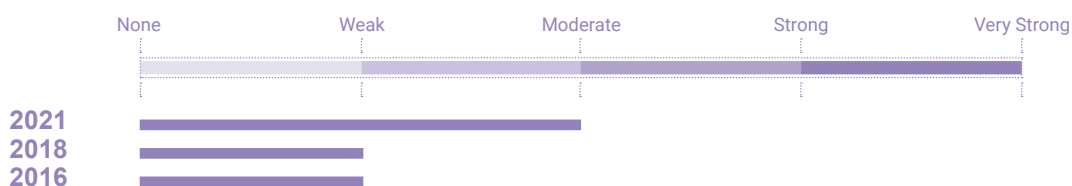
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► 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.⁸ 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>

COSTA RICA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

As a unitary country, the Republic of Costa Rica is divided into provinces, municipalities and administrative districts, among which only the 82 municipalities are self-governed.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

Costa Rica defined three entry points for the implementation of the SDGs: Combating Poverty, Sustainable Production and Consumption, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Communities. They were integrated into the national goals and objectives of the strategic areas of the **National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022 (PNDIP)**, led by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Coordination is ensured by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy**, which created the **Technical Secretariat for the SDGs**. In 2016, a **National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs** including all levels of government, private sector and civil society was signed. Based on the Pact, a **High-Level Council** was created. It is chaired by the President and brings together different ministries, as well as a **Consultative Committee**.

However, the answer of the National Union of Local Governments (UNGL) to the GTF survey in 2021 underlined that the Consultative Committee and the High Level Council were not active in the last year.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Technical Secretariat for the SDGs** was the entity in charge of coordinating the information gathering process for the 2020 VNR. In a multisectoral and multiactor implementation effort, a series of consultations were carried out with the signatory actors of the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs represented in the **Consultative Committee**. The Technical Secretariat also carried out a process for providing the VNR for review in a draft version with key stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Institutional Technical Commission of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)** was created in 2018 to monitor SDG indicators. There is also an **inter-institutional group** for statistical monitoring of the SDGs made up of the INEC, the United Nations and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy. The evaluation of the SDGs is carried out through the National Evaluation Agenda included in the PNDIP 2019-2022. The 2020 VNR highlights that the strengthening of national statistical capacities have allowed the country to have national indicators for all 17 SDGs and disaggregations by sex, territory, activity status, age and disability status. In 2018, the **Survey for the Advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals** aimed at the different signatories of the National Pact, was launched to collect information on the progress made and identify good practices and challenges.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15846Costa_Rica.pdf (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26323VNR_2020_CostaRica_Report_Spanish.pdf (2020)

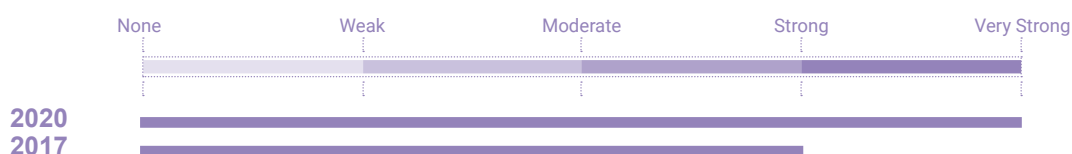
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

88% of the country's municipalities confirm to know the SDGs. 15 municipalities stand out as having an explicit commitment from their authorities in favor of the implementation of the SDGs. 44% of the municipalities have aligned some instrument of planning with the 2030 Agenda. Besides, local governments **participate in the Consultative Committee and in working groups of the High-Level Council through their associations: the National Union of Local Governments (UNGL) and the National Association of Mayors' Offices and Municipalities (ANAI).**

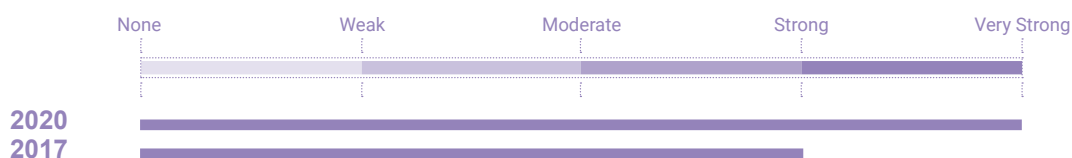
The UNGL was involved in the 2020 VNR through a survey, and regularly participated (as an equal partner) in its development. It also brought its own contribution to it.³ The VNR also takes into account the VSR presented in 2020.

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

In the 2020 VNR, as part of the presentation of the multiple stakeholders taking part in the National Pact, there is a subsection on local governments, based on the results of the VSR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Given that its territory has important natural resources, especially water and forestry, the municipality of **San Rafael** in the province of Heredia chose the environmental axis of sustainable development as an entry point to achieve development and has 4 institutional policies in favor of the environment. San Rafael was also the first municipality in Costa Rica to sign the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCom), with the municipality of San José. San Rafael is also a member of the Board of Directors of ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) in its Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

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

In 2020, the **UNGL** coordinated the development of a VSR.⁴ A municipal mapping was carried out with 50 Costa Rican cantons, within the framework of their efforts to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report also offers a tour of the political framework and institutional context of the municipalities in Costa Rica, as well as an identification at the national level of the efforts made by each municipality. **Atenas, Belén, Escazú, Goicoechea, Puriscal, and Sarchi** have published VLRs in 2022.⁵

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2020 VNR mentions the National Public Investment System in Costa Rica and the Trust Fund for the SDGs, which approved two programs proposed by Costa Rica: one to break the cycle of poverty at the local level with a gender and environmental perspective, and the other to strengthen financing for the SDGs.

3. UCLG, 2020, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Informe%20HLPF-FINAL.pdf>

4. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_costa_rica_2020.pdf

5. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/atenas_costa_rica_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/belen_costa_rica_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/escazu_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/goicoechea_2022.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/puriscal_2022.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/sarchi_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Among the recommendations of the multi-actor survey conducted in 2018 and aimed at the actors that are part of the National Pact, it is recommended to dedicate more efforts to strengthen the scope of actions beyond the Greater Metropolitan Area and have a focus on communication towards the populations most vulnerable, taking into account **communities and local development** as a fundamental basis for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Some of the national public policies to leave no one behind are aimed directly at women. To carry them out, the National Women's Institute (INAMU) works in collaboration with the entire state apparatus, United Nations agencies and academia, but also with local governments. The participation of women in local political life is briefly mentioned in the VNR: from 12 women elected mayors in previous elections, their number dropped to 9 (out of 82 municipalities) in the 2020 elections.

3.2 COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led Costa Rica to rethink the goals of its 2020 VNR, with the aim of making it an opportunity to support the process to recover from the impact of the health crisis. The challenges faced by the national government and the measures taken are detailed in the report, but there is no mention of initiatives from local governments.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.5 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	80 (2020)
	Rural	81 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	29 (2020)
	Rural	37 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.9 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73 (2002, San Jose)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		18.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

6. 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/cr>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cuba is a unitary country divided into 14 provinces and 169 municipalities. The central government directly oversees the provincial and local governments through a hierarchical network of assemblies and committees. Each of the provinces is formally governed by a provincial assembly, which elects a provincial committee. The president of the provincial committee functions as the provincial governor. Each of the country's 169 municipalities is governed by a municipal assembly, which elects a municipal committee, whose president functions as mayor.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are aligned with the **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2030)**, approved in May 2017. Provincial and local governments should align their plans with the PNDES and the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Group (NG)** for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the institutional mechanism for monitoring the SDGs in the country. The NG comprises national organizations and entities, including **representatives of the territories** and civil society organizations. The Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) chairs the NG and ensures the incorporation of the components (goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) in the plans and strategies of the national economy. The NG also verifies the adoption of the SDG approach in institutional processes, as well as the creation of structures and technical groups in government institutions (at the national, **provincial and municipal levels**) to systematically address progress in the implementation of the SDGs. The government has also been working on the elaboration of the **National Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba** 2017-2036.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Multidisciplinary work teams were made up of various organizations, entities, research centers, **territories** and civil society organizations under the leadership of the institutions designated as responsible for each SDG. The mechanisms used for the coordination and participation were adapted to the new conditions holding work sessions and meetings virtually.

1.3 MONITORING

The government has been working in the production and evaluation of indicators conducted by **Onei**,² a national entity subordinated to the Council of Ministers, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Also, periodic checks have been carried out by public administration institutions and other stakeholders on progress, presenting setbacks and challenges in implementation. Finally, the design and implementation of the SDG Lab for real-time monitoring of the country's SDGs initiatives is ongoing.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

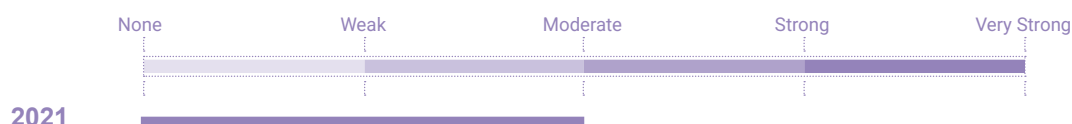
LRGs are represented in the **National Group (NG)**, as well as in the work teams in charge of the VNR process.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280872021_VNR_Report_Cuba.pdf (2021)

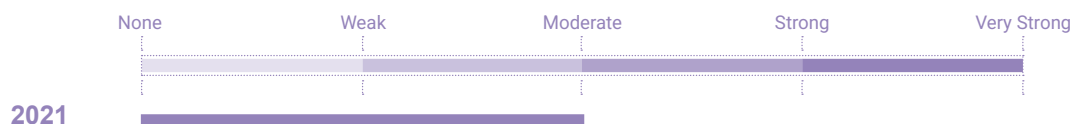
2. See: <http://www.onei.gob.cu/>

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 document has a subsection called "Territorialization process of the 2030 Agenda", which mentions the different actions undertaken by the government, such as: i) awareness raising and promotion of the PNDES 2030 goals and the SDGs and their relevance to localities, ii) preparation of Municipal Development Strategies (EDM) and Provincial Development Strategies (EDP) and updating of territorial and urban planning instruments, based on an assessment of problems, opportunities, strengths and needs to define priorities and localize the SDGs and iii) **participation of all local stakeholders** to establish shared priorities, develop effective leadership capabilities and foster ownership and co-responsibility in the execution of strategic projects.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Articulated Platform for the Integrated Development of Territories (PADIT)** programme in Cuba aims to strengthen capacities in municipalities for defining, planning and implementing territorial strategies that encourage the entrepreneurship of women and young people and complement decentralization processes.

► Another important project is the **Capacity Building Program for Local Development (PRODEL)** which contributes to strengthening the capacity of municipal administrations and municipal administrations and civil society to manage local development strategies and projects designed to have an impact on the quality of life of women and men, especially socially disadvantaged groups. PRODEL is part of the 2011-2016 Strategy of the Swiss Cooperation in Cuba.

► Also, within the framework of Habitat II, the **Local Orientation and Training Centers (CLOC)** were created, anchored to the Municipal University Centers (CUM). They act as an interface between the universities and the territories, in order to exchange knowledge, methodologies and experiences. Some actions have been developed for the local implementation of the New Cuban Urban Agenda that impact on the territorialization of SDG 11 and its articulation with the other SDGs.

► The country is working to implement its SDG Portal and has a National Communications Campaign: Cuba, Con Paso 2030, which contributes to promoting the 2030 Agenda and the PNDES. The Project "**SDG Cuba Laboratory**" (Lab-ODS) is an inter-institutional and participatory technological platform with a multidimensional approach to implement the 2030 Agenda in the country. One of its main components is "Localization/Territorialization of the SDGs": it outlines the efforts of different levels of government (national, provincial and municipal) to contribute to the SDGs and promote inclusive development.

► The "**Tierra Brava**" farm in the municipality of **Los Palacios** stands out, diversifying and increasing its agricultural production in line with the municipal development strategy in terms of municipal and community self-sufficiency.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government has been working on mobilization of endogenous resources needed to achieve the objectives set in the Municipal and Provincial Development Strategies. Also, it worked on the alignment of territorial budgets with the objectives of the PNDES 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. The program "Support for the Formation of the Integrated National Financing Framework for the SDGs in Cuba" (Cifra) aims to articulate financing policies under a coherent framework that facilitates the

identification of resource gaps, existing opportunities and constraints to take advantage of them, and to align financing needs with national development priorities established in the PNDES 2030.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Cuba has been moving towards **decentralization** since 2016 by adopting new economic and social policy guidelines, as well as recent constitutional reforms. The Constitution of 2019 recognizes the principle of municipal autonomy and calls for the expansion of the decision-making capacity of the municipalities, creating the legal bases for greater promotion and realization of local development.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In Cuba, the Comptroller of the Republic of Cuba and the Attorney General of the Republic are women. In local governments, there is a greater presence of women in leadership responsibilities. In 2020, the government approved the National Program for the Advancement of Women (PAM).

3.2 COVID 19

The prevention and control plan was designed to involve all agencies and their territorial units, companies, local authorities, the non-state sector, civil society and the population in general. Internationally, Cuba has given strong evidence of its solidarity and multilateralism in favor of South-South cooperation. Proof of this has been the dispatch of 56 brigades from the Henry Reeve Contingent to 40 countries and territories, including those on the European continent, with the incorporation of 4,941 Cuban professionals, of which more than 65% are women.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		36.8 (2019)
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	32 (2020)
	Rural	51 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		6.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		76.4 (2012, Havana)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/cub>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Dominican Republic is a unitary country with only one level of elected subnational government, composed of municipal governments. The country is divided into 3 macro-regions, which are in turn divided into 10 regions. Regions are further divided into 31 provinces and the National District, which has a special administrative status. Provinces are themselves divided into 158 municipalities (and, in addition, the capital city) and 234 municipal 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 process of preparing the **National Multiannual Plan of the Public Sector (PNPSP)** has prioritized policies aimed at achieving the objectives and goals of the **National Development Strategy 2012-2030 (Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo, or END)**, the Government Program and the SDGs. The level of alignment of the SDGs with national planning is high (91%) and their full integration is being sought through medium-term planning, such as the **Government Plan 2020-2024**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

By means of the Presidential Decree in 2016, the **High Level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development (CDS)** was created, composed of the heads of the main public institutions with direct responsibilities in each of the SDGs, as well as with representation from the private sector and civil society. It is coordinated by the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development** and currently has 56 participating entities (39 governmental and 17 non-governmental). It includes four subcommittees aligned with the 5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2018 VNR, face-to-face consultations were held with stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments, the Legislative Branch, and UN System agencies regarding the main findings on the status and possibilities of integrating the SDGs into the public agenda, perceived obstacles, and good practices and lessons learned. Representatives of nongovernmental organizations participated in the preparation of the 2021 VNR through the CDS subcommittees, as well as in a consultation process focused on the identification of challenges and recommendations to strengthen the participation of nongovernmental actors in the implementation of development agendas.

1.3 MONITORING

The CDS has an **Inter-institutional Committee on Indicators**.

1. The Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) is the organization that promotes inter-municipal cooperation. Together with the Dominican Municipal League (LMD) and under the supervision of the Public Administration Ministry, FEDOMU promotes the implementation of the Public Administration Monitoring System (SISMAP), with the aim of helping to improve municipal governance systems. According to the National District and Municipalities Act, the role of LMD is to make recommendations to local governments. The LMD must not overlook or interfere with the activities of municipal councils (Art. 107).

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19710INV_RD_2018_V2.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/285032021_VNR_Report_Dominican_Republic.pdf (2021)

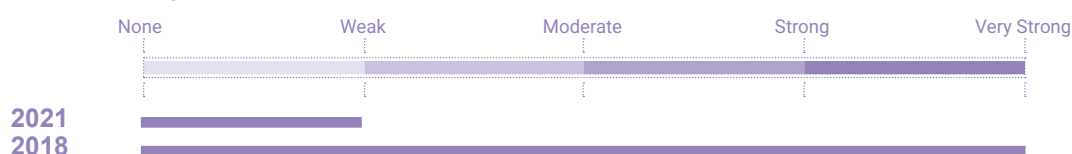
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **LGA Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU)**, participates in the CDS, and in one of the four sub-committees: the fourth, on “Institutionality”.

LRGs participated in the consultations organized as part of the 2018 VNR process. There is no explicit detail on LRG participation in the 2021 VNR, although they might have been represented by the FEDOMU, as it participates in the sub-committees, which took part in the reporting process.

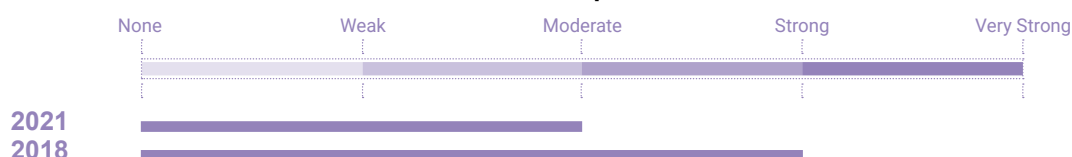
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There is no explicit detail on LRG participation in the 2021 VNR, although they might have been represented by FEDOMU, as it participates in the subcommissions who took part in the reporting process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: FEDOMU participates through ad hoc consultations (GTF Survey 2021). According to the 2021 VNR, FEDOMU participates in the CDS (which would rather be a regular participation).

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 2021 VNR, there are only a very few mentions of the municipalities, without details on local initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2017, the **Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU)** approved a resolution on 'FEDOMU's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals'. FEDOMU collaborated with the national government to elaborate a 'Roadmap to Implement SDG 11' and define the 'SDG 2 Zero Hunger Roadmap'. The Federation also developed a methodological guide to integrate the SDGs into local plans, helped apply the MAP methodology promoted by UNDP, and adapted the SISMAP Municipal tool for monitoring.³

► Other associations (Asociación Dominicana de Regidores and the Union of Local Elected Women 'Un Mundo') also made policy commitments and developed awareness raising activities and training.⁴

► Efforts are being made by various municipalities to combat climate change (**Neyba**), integrate waste management (**Santo Domingo, Terrena, Monte Plata, San Pedro de Macoris, Bayaguana and Punta Cana**) and promote reforestation (**Sabana Grande**).⁵

► With funds provided by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), a project focused on SDG 11 "Support for Territorial Governance for the development of sustainable cities and communities in the Dominican Republic" is being implemented. The general objective of this project is to "promote local, provincial and regional development by strengthening the planning and management capacities of municipalities, the participation of social actors and coordination with other government agencies, in order to leverage local resources and take advantage of global market opportunities".⁶

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

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

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

6. Answer of FEDOMU to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is a whole chapter, in the 2021 VNR, on means of implementation. The CDS has a Committee on Financing for Development. Transfers in the Dominican Republic represent almost the entire municipal budget (between 80% and 94%). There is no information about local public finances.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Dominican Republic began a process of strengthening its municipalities in the 1990s, then revising its legal framework in 2007. It is now currently debating a law on 'local administration and territorial system'.⁷

The municipalities of the Dominican Republic are among the 10 most affected local governments when it comes to extreme climate events world-wide. This means that the municipalities of the island are frequently threatened by hurricanes, thunderstorms, flooding, wild-fires, and droughts. At the same time, local governments are responsible for a range of competences that are directly related to the reduction of disaster risk in their territory such as spatial and urban planning, building regulations, and land use, which provide them with a certain scope of action. Apart from these sole responsibilities, local governments also share the competence for civil defense and general disaster risk reduction with the national level.

A national integrated disaster risk reduction plan has been established to reduce the vulnerability of the island's municipalities to disasters. At the local level, **municipal disaster risk management plans (CMPMR)** are a powerful tool to make cities and territories more resilient. The development of these plans includes stakeholders like civil society, NGOs, and the national level.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Law 1-12 of the National Development Strategy establishes the Gender Approach as a transversal policy which must be incorporated in all national plans, programs, projects and public policies.

3.2 COVID 19

A subsection of the 2021 VNR presents the main consequences of the pandemic in the country. There is no reference to locally-led initiatives to face them.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		29.2 (2020)
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 (%)		14.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		89 (2007, Santo Domingo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		16 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

8. See: https://learning.uclg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/27_urban_resilience_and_sustainability.pdf

9. 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/dom>

ECUADOR

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ecuador is a unitary republic. Its four-tiered subnational structure is divided into decentralized governments with elected authorities at the regional, provincial, municipal and parochial levels. Ecuador has 24 provinces and 221 municipalities, including the metropolitan district of Quito.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

Ecuador's main planning instrument is the **National Development Plan (PND "Toda una vida")** to which public policies, programs and projects, the State budget and the investment and allocation of public resources are subject. The PND for 2017-2021 is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The president adopted the 2030 Agenda as a public policy in 2018 and renewed its commitment in 2020.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Together with the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador, the **Technical Planning Secretariat (Planifica Ecuador)** is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Vice Presidency of the Republic, the Technical Planning Secretariat, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs constructed and coordinated the 2020 VNR. Here are the 4 stages of the VNR process: updating the data on the indicators of the PND 2017-2021 and the Statistical Development Plan for the SDGs; collection of information from the national government and associations of local governments; promotion of the participation of different actors; report writing and editing.

1.3 MONITORING

Thanks to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and to the Technical Planning Secretariat, 175 indicators have been identified, which allow the monitoring of compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

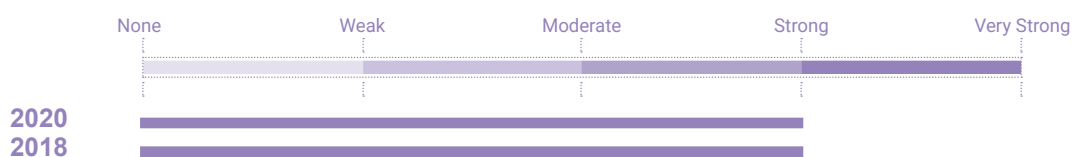
The Technical Planning Secretariat supports the updating of the **Development Plans and Territorial Ordering (PDOT)** of the local governments, through methodological guidelines, such as the **"Guidelines for the articulation between the PDOT with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals"**. For the 2020 VNR, the participatory process was limited regarding the involvement of local governments or their associations. Nevertheless, the VSR produced by the **Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)** was taken into account.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19627EcuadorVNRReportENVE2018.pdf> (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26392VNR_2020_Ecuador_Spanish.pdf (2020)

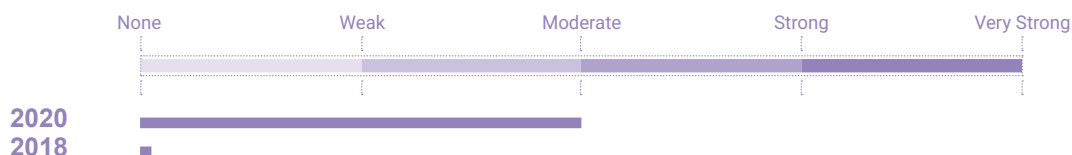
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Congope answered a survey and participated in conferences/workshops. Same level of participation in 2018 and 2020. However, the Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (AME) answered that it was not consulted (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Ad-hoc consultations of Congope for the Guidelines for the articulation between the PDOT with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, published by the Technical Planning Secretariat.

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 mentions the local government councils and their role regarding the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda (see VNR, 2020, p. 25). There are also references to a few cities and provinces throughout the report.³

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)** is an instance of coordination at the provincial level that promotes decentralization and autonomy, the closing of territorial gaps and sustainable development.□

► The **Consejo Nacional de Gobiernos Parroquiales Rurales del Ecuador (Conagopare)** is the entity representing the common interests of the autonomous decentralized rural parish governments.□

► At the end of the 2020 VNR, a table summarizes 345 projects related to the SDGs in the country, including **58 municipal and provincial initiatives**.□

► The "Intelligent monitoring and control system for green areas" of **Ambato** allows preserving green areas for the care of climate change.

► The Comprehensive Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods of **Cuenca** aims to identify and validate the proposals for the development of comprehensive improvement projects for neighborhoods, under the criteria of the New Urban Agenda. As a result, 10 Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Plans for the most vulnerable areas were implemented in the city.

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

In 2020, Ecuador was one of the first countries in which a VSR was published.□ The reporting and writing process was carried out by the **Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)**, in coordination with the provincial authorities of Ecuador, to identify and make visible the efforts generated from the intermediate tier of government as a central actor in global development. Presenting the results of a survey provided to 14 provinces, the report highlights the modalities of their participation in the 2020 VNR and their progress in implementing the SDGs on their territories. It also contributes to giving visibility to initiatives led by the different provinces and connects the dots between SDGs and local authorities' responsibilities. In 2021, a second VSR was elaborated.□

3. The Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (AME) is only mentioned once in the report, without further details.

4. Congope is also President of the World Forum of Regions and World Vice President of UCLG.

5. For more details on Congope's and Conagopare's actions, see VNR, p. 25-26.

6. To see them all, see VNR p. 166-174.

7. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_ecuador_2020.pdf

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Resolution No. STPE003-2020 officially aligns the National Development Plan with the SDGs. Among other objectives are the **prioritization and targeting of resources**. Considering that public investment is one of the pillars that allows achieving national objectives and the SDGs, an analysis was made of the main axes to which more resources were dedicated (for more details, see VNR, 2020, p. 32). Since 2017, the Guide for the Presentation of Public Investment Studies defines criteria for the allocation of resources, such as the requirement of alignment with the goals of the National Development Plan and other planning instruments. There are no details on resources allocated to LRGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The vision of **civil society** regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was collected in 2018 through a citizen consultation process with the support of UNDP. In 2019, through the Plurinational and Intercultural Citizen Assembly for Good Living (Acpibv), citizen contributions were collected regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Consultations with actors from civil society, academia, private sector, local governments organizations and others were also carried out in workshops held in five cities of the country: **Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Manta and Tena**.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Progress is noted in the participation of women in the political life of the country, particularly at the local level. In the 2019 elections, women achieved representation in 4 prefectures (17.4%) and 18 municipal councils (8.1%), which is an increase, if compared to the results of the previous elections in 2014, in which they obtained 2 prefectures (8.7 %) and 16 municipalities (7.2%).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions the measures taken by the national government in the face of the health crisis, including measures to combat poverty and economic and fiscal measures. The **Municipios Saludables program** has 169 member municipalities. There is no more reference to initiatives from local governments regarding COVID-19, except the **transformation of an arts center into a refuge for homeless people**, particularly vulnerable in the face of the pandemic. It was initiated by the Casa de la Cultura Benjamín Carrión, in partnership with the city of **Quito** and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. □

4. SDG INDICATORS¹ □

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.2 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	75 (2020)
	Rural	53 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	31 (2020)
	Rural	60 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		20.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		62 (2006, Santo Domingo de los Colorados)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		89.1 (2019)

9. More details here: <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/ecuador-casa-cultura-albergue-coronavirus.html>

10. 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/ecu>

EL SALVADOR

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

El Salvador is a unitary country with a single tier of elected local governments, comprising 262 municipalities.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 SDGs had important coincidences with the objectives and priorities defined in the Five-Year National Development Plan (PQD) 2014-2019. A Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was established in 2015, entailing the adoption of a mid- to long-term National Sustainable Development Agenda.

However, there is currently no national strategy guiding SDG implementation in El Salvador. The adoption of a **National Strategy for Sustainable Development by 2030**, as well as an accompanying Action Plan, is one of the priorities for the years to come. This should be produced in coordination with all government levels and with the participation of other stakeholders.

Within the framework of the initial development of the government agenda for the 2019-2024 period, focused on counteracting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and vulnerability to climate change, the institutional priorities of the sectoral portfolios are thematically aligned with the achievement of different SDG targets.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Up until 2019, political leadership was placed at the highest level in the Presidency of the Republic and the technical coordination of SDG implementation was led by the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency (SETEPLAN) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRREE). After several institutional changes aiming for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country,³ the **National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDS)** is now coordinated by the Vice-President and is responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.⁴ The Council is composed of: (a) the Vice-President of the Republic, (b) the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Treasury, Education, Science & Technology, Agriculture & Livestock, Environment & Natural Resources, and Local Development, (c) Executive Direction of the Institute for the Development of the Woman, (d) a representative from the academic-scientific community, and (f) a representative of the non-profit associations and foundations with environmental aims. In carrying out its functions, the CNDS has the support of an Executive Secretariat. In addition, it has promoted the establishment of a network of technical links in the different government portfolios for the management of information on the achievement of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR process was led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRREE) and the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency (SETEPLAN). Whereas the 2022 VNR process was led by the **National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDS)**. A **Technical Committee** was established in which representatives of the CNDS Executive Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO) participated, accompanied by delegates of the United Nations System. The report was endorsed by a Steering Committee, made up of heads of the government of El Salvador and the United Nations System, and was then approved by the CNDS. Online workshops and interviews were held, with participants from 75 institutions belonging to both the public and the private spheres.

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/16649RNV_EL_Salvador_1307_2011_2PP.pdf (2017);

https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20El%20Salvador%20Report_0.pdf (2022)

3. Compared to the mechanisms established for the first five-year period of the implementation of the SDGs (2015-2019), inter-institutional coordination has been established around the performance of four basic functions in the management of the process for compliance with the SDGs: 1) coordination and monitoring; 2) mobilization of financing for development; 3) programmatic-operational coordination; and 4) territorialization.

4. Its functions were readjusted to assign it the responsibility of: a) monitoring the SDGs at the national, regional and international levels; b) facilitating the creation of mechanisms for access to information on the state of progress of SDG implementation; c) promoting the management of training, knowledge and information on sustainable development; d) promoting the application of the necessary policies at the sectoral level in favor of sustainable development.

1.3 MONITORING

In the first five-year period of implementation of the SDGs (2015-2019), the decision was made to take into account the achievement of 9 specific SDGs and follow up on 117 goals (88 of them related to the 10 prioritized SDGs and another 29 related to the remaining SDGs). In addition, the national statistical capacity to produce 103 of the 241 indicators proposed in the global framework was identified. In 2022, 100% of the monitoring indicators for the nationally prioritized SDG targets have been reviewed and updated. In addition, work is being done to enable digital tools for periodic monitoring of its progress.

In addition, different sectors of Salvadoran society have joined this effort through consultations with representatives of the national government, departmental governments and local governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, trade unions, development cooperation partners, and the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations System. With this collaborative exercise, the generation of mid-term evidence on the opportunities and challenges of El Salvador to achieve the SDGs by 2030 has been facilitated.

With the collaboration of the Secretary of Innovation of the Presidency, the specialized platform for monitoring the state of progress of the prioritized objectives and goals is being modernized. The creation of a National Statistics Institute to monitor SDG progress is also foreseen in the 2022 VNR.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In 2017, there was no evidence of any LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. In 2022, LRGs are still not represented in the National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDS) (only the Ministry of Local Development is represented).

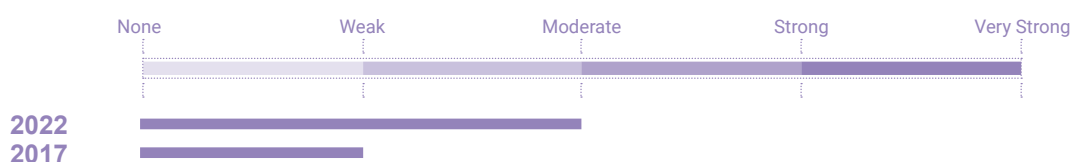
However, while LRGs didn't take part in the 2017 VNR elaboration process,⁵ LRGs were involved in the drafting of the 2022 VNR. According to the VNR, 31 representatives from 17 municipalities, including the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador, participated in the sectorial workshops that the CNDS organized online. However, before the publication of the VNR, no information had been given to them as to how their contributions would be taken into account in the VNR.⁶ It uses departments as the level of government at which data is disaggregated.

The **Ministry of Local Development and Municipal Works** is in charge of the localization (or “territorialization”, as mentioned in the 2022 VNR) of the SDGs. Its Direction for Municipal Works, created in 2021, ensures the execution of the funds for local development.

The Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES), an entity created in 1941, had the function of articulating the relations of the municipalities with the national government and played a key role in local development. COMURES represented the municipalities in the National Council for Territorial Development. It is no longer operational.

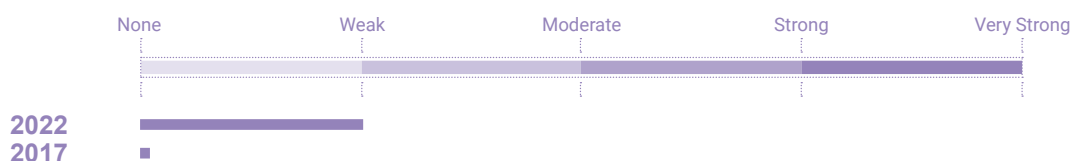
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Representatives from 17 municipalities participated in workshops as part of the elaboration of the 2022 VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs are not directly represented in the National Council for Sustainable Development (only through the Ministry of Local Development and Municipal Works).

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.

5. Although in the 2017 VNR, focused on SDG 11, the data on the progress of the SDGs of the Mayors' Council of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (COAMSS) and the Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (OPAMSS) were taken into account. Answer of COAMSS and OPAMSS to the GTF Survey in 2022.

6. Interview with Erlinda Minero, from the Consejo de Alcaldes del Área Metropolitana de San Salvador (COAMSS), May 2022.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are very limited references to municipalities and no specific example in the 2017 VNR. The 2022 VNR includes more references to LRGs but does not include many references to their situation, aspirations, or best practices.⁷ The localization of the 2030 Agenda is referred to as the territorialization of the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The municipalities of the **Jiboa Valley Intermunicipal Association** have created the country's first territorial master plan for tourism.⁸

► In **San Salvador**, the first effort for the municipality to link the SDGs was in 2018, incorporating the Goals into the axes of the Institutional Strategic Plan.⁹ There has been significant progress, since when development projects are formulated, they incorporate the SDGs. However, the challenge continues to be to generate data to measure progress in meeting the SDGs at the municipal level.¹⁰

The metropolitan authority of the capital city **San Salvador**, as part of a programme supported by the EU,¹¹ has made progress in integrating the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, thanks to the adoption of the Strategic Plan towards 2030. The plan is supported by sectoral plans (on mobility,¹² public space,¹³ risks, water resources and climate change) and by a monitoring system, which will be followed by the Observatory of the Metropolitan Area (currently being created).

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Funding for development is mobilized by the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation; the Ministry of Finance; the Secretariat of Commerce and Investments of the Presidency; the Secretariat of Innovation of the Presidency (technology); and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The current government has promoted the development of Institutional Strategic Plans (PEI) that facilitate the articulation between the programmatic and budgetary priorities of the sectoral portfolios according a multi-year period. Within the framework of this planning-budget relationship, the country guarantees the implementation of sectoral interventions in all pillars: the well-being of people; economic prosperity; protection of the planet; peace promotion; and alliance building.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Territorial development and land-use laws (2011) in El Salvador have promoted local planning and the creation of a **National Council for Territorial Development** (2017). The review of the municipal code (2015) has extended local responsibilities.¹⁴ However, in 2021 reforms have recentralized national transfers to municipalities, and 75% of these resources will now be managed by a new Office for Municipal Works. The localization of the 2030 Agenda has thus been impacted by the national government's decision to recentralize municipal resources.¹⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The percentage of women elected in local governments was 11.07% during 2009-2012 and 10.69% in 2012-2015. Even though gender parity has not been achieved, in the first half of the implementation of the SDGs progress has been made in promoting greater participation of women in various second-tier positions. However, there has been a step back in the effective positioning of women as political actors eligible for public office. The percentage of heads of municipal governments in charge of women has decreased.

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

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

9. See: <http://sansalvador.gob.sv/gestion-estrategica/file/3046-plan-estrategico-institucional-2018-2021>

10. Answer of the municipality of San Salvador to the GTF Survey in 2021.

11. See: https://opamss.org.sv/ova_por/gobernanza-metropolitana/

12. See: https://opamss.org.sv/ova_doc/politica-metropolitana-de-movilidad-urbana/

13. See: https://opamss.org.sv/ova_doc/politica-metropolitana-de-espacios-publicos

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

15. In November 2021, two historical organizations in charge of distribution of funds and technical assistance to municipalities – the Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development and the Social Investment Fund for Local Development – were dissolved, and a new Office for Municipal Works within the national government was created to manage local investments under the authority of the Ministry of Local Development. National transfers to municipalities were reduced, and 75% of these resources will now be managed by the new Office. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

In 2022, considering the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the national government chose to maintain the SDG targets already prioritized. Likewise, it was decided to add SDG 8, considering decent work and economic growth as a priority, in recognition of the relevance of the state duty to guarantee the right to employment, as one of the areas most affected by the economic and health crisis.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		32.4 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	77 (2020)
	Rural	-
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 (%)		22.4 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		95 in San Salvador, Soyapango; 81 in San Salvador; 85 in San Salvador, Mejicanos; 50 in San Salvador, Ilopango; 73 in San Salvador, Apopa (2001)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		29.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

GUATEMALA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Guatemala is a unitary republic with a single tier of local self-government comprising 340 municipalities. The 22 departments and 8 regions are deconcentrated entities with governors and presidents respectively, appointed by the central government.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **K'atun National Development Plan : Our Guatemala 2032** was adopted in 2014. It is aligned with the SDGs through the “**Structure of the implementation strategy for development priorities**”, in which various actions are detailed and 129 targets and 200 of the SDG indicators are prioritized. The **General Government Policy 2020-2024** is aligned with national development priorities and, therefore, has become the main reference in the annual and multi-year planning processes.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national development plan was built in a participatory manner within the **System of Development Councils (SISCODE)**, thus covering the micro or community level, to the macro or national level. As of 2016, the **National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR)**, which is the highest representative body of the SISCODE, has been designated as the political space for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. It is coordinated by the President of the Republic. Within it, the methodology for the selection of the objectives, goals and indicators that the country assumed within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (including that of the SDGs) were approved. One of the 9 commissions of CONADUR, the **Commission for Alignment, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Plan**, is in charge of coordinating, aligning and monitoring the international development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, taking as a reference the priorities established in the national plan. The Commission is coordinated by the **Secretary of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN)**.

SEGEPLAN designed a new methodology to allow the integration of the SDGs into local development plans. By 2018, 91 municipalities had already made progress in this direction, but due to elections in 2019 at all levels in the country, the process has since slowed.² The implementation strategy of national priorities establishes inter-institutional coordination, with the **System of Development Councils (SISCODE) and the municipalities** for the inclusion of development priorities in the Municipal Development Plans and their respective management by means of multi-year and annual operational planning, in such a way that public budgets respond to strategic development goals at the local level.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

At the end of the first 5 years of the national development plan, the 2019 VNR included qualitative and quantitative information on the implementation of this national plan during the period 2015-2018. The conduct of the process was requested from **SEGEPLAN**, in coordination with public institutions, the regional and departmental development councils and mayors at the municipal level. The VNR process was also supported by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN). The 2021 VNR includes the contribution of the public sector, the private sector, international cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, among others.

1. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16626Guatemala.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25008REVISIN_NACIONAL_COMPLETA.pdf (2019). The 2021 VNR is still not published (as of March 2022).
2. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>
3. Answer of SEGEPLAN to the GTF Survey in 2021

1.3 MONITORING

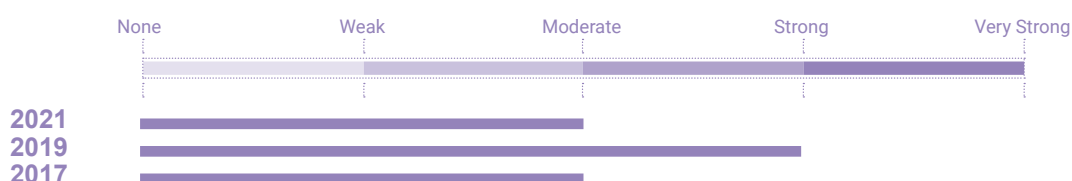
The **National Statistical System (SEN)** is made up of public institutions that produce official statistics, such as ministries, secretariats and decentralized organizations, among others, under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics (INE). As a result of the integration of the SDGs in the national development plan, 16 strategic development goals were determined, grouped into 10 priorities. The 2021 VNR presents progress regarding indicators and the implementation of an online platform that allows visualizing the indicators linked to the SDGs. This platform can be used by different actors, so that they can prioritize plans, programs and projects.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participated in the development of the K'atun National Development Plan through the involvement of SISCODE. Nations priorities, including the SDGs, are implemented at the local level through municipal planning and land use instruments, which are prepared, approved and implemented by municipalities: they should integrate the SDGs in their Municipal Development Plans (PMD-OT). In 2017, the government introduced the National Agenda for Decentralization 2032 to relaunch the implementation of the Decentralization Law approved in 2002. Along with Nicaragua, Guatemala stands out as having municipalities with the greatest competences and resources of Central America and the Caribbean.⁴ However, the involvement of local governments in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is still low; since there is not a continuous monitoring of the involvement and participation of LRGs in the logic of cooperation and dialogue. LRG involvement has been made visible only in the application of the tools for linking the plans, for the purposes of formulating the annual planning, as well as in the VNRs.⁵ The **National Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Guatemala** has integrated the SDGs into its work plans.⁶ As mentioned in the 2019 VNR, the regional and departmental development councils and mayors participated in the reporting process. There were public sector consultations, at the departmental, municipal and regional levels. In particular, municipalities were consulted through a survey: a total of 152 municipalities responded out of 340. In 2021, they also participated through a survey. In addition, they were invited to participate in information meetings. In this sense, the participation methodology evolved, through a process of socialization and involvement of local governments in the VNR process.⁷

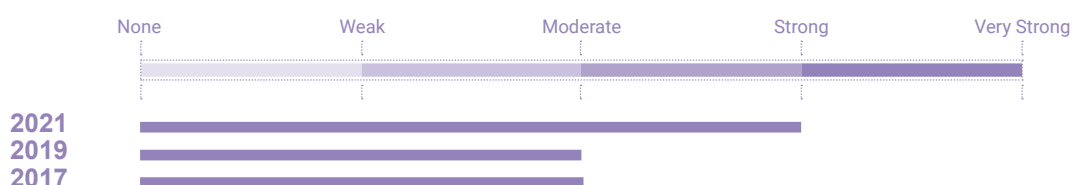
2.1 VNR REFERENCES

► In the VNR process



Comments: Occasional participation, and survey (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participación (consultative level), but low involvement of local governments in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. There is no continuous monitoring of the involvement and participation of LRGs (GTF Survey 2021).

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the whole 2019 VNR (both municipalities and other tiers of subnational government). There are also many references to national and vertical coordination mechanisms regarding the implementation of the national development plan, the SDGs and the municipal / local development plans.

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

5. Answer of the municipality of Mixco to the GTF Survey in 2021

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

7. Answer of the municipality of Mixco to the GTF Survey in 2021

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► One example of successful SDG integration in the municipal development plans stands out: that of the municipality of **Salcajá** (in the Quetzaltenango province) and the localization of the SDGs in its local Territorial Planning Regulation.⁸

► The rural municipality **San Pedro La Laguna** committed to a sustainable participative plan to abolish the use of plastics in the town, and therefore to improve water quality, fish stocks and tourism.⁹

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

Mixco published a VLR in 2022.¹⁰

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Within CONADUR, a commission was set up that defined the criteria for the distribution, use and destination of the funds from the development councils contribution, a condition that minimizes discretion in distribution at the territorial level. Fiscal allocation criteria are formulated in a route that goes from the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN) to the departments, and from these to the municipalities, to decide the items in which to invest based on the priorities established in the K'atun. With regard to the responsibilities of municipal governments and the constitutional contribution to them (which is 10% of the General Budget of Ordinary Income of the State, according to article 257 of the CPRG), at least 90% should be allocated of the total to programs and projects of education, infrastructure works and public services that improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹¹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		11.4 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	65 (2020)
	Rural	46 (2020)
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 (%)		31 (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)		30.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		75.6 (2020)

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

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

10. See https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/mixco_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/gtm>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is a unitary country with two tiers of subnational government. It counts 10 regional democratic councils (RDCs) and 146 local democratic organs (LDOs). The latter comprise three types of council: municipal (6), neighborhood (65) and Amerindian village (75). First local elections since 1994 were held in 2016.¹



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

Guyana's **Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 (GSDS)** is synchronized with the overarching objectives of the SDGs.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Since the **National Budget** serves as the vehicle for implementation of development programmes, the **Ministry of Finance** has consistently been a key coordinator within the public sector for SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The development of the 2019 VNR started with an **Inter-Agency Coordinating Mechanism (IACM)** being established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁴ The Mechanism selected the **Ministry of Finance** to spearhead the VNR process given its role of inter-sectoral coordination and existing work integrating the SDGs into the national planning and budgeting framework. The Ministry of Finance developed a data collection tool, the SDG Indicator Collection and Assessment Tool (ICAT), which was issued to all budget agencies. It also facilitated technical group discussions on indicators. The draft report was then prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as a consultant provided by UNDP. The final stages involved an iterative process between the Ministry of Finance, government agencies and other stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Ministry of Finance** has been identified to lead the monitoring of Guyana's progress towards achieving the relevant targets of the SDGs. Thus, these targets and respective indicators inform the national monitoring and evaluation framework. Budget agencies have been encouraged continually, and mandated to prioritize improving the relevant capacities for data generation, collection and analysis, which underpin effective planning, programme delivery and reporting. The budget process mandates data disaggregation by sex and location to ensure that policies and programmes are appropriately targetted to the relevant areas and groups and that no one is left behind.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2019 VNR process nor in the national budget process aimed at coordinating SDG implementation in the country.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24297Guyana_VNR2019_FINAL_REPORT_070819.pdf (2019)

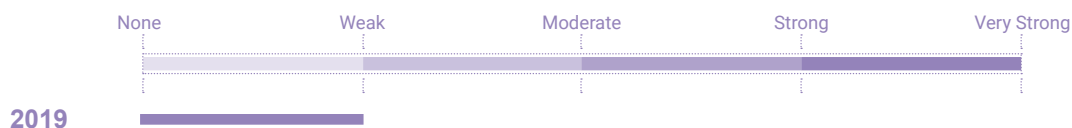
3. Vision 2040 was elaborated on the basis of a consultative process, namely through Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEGs) which comprised representatives from the public service, academia, civil society, youth, private sector, non-governmental organizations and development partners, among other groups. Additionally, Vision 2040 benefited from public consultations in all administrative regions of the country.

4. It included the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, the Bureau of Statistics, the Office of Climate Change and the Ministry of Education, among others.

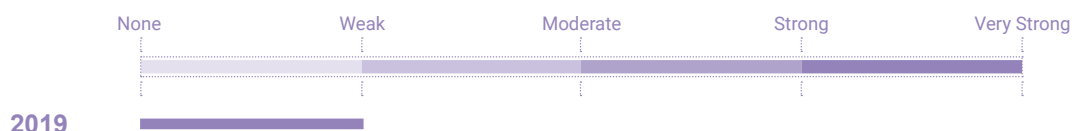
In 2016, Guyana introduced the **Plans of Action for Regional Development (PARD)** and the **Plans of Action of Municipal Development (PAMD)**, which are strategic plans to guide the development and planning processes for regions and municipalities. These plans utilize existing national and sectoral strategies as key inputs in their elaboration along with extensive consultations.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR mentions the regional and local councils, but no reference is made to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Ministry of Finance** leads SDG integration into the national budgeting process, and in particular, into annual budget frameworks. Since 2017, the national budgeting process has required government agencies, in the articulation of their budget proposals, to explicitly identify the potential for alignment to Vision 2040 and the SDGs when proposing public programmes and investment projects. The national budget is the key means of implementation for Vision 2040 as well as the SDGs and other policy priorities. In 2017 as well, the Ministry of Finance conducted a sensitisation session for all budget agencies on the SDGs and how they should go about conceptualizing integration. The following year, a SDG mapping was done to assist agencies in identifying the targets applicable to their respective areas of responsibility, as well as the other agencies who share responsibility for achieving the Target. This served to further promote ownership and emphasizes the need for collaboration among government agencies in order to achieve the SDG and respective targets.

The 2019 VNR stresses that "local government organs, which provide for citizen participation and empowerment, are under-resourced and not as effective as they need to be. [...] However, the capacity of local authorities is being rebuilt with support of the Ministry of Communities and the Local Government Commission, though additional resources are needed to scale up much needed institutional strengthening" (see VNR, 2019, p. 84).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR acknowledges that Guyana's institutional and legal framework is functioning, but is heavily centralized. There is, however, a shift in the local government agenda from a centralized approach to a decentralized approach, with the main focal areas being empowerment and capacity building in all local organs. It adds that "the functioning of [local democratic organs (LDOs)] is imperative to ensuring inclusive decision-making and governance" (see VNR, 2019, p. 81). Over the period 2015 to 2018, four new towns were designated – in Bartica, Lethem, Mabaruma and Mahdia – with a view towards greater **decentralization and democratization of municipal administration** in the medium term.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

During the period 2015 to 2019, women representatives were more than 30% on a majority of regional democratic councils (RDCs).

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		38.7 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		31.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73.4 (2008, Georgetown)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		23.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/guy>

HONDURAS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

As a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, Honduras has 298 municipalities.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 adaptation of the 2030 Agenda to the particular characteristics and conditions of Honduras was materialized in the document called **National Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (AN-ODS)**.³ The country defined this agenda considering the following as the main fundamentals: the Law for the Establishment of a Country Vision and the Adoption of a **National Plan for Honduras (2010-2038)**, as well as the **Strategic Government Plan (PEG) 2018-2022**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national institutions responsible for SDG implementation and coordination are: the **National Planning System (SNP)**; the **Integrated Financial Administration System (SIAFI)** for budgetary purposes and the **National Statistical System (SEN)** for the collection of reliable, accessible, and comparable data. The highest instance is the **National Commission for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (CN-ODS)** and the technical and operational support instances. The Commission is composed of the following members: the Secretariat of General Coordination of Government (SCGG), which will chair it, as well as labor organizations, peasant organizations, civil society and the **Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON)**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR process included the actors represented in the CN-ODS: the **Technical Committee (CT-DS)**, the **Intermunicipal Cooperation Associations** and the thematic working groups; as well as actors from the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, municipalities, international cooperation, among others. Also, socialization and training sessions were held with the institutional representatives in order to achieve a greater appropriation of the fundamental aspects of the 2030 Agenda as well as some discussions to validate draft documents. It is important to highlight that the sanitary crisis had an impact in some of these activities as some of them were reduced and others were cancelled.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Presidential Directorate for Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)** of the SCGG is in charge of evaluating SDG implementation. This Directorate is responsible for the operational implementation and continuous improvement of the National Agenda for the SDGs' Monitoring Platform, in order to provide feedback for decision making.⁴ The **Honduras SDG 2030 National Agenda Monitoring Platform** is a web application designed to facilitate the monitoring and tracking of the SDGs, their targets and prioritized indicators contained in the current version of the national agenda for SDG implementation.⁵

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15871Honduras.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26310VNR_2020_Honduras_Report_Spanish.pdf (2020)

3. The SDG-NA comprises the original 17 SDGs (of the 2030 Agenda), 68 targets and 99 indicators.

4. Currently, the National Statistical System provides less than 30% of the data required by the 232 indicators of the 2030 Agenda, although it is estimated that there is potential to significantly increase this percentage.

5. You can access the platform here: <https://www.sgpr.gob.hn/ODS/>

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Unit of the Ministerial Office for the Socialization and Digital Support of Presidential Projects (DEPM)**⁶ is aimed at strengthening and coordinating planning and management in the territories, at the regional level.

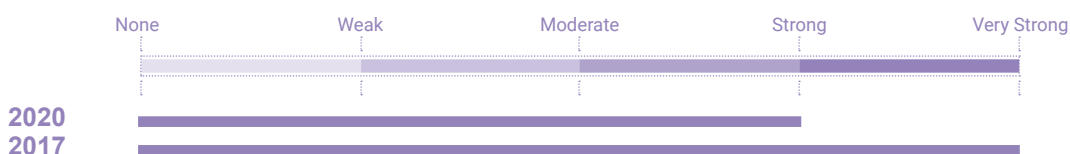
In addition, the **Inter municipal Cooperation Associations (Mancomunidades de Municipios)** are constituted as the coordination and technical support instances of the CN-ODS, for the implementation of the National Agenda 2030 in the territory, particularly at the municipal level.

The central government, through the SCGG, has supported municipal governments and their associations of municipalities by providing training in several workshops on the application of the **Basic Guide for the alignment of the 2030 Agenda of the SDGs** with their Municipal Development Plans (PDM). Additionally, the **Draft Territorial Strategy for the Implementation and Monitoring** of the National Agenda 2030 has been shared with the Secretariat for Governance, Justice and Decentralization, and other agencies.

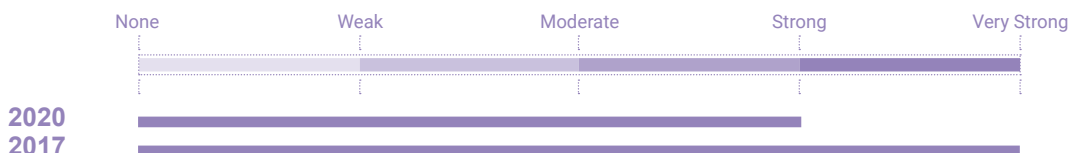
The **Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON)** is a member of the **National Commission for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (CN-ODS)**.

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

There is a specific subsection, in the first chapter of the 2020 VNR, called "Implementation of the Agenda at the territorial level" (see VNR, 2020, p. 20). It identifies the institutions and strategies that the national government has implemented in order to support SDG implementation at the local level. There is also another section called "Implementation of relevant initiatives", which presents some good practices in which different actors have been involved to finance and support specific projects. Nevertheless, only one of these practices mentions the involvement of the local government.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Alliance for the development of the Honduran Mosquitia** is an inclusive participatory framework for cooperation and coordination between the government, the Intermunicipal Cooperation Associations of the six municipalities, the Unidad de Pueblos Indígenas y Negros de la Mosquitia Hondureña (UPINMH), the United Nations System, the government of Germany, the Swiss Confederation, as signatories of the Letter of Intent in 2016. In addition, other non-signatory actors are also actively participating in the process. It is committed to contribute to the fulfillment of the indicators of the National Agenda 2030, especially of goals related to governance, social development, economic development and environmental vulnerability.

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

Not applicable.

6. For its initials in panish: Dependencia del Despacho Ministerial de Socialización y Acompañamiento Digital de los Proyectos Presidenciales

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Workshops have been held to provide technical support for municipal planning and budgeting. 62 municipalities and 21 Intermunicipal Cooperation Associations have made budgeting exercises through their local planning documents in order to prioritize SDGs related projects.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country submitted its first VNR in 2017, with the support of international cooperation, especially agencies and units of the United Nations System. The 2020 VNR presents information on the achievements and delays of 15 SDGs and 58 indicators. The selection of indicators depended on whether or not there was updated information on them, most of them correspond to the social dimension (30), followed by the economic dimension (20) and the environmental dimension (8). The non-inclusion of 41 indicators from was due mainly to the difficulties, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in managing and processing them; others depend on specific surveys and studies, including those generated by the National Demographic and Health Survey (ENDESA), which is still being revised and edited.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR presents the national measures taken to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as to ensure their participation in political, public and economic life. A principle of parity was adopted in 2012 to encourage the participation of women in management positions for political parties and in directly elected positions, so that they are equally made up of women and men. But the application of this law was mitigated by some changes which led to placing male candidates in a better position to be elected, with respect to female candidates. There is still some progress made at the local level, since the percentage of women who hold positions in local governments not only doubled, but even became a majority (52.9% in 2018 and 2019, against 24.4% in 2015).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions the effects of the pandemic at the national level, and predicts that it will cause significant delays in achieving the SDGs. No initiatives from local governments are mentioned.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.9 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	19 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	35 (2020)
	Rural	71 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		36.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		74.6 (2012, Tegucigalpa)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		25.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

7. 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/hnd>

MEXICO

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Mexico, officially the United Mexican States, is a federal republic composed of 32 federal states and 2,479 municipalities.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 **National Development Plan 2019-2024** has been reformed in order to strengthen SDG implementation, including new priorities, goals and budget allocations.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **Specialized Technical Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (CTEODS)** was created in 2015. It is chaired by the Office of the President and brings together 29 federal entities. The **National Council for the 2030 Agenda** was created in 2017 as a body to liaise with **local governments**, the private sector, civil society and academia in the coordination of actions in favor of the 2030 Agenda. Six **technical committees** support the national council: national strategy, follow-up and evaluation; social wellbeing; sustainable economic growth; environment and climate change and eradication of inequalities. A **subcommittee for subnational governments** was planned to be created in 2021. Coordination is assumed by the Office of the Executive Secretariat of the National Council (**Agenda 2030 Office**) and the **General Directorate for Global Issues (DGTG)** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Office of the President of the Republic (OPR)** coordinated the preparation of the 2018 VNR. It includes contributions from other sectors, which were the product of a dialogue among federal agencies, CSOs, representatives of the private sector, scientists, academics, the United Nations System and members of vulnerable populations. For the preparation of the 2021 VNR, the 2030 Agenda Office and the DGTG set up an **Intersectoral Committee**. This Committee had the representation of the following instances: National Institute of Geography and Statistics (INEGI); Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mexico (SDSN Mexico); civil society organizations; General Directorate of Liaison with Civil Society Organizations of the SRE; Legislative Branch (Chamber of Senators and Chamber of Deputies); Business Coordinating Council (CCE); Global Compact Mexico; National Institute for Federalism and Municipal Development (INAFED); National Council of Governors (CONAGO); Federalist Alliance (AF); United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Mexico; the German Cooperation Agency for Sustainable Development in Mexico (GIZ Mexico); DGTG of the SRE, and the Agenda 2030 Office itself, in charge of coordinating the Committee.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2016, the **Senate Working Group for Monitoring the Legislative Implementation of the SDGs** was created, which has connections to over 30 congressional committees. Also, the National Council for the 2030 Agenda includes a **Follow-Up and Evaluation Committee** which is responsible for monitoring the development and progress of policies related to each SDG and is made up of research professionals, representatives of higher education institutions from every region of the country and members of CSOs, INEGI and the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10756Full%20report%20Mexico%20-%20HLPF%202016%20FINAL.pdf> (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20125INFORME_NACIONAL_VOLUNTARIO_060718.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/288982021_VNR_Report_Mexico.pdf (2021)

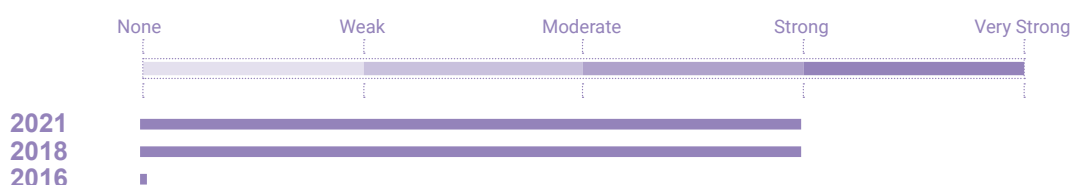
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The National Governors' Conference of Federated States (CONAGO) and the National Conference of the Associations of Municipalities of Mexico (CONAMM) have participated in the National Strategy Committee. In 2021 however, LGA participation seems to have decreased somehow, as CONAGO reports being invited only as an observer.

The 2021 VNR explains that, in 2018, a reform to the Planning Law empowered the 2018-2024 and 2024-2030 federal public administrations to be able to consider strategies for advancing the 2030 Agenda in their planning processes.

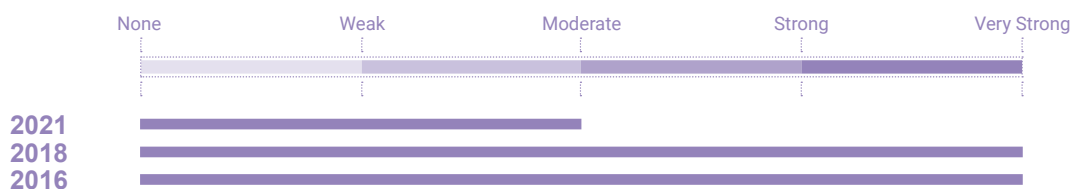
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments contributed with a summary of the VSR to the 2021 VNR, but they were not directly represented in the committee in charge of the preparation of the report.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The National Governors' Conference (CONAGO) is invited on an irregular basis.

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 highlights that the 2030 Agenda has been implemented, at the subnational level, through two key spaces for promoting local development: CONAGO and the National Institute for Federalism and Municipal Development (INAFED). LRGs are referred to in the 2021 VNR and their role in SDG implementation is fully acknowledged.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► CONAGO created the **2030 Agenda Executive Implementation Commission**, which serves as an organizing space through which governors can contribute to implementing the SDGs, share experiences, coordinate actions and develop state-level monitoring and follow-up mechanisms. Another output from this was the creation of **implementation and follow-up agencies (OSIs) for the SDGs** in each state, which involved municipal authorities, federal delegates, representatives of civil society, academics and entrepreneurs.³ As of 2018, 31 of the country's 32 states had created OSIs and 29 of these had been formally launched.⁴

► The government of **Mexico City** has set up a special website regarding the SDGs and its implementation.⁵

► Also, PILARES were created in Mexico City: the Points of Innovation, Freedom, Art, Education and Knowledge consist of community centers where different educational, programming, computer, job training, cultural and sports activities, among others, are offered. They are free and open access, although some of their target populations are young people and women. They are located in marginalized areas of the city, where traditionally there were no government services for the inhabitants. Therefore, they serve as an element of community building and social integration. They are elements for peace building. They make citizens who were so far marginalized have effective access to their rights. In 2021, there was to be 300 PILARES. They received the "Building Equality 2020" award from UNESCO.

3. OSIs are in charge of coordinating the design and execution of strategies, policies, programs and actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the state level, as well as bringing together different local actors.

4. Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Colima, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico City, Mexico State, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz and Zacatecas.

5. You can access the website here: <https://www.cgaai.cdmx.gob.mx/agendas-globales-desarrollo>

► Zero Garbage is Mexico City's action plan to promote the circular economy. It seeks to reduce the consumption of resources and prioritize the use of renewable energies; increase the durability of products and services; and reduce waste generation. Its strategic lines are: reducing the volume of waste, proper waste management, recycling, promoting employment and environmental culture. Currently, Mexico City handles 12,700 tons of solid waste every day; therefore, through activities such as recycling, composting and other activities, it is expected that the use of waste will increase from 4,100 to 10,700 tons. The prohibition of single-use plastics is part of the program.⁶

► A **guide to Municipal Sustainable Development Plans** has been elaborated in cooperation with the GIZ, who also collaborated with the Technical Committees in the implementation of a participatory local planning pilot project in ten municipalities.

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

► The 2021 Mexican VSR highlights that out of the 32 states, 6 have achieved advanced integration of the SDGs into their state development plans, 8 have achieved medium linkage, 16 have achieved low linkage, and 2 have achieved low linkage. It also draws attention to the limitations of intergovernmental coordination for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how this reflects the problems that the National Planning System has had since its creation. The VSR proposes the creation of the **Committee for the Subnational Implementation and Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda** to ensure the participation of subnational governments in the National Council of the 2030 Agenda.⁷

► In 2019, **Mexico City** conducted two SDG reporting exercises.⁸

► The **states of Oaxaca** and **Mexico City** launched their own VLRs in 2018 and 2019 respectively.⁹ Both reports provide an overview of the comprehensive strategies implemented for advancing the SDGs in their territories. The two LRGs detail the creation of multilevel coordination, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms and the capacity-building activities implemented to promote ownership of the SDGs amongst all members of society. In both Mexico City and Oaxaca, local indicators were developed to bring the SDGs closer to the local reality.

In Mexico City, 69% of the 2030 Agenda's goals were identified as being aligned with the 2013-2018 municipal development plan, while the 690 indicators identified within Monitoreo CDMX, a mapping tool freely accessible online, have been aligned with 16 of the 17 SDGs.

In Oaxaca, the 240 indicators of the 2030 Agenda were mapped against the 97 indicators in the state budgets, and in 2019 the revision of the 2016-2022 State Development Plan (PED) started to align it with the SDGs. Actions have also been directed at the local level, with a strong focus on promoting civil participation through the establishment of 547 Municipal Social Development Councils.¹⁰

Mexico City published a new VLR in 2021.¹¹ **Ciudad Valles, Guadalajara** and **Merida**, as well as the **States of Yucatan, Durango** and **Tabasco** also published VLRs in 2020-2021.¹² **Oaxaca** published a new VLR in 2022.¹³

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2018 VNR indicates that the Office of the President of the Republic (OPR) and the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat (SHCP) have analyzed the federal budget to identify which items contribute to the implementation of each SDG.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Fiscal reforms in Mexico have strengthened fiscal powers, mainly at state level (2007, 2013 and finally in 2014- 2015 as a result of the Mexico Pact), while the 2014 reform allowed the re-election of municipal mayors (which had previously been limited to three years without re-election). But the greatest progress in **decentralization** in recent years has been the transformation of the federal district of Mexico City into an autonomous government. In 2017, Mexico City adopted its Political Constitution and created 16 municipalities (which were formerly delegations with no powers of their own) and constituted the first Congress of Mexico City. In spite of these reforms, a strong reliance of subnational governments on federal government resources remains.¹⁴

6. For more information about this initiative, see: <https://basuracero.cdmx.gob.mx/>. Answer of Mexico City to the GTF Survey in 2021.

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/mexico_2021_0.pdf

8. See: <https://www.cgaai.cdmx.gob.mx/storage/app/uploads/public/5df7d6/d97/5df7d6d973e49264453690.pdf> ;

<https://www.cgaai.cdmx.gob.mx/storage/app/uploads/public/5e4/198/8c7/5e41988c7c454765211484.pdf>

9. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Oaxaca%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Oaxaca%20(2019)_0.pdf) and https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/mexico_city_2019.pdf

10. More information on Oaxaca and Mexico City's VLRs in UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cdmex_2021.pdf

12. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ciudad_valles_2020_esp.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/guadalajara_2021.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/merida_2021.pdf;

https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/yucatan_2020.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/durango_eng_2021.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/tabasco_2021.pdf

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/oaxaca_2022.pdf

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

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The **Women in the Territory** strategy of the Mexican government promotes gender equality and empowers women and girls through the design, planning and implementation of public and private policies for the construction of inclusive spaces, led by women in alliance with local feminist organizations. This seeks to encourage their participation in the political sphere.

3.2 COVID 19

The government of the **state of Veracruz** launched a temporary employment program to provide economic support to people who have lost their jobs during the pandemic in the 77 municipalities identified as having the greatest problems throughout the 10 regions of the state.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45 (2019)
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 (%)		16 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		81.4 (2015, Mexico City)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

15. 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/mex>

NICARAGUA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Nicaragua is a unitary country with two tiers of local autonomous governments. The 2 Autonomous Regions of the North and South Caribbean Coast have a specific autonomous status, with a regional coordinator representing the President of the Republic and a regional autonomous council. There are 152 municipalities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Social and economic approaches (including specific attention to “popular” sectors of the population) are taken into account in the **National Human Development Plan 2018-2021** (and in previous Plans) as well as in the future **National Plan to Fight Poverty for Human Development 2021-2026**. Nicaragua is also committed to its **National Policy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change** linked with social and environmental justice, its National Response System, Nationally Determined Contributions, low-carbon ecological transition investments and nature-based solutions.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

No reference.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Reference to LRGs in the 2021 VNR indicates their involvement in the execution of different policies and programmes. Along with Guatemala, Nicaragua stands out as having municipalities with the greatest competences and resources of Central America and the Caribbean.³ However, the current political crisis has severely affected the degree of local autonomy. There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2021 VNR.

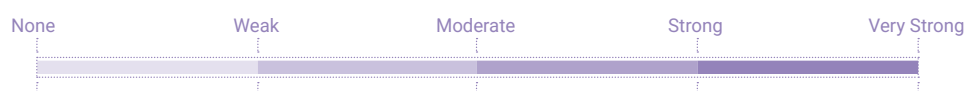
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279252021_VNR_Report_Nicaragua.pdf (2021)

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

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2021

Comments: There is no reference to any LRG participation in the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2021

Comments: There is no evidence of any LRG participation.

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 is no section in the VNR referring to local governments or SDG localization.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Local governments are in charge of the diagnostics to ensure the access to housing for the communities in need (Plan Techo Solidario) between 2009-2020. LRGS built 10,929 homes and improved 6,166 others through the Solidarity Housing Project and the Bismark Martínez Program, between 2015 and May 2021. Between 2019 and May 2021, 21,800 lots were delivered.

► Since 2015, municipal management for sustainable development has been strengthened in 70 municipalities, through the Municipal Development Plans (PDM) program.

► LRGs have managed 147 local markets for food and local business (73% of the 60,000 merchants are women). Infrastructures for hand washing have been settled in all the markets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

► Regarding waste management, municipalities launched a campaign called "the cleanest municipality" to delete illegal dumps and improve public spaces.

► LRGs participated in 2677 projects to develop local water systems.

► To promote reforestation, LRGs participated in the development of 1473 forest nurseries and manage 74 ecological parks.

► The **Association of Nicaraguan Municipalities (AMUNIC)** has been implementing projects on waste management, targeting rural and small towns in particular.⁴

► In **Managua**, the capital of the country, women represent almost 50% of the local executives in all sectors. Gender equality has been integrated in the local laws.⁵

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference to LRGs.

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

5. This has been stated by the Mayor of Managua, on October 26th, 2021. See: <https://www.ciudadesdepaz.com/>

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

According to the WEF's "Global Gender Gap Index 2020", Nicaragua went from position 90 in 2007 to position 5 in 2020 (the best in Latin America). Nicaragua has a lot more female elected mayors (over 40%) and councillors (50%) at the local level than other countries in Latin and Central America.⁶ According to the VNR, there are 63 women mayors (43%), 86 deputy mayors (57%) and 1489 women councillors (49%). Two women chair the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean, and 43 are regional councillors (48%).

3.2 COVID 19

No specific reference to the LRGs in the post COVID-19 context.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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	67 (2020)
	Rural	39 (2020)
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 (%)		42.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		68 (2012, Managua)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. Data from 2018. See UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, p. 253: <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

7. 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/nic>

PANAMA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Panama is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, that consists of 81 municipalities (*distritos*) and 678 townships (*corregimientos*). The country also has three semi-autonomous indigenous regions, and a local government headed by tribal leaders (San Blas). For administrative purposes the country is divided into 10 provinces.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

Prepared under the conceptual framework of the 2030 Agenda, the **National Strategic Plan (PEN) “Panama 2030”** combines the 17 SDGs and guides the national development process, within the framework of the provincial, regional and municipal decentralization process. The **Government Strategic Plan (PEG) “Joining Forces” 2020-2024** also incorporates the SDGs in its strategies and priority actions. The **Colmena Plan “Panama free of Poverty and Inequality, the Sixth Border”** is the territorialization strategy of the 2030 Agenda. It is a new style of governance, which seeks to strengthen LRGs, with and from the communities, to combat poverty and inequality. This national strategy covers 63 districts and 300 townships selected by the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the social risk factors observed in urban areas with high population (insecurity, employment, recreation and violence).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Agreement for Development** brings together the government sector, civil society, the business sector, unions and academia. The **Secretariat for Follow-up to Execution and Compliance** and the **Technical Secretariat of the Social Cabinet (STGS)** constitute a mechanism for monitoring the SDGs, but they need to be strengthened and to create or adopt effective tools for monitoring. The technical coordination of the Colmena Plan is exercised by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES). Besides, an **Inter-institutional and Civil Society Commission** was created in 2015 to support and monitor the SDGs. Its senior management is chaired by the Minister of Social Development.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The process of preparing the 2020 VNR was coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of the Social Cabinet (STGS). To achieve the collection of the necessary inputs for the VNR, work tables were established, which are multisectoral spaces for follow-up and monitoring of actions related to the implementation of the SDGs: the **Social Statistics and Indicators Table** and the **Public Policies Table**. The first was intended to evaluate and update the indicators with the institutions responsible for the data, and the second to prioritize the SDGs. During the consultation process, public institutions, civil society organizations, private companies, academia and international organizations were contacted via virtual surveys.

1.3 MONITORING

The restructuring of the Social Cabinet and the installation of the Social Statistics and Indicators Table were the opportunity to strengthen national statistics and the National Statistical System (SEN).³ In order not to leave anyone behind and to include people living in poverty/extreme poverty, it was also decided to calculate the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). An **Observatory for the Monitoring of the SDGs** was created with the Faculty of Public Administration and shares information with researchers, professionals, journalists, organizations and citizens interested in the subject of the SDGs.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16594Panama.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26427Panama_Informe_Voluntario_Reducido_1_reduced.pdf (2020)

3. More details on the modernization of the National Statistical System and creation of the National Institute of Statistics and Census in the VNR, 2020, p. 50.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Incorporating the SDGs into national and sectoral strategic plans has served for **decentralization** and **deconcentration** of public policies, integrating subnational governments in order to reach all communities, especially the most vulnerable. The territorialization of the SDGs goes hand in hand with the issue of planning capacity. The **Colmena Plan** aims at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the territorial level. In this sense, actions were carried out for planning and articulation between the local and the national authorities. Regarding the VNR process, there is no mention of any LRGs involvement.

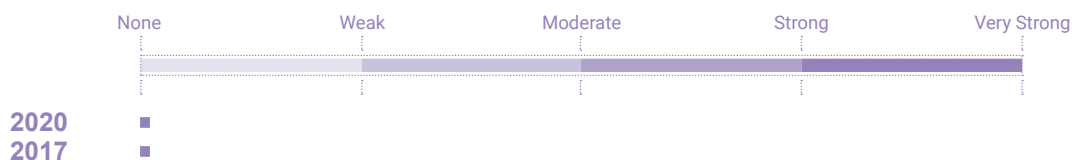
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No evidence of LRGs involvement. However, LRGs are mentioned throughout the report (without reference to their role in implementing the SDGs).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No mention of LRGs involvement.

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the report, as well as decentralization and the importance of territorialized strategies for the 2030 Agenda, but there is no specific section dedicated to their role in SDG implementation. For each sphere (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Alliances), a table summarizes the initiatives carried out by civil society, the private sector, cooperation organizations and academia. LRGs are not mentioned (see VNR, 2020, p. 178-183).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Association of Municipalities of Panama (AMUPA)** identified the lack of awareness of local governments regarding disaster risk as the main challenge to make Panama's cities and territories more resilient. To mobilize municipalities and to promote local solutions to local problems, the local government association launched a comprehensive plan to increase the awareness and commitment of local governments across the country. In a first phase starting in 2017, ten pilot municipalities were closely supported, and in 2018 an online portal for local disaster risk management was established. The portal is based on the experiences from the pilot municipalities and aims to facilitate local action within the country. Moreover, and as a consequence of the work of the commission, at least 12 municipalities have established a department for disaster risk management and local interest and awareness has been significantly increased across the nation.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In general, the financing of actions that seek to meet the SDGs has been financed with resources from the General State Budget. The new Development Planning Institute aims to strengthen territorial planning processes in public management and administration. It is a systemic process that deals with financial aspects and that has a social perspective. With the establishment of this Institute, at the national, provincial and/or regional level, programs for the continuous strengthening and updating of planning capacities will be implemented.

4. See: https://learning.uclg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/27_urban_resilience_and_sustainability.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: From both a territorial and social point of view, a distinction is made in the 2020 VNR between five Panama as priority areas: the rural agricultural Panama, the Panama of the neighbourhoods, the Panama of the indigenous regions, the modern Panama and the Panama of the middle class.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Like women in managerial positions, the participation of women in elected positions, although still low, shows an increase. Between 2014 and 2019, there was an increase from 99 to 104 elected women. Among the elected positions at the national and subnational levels, the positions of local councillors show the greatest increase.

3.2 COVID 19

National measures in the face of the crisis are detailed (see VNR, 2020, p. 20-38). A national initiative in which local governments participate is that of **Vale Digital**. It is a form of solidarity support that consists of granting the beneficiaries consumption capacity, using the barcode of their identity card as a debit card. This mechanism is applied in certain neighborhoods and cities. It is implemented by teams made up of provincial governors, staff from the ministries of the Presidency and Social Development, local governments through mayors and community boards, the Public Force and volunteers.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		9 (2019)
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 (%)		22.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		70.4 (2015, Panama City)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		14.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/pan>

PARAGUAY

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Paraguay is a unitary republic. It is composed of 17 departments and 257 municipalities (including the capital Asunción, which is not part of any department). There are four types of municipalities according to their budgets compared to the corresponding department capital's budget.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

Paraguay 2030 National Development Plan (PND 2030) is the overarching strategic document for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the country.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The 2018 VNR presented the Inter-institutional Coordination Commission, Paraguay 2030 SDG Commission, that was created for the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the commitments assumed by the country regarding the 2030 Agenda. This mechanism is made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is in charge of the coordination, the Ministry of Finance, the Technical Planning Secretariat and the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic. In 2020, Paraguay embarked on an institutional strengthening process to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through the restructuring and hierarchization of the **Paraguay SDG Commission**, which now has representation from the three powers of the state (in total, 17 institutions). This implies a change in vision based on the logic of a budget for results aligned to the SDGs. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE)** leads all the activities carried out by the Commission. In addition, a new **High Level Directive Council** was constituted, and is made up of the highest authorities of the 17 member institutions. At the technical level, the **Multisectoral Thematic Committee** is led by the MRE. The **Committee for the Localization of the SDGs** was created during the 2021 VNR process, and is led by the **Technical Secretariat for Social and Economic Development Planning (STP)**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Both 2018 and 2021 VNR processes were led by the **Paraguay 2030 SDG Commission**. The 2021 VNR is the result of a participatory, transparent and comprehensive review process at both national and subnational levels. In addition to data collection, virtual workshops and dialogue tables were organized, and a survey was conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups. In addition, a survey was carried out with subnational governments. This survey, together with a discussion with subnational governments (more details below), was constituted at the beginning of the operation of the **Committee for the Localization of the SDGs**. Young researchers also participated, and an SDG Research Day was held in virtual format, with the participation of about 500 people. Representatives of children and adolescents were also involved in the process through a discussion organized in conjunction with UNDP and UNICEF.³ The objective of the **Paraguay SDG Voices** initiative was to give greater visibility to the points of view of young Paraguayans around issues related to sustainable development.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19877/VN_ODS_PY_2018_book_Final.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282692021_VNR_Report_Paraguay.pdf (2021)

3. The greatest concern of children and adolescents revolved around virtual education. Many of them mentioned that the educational system does not have the necessary equipment for virtual education to be effective. Added to this problem is the lack of preparation of teachers, the lack of technological tools from which children and adolescents can access their classes, and the lack of connectivity. Another issue that was highlighted during the discussion was the need for more inclusive educational policies that address the needs of children with disabilities and different abilities.

1.3 MONITORING

According to the 2018 VNR, the **General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC)**, which coordinates the **Technical Committee for Statistical Monitoring** of the Paraguay 2030 SDG Commission, also coordinates different institutions for the construction of indicators to monitor compliance with the SDGs. The 2021 VNR mentions the **Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMORE Plus)**, which is a public online platform that reports on the implementation of international recommendations. It was elaborated with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At the end of 2020, the law to create the new **National Statistics Institute (INE)** was enacted, a milestone that fosters the implementation of evidence-based policies. The INE has led a participatory process for the construction of the Multidimensional Poverty Index and is making many efforts for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs (more details in the VNR, 2021, p. 119-121). The **Monitoring Committee of the Paraguay SDG Commission** is led by the INE.

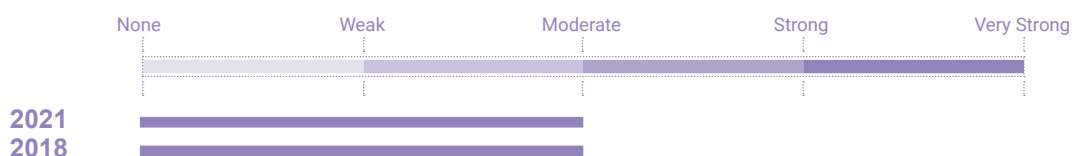
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Although consultations with local governments have taken place with the national SDG Commission, the **Paraguayan Organization for Intermunicipal Cooperation (OPACI)** notes that the consultation did not directly include them. There is no evidence of any local government participation, albeit local participation is one of the goals of PND 2030.⁴

However, recently, as part of the 2021 VNR elaboration, **a process of sensitization on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda was initiated aimed at subnational governments** (see the description of the 2021 VNR process above). In alliance with the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning, UNDP, the FIIAPP and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), a discussion entitled “SDGs in our communities: discussing a roadmap for sustainable development in the community” was organized with the **participation of mayors, presidents of the departmental council and governors**. This discussion was constituted in a first approach towards subnational governments and had the objective of generating greater awareness of the SDGs at the local level. Based on this discussion, the STP will work on the design of a roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs at the local level in Paraguay, together with local and departmental governments. Moreover, the recent creation of the **Committee for the Localization of the SDGs** is aimed at coordinating action between the main actors at the national level and the representatives of departmental and municipal governments. However, it is not specified whether this committee directly includes LRGs or their associations.

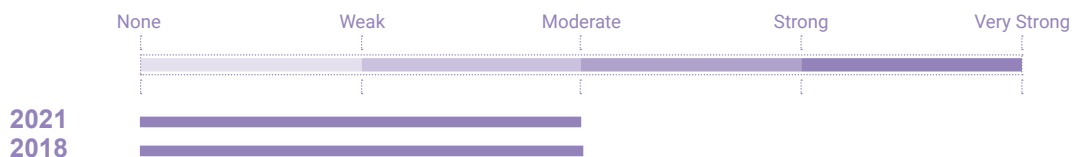
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Paraguayan Organization of Intermunicipal Cooperation didn't participate in the 2021 VNR process (weaker involvement than before) (GTF Survey 2021). However, LRGs were involved through a survey and a discussion (VNR 2021). LRGs are mentioned throughout the report, with specific examples.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Paraguayan Organization of Intermunicipal Cooperation doesn't participate in national coordination mechanisms (GTF Survey 2021). A Committee for the Localization of the SDGs was created (but the 2021 VNR doesn't specify whether LRGs are represented in it or not).

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 includes a specific section on LRGs' role for the implementation of PND 2030. The report reflects the adoption of 17 departmental development plans and 244 district development plans 'elaborated in light' of the PND 2030. The creation of follow-up bodies was also planned, but precise information on the degree of implementation is lacking. In the 2021 VNR, there is a brief chapter on “Localization”, whose main section is entitled “Local governments and the SDGs” (see VNR, 2021,

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

p. 129).⁵ This chapter discusses the role of the **Committee for the Localization of the SDGs** and presents two examples of municipalities that aligned their plans with the SDGs (see below). In addition, some projects led by municipalities are presented in boxes entitled “Innovative solutions for SDG challenges”.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The indigenous communities of the municipality of **Teniente Martínez**, rural and rather isolated, didn't have access to drinking water until the project implemented by the municipality with the support of the National Environmental Sanitation Service (SENASA), to distribute water to around 40 households (more details in the VNR, 2021, p. 41). As well as in the municipality of **Hernandarias** for flood problems (see VNR, 2021, p. 42), a participative approach involved different stakeholders and the residents themselves.

► The municipalities of **Yaguarón** and **Iturbe** had the support of the Paraguay Global Pact Network, within the framework of the project Together for Sustainable Development in Paraguay,⁶ to carry out the local development plan and its corresponding link to the SDGs.

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

The municipality of **Filadelfia** published a VLR in 2022.⁷

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Finance, through the **General Budget Directorate (DGP)**, makes the budgetary link of the General Budget of the Nation (PGN) to the SDGs. To this end, starting in 2017, the practice of “**Linking the General Budget of the Nation to the Sustainable Development Goals**” began, with the aim of quantifying the contribution of each program, subprogram and project to each SDG. Subsequently, this initiative led to the development of a Methodological Guide, launched in 2019, which constitutes a mechanism that serves to clearly and concisely quantify the contribution of the public sector in budgetary terms to each SDG. The country also has a **Financial Inclusion Policy (PIF)**, which is directly related to the objectives of the National Development Plan 2030, and transversely to the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The autonomy of municipalities and departments in Paraguay is recognized in legislation, but departmental governors act mainly as representatives of the central government in the territories. Subnational governments participated in the construction and validation of PND 2030. Progress towards decentralization has been slow and coordination with departments minimal, whereas the central government has increased its control.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women participation in local councils (departmental and municipal) is not making much progress: 20,4% in 2015, 18,8% in 2016, 19,0% in 2017 and 20,1% 2018. However, it is slightly more important than women participation in the national parliament (about 18-19%).

3.2 COVID 19

The measures taken by the national government to face the impacts of pandemic are detailed in the 2021 VNR (see VNR, 2021, p. 109-110). However, there is no mention of any locally-led initiative.

5. The introductory paragraph of this chapter states that: “Considering that the 2030 Agenda is a territorial agenda and includes issues that affect all departments, the location of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is of fundamental importance. In this sense, support to departmental and municipal governments is crucial to achieve this location, which refers to the implementation, dissemination and monitoring of principles, objectives and goals at that level. Therefore, local policies and actions are required in synergy with policies and actions at the national level for the effective achievement of the SDGs. That is why, when thinking about the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, it is imperative to start jointly designing a roadmap towards the localization or territorialization of the SDGs.”

The conclusion of the report states that: “Finally, one of the most challenging central issues that lies ahead refers to the territorialization of the SDGs. To achieve this task, it will be necessary to seek coordinated action between the main actors at the national level and the representatives of departmental and municipal governments. We can only achieve the reduction of regional inequalities through joint and articulated work, which recognizes the specificities and needs of each territory.”

6. This project is led by the Global Pact, the Center for Information and Resources for Development (CIRD) and the European Union (EU).

7. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/filadelfia_paraguay_2022.pdf

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		20.8 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	72 (2020)
	Rural	51 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	54 (2020)
	Rural	71 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		17.1 (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)		11.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

⁹ 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/pry>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Peru is a unitary republic, with three tiers of subnational government. At the regional level, the country is divided into 24 departments, to which must be added the provinces Lima and Callao, with powers and functions similar to those of the departments. There are 196 provinces at the intermediate level. Finally, the country has 195 provincial municipalities and 1,874 municipalities.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

Since 2016, all SDGs have been included in the **National Strategic Planning System (SINAPLAN)**. The **National Strategic Development Plan (PEDN) 2016-2021** is Peru's guiding document for a harmonious, sustainable and decentralized development. It is also the tool for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and includes development, provincial and departmental plans. The Vision and General Government Policy (2018) includes the five areas of the 2030 Agenda and has 5 main axes: integrity and the fight against corruption; institutional strengthening for governance; equitable, competitive and sustainable economic growth; social development and well-being of the population and effective decentralization for development. The **Vision of Peru to 2050**, approved in 2019 at the National Agreement Forum, articulates the efforts of society as a whole for sustainable development, and guides the formulation of policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Agreement Forum** is the space for dialogue and agreement and the instance for monitoring and promoting compliance with national policies.⁴ The government, the political parties that are represented in Congress and civil society organizations participate in it. The **National Strategic Planning System (SINAPLAN)** coordinates the national strategic planning process to promote and guide the harmonious and sustained development of the country.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Initially, a consultation process was organized for the 2020 VNR, via comments from the whole society and a questionnaire to the members of the National Agreement. The VNR has been prepared based on the analysis of various statistics and the consultation of bibliographic references, in order to measure the progress of the policies, as well as the commitments to achieve national development in the long term and face the COVID-19 pandemic in the short term.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Centre for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) information system** allows monitoring of the execution of the General Government Policy (PGG). Similarly, there are **consultations** for specific geographic areas, such as part of the **Huallaga basin**, the **Lima Region** and the **Valley of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro rivers (VRAEM)**, as well as one that allows monitoring of SDG implementation. The registration and monitoring of people's daily lives, which was previously relegated, is now a priority and contributes to the management of the COVID-19 crisis. There is also concerted follow-up through spaces for dialogue between society and the national government, especially the Roundtable for the Fight against Poverty (MCLCP).

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15856Peru.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26324VNR_2020_Peru_Report_Spanish.pdf (2020)

3. For more details, see the synthesis of the Vision of Peru in the VNR, 2020, p. 125-126.

4. 35 policies at the national level constitute the National Agreement. They are grouped into 4 interrelated objectives: democracy and the rule of law, equity and social justice, competitiveness of the country, efficient, transparent and decentralized state (see details in the VNR, 2020, p. 123-124).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

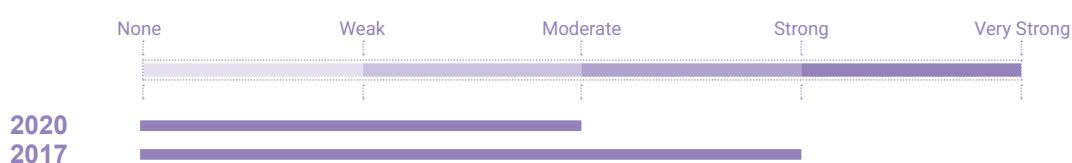
Authorities at the regional and municipal levels participate in the **National Agreement**, through the **Roundtable for the Fight against Poverty (MCLCP)**. The National Agreement organizes regional, provincial and district coordination councils for the formulation of agreed development plans and their follow-up. Based on the Decentralization Law (n° 27783), the PEDN is prepared taking into account the development plans at the regional and local level.⁵

The concerted regional development plans (PDC) result from the strategic planning process in the territory, which has the purpose of guiding the comprehensive development of the territories. However, they are plans of the society and the state, not of the regional, provincial or district governments which are only responsible for supporting them.⁶

To advance in the formulation of the new PEDN, as well as in the set of emergency plans and in new concerted development plans, information was collected from the **National Assembly of Regional Governments (ANGR) and various regions**, such as the Madre de Dios, Tumbes, Tacna regions, the Central Amazon Pacific Regional Mancommunity (PACA) and the Regional Mancommunity of the Andes.

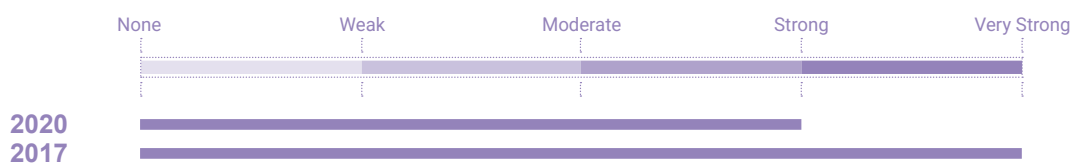
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There are no details on the participation of LRGs. They are mentioned throughout the 2020 VNR, without much references to specific cases and best practices.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Authorities at the regional and municipal levels participate in the National Agreement.

Lima mentioned its regular participation (consultative) in the inter-ministerial commission (GTF Survey 2020).

For the new PEDN, as well as for the set of emergency plans and new concerted development plans, information was collected from the ANGR and various regions.

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the 2020 VNR, including in its conclusion. All tiers of subnational government are mentioned. There is also a subsection on the 26 concerted regional development plans (see VNR, 2020, p. 137).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

There is no specific reference in the 2020 VNR to local initiatives and policies regarding SDG implementation (although there are some examples of local action during the pandemic, see below).

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

In 2020, two cities presented a VLR: **Chimbote** and **Trujillo**.⁷ Lima published its VLR in 2021.

5. Under normal conditions, the formulation of the PEDN integrates dialogue processes on policies and plans from the local level, passing to the district, provincial, and departmental levels through concerted development plans established in the Constitution of Peru since 2002. From the district level, the participation mechanisms are still weak. See Ley N° 27783, Ley de Bases de la Descentralización.

6. More information in the VNR, 2020, p. 137.

7. See: [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Chimbote%20\(2020\).pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Chimbote%20(2020).pdf) ; https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/trujillo_2020.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There are no specific references to resources allocated to local governments, especially for SDG implementation. The Solidarity Commitment to the Protection of Life “Hunger 0” (see also below) mentions some guidelines and initial procedures for regional governors, provincial authorities and other stakeholders, for the most immediate priorities.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR is clearly focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. It is structured to synthesize the main aspects for the Protection of Life as the main reference to guide development and to formulate the new Strategic National Development Plan in the context of the COVID-19 emergency. It also highlights the focus on people of the national development policy, and mentions for example the Solidarity Commitment to the Protection of Life “Hunger 0”, which marks a main priority for emergency action and for the country’s policies and strategic plans.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Regarding the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 VNR acknowledges that gender inequities were more evident, in particular regarding the burden of domestic and care tasks, and the physical and sexual violence against women and girls. There is no specific information at the local level, nor on women participation in politics.

3.2 COVID 19

Intergovernmental coordination is one of the aspects exposed for Peru’s response to COVID-19, and effective decentralization for development is one of the 5 axes that remain, during the crisis, among the most permanent aspects of the Policy General Government (PGG). At the regional and provincial level, the identification of immediate actions has been organized, both for the protection of life (health, supply) and for economic recovery. The way to guide the action down to the provincial level has been identified with regional and municipal authorities. Following what was proposed by several regions, it was agreed to use a verification sequence for interrelated actions in the immediate term. The priorities are 1. Protection of life. Health, nutrition. 2. Essential supply. 3. Production. 4. Citizen attitude. 5. Additional productive activation activities (reactivation).

In particular, the 2020 VNR recognizes that in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership of regional governors took on greater relevance to promote development from the territories. Therefore, their involvement has been promoted from the first coordination meetings to face the crisis. The ANGR has been part of the temporary **Multisectoral Working Group**, to participate in the formulation of the strategy for the economic recovery.

The ANGR also coordinated with each regional government for the formulation of regional Economic Reactivation Plans.⁸ By May 2020, 18 regional governments had already approved theirs. The 2020 VNR also highlights the efforts of regional governments such as **Cajamarca**, which have drawn up decrees aimed at improving conditions for agricultural activities, tourism, health services and digital transformation.⁹ Proposals for emergency actions, both general and for vulnerable populations and indigenous peoples, have also been developed in several departments.

8. To see the priorities of these recovery plans, see VNR, 2020, p. 103.

9. For more details on the decrees taken by Cajamarca, see VNR, 2020, p. 105-106.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.2 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	59 (2020)
	Rural	22 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	64 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		33.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		90 (2001, Lima Comas)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		30.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		35.1 (2019)

10. 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/per>

SURINAME

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The country is divided into 10 districts. The districts including Paramaribo are further subdivided into 63 subdistricts. In each district, a District Commissioner is appointed by the government and is head of the government administration in the district, but both the district and subdistrict councils are elected every five years at the country's general elections.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

Suriname's **Multi-annual Development Plan 2022- 2026** is aligned with the SDGs. Based on the principle of 'Leaving no one behind', it includes prioritized policy areas with short and long-term goals and serves as the building block for the 2050 Vision for Suriname.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government established the **National SDG Committee** and the **National SDG Public-Private Platform** to coordinate SDG implementation. The National SDG Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation and includes representatives from all line ministries, the Parliament, the National Planning Office, and the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS). The SDG Public-Private Platform serves as a link between the government, the private sector and civil society organizations. However, the 2022 VNR process brought to light various challenges related to the institutional and human capacities to effectively coordinate and implement the SDGs across all sectors.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **technical committee** was established to facilitate the 2022 VNR process. It was chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, and was composed of representatives from the ministries of Education, Science and Culture; Spatial Planning and Environment; Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation; and Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs, as well as key institutions such as the National Planning Office and the GBS. Several virtual **consultations** were organized with representatives from the government, civil society, academia, the private sector, UN agencies and other stakeholders. **Interviews** were also conducted with selected stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Planning Office** and the **General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)** used the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) core SDG indicators as a baseline to develop a SDG indicators list for the country. The online database recently developed by the National Planning Office and the system within the GBS are important mechanisms to monitor SDG implementation. The GBS, in collaboration with line ministries and agencies, is working to improve the availability and quality of data related to the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In the period 2016-2018, the government collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme and conducted the '**Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals**' awareness campaign. The aim was to share information about the SDGs and gather views of local authorities and communities on their role in achieving the SDGs. Information and awareness sessions with local authorities, community representatives, school youth, and non-governmental organizations were held in some

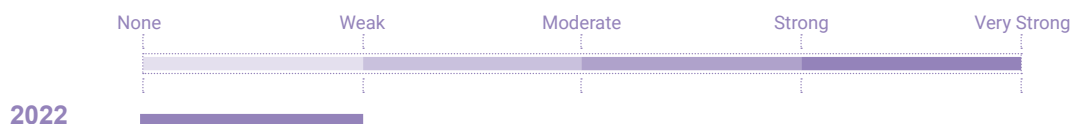
1. See: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Suriname/Government-and-society>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resorts_of_Suriname
 2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Suriname%20Report.pdf> (2022)

urban, rural and interior areas. The offices of the District Commissioners prepare annual district plans that are tailored to the needs of local communities and provide an effective mechanism for the government to pursue the commitment of 'Leaving no one behind'.

However, there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. There was no direct LRG participation in the 2022 VNR, but reports of prior engagements and consultations with local communities, under the 'Localizing the SDGs' initiative, enabled the incorporation of their perceptions into the VNR.

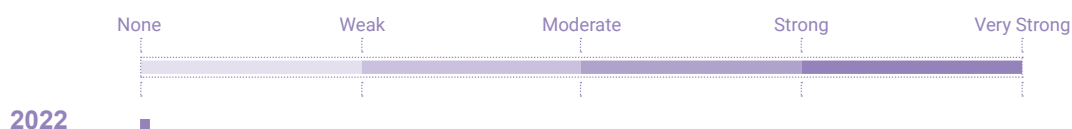
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There was no direct LRG participation in the 2022 VNR, but reports of prior engagements and consultations with local communities in certain urban, rural and interior areas have been taken into account.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms.

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 some references to districts in the 2022 VNR, but no example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. The report states that "the effective implementation of a whole-of-society approach which includes the local communities in the remote rural and interior areas" is still a challenge, and that additional efforts are needed to improve institutional and human resources capacities in the districts (see VNR, 2022, p. 107).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing for the implementation of the SDGs is a key challenge in Suriname. The 2022 VNR highlights that "encouraging and attracting adequate investments, affordable funding and technical assistance to fast track actions towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda will be the highest priority of the government" (see VNR, 2022, p. 110).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The offices of the District Commissioners implement **local disaster risk reduction strategies** in all districts, which are in line with the national disaster risk reduction strategy. National Disaster Response Teams at the district level were established to cope with disasters and guarantee a decentralized approach in managing risks.

Suriname is one of the few carbon-negative rating countries in the world and significantly contributes to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. The country has experienced a major breakthrough in 2020 and 2021 with the offshore oil and gas discoveries that represent an opportunity to reboot its economy, while taking into account its commitment towards green economic development.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 VNR only mentions measures taken by the government to contain the spreading of the pandemic and tackle it. The report states that in the aftermath of COVID-19, “there is a strong need for a transformative recovery towards inclusive and equal prosperity, protection and security for all, including those living in the remote rural and interior areas, thus leaving no one behind” (see VNR, 2022, p. 110).

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	63 (2020)
	Rural	41 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	21 (2020)
	Rural	34 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		5.9 (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)		26.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

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

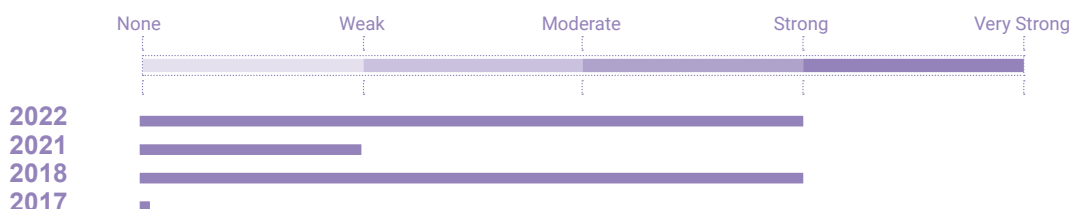
1. See: <https://www.sng-wofi.org/country-profiles/>

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.

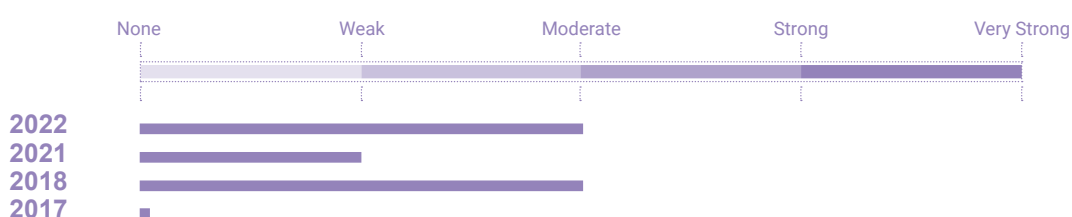
The VSR developed by the local governments association, **Congreso de Intendentes**, in 2022 indicates that awareness of SDGs at the local level is still limited and the coordination between national and local level on the SDGs is insufficient.

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>

VENEZUELA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a federal country with two tiers of subnational government: the country is divided into 23 states and the Capital District, and then into 335 municipalities.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 2013-2019** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

The initial national priorities for the implementation of the SDGs were linked to the **Poverty Plan 0**, which was to be achieved in 2019, and to the **Bolivarian Economic Agenda** related to the eradication of poverty, the sustainability of cities and the productive impulse (at micro, local and national levels).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Led by the Vice Minister designated for Multilateral and Integration Affairs of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Relations, the **Interinstitutional Coordination Group** includes all the Vice Ministers and Directors of International Relations of the national government, and ensures SDG integration in all sectoral policies. The **National Human Rights Council (CNDH)** actively participated in the national adaptation and appropriation of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

It is worth noting that the 2017 VNR includes two metropolitan indicators, namely metropolitan air quality and size of park areas in metropolitan cities.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2015, the **Statistics Committee of the Vice Presidency of Planning and Knowledge** was created, directed by the **National Institute of Statistics (INE)**. This is a body for participation and consultation, and advising of the organisms of the National Statistical System (SEN), including in relation with SDG monitoring. The 2016 VNR highlights the experience of the **Statistics Subcommittees** as a strategy for monitoring the principle of leaving no one behind.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

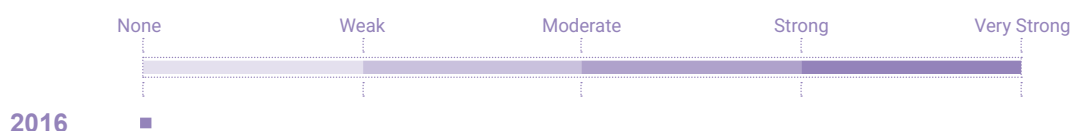
There is no evidence of any state nor local government involvement in the national SDG coordination and reporting mechanisms.

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

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10527Venezuela-%20PNV%20DEFINITIVO%20JUNIO%202016%20%20DEFINITIVO%2017062016%20\(1\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10527Venezuela-%20PNV%20DEFINITIVO%20JUNIO%202016%20%20DEFINITIVO%2017062016%20(1).pdf) (2016)

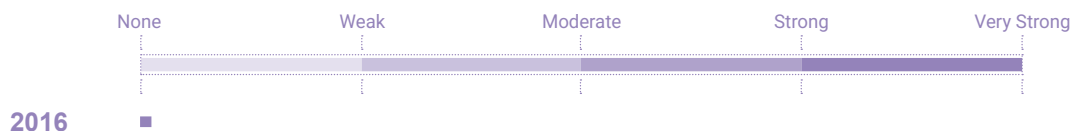
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2016

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2016

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are only a few references to LRGs in the 2017 VNR, and no example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The UN agencies, in collaboration with other stakeholders, have launched the '**Caravan of the SDGs**' to facilitate local-level dialogue about the SDGs between local governments, political parties, companies, social organizations and academia. In total 12 local dialogues have already taken place, involving 1300 participants.³

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Means of implementation at the national level are presented in the VNR, 2017, p. 73-76.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Compared to previous elections, a 68% increase in women elected as mayors was observed in the 2013 municipal elections.

3.2 COVID 19

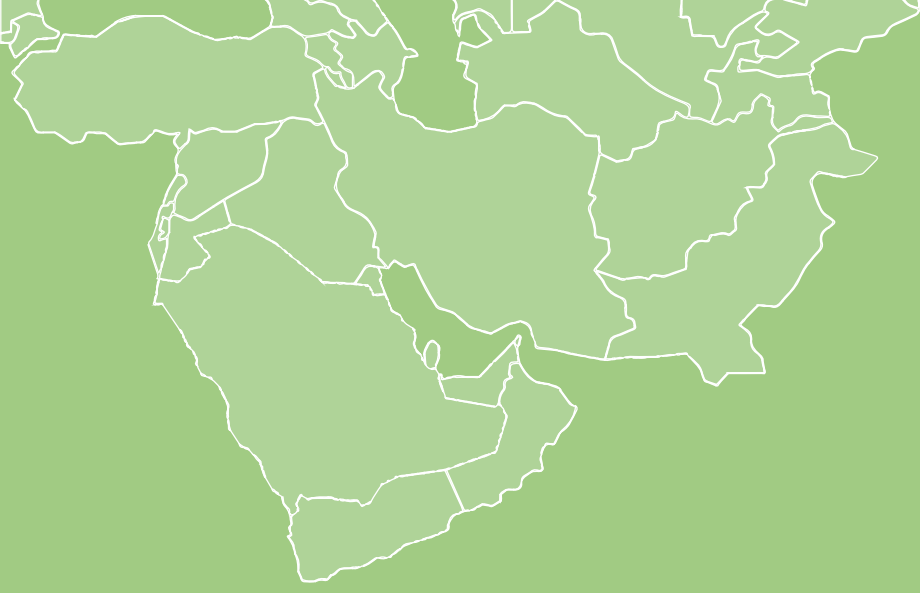
Not applicable.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		44.1 (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)		20.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/ven>



MIDDLE EAST AND WEST ASIA



AFGHANISTAN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Afghanistan is a unitary country with three tiers of subnational government. The major subnational administrative division is the province (*wilayat*), numbering 34 since 2008. Each province has between 5 and 15 districts. In total, there are 387 districts. Each province has one designated provincial municipality; some have a single rural municipality. All the 153 municipalities fall under the direct jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).² As this profile was elaborated before the 2021 Taliban offensive, some of the information provided here might no longer be accurate.

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Before the Taliban offensive, the SDGs had been integrated into national development plans, including the **Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF)**. Also, the **Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)** had mainstreamed the 17 SDGs into its 8 main sectors, in order to help government institutions to align their development priorities and budget allocation for new development programs with the A-SDGs targets and indicators.³ Additionally, the SDGs had been aligned with the **National Priority Programs (NPPs)**. The five NPPs (Urban Development, Women's Economic Empowerment, Citizen Charter, National Infrastructure and Connectivity, and Human Capital Development) cover approximately 47% of all SDG targets.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **High Council of Ministers** oversees and supervises the nationalization, alignment and implementation process of the SDGs in the country. The Ministry of Economy (MoEc) has organized the nationalization, alignment, implementation and monitoring processes into a series of specialized groups that include the **SDGs National Coordination Commission**, the **SDGs Secretariat**, the **Technical Coordination Committees**, the **Technical Working Groups**, and the **SDGs High-Level Board** which is responsible to assess and supervise the technical, financial and political status of the SDGs coordination, nationalization and implementation processes. The 2021 VNR indicates that a high-level **Executive Committee**, with four sub-committees, was established to provide policy directions to the implementation of the SDGs. As the lead entity for coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting of SDG implementation, the **Ministry of Economy (MoEc)** is the head of this Committee.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2017 VNR, the SDGs Secretariat conducted a series of consultations, workshops, and bilateral discussions with different stakeholders (civil society organizations, private sector, NGOs, gender related entities and government institutions). For the VNR 2021, the **Ministry of Economy** also organized consultations, workshops, and bilateral discussions involving different stakeholders. It was able to conduct virtual consultations with all Provincial Directors of Economy (PDoE), who serve as a secretary for Provincial Development Councils (PDCs). Over 200 meetings, workshops, conferences, seminars, and citizens' debates on the SDGs were held at the national and subnational levels.

1. Afghans have formed local councils, which in turn have built ties to appointed local leaders in secure areas. However, forming these linkages has been slowed by centralized decision making processes; localities have their own governing bodies but the central government ministries in the provincial capitals of each province actually implement national programs. Local officials often disagree with the Kabul ministry representatives on priorities and implementation.

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16277Afghanistan.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280392021_VNR_Report_Afghanistan.pdf (2021)

3. Indeed, the government has nationalized the global SDGs into Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs).

1.3 MONITORING

A national indicator framework has been developed which has designated 28 different government entities as SDGs custodians by assigning specific goals, targets, and indicators to each of them. Additionally, the Ministry of Economy was assigned to align the SDGs with the updated version of the ANPDF (ANPDF II, 2021-2025) in close coordination with MoF and National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA). The Ministry of Economy is creating a national-level automated online data and information coordination platform for real-time information sharing and informed policy and decision making for the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The ongoing activities of the four technical committees of the SDGs Executive Committee include SDG localization (that is to say, the integration of the SDGs into provincial development plans).

LRGs are not mentioned among the participants of the consultations organized as part of the 2017 and 2021 VNR processes.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Almost no consultation with local and regional authorities (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: One of the actions of the four Sub-committees that make up the SDGs Executive Committee consists in the integration of the SDGs into provincial development plans. Punctual participation of the municipality of Bakh (GTF Survey 2021).

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 is no specific subsection dedicated to the LRGs or the localization process. They are mostly mentioned in the first part, referring to the methodology and process of preparation of the review.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The municipality of **Balkh** holds accountability sessions and provides information on the SDGs to local stakeholders: local departments, elders, people representatives and youths with local community activists.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2017 VNR stated that the 2030 Agenda was considered as the foundation strategy for the socio-economic development of Afghanistan and that all available resources would be used to attain the SDG targets. According to the 2021 VNR, the Ministry of Economy is leading the alignment of ANPDF-II with A-SDGs. Once done, the ANPDF-II will serve as the main means of implementation for the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The World Bank has assisted in the creation of the Independent Directorate of Local Authorities in Afghanistan. UN-Habitat has also been very active in Afghanistan, sponsoring several programmes in partnership with the national government and subnational authorities. Even if designed outside the SDG framework, many of the 30 projects, active on the ground since 2008, have a strong impact on the achievement of core SDG targets and development indicators in Afghan territories and communities.⁴

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The previous government committed to bolstering coordination, implementation, and results in a re-focused and re-invigorated Women Economic Empowerment – National Priority Program (WEE-NPP) over the next five years. The Cabinet recently approved to designate one deputy governor position for each province to women. Also, every province now has a woman heading the office of prevention of violence against women. The proportion of seats held by women in parliament and local governments is 23%.

3.2 COVID 19

The government established an emergency relief fund to provide all Afghans with support for the first two months of the pandemic. In the longer term, the government will support the Afghan people in building resilience among poorer households in rural areas, increasing investment in water management, seeds provision, and improved livestock practices to improve agricultural productivity. A whole-of-government response was executed, and unprecedented authority was delegated to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and **provincial governors** to quickly respond to COVID-19.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		16.5 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	36 (2020)
	Rural	24 (2020)
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 (%)		70.7 (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)		55 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2017)

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

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/afg>

BAHRAIN

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a monarchy divided into 4 governorates. Governorate councils are elected but governors are appointed by the central government.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

In Bahrain, SDG implementation is based on the **Government Action Plan 2015-2018**. It includes approximately 78% of the SDG targets.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Information Committee (NIC)** was established in 2015 and is chaired by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs. It is designed to bring together all units of the central government involved in SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **NIC**, with follow-up through a **coordinating committee**, supervised the preparation of the 2018 VNR. A team that included representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Information and eGovernment Authority, was also formed to monitor that all aspects of the preparation process were covered. A national expert was also hired to help prepare the review. A number of consultative workshops, with representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and educational and media institutions, were also held to inform the reporting process.

1.3 MONITORING

The **NIC** monitors the achievement and delivery of the targets and indicators of the SDGs, links them to the Government Action Plan, monitors programs and policies that achieve these objectives, and measures progress. A national **information database of indicators on the SDGs** has been developed to boost coordination and cooperation between data providers and users.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

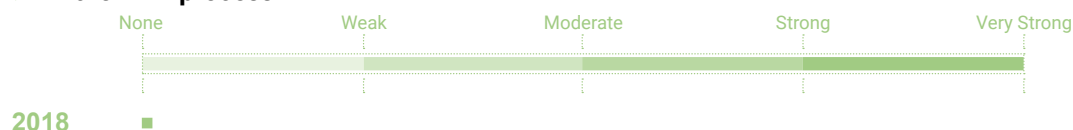
There is no evidence of any participation of the governorates in the reporting process that led to the 2018 VNR, nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2132920181231_Bahrain_VNR_English_translation.pdf (2018)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

As governors are appointed, the 2018 VNR considers governorates as an extension of the national government. There is no example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation in this report.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2018, Bahrain's monarchy appointed two women as director-generals of the Capital and Northern Municipalities.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		13.3 (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	-
	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 (%)		100 (2018, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		63.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/bhr>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Iraq is a federal republic. There has been a form of decentralized political and administrative government since 2008, when power was devolved to 18 provinces (governorates). Nevertheless, many challenges remain regarding the concretisation of this system of governance. Provincial councils are elected, but not the heads of local governments. The Kurdistan Regional Government is autonomous. At the municipal level, it is estimated that there are 91 districts and 141 *tracts*.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 **Iraq Vision 2030** was launched in 2016. It is based on the sustainable development dimensions and covers 74% of the SDGs. The **National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022** aims at reducing the implications of the terrorist groups' occupation of some governorates and the falling crude oil prices in the global markets and the consequent sharp fall in Iraq's financial revenues. It incorporates 77% of the SDGs. The 2019 VNR states that the **Ministerial Platform** was inspired by these 3 documents, as well as the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Platform emphasizes on forward-looking areas of planning, taking into consideration that no one is left behind, efforts to empower women and youth, equality achievement, improving ecosystems and coping with climate change.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

According to the 2019 VNR, the **Monitoring Committee** and the **SDG National Coordination Commission** are chaired by the Ministry of Planning. In addition, an SDG Secretariat, Technical Coordination Committees, Technical Working Groups, and an SDG High-Level Board have been created to ensure SDG implementation. National coordination mechanisms are not clearly presented in the 2021 VNR, but the **National Committee for Sustainable Development** seems to have an important role, and to be related to the Ministry of Planning.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2019 VNR process was led by the Ministry of Planning which supervised the VNR drafting process in cooperation with local and federal entities, the parliament, the private sector, and NGOs. With the support of UNDP. There was a challenge regarding data, coverage, and classification by gender and environment (rural/urban) and governorate, despite efforts to provide them. The 2021 VNR was developed by the **National Committee for Sustainable Development**. Preparing the report relied on a participatory development approach involving the government represented by the **Ministry of Planning**, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and various ministries and government departments, particularly the Central Bureau of Statistics, and academic and research institutions. A broadly representative committee of stakeholders was appointed to ensure that their aspirations and visions were included. Different conferences and consultations were organized with these stakeholders. Also, some work has been done at the local level to produce sustainable development reports at the province level.

1.3 MONITORING

The government has divided the 17 SDGs into eight socio-economic sectors: security, education, health, governance, infrastructure, social protection, agriculture and rural development, and economy. It has identified 169 specific national targets

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23789Iraq_VNR_2019_final_EN_HS.pdf (2019); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/285062021_VNR_Report_Iraq_English.pdf (2021)

and 217 indicators. The 2019 VNR mentions many challenges remain regarding data. Data published by the **Central statistical organization** (CSO) and the **SDG National Coordination Commission** still includes data gaps in a number of areas. Moreover, the ministries do not provide comprehensive and reliable administrative data. The total data gap reaches 69.9% of the total 230 indicators distributed to the 17 SDGs. In other words, the available data only covers 67 indicators. The data gap reaches its zenith in Goal 13 where there is no data on any of its indicators. On the other hand, the most available data are on the indicators of Goal 3.

To monitor the progress of provinces in sustainable development, the 2021 VNR developed two indices based on data for 39 SDG indicators mostly from the 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. These are: the **Local Comparative Development Index (LCDI)** to measure progress towards each SDG using nationally available indicators, and in comparison with the global standard or national average if the global SDG is achieved; and the **Local Comparative Developmental Perseverance Index** to make a comparison based on the performance rank of each province according to available indicators. It considers progress compared to other provinces rather than just the nature of achievement and how close it is to the global standard (more details and the results of each province in the VNR, 2021, p. 91).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Regarding national strategy and coordination, in 2018 the governorates of **Basra, Anbar, and Karbala** took part in a workshop dedicated to integrating the SDGs into the NDP. The 2019 VNR mentioned the **Governorate committees for sustainable development** (with representatives of the municipalities): their mission is to monitor the achievement of SDGs and indicators at the governorate level and submit their report to the National Commission for Sustainable Development.³ A Social Fund for Development has been established to support the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. The Global Initiative Towards a Sustainable Iraq (GITSI) is a further acknowledgement of the importance of including LRGs in SDG implementation.⁴ According to the 2019 VNR, the Kurdistan Region's Vision 2020 is aligned with SDGs by 71%.

Governorates (provinces) were part of some workshops, seminars and meetings to prepare the 2019 VNR. LRGs are not mentioned among the stakeholders involved in the 2021 reporting process.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: No reference to LRG participation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



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

Governorates are mentioned throughout the 2019 report, while there are only a few mentions of municipalities, without much specific examples. In its introduction, the 2021 VNR advocates for a decentralized approach in the preparation of the national report to include the local level and mentions decentralization as "an enhanced approach to equality and justice".

► The Chapter 4 is entirely dedicated to local governments (the report talks more about governorates than cities or municipalities). The title of this chapter is "Decentralization and local sustainable development: main challenge". The report stresses the importance of good governance and of the means to strengthen it because it helps consolidate relations between the state and citizens on the one hand and between the central state and LRGs on the other hand.

► The Chapter 5, entitled "Performance of provinces in sustainable development: perseverance restrictions", is entirely

3. However, they are not mentioned in the 2021 VNR.

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

devoted to the analysis of the implementation of the SDGs in 7 provinces of the country: **Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Dhi Qar, Basra, Karbala, Anbar** and **Nineveh** (see VNR, 2021, p. 89-114): “these provinces offer narratives from which lessons can be drawn for other provinces”.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ Cities in the governorates of **Al Basra, Al Anbar** and **Kerbala** have been preparing local reports on SDG implementation.
- ▶ **Al Basra**’s strategy for sustainable development is titled “Al Basra Capital of a Promising Economy”. This governorate has developed a vision for the SDGs, and its objective is to improve living conditions in terms of health, education for its inhabitants with a social peace that allows everyone to participate in the achievement of the SDGs (see VNR, 2021, p. 100).
- ▶ In chapter 5, there are two comparative tables; the first concerns the ranking of the governorates in the achievement of the SDGs (**Souleymania** is the first, **Irbil** the second), and the second indicates the ranking of the governorates in the efforts put in place to achieve the SDGs (**Souleymania** is in the lead followed by **Irbid**). See the VNR, 2021, p. 92 and
- ▶ One of the prominent features of the province **Souleymania** has been a focus on infrastructure projects in education, health, services, water, electricity, sewer systems and transport. The province has committed to proper planning in the service of citizens in urban and rural areas, and has reached even the farthest points deep inside the countryside. A total of 2,248 villages have been built and the province is one of the cleanest areas of Iraq. Billions of dollars have been spent to improve the environment and for afforestation campaigns. The province has also made progress in reducing poverty to as low as 6.7% compared to the national average of 20.1%. This percentage is expected to decrease even further following the launch of the provincial Social Development Fund on October 1, 2020, with an effort to involve the local poor in the fund’s projects and turn them into producers.
- ▶ The province of **Dhi Qar** has a success story in local youth leadership. It has changed the local government more than once, amended the electoral law, created the foundation of the Dhi Qar Reconstruction Fund, and increased budgetary allocations in 2021 pursuant to its declaration as a disaster-stricken province.
- ▶ The province of **Basra** set its development path following a local vision of sustainable development for 2030. It aims to ensure well-being, good living standards, and universal health care with a quality educational system, based on an institutional system and community security to achieve the SDGs. The province in its management of development has moved closer to risk-conscious frameworks, planning, policy-making and decision-making, on a path to high-level development governance.
- ▶ At the national level, the **Region’s Development Program** was launched in 2006 to respond to provincial diversity and demographic and economic characteristics and advantages. This diversity requires the distribution of investments in a way that achieves the optimal use of resources, and takes into account the comparative advantage of each province and its natural, agricultural, and mineral resources. The **2018 National Urban Strategic Framework for urban development** in the provinces of Iraq is aligned with SDG 11, and seeks to make “cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and contributes to balanced spatial development for all cities in the Iraqi provinces. It supports decentralization and good governance, and enhances community participation.

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

The 2019 VNR mentions that the governorates of **Basra, Karbala**, and **Anbar** were preparing their first local reports on SDGs, expected to be completed in 2019.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Iraq, central transfers are still essential for the sustainability of local government. They are allocated, however, in a highly unbalanced way: the four governorates included in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) — due to the particular status of this union as the country’s only autonomous region — receive about 17% of the national budget via grants; the remaining 15 governorates combined only receive about 5%.⁵

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The experience of **decentralization** in Iraq is recent even though laws have existed since 1962. Eight ministries (Education, Health, Municipalities and Public Works, Agriculture, Finance, Housing and Urbanization, Social Affairs and Youth and Sport) have an effective role in strengthening decentralization, which allows LGs to have technical prerogatives, administrative and legislative matters in the aforementioned fields. The recent experience of decentralization suffers from the

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

lack of a legislative, administrative and political arsenal to support their actions. In addition, the country's legislative framework favors centralization and concentration much more. The report recommends making decentralization a strong instrument to support sustainable development.

The **National Development Plan 2018-2022** emphasizes provinces that have suffered from security problems, such as **Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Nineveh, and Diyala**. The most important challenges they face are: changing their economic identity; refugees and displaced populations; the collapse of infrastructure; the suspension of projects; the decline in the economic situation; societal lawlessness and clan conflicts; the deterioration of agricultural, animal, and industrial production; and high unemployment and poverty rates. In addition, the plan identifies challenges faced by other provinces, especially the southern ones. The most important are: the lack of administrative and financial powers granted to local administrations, which limits decision-making; the lack of economic activity regulations; deterioration of the investment environment; the weak role of the private sector; and an insufficient water quota, which negatively affects the needs of the population and the agricultural sector.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In Iraq's second election for governorate councils in 2013, 117 women were elected to a total of 440 seats, seven more than in the 2009 elections.⁶ The 2021 VNR mentions the objective of strengthening the role and place of women in local authorities and in particular at the level of political decision-making. In March 2021, the government formed a higher committee to oversee the empowerment of women in the political process and the Council of Representatives elections. It is preparing its work plan, expected to be announced in June 2021.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2021 VNR presents the impact of the pandemic and the recovery strategy at the national level, and acknowledges that "addressing the current complex crisis in the context of the SDGs requires great cooperation between various local and international stakeholders, particularly since development financing needs are one of the most important problems".

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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	65 (2020)
	Rural	48 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	42 (2020)
	Rural	44 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		45.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		51.8 (2012, Baghdad)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		55.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)

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

7. 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/irq>

JORDAN

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)

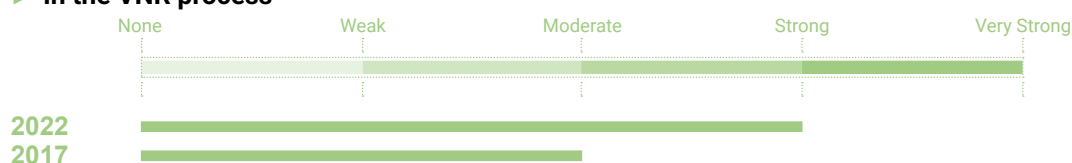
and updated. The **Department of Statistics (DoS)** established the Sustainable Development Unit, charged with collecting sustainable development data, and which acts as the focal point with national and international partners. Jordan will continue building the JDP database to strengthen the quality 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>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The State of Kuwait is a unitary monarchy with 6 governorates (regional level). Local councils are elected, but their heads are appointed.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

Kuwait's approach to the SDGs has been guided by **Kuwait Vision 2035**³ and mainstreamed through the quinquennial **Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP) 2015-2020**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Sustainable Development Committee (NSDC)** provides overall strategic leadership. It is chaired by the **General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD)**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Central Statistical Bureau. It has a breadth of membership representing different line ministries and government departments such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the General Authority for the Environment, the Direct Investment Promotion Authority and the General Secretariat of the National Parliament. It also includes representation of observers from national and international agencies such as the State's Audit Bureau, UNDP and the World Bank, as well as a representation from civil society and the private sector. A **National Observatory on Sustainable Development and Anticipation of the Future (NOSD)** was also set up to play a further coordination and follow-up role among all partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **NOSD** assumed the responsibility of preparing the first VNR of the country in 2019. The **GSSCPD**, together with the **Central Statistical Bureau**, initiated more than thirteen workshops and seminars with a range of stakeholders including government, civil society organizations, the academia, the private sector and UN partners. In addition, regular coordination mechanisms were devised to enable government, non-government, and private sector stakeholders to provide inputs, review progress and discuss goals and targets inter-linkages.

1.3 MONITORING

Kuwait's achievements on each of the SDGs is detailed in a table in the 2019 VNR (see VNR, 2019, p. 27-28), but there is no further information on monitoring and reporting strategies related to the SDGs. Progress reports on the KNDP are regularly submitted by all relevant entities (ministries, bodies, agencies, etc.) to the GSSCPD for review, monitoring and accountability.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any participation of governorate representatives in the 2019 VNR process nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

1. UCLG, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, 2019, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf.

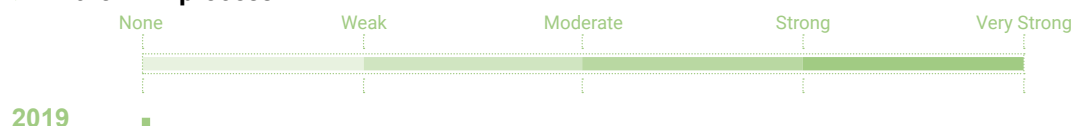
See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governorates_of_Kuwait

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23384Kuwait_VNR_FINAL.PDF (2019)

3. More details on the pillars of Kuwait Vision 2035 in relation to SDGs can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 21.

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

There are very limited references to governorates in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific reference to SDG implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Over the last few decades, several municipal responsibilities in Kuwait have in fact been re-centralized, although municipal councils are still responsible for certain services — including roads, urban planning, sanitation, garbage disposal, food safety, licensing, environmental protection, and housing.⁴

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. See the work of UNDP (POGAR) on Kuwait's decentralization. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

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 (%)		100 (2012, Kuwait)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		62.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2017)

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/kwt>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lebanon is a unitary republic divided into 8 administrative governorates, 25 districts and 1,018 municipalities. These can associate through Municipal Unions (there are currently 51). Beirut, the capital city, has a unique system, in which the elected mayor retains certain policy-making powers while sharing the executive power with an appointed governor.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

Lebanon's most comprehensive cross-sectoral development policy, which to a certain extent integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development, is the **National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory (NPMLPT)**, adopted in 2009. Lebanon does not yet have a national integrated sustainable development framework.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **National Committee** to implement the SDGs was formed in 2017, with members including ministerial officials, and representatives from CSOs and the private sector. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. **Sub-committees** (thematic groupings) have been established along the pillars of the 2030 Agenda (people, planet, prosperity and peace, with partnership mainstreamed) and a dedicated **statistical taskforce** has been set up.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Three workshops were conducted with government officials, the private sector and CSOs to raise their awareness of the SDGs and to launch the 2018 VNR preparations.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)** is mandated to collect, process, produce and disseminate social and economic statistics at the national level.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Committee of Mayors**, gathering the representatives of the country's major cities, has been active since 1995. The Technical Office of Lebanese Cities (BTVL), also known as **United Cities Lebanon** (Cités Unies Liban), has a membership of 66 municipalities and 22 federations of municipalities, comprising 80% of the country's population. However, when the national government prepared its VNR in 2018, the municipalities of the United Cities Lebanon were informed but not invited to contribute to the process.³ Local governments are not included in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.⁴

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

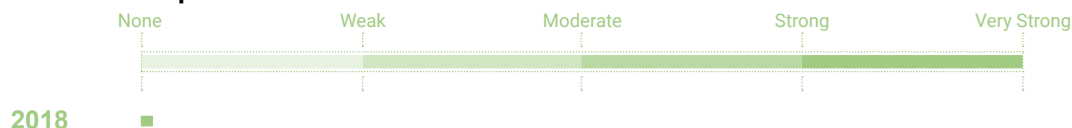
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19624LebanonVNR2018.pdf> (2018)

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

4. Answers of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities and the local government association United Cities Lebanon to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are a few references to local governments in the 2018 VNR, without much recognition of LRGs' role in SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Byblos'** resilience plan was created through dialogue with key stakeholders — the municipal council, government ministries, the police, NGOs, academic institutions, and civic groups. It prioritizes municipal data collection and use as a prerequisite for improved planning and city management.⁵

► To increase green public spaces, a pioneering project on soft mobility called "*Liaisons douces*" has been studied in **Beirut**. It would include safe pedestrian and cycling tracks along the main city axes. Also, the municipality developed a national disaster management strategy and draft disaster law.

► The WB-funded cultural heritage and urban development initiative aimed to create conditions for increased local economic development and enhanced quality of life in the historic centres of Lebanon's five main secondary cities: **Baalbek**; **Byblos**; **Saida**; **Tyre** and **Tripoli**. The initiative ended in 2016 and an evaluation of its results showed it had succeeded in rehabilitating historic urban cores in compliance with approved regulations.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific reference regarding SDG implementation, in particular at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Lebanon, public participation in urban planning and development remains marginal, but has been improving: in 2016, a platform set up by NGOs under the slogan of 'Beirut My City' won 37% of the votes in the capital. The winner-take-all electoral system left the movement with no representation in the city council, but it won international acclaim.⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the municipal elections in 2016, women constituted 5.4% of local government elected officials, compared to 4.6% in the previous round in 2010.

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

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

3.2 COVID 19

During the pandemic, **United Cities Lebanon** relayed the government directives on the measures to be taken vis-à-vis the population, such as distribution of material aids (masks, gels, gloves, etc.), the distribution of brochures and specialized books to fight against the pandemic, the organization of several explanatory and information sharing workshops, etc. Overall, local authorities have played a preponderant role despite the scarcity of financial resources, through the creation of crisis units, the involvement of civil society in particular the nursing staff, the mobilization of private financial resources, the provision of housing for people affected by the pandemic, etc.⁷

4. SDG INDICATORS⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		4.0 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		61.1 (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)		30.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2019)

7. Answer of the local government association United Cities Lebanon (Cités Unies Liban) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

8. 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/lbn>

STATE OF PALESTINE

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The State of Palestine is a unitary republic, divided into two main geographical units: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It comprises two different levels of subnational government: there are 16 governorates and 405 local government units. At the regional level, governorates are managed by governors who are nominated by the president and are under the direct supervision of the Ministry of the Interior; half the members are elected by the Provincial General Council, the remaining half is appointed by the governor. At the local level, there are four categories of municipalities (A, B, C and D), varying according to demographic criteria. Also, a number of municipalities (the so-called “new municipalities”) were established following the Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995.¹



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

Although Palestine incorporated the SDGs in its **National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022** and submitted a VNR in 2018, little progress has been achieved because of limited resources and the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and blockade of Gaza.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National SDGs Team** is headed by the **Prime Minister** with membership of all interested parties of governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. It tackles the coordination responsibility for national efforts to follow-up and implement the SDGs. It is supported by 12 **national SDG working groups**. These are composed of representatives from NGOs, private sector and academic institutions.⁴

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Prime Minister's Office** led the 2018 VNR process, with the support of a **steering committee** comprising senior level officials, a dedicated **drafting team** and the **National SDGs Team**. Over 500 mid-level and high-level representatives of governmental institutions, UN Agencies, local and international NGOs, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector participated in deliberations aimed at ensuring an inclusive process and representation of all segments of the Palestinian society in the reporting process. This included data collection, dissemination and mainstreaming of the information on goals and targets, alongside participating in discussions on the prioritization and localization of the SDGs.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)** is responsible for adapting and monitoring the SDG indicators in cooperation with all relevant ministries and national institutions, and in coordination with international organizations, especially UN agencies. The PCBS formed an internal **technical task force** to monitor the methodology and provision of data for SDG indicators. But the collection of data in Palestine remains highly challenging due to the restrictions imposed on the access of the government to certain areas of the occupied Palestinian territory (Jerusalem, Area C). Financial and capacity restrictions also play a role in the lack of the availability of some of the indicators. Data on only 109 out of 244 SDG indicators is available.

1. See: <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Palestine-Introduction.aspx>

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20024VNR2018PalestineNEWYORK.pdf> (2018)

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

4. The responsibility of the working groups is to regularly track the progress of their specific goal(s). As a result of establishing the SDG working groups, the number of stakeholders engaged in the follow-up and implementation of the SDGs increased to more than 300 stakeholders from various sectors.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)** and local authorities have been invited to contribute to the national SDG coordination mechanism through ad-hoc consultations (during a few punctual meetings). However, when the State of Palestine presented its 2018 VNR, APLA was neither informed nor involved in the process.⁵ On its side, APLA has been particularly active regarding SDG localization. It has established the Palestinian City Managers Network (PCMN), which involves higher-level administrators responsible for running the day-to-day operations of Palestinian municipalities, and has historically been proactive in global networks of local authorities and in the effort of granting their members increasing visibility on the international stage.⁶

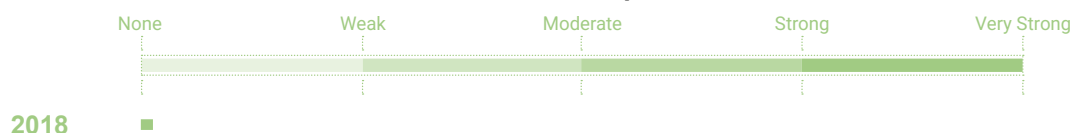
Until 2020 neither APLA nor any local authority was part of the SDG national team. In 2020, there was an arrangement with the Prime Minister's Office to include APLA in this team, yet as of 2021, APLA was still not invited. The **improvement in multilevel coordination for SDG implementation** in 2020 was due to the integration of APLA's Policy Coordinator to the SDG 11 national team led by the Ministry of Local Government. There, APLA's participation and involvement was very active, and the association reports excellent coordination with the ministry. They both started working on defining priorities for local governments by identifying specific goals, targets and indicators in order to measure and coordinate the achievements of the local authorities in relation with the SDGs. A mutual agreement between APLA and the Ministry of Local Government was adopted, and the data gathering for the chosen local SDG indicators shall start soon.⁷

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

References to LRGs are very limited in the 2018 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)** issued a booklet targeting local authorities with a simplified explanation of their role in achieving the SDGs. It has also launched a social media awareness campaign on the Goals, therefore providing a roadmap for a more balanced and just urban development. In addition, APLA launched the "Good Citizenship and Good Governance" campaign, through which many messages were broadcasted through short videos to citizens and local authorities. Its content was related to attaining economic independence, social justice and the rule of law, providing quality, inclusive education and comprehensive and accessible health care and creating a sustainable and resilient society. Also, APLA is preparing an SDG platform for Palestine, so as to present local authorities' contributions to SDG implementation, based on indicators and by presenting best practices.⁸

► In **Ramallah**, the preparation of the resilience plan involved working groups from the Municipal Council, universities and the private sector, as well as conversations with local political and community leaders. Ramallah has also joined the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network.

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

Not applicable.

5. Answer of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

7. Answer of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

8. Answer of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Palestine's geographic and administrative structure derives from its particular history and status. Is the consequence of its particular history and status. It is divided into two main geographical units: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This spatial configuration has led to a relative autonomy in terms of municipal authority, also considering the impact of territorial fragmentation as caused by the Israeli occupation. Today urban governance is largely decentralized and elected local authorities are responsible for planning, managing growth within their boundaries, (e.g. water, power) and granting of building permits. In 2005 and 2006, there was a rise of agglomeration into joint councils for shared service provision and development planning. At the national level, the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), established in 2005, provides municipalities with grants and loan guarantees and programmes to strengthen their financial management capabilities. It has channelled significant funding from international donors for municipal infrastructure, capacity development, and other municipal activities.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women occupy 20% of the seats of the local councils.

3.2 COVID 19

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) has worked with the Palestinian government to follow-up on local authorities' needs, and has coordinated with the donors to supply local governments with preventative equipment to protect their front-line workers. APLA also broadcasted support messages to local authorities through its regular and widely circulated media productions. APLA issued a position paper about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Palestinian local authorities, how they dealt with this crisis, the challenges they faced and their most important needs. APLA also identified priority interventions to be worked on in the post-pandemic era. In addition, due to the financial hardship local authorities are undergoing for having ensured the continuity of public service delivery and implemented emergency plans to protect their citizens' health, APLA highlighted the risk of forcing municipalities and village councils to cut down on the services they provide to citizens, including basic services, in the near future. APLA's executive committee called for the need to look for a quick solution, that includes rescheduling all due debts owed by local authorities. In this regard, it was agreed to form a joint committee with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Finance and APLA to examine local authorities' debts and agree on a mechanism to reschedule them on binding grounds for all parties.¹⁰

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

10. Answer of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹¹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		21.2 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	81 (2020)
	Rural	76 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	72 (2020)
	Rural	48 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.3 (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)		-
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2018)

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/pse>

QATAR

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Qatar is a unitary country and an absolute monarchy. There is no available evidence of the existence of local or regional self-government.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Although adopted in 2008, the **Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030** corresponds to the SDGs: it has adopted the pillars of sustainable economic, social and environmental development. The **National Development Strategy 2018-2022** explicitly includes them. The goals of the forthcoming **Third National Development Strategy 2023-2027**, which is currently being prepared, will certainly be aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Council of Ministers** oversees SDG implementation, and the **Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics** is the coordination entity.²

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was prepared by a working group within the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, in cooperation with partner ministries, government agencies, and civil society organizations. For the 2021 VNR, work began by coordinating with both the **Cabinet** and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to clarify the **Planning and Statistics Authority's** readiness to start work on the report. Then discussions began on the action plan and the roadmap to start the implementation process. This included the formation of the **Steering Committee** which enclosed both the Advisory Statistics Committee and the **Permanent Population Committee**. More than 17 entities representing the government sector, the private sector, the civil society organizations and academic institutions, are members of both committees.

1.3 MONITORING

As part of the 2021 VNR process, a **platform on the indicators of the 2030 Agenda** was developed. Reports related to the progress made in implementation were also prepared, whether those reports related to SDGs in Qatar or to the Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16517Qatar_VNR_2017_En.pdf (2017);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20443SDG_Qatar_En_Draft7_Landscape_3.pdf (2018);
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280362021_VNR_Report_Qatar_English.pdf (2021)
2. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is almost no reference to the local level in the 2021 VNR. For instance, there is only one mention of the municipalities: “the future challenge in the field of childcare requires the expansion of services, especially emergency services for children, in municipalities located outside the major cities; Doha and Al-Rayyan”. There are some mentions of programs of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, without details on the municipalities/territories concerned.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Qatari cities are promoting the development of desert campsites as a way to fund natural resource protection and alleviate touristic pressure on coastal localities.³

► Shifting to green building projects such as Qatar National Convention Center, **Msheireb City** and **Lusail City** as all of their buildings are environment-friendly.⁴

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference regarding the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies has reached 100%.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The participation of Qatari women in the seats of the Central Municipal Council did not exceed 6.9% of the total seats for the year 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

The national response to the pandemic is described, without information regarding the local level.

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

4. The State of Qatar ranks second in terms of the number of green and environment-friendly buildings in the Middle East and North Africa.

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 (%)		100 (2015, Doha)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		80.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

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/qat>

SAUDI ARABIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Saudi Arabia is a unitary monarchy divided into 13 regions, each of which is headed by a prince belonging to the royal family. Each region has a regional council headed by an emir, appointed by the king, who has the rank of minister. Each region contains a number of governorates. In total, there are 118 governorates, containing a total of 285 municipal councils.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 **Saudi Vision 2030** and related implementation programs, such as the **National Transformation Program 2020 (NTP 2.0)**, provide the foundations underpinning the integration of sustainable development goals into the national planning process.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

High-level political direction on SDG implementation is provided by the **Council of Ministers**, while coordination is ensured by the **Ministry of Economy and Planning**. The **Council of Economic and Development Affairs** is tasked with the implementation of Vision 2030, and a **Strategy Committee** proposes strategies for achieving it.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was prepared following a participatory approach, led by the **Ministry of Economy and Planning** and engaging stakeholders from public institutions, the private sector and charitable societies and associations. The data collection and analysis was carried out by a **technical working group** under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy and Planning.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Ministry of Economy and Planning** is the body in charge of SDG reporting and data collection from other ministries and relevant stakeholders, while the **General Authority for Statistics** is responsible for building the indicators which measure progress made towards the realization of goals. Adapting the SDGs to the realities of Saudi Arabia is work in progress and further alignment and integration is expected to be achieved as the SDGs targets and indicators become incorporated into the government's detailed action plans and programs under the Vision 2030 framework.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The role of LRGs in SDG implementation is not clear: the consultation process was given no visibility, except for the **Future Saudi Cities Programme**,⁴ linked to the Saudi Vision 2030. Also, the **National Spatial Strategy 2030** has been updated in cooperation with the UNDP. The strategy will support the realization of Vision 2030 at the level of the regions and municipalities. Furthermore, the updated strategy integrates the SDGs as well as the New Urban Agenda's objectives into the strategy's

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20230SDGs_English_Report972018_FINAL.pdf (2018)

3. In addition, Saudi Arabia has developed several strategies and plans that are bound to promote the SDGs. Among these are the National Environmental Strategy, the National Strategy for Conservation of Biodiversity, the Vegetation Restoration Strategy in Riyadh region, the National Plan for Management of Natural Disasters, the National Marine Disaster Management Plan and the National Chemical and Bacteriological Incidents Management Plan.

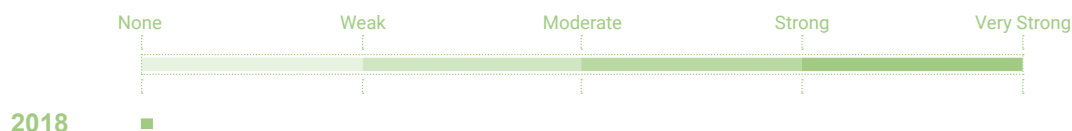
4. The Future Saudi Cities Program, led by the Ministry of Municipalities, has paved the way for a revision of the regulatory framework relating to LRGs. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

policies for spatial development.⁵ Promoting the SDGs at the subnational level is mentioned as part of the major challenges identified in the 2018 VNR, but there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the reporting process nor in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

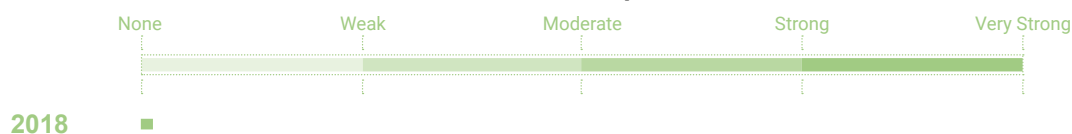
Regarding monitoring efforts, the 2018 VNR stresses that “particular attention will be paid to the adaptation and implementation of The SDGs at the subnational level and establishing systems for tracking and using SDG-related indicators in local decision making processes. The Ministry of Economy and Planning, as the coordinator for SDG implementation, will continue to offer capacity building support to relevant institutions, especially at the subnational level” (see VNR, 2018, p. 165).

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments’ annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are many references to provincial governments in the 2018 VNR, and less to municipal councils, and only very limited examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. However, in the review of the progress made towards SDG 11, a subsection is dedicated to **Riyadh** (see VNR, 2018, p. 115-118).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► With UNDP support, the **Riyadh** Urban Observatory has engaged in discussion with local actors to promote the integration of the SDGs and their related indicators in the Observatory’s toolkit for monitoring and reporting on implementation in the city of Riyadh. Riyadh Urban Observatory monitors and assesses development trends and the impact of rapid growth of Riyadh. It seeks to develop sustainable urban monitoring systems, which will be used to support planning, link indicator results to policy and to promote and facilitate partnerships among sectors. The general framework of urban indicators has been developed based on the local vision of the Metropolitan Development Strategy for Riyadh (MEDSTAR), objectives of the National Transformation Program 2020 and 2025 and the global vision, as seen through the resource guide of the Global Urban Observatory, including the SDGs. Riyadh has been nominated as a local world cities’ data center for SDGs 2030.

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

Al Madinah published a VLR in 2023.⁶

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Saudi Vision 2030 specifically addresses municipal finance.⁷

5. Saudi Arabia, faced with increasing urbanization rates, launched its National Spatial Strategy 2030 and Future Saudi Cities Programme (in partnership with UN-Habitat) to tackle urban sprawl reduction; promote spatially balanced planning and development; improve public transportation in and between major cities; promote national investment towards less-developed regions; and empower middle and small-sized cities and settlements as regional growth hubs. A major challenge will be the devolution of greater responsibilities to local governments. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

6. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/al_madinah_2023.pdf

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Over the last ten years, there has been evidence of the role of local authorities expanding somewhat. The country's shift towards more deconcentration of administrative powers includes the establishment of regional authorities and the enhancement of the institutional capacity of local agencies. Elections – albeit limited to half the membership of local councils – were held in 2005, 2011 and 2015.⁸ The local councils have been given nominal planning and development responsibilities and are specifically responsible for public health, the management of public space, and the issuance of building permits. However, they do not enjoy the same financial autonomy: the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has dominated the formulation and implementation of urban policy. Although local councils prepare local master plans and monitor their implementation, ministries still have the power to overrule local decisions. Similarly, central government transfers still account for 70% of local expenditures. Only a handful of cities – **Riyadh**, **Jeddah**, and the holy cities of **Makkah** and **Madinah** – are granted the capacity to manage local finance and maintain a local budget. Some cities, however, are seeking revenue from municipal land property to raise additional financial resources, and have been experimenting with PPPs to attract private investment.⁹

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Saudi Arabia granted female citizens the right to participate in local politics in 2015: since then, 21 women have won seats in Saudi municipal councils.¹⁰

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹¹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		1.2 (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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		16.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		91.2 (2015, Riyadh)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		60.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

8. In 2005, local elections in 178 municipalities were held for half of the seats in the municipal council. The last local elections were held in 2015 in 284 local councils, the first-ever elections open to female voters and candidates. UCLG, 2018, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Towards_the_Localization_of_the_SDGs.pdf

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

10. See: Hatoun Al-Fassi, 2017, "Is Female Suffrage in the Gulf Important?," LSE Middle East Center Blog, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2017/12/16/is-female-suffrage-in-the-gulf-important/>

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/sau>

TURKEY

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Turkey is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The first, at regional level, comprises 51 special provincial administrations and 30 provincial metropolitan municipalities. The second, at the municipal level, is made up of 973 provincial and district municipalities, 386 towns and 30 metropolitan municipalities.

Turkey also comprises 18 195 villages. Even if they are not fully-functional municipalities because of their small size, they are local self-governments recognised in the Constitution and do not depend on a municipality.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

Turkey has reflected the SDGs into its **10th and 11th National Development Plans (NDPs) 2014-2018** and **2019-2023 and Annual Programmes**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB)** under the President's Office is the focal point for sustainable development. Different ministries ensure coordination for each SDG.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Turkey was the first MEWA country to submit a VNR in 2016 and again in 2019. Turkey's first VNR laid down a roadmap elaborating the planned steps to achieve SDGs. Its 2019 VNR focuses on the status of progress towards the SDGs. The 2019 VNR process was coordinated by the **Presidency of Strategy and Budget (PSB)**. A total of 2,962 representatives were consulted directly from government entities, 312 NGOs, 2,000 companies and 50 municipalities. A **National SDG Best Practices database** was developed as a continuous application. With the system, 400 practices by public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and municipalities were collected in the first phase. The VNR highlights examples selected from these practices.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Department of Environment and Sustainable Development (DESD)** under PSB coordinates SDG follow-up, monitoring and reporting, supported by the Turkish Statistical Institute TurkStat. Turkstat is indeed one of the most important stakeholder institutions in relation to SDG implementation in Turkey. In 2019, it published the first "SDG Indicators Newsletter, 2010-2017", composed of 83 indicators. Thematic workshops are planned in the future under the coordination of Turkstat to focus on production of new SDG indicators that are needed but yet to be produced. Also, it is planned that SDG indicators be published through a national reporting platform with powerful visual features that could be updated regularly.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2016 VNR granted little space to local governments. However, the national government — via the Presidential Directorate in charge of the realization of Turkey's VNR for the 2019 HLPF — has shown an increasing willingness to engage the local level. For the preparatory process of the 2019 VNR, the national local government association, the **Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT)**, was nominated to coordinate and collect information from LRGs. The UMT analyzed and mapped the link between the

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

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/107102030%20Agenda%20Turkey%20Report.pdf> (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey_VNR_110719.pdf (2019)

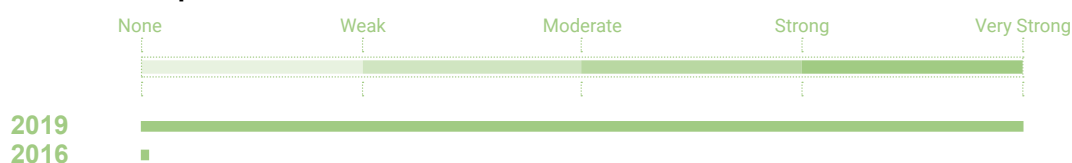
3. See the details of the distribution of institutional responsibilities in the VNR, 2019, p. 33

projects implemented by the municipalities and SDGs. Accordingly, it was identified that the projects mostly related to SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 10 and SDG 11, are beneficial in localizing the SDGs and ensuring policy consistency between the central and local levels. The UMT directly engaged with 50 municipalities in the process, while reaching out to over 1,400 municipalities for them to contribute to the document's recommendations. Also, the UMT attended the 2019 HLPF in New York along with the national government delegation.

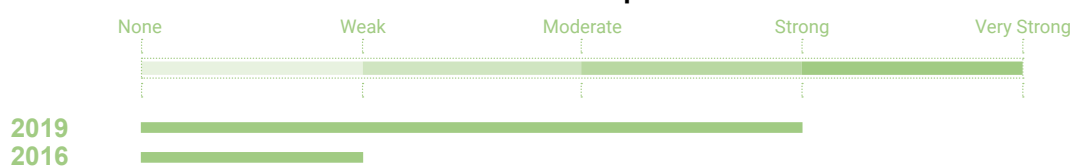
The UMT, established in 1945, has a consultative role in the drafting of legislation and holds one seat in the Presidential Local Government Commission. The dialogue mechanism for SDGs strengthened the UMT's communication lines with national government organizations. Workshops on SDG implementation and VLRs also increased partnership between municipalities which are willing to prepare VLRs.⁴

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

There is a subsection in the 2019 VNR acknowledging the role of LRGs and the UMT for the implementation of the SDGs (see VNR, 2019, p. 18),⁵ which also mentions UCLG, its regional section UCLG MEWA and the Global TaskForce of Local and Regional Governments. It contains a table listing different municipal practices. Other boxes throughout the report refer to municipal initiatives.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU)** continues to disseminate the SDGs and organized a training session entitled "Cities 2030: Sustainable Development Goals at Local Level", in 2020, in cooperation with UN SDSN and Bogazici University. In the 2020 edition of the Golden Ant Award, organized by the MMU, the LGA rewarded good practices implemented by its member municipalities which were aligned with the SDGs.⁶

► A "**Sustainable Urban Development Network**" was formed at the training organized by the Local Monitoring, Research and Implementation Association (Yereliz) with the participation of 20 municipalities from various parts of Turkey. Izmir Metropolitan Municipality assumed the first-term secretariat of the Network.⁷

► The number of municipalities with domestic wastewater treatment facilities increased from 126 in 2002 to 881 in 2018 and the rate of use of these services by the municipal population rose from 35% to 75%. Within the same period, the percentage of the population using safely managed drinking water increased from 95% to 99%. Following new legislation, municipalities will reduce water loss rates averaged 25% in 2023.⁸

► Within the framework of the National Waste Management Plan, the number of municipal landfills has increased to 88, which provide services to 62.3 million inhabitants in 1,160 with three incineration plants also in existence have been established. As of 2019, packaging waste is collected separately at the source in 499 municipalities. A Zero Waste Project was initiated to foster and recover recycling (within the framework of a National Recycling Strategy). Municipalities with financing difficulties are supported by the Solid Waste Programme. The metropolitan municipality of **Istanbul** has established a network of container

4. Answer of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

5. "Responsibilities and duties of local administrations in Turkey overlap directly or indirectly with a large part of SDGs. [...]Therefore, local administrations naturally contribute to the implementation of SDGs. Further, they prioritise and diversify their activities in this direction, with an awareness of the importance of sustainable development", VNR, 2019, p. 18.

6. Answer of the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

See also UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

7. See: <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/08/surdurulebilir-kentler-gelisim-agi.html>

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

recycling across the city, the credits of which can be spent on public transport fees.⁹

► Several frontrunning cities and municipalities have been implementing climate action plans for years, and have also been joining various international networks active in this field. For instance, 16 cities in Turkey are members of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**.

► 141 Urban Regeneration and Development Projects Areas and 10 Renovation Areas in cities are being developed with the support of the government (USD 2.83 billion spent since 2012). Many cities, such as the **Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality** are implementing a Disaster Management and Decision Support System Project (AYDES) with the national Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The project implements an electronic tracking and management system for all stages of integrated disaster management.

► The **Bursa Metropolitan Municipality** has implemented home-based diagnosis, treatment, care, escort, referral and transport services for bedridden patients in socioeconomic poverty and deprivation.

► In October 2020, **Konya** organized the Municipality Academy, with the support of UCLG-MEWA, in order to increase cooperation among municipalities and exchange best practices under the umbrella of the SDGs.¹⁰

► In Turkey, civil society is involved in urban planning and city management through City Councils. Currently, there are 68 City Councils.

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

The municipalities of **Karatay**, **Izmir** and **Sultanbeyli** have been developing a VLR in 2021.¹¹ The district of **Avcilar** in the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul published its first VLR in 2022.¹² The **Marmara Region** published a VLR in 2022.¹³ Other VLRs are currently being prepared in the **Greater Amman Municipality** and in the **Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul**.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2016, members of Parliament are briefed on the process and activities related to SDGs, during the TGNA Plan and Budget Commission meetings and presentation of budget to the General Assembly. Turkey's commitment to embed SDGs into its national policies and improve the practices is highlighted at the ministerial level during budget deliberations of the Parliament.

It is planned to start a "Gender-Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey" Project to create awareness and ownership among politicians and bureaucrats on public policies, plans, programmes and budget processes for promoting gender equality in central and local governments.

Under the Elderly Support Programme (YADES) launched in 2016, funds are transferred from the central budget to local governments for projects undertaken for the care of the elderly who need psycho-social support.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of seats held by women in local governments was 9.9% in 2014.

3.2 COVID 19

The central government has taken measures at the national level. However, implementation of the decisions was jointly carried out. All local governments jointly formed the "Solidarity Support Group", which worked to support in particular the elderly and other disadvantaged groups. Also, temporary assignments of government employees within the government organizations were in place to ensure continuation of services during the pandemic. Data and information sharing among national and local governments increased.¹⁴

In the **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality**, coordination with CSOs has been crucial for overcoming literacy and language barriers when implementing COVID-19 support measures for refugees.¹⁵

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

10. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

11. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/karatay_2021_0.pdf; https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/izmir_2021.pdf;

https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sultanbeyli_2021.pdf

12. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/avcilar_2022_en.pdf

13. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/marmara_municipalities_union_2022.pdf

14. Answer of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

15. Answer of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality to the GTF Survey in 2021.

See also UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		10.1 (2019)
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	78 (2020)
	Rural	80 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		8.6 (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)		37.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2017)

¹⁶ 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/tur>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal country: the Constitutional Federation comprises 7 Emirates. There are no local elected governments.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 ideas and principles of sustainable development permeated **Vision 2021**, the UAE's previous development plan launched in 2010. All the SDGs could be mapped to one of the four pillars of The '**National Agenda**' launched in 2014 to guide efforts towards Vision 2021. UAE's **Centennial Plan 2071** launched in 2021 aims to plan national development for the next 50 years. It is not explicitly aligned with the SDGs. The federal government also launched a Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative in 2021 which is aligned with the Paris Agreement and aims to underpin dynamic economic growth alongside positive environmental impact.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

UAE's **National Committee on SDGs** was formed in 2017 and is chaired by the Minister of State for International Cooperation. It serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination. The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and 13 other federal level government organizations are also members. Since 2018, the National Committee has established **supporting councils**, including the UAE Private Sector Advisory Council, the SDG Young Leaders Programme, and the Global Councils on SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **National Committee on SDGs** led the 2018 and 2022 VNR processes. Stakeholders have contributed to the UAE's annual reporting process through official annual reports, private sector-driven reports and the UAE SDG Data Hub (see below). The Committee has also organized multiple stakeholder meetings in the last years. Therefore, both VNRs benefited from stakeholder inputs. A **VNR workshop** was also organized with the National Committee members as part of the 2022 VNR process, on the sidelines of Expo 2020 – Dubai, to highlight the best practices of public sector entities, and how far they have come in implementing the global goals.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Prime Minister's Office** worked on incorporating the SDGs into the performance management system (Aadaa system). The secretariat of the **National Committee on SDGs** launched an initiative entitled '**The SDG Data Readiness Race**' to assess data readiness, indicator data availability and map priority indicators of the 2030 Agenda for the UAE. This initiative identified 105 priority indicators for the country. The **Committee** established multiple working groups and taskforces to coordinate the collection and production of data and to be able to monitor, and report on the progress made with respect to the SDG indicators. Moreover, the **SDG Aadaa Development team** developed the **Digital Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard (DSDGD)** which includes screens of the 17 goals and their achievements. It highlights the UAE government's achievements and programs to implement the SDGs, and enables ministries and government authorities to monitor progress. Finally, the UAE created a **SDG Data HUB** which promotes open data and addresses the lack of public awareness about the SDGs.

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

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/20161UAE_SDGs_Report_Full_English.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20UAE%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Workshops were organized to elaborate the 2021 National Agenda which were attended by officials from 90 federal and local government entities. The federal and local government entities coordinated participation in the development of the Centennial Plan 2071. Each Emirate elaborates and implements its own **development plan**, aligned with the national strategy. To ensure the alignment of federal and local development plans, the National Key Performance Indicators and their associated targets are cascaded to the strategic plans of all local government organizations. Some local plans integrate most of the SDGs, such as those of the Emirates of Sharjah or Umm Al Quwain which are aligned with 15 of the SDGs. However, SDG localization remains an objective for the years to come.³

The 2018 VNR mentioned **Annual Government Meetings** which were the main national platform for cooperation between federal and local governments. Moreover, the **Government Accelerators (GA)**, which were established in 2016, serve as a platform for federal and local government entities to address challenges and achieve ambitious goals in short periods.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is a brief subsection entitled “The National Agenda and local development plans” in the 2018 VNR (see VNR, 2018, p. 26). There is also a brief subsection on “Local development plans and alignment” in the 2022 VNR (see VNR, 2022, p. 41). Local government entities are mentioned throughout both reports without much specific examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. However, the 2022 VNR refers to the local level of government as a key stakeholder in implementing the SDGs. It stresses that the UAE, through its institutional architecture, will “ensure that the SDGs are localized and harmonized across federal and local levels of government; that policy coherence is achieved using the mechanisms, which align national and sub-national policies” (see VNR, 2022, p. 20).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Sustainable Cities Index 2016 ranked **Abu Dhabi** and **Dubai** as the most sustainable cities in the Middle East. The development agendas for both cities, Vision 2030 Abu Dhabi and Vision 2030 Dubai incorporate inclusivity, social cohesion and sustainability as central themes.

► **Abu Dhabi**, the country’s largest state, has been developing green building ratings and certifications, in order to integrate the latest environmental construction standard in their national regulations.

► The municipality of **Shahama**, embedded in the Abu Dhabi metro area, has allocated parts of its budget to ecosystem protection for the marine environment specific to the Abu Dhabi region.⁴

► The **Dubai** Urban Plan 2040 was launched in 2021 by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It is a strategic plan that has been developed to increase the standards of happiness and economic, social, and environmental well-being in Dubai, and to make Dubai an international center by adopting the best smart urban planning mechanisms.⁵ In 2021, the Food Tech Valley was launched in Dubai, with the intent to be an integrated modern city, serving as a hub for future clean tech-based food and agricultural products. It will also act as an incubator for researchers, entrepreneurs, startups and industry experts to develop solutions to shape the future of the food industry.

The city of **Dubai** also hosted Expo 2020-Dubai in 2021-2022. A purpose-built city and community with the SDGs ingrained in its every facet, from design to construction and day-to-day operation, emerged. The exposition welcomed 24 million visitors from around the world, driving awareness around the themes of sustainability, mobility and opportunity.

► **Masdar City**’s global initiative, “Innovate”, showcases groundbreaking technologies from international start-ups and small and mid-size enterprises, focusing on the areas of urban mobility, clean energy, agritech, food security, and artificial intelligence.

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

Not applicable.

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

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

5. See: <http://dubai2040.ae/en/dubai-2040-urban-master-plan/>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is no information on the means dedicated to implement the SDGs in the country.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2022 VNR highlights the **Community Councils initiative** which aims to establish community councils in various residential areas to involve community members in the planning process and allow them to make suggestions for the development of urban and residential areas.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR only summarizes the UAE Government's initiatives to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and mentions measures taken at the federal level to limit the impact of the crisis on society. Dubai Healthcare City Authority launched 'ReacHer', a campaign in partnership with Al Manal Humanitarian Initiative which aimed to provide women with mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

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)		44.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

NORTH AMERICA*



* Including some Caribbean English and French speaking countries



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Antigua and Barbuda is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary form of government. There is no state or provincial level of government. Antigua and Barbuda has a national level government and local administrative units. The local administrative units are divided between 6 parishes in Antigua (Saint George, Saint John, Saint Mary, Saint Paul, Saint Peter, and Saint Philip) and 2 dependencies (the islands of Barbuda and Redonda). The Barbuda Council is the only elected local government.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 **Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2016-2020** is underpinned by a sustainable development framework and some of its guiding principles are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The government is preparing a new national development plan, which would be more closely aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A national **SDG Committee** has been established. The government's main institutional mechanism for overseeing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Additionally, all government ministries and agencies are responsible for the alignment of government policies and key programmes with the 2030 Agenda to facilitate not only implementation but also more effective monitoring and evaluation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR was elaborated using an inclusive and participatory approach that included stakeholder consultation through meetings and the distribution of "SDG/VNR" questionnaires. The government also engaged stakeholders in an online review of the draft VNR to solicit feedback and ensure that there was consensus on what the country presents in its first voluntary reporting and at the HLPF.

1.3 MONITORING

The country's Statistical Office is leading the process of creating mechanisms for data mining for the SDG indicators deemed applicable to the country's monitoring and evaluation framework for SDG implementation.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

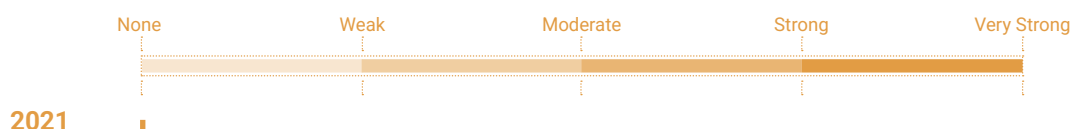
No reference.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279502021_VNR_Report_Antigua_and_Barbuda.pdf (2021)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.1 VNR REFERENCES

There is no reference to the Barbuda Council in the 2021 VNR.

2.2 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.4 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The country has accomplished much under the SDGs related to the People pillar, particularly SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 4, in addition to SDG 8 which focuses on Prosperity. The government has prioritized the blue economy embodied under SDG 14; although challenges remain.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The government is developing a National Gender Action Plan and Policy, with the main aim of ensuring that gender is mainstreamed throughout the government's development plans, policies, legislations and initiatives. Antigua and Barbuda has started a local charter of the regional organization Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership, also known as CIWIL, which is a group aiming to catalyze women's participation in leadership and politics within the region and nationally.

3.2 COVID 19

The government's thrust post-COVID is to "build forward stronger", similar to how it is approaching the recovery of Barbuda which was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017. The government implemented a series of measures to respond to the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19 including: an increase in health- sector expenditure equivalent to 0.5% of GDP, a 20% reduction in electricity costs to the public and fuel costs to fisherfolk for 90 days, a one-year investment incentive framework for home renovation and construction, suspension of the common external tariff on food imports and all new tax measures announced in the 2020 budget and expansion of social safety net programmes.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		66.7 (2019)
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 (%)		89 (2012, Antigua)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		21 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/at>

BAHAMAS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Bahamas recognizes Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. There are a total of 32 local government districts: 13 second-schedule districts, which are further subdivided into town areas, and 19 third-schedule districts, which are all unitary authorities. The island of New Providence, where the capital Nassau is located, is directly administered by the central government. The other islands are administered through the two types of local councils that are found in Bahamas: second-schedule and third-schedule district councils, whose chief councillors and deputies are indirectly elected from amongst the elected officials. Local elections initially scheduled for 2020 have been postponed due to the health crisis.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

In 2014, the Bahamas began the process of developing a 25-year National Development Plan (NDP): **Vision 2040 ("the Plan")**, which integrates the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Economic Development and Planning Unit (EDPU)** in the Office of the Prime Minister is the focal point of contact for NDP implementation, and is responsible for ensuring and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at the national and local levels. In order to ensure that all sectors of society are involved and take ownership of the 2030 Agenda, the government established an **SDG InterAgency Technical Committee** with membership from government ministries and agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia. This technical committee, coupled with the development and execution of a robust communications, public awareness and advocacy strategy will help to ensure that the Bahamas meets the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The process for the preparation of the 2018 VNR was coordinated by the **Economic Development and Planning Unit (EDPU)** and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. This collaboration has been supported by officers from other government ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and counted as well with the support of UNDP and UN ECLAC.

1.3 MONITORING

SDG-related data is collected by the **Department of Statistics** as part of its mandate to produce social and economic data for the Bahamas. To further strengthen the production of high quality data and monitoring capacity, the government has embarked on an initiative to strengthen its national statistical capacity and develop a **National Statistical System (NSS)**. This reform project will bring the Bahamas closer to having an open data system that augments its ability to monitor the implementation of the SDGs and satisfy reporting requirements. This process is funded through a \$3 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank. Also, a review of existing data to support SDG monitoring was conducted as part of the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Development Plan.

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf.

See also: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/The_Bahamas.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19874VNR_document_03.07.18_master_document.pdf (2018).

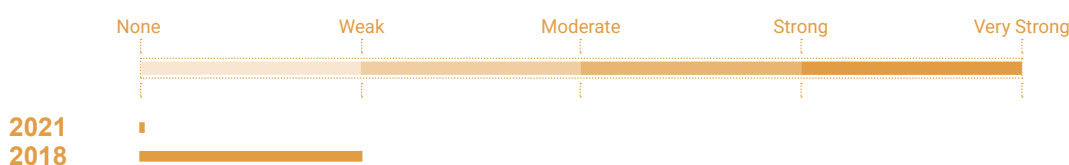
As of April 2022, the 2021 VNR was not available. The information included here is therefore based on the 2018 VNR only.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

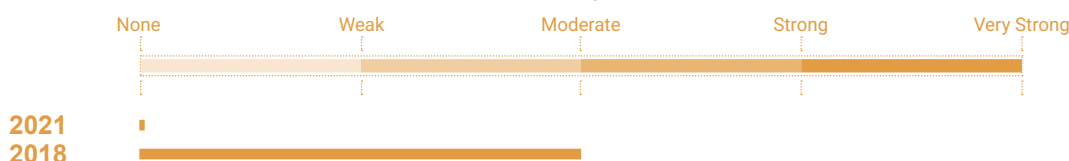
The four pillars of development (Governance, Human Capital, Economy and Infrastructure and Environment) of the **Vision 2040** include “Good governance in local government”. Except the reference to the local level regarding SDG implementation through the NDP, no other mention of LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms can be found in the 2018 VNR.

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

References to local governments in the 2018 VNR are very limited.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government continues to take steps to strengthen its public institutions, including through the introduction of a new **programme to strengthen its financial and budgetary management systems** and programme delivery capacity.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Local governments were introduced in 1996 in the major populated islands except for New Providence. In 2017, the government of the Bahamas committed to support the creation of a local government system in New Providence by the 2020 cycle of local government elections. Building on studies completed as part of the Sustainable Nassau project, a committee has been established to make recommendations on the form of local governments to be introduced to New Providence. Moreover, the government in its 2018-2019 budget communication committed \$100,000 to support this initiative.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2017 local elections 28.7% (66 out of 164) of councillors were women, up from 45 in 2011 down from 92 in 2009. Following the 2017 elections 9.4% (3 out of 32) of chief councillors were women, up from 6.3% (2 out of 32) after the 2014 elections.³

3. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/The_Bahamas.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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)		16.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/bhs>

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Canada is a federal monarchy composed of 10 provinces and 3 territories. At the local level, there are 3,959 municipalities.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

Canada has been an overt supporter of the SDG framework since it was established in 2015, but it doesn't have a formal national framework for the implementation of the SDGs. A first iteration of a strategy has been drafted that was to be formalized in early 2020 (**Canada 2030 Agenda**).³

Canada's Federal Sustainable Development Act (2008) provides the legal framework for the development and implementation of the **Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS)**, which currently facilitates greater transparency and accountability for environmental decision making, and sustainable development planning and reporting within the federal government. It sets out Canada's federal environmental priorities, establishes goals and targets and identifies actions to achieve them.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The power to implement the SDGs at the federal level is organized through the parliament's legislative power, the executive branch, and several regulations and powers already granted to each sectoral department. The **Minister of Children, Families and Social Development** has been mandated to lead Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with all other ministers and their departments. The coordination of the SDGs at the federal level is done through **Employment Social Development Canada** and the **SDG Unit**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

Statistics Canada launched the **Sustainable Development Goals Data Hub** in 2018 as a centralized knowledge resource to track SDG implementation. The SDG Unit will also support the monitoring and reporting of Canada's domestic and international efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

IISD, a Canadian-based think-tank dedicated to promoting human development and environmental sustainability, has established an SDG Knowledge Hub. This data portal includes a series named '**Tracking the SDGs in Canadian Cities**', which has so far provided data on the 14 largest Canadian municipalities. IISD has also produced briefing notes providing specific overviews on how these cities stand in regard to the most relevant SDGs.⁴

Canada's Gender Results Framework articulates goals for gender equality and how progress will be measured. Systematic use of **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)** will inform federal policy, program development and implementation and other activities, including gender-based budgeting and inclusive consultations.⁵

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20312Canada_ENGLISH_18122_Canadas_Voluntary_National_ReviewENV7.pdf (2018)

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

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

5. GBA+ is an analytical tool to assess how different groups of women, men and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The "plus" refers to the consideration of intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, age, disability and sexual orientation, as well as sex and gender.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The federal government has made an effort to engage provincial and local governments along with the private sector and civil society in meetings and documents preparation. For the time being, however, commitment from these partners has remained non-compulsory and somewhat marginal. Coordination among local, regional and federal governments for the implementation of the SDGs has not been clearly or institutionally defined. Multilateral or cross-tier initiatives are, in fact, often used for policy coordination purposes. For instance, the PanCanadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change is managing Canada's plan towards the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement's commitment on climate change, in collaboration with provinces and territories. These kinds of initiatives do not normally involve municipal governments directly.⁶

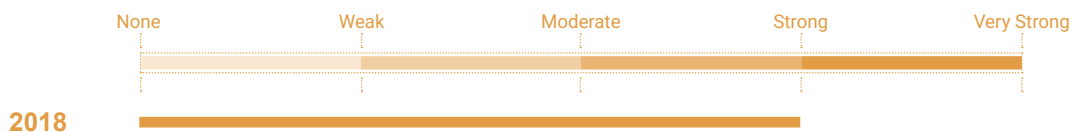
The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** is the most influential municipal network in Canada. The FCM addresses many issues relevant to the SDG targets in its national and international programmes – e.g. Municipalities for Climate Innovation, Municipal Asset Management, First Nations-Municipal Collaboration, Partners for Climate Protection, and Towards Parity in Municipal Politics. **Partners for Climate Protection** is aimed at assisting Canadian municipalities in taking action on climate change by reducing their emissions in their municipalities. This programme is now being seen as the Canadian chapter of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, in partnership with the International Urban Cooperation. Moreover, the FCM hosts the Big City Mayors' Caucus, which has long been the national voice and forum for the 22 largest municipalities in Canada. Many of the issues addressed by the Big City Mayors' Caucus are closely linked to the localization of the SDGs.⁷ The FCM was involved in the VNR process in 2018. Since then, the association has continued discussions with the government on its national strategy for SDG implementation.⁸

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: FCM: puntual participation. Same for the city of Kitchener (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR 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 contains some references to provincial and local governments, and a few boxes on inspiring practices (**Montreal**, **North Vancouver**, **Plessisville**, etc.). There is also a box on the FCM.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Some municipalities (e.g. **Calgary**, **Edmonton**, **Saint John**, **Toronto**) have poverty reduction strategies.⁹

► In 2009, the city of **North Vancouver** developed a 100-year sustainability vision with a view to becoming a net zero community by 2107. With the opportunity to reduce emissions by as much as 30% through land-use decisions alone, the implementation of this vision accommodates growth through adherence to the following key design principles: homes are a 5-minute walking distance to services, jobs are close to homes, appropriate housing, access to greenspace, durable green infrastructure, and climate change adaptation. Projects to date include street tree planting, walk-to-school initiatives and building retrofits. Funds are targeted directly to specific, local programs, which would otherwise not be possible.

► In 2016, the Agglomeration Council of **Montreal** adopted Sustainable Montreal 2016-2020: an ambitious plan that relies on the mobilization and commitment of Montréal organizations working with the municipal administration to achieve 20

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

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

8. Answer of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

9. See: https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/9787-TO_Prosperty_Final2015-reduced.pdf;

<https://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca/our-strategy>; <https://enoughforall.ca/>;

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/community-poverty-reduction-initiative>

actions that contribute to progress on the SDGs. Actions and achievements toward the Plan are highlighted in the Sustainable Montreal Report, published in June 2018. In its Economic Development Strategy, as in its Sustainable Montreal Plan, Montreal is committed to accelerating its economic development in a sustainable, inclusive and innovative manner.

Overall, **Montreal** is showing significant leadership on SDG target 11.2 (safe, affordable transit). It has developed a transportation electrification strategy, which includes electrifying public transportation and its own fleet of vehicles, providing electric-friendly parking with charging stations, and adopting strategies to encourage residents and the private sector to use electric vehicles. The Montreal transit electrification strategy also takes a lead on SDG Target 11.3 (sustainable urban planning). The city's planned sustainable transit is supposed to be integrated with housing solutions and an urban centre that can support long-term growth without creating pollution or placing strains on natural resources. It plans to incorporate electrification into city planning processes, ensure that new housing builds are fitted with electric charging stations, and develop incentives for retrofits that offer more charging stations. Its focus on public transit also puts it in a position to grow sustainably.¹⁰

► The town of **Plessisville** (Quebec) is one of the leading cities in terms of sustainable development in Quebec. One of the five areas of development of Plessisville's strategic plan (2015-2025) is the promotion and development of a healthy, preserved and sustainable environment. As such, the municipality has implemented several approaches focused on sustainable development. Plessisville is the first municipality in Quebec to complete the five stages of the Partners in Climate Protection program. It has taken the necessary measures to reduce GHG emissions and improve energy efficiency, making Plessisville a leader in the local fight against climate change.

► The Office of Diversity and Inclusion connects the **Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)** with Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, immigrant and other racialized communities to ensure consultation with those groups, to ensure they're kept informed of programs and services offered by the municipality. The Office also holds training and awareness sessions for all employees to ensure that diversity and inclusion remain integral values of HRM policies and practices. As part of its initiatives, HRM works with the African Nova Scotian and Racially Visible Women's Network, meeting quarterly to share knowledge, professional skills and set goals for individual and collective growth. They also work with the Racially Visible Employee Caucus, which offers employment and professional advancement support and guidance to racially visible employees.

► The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)**'s Community Economic Development Initiative focuses on enhancing the capacity of municipalities and adjacent First Nations to complete joint community economic development (CED) plans and strategies and develop long-term CED collaboration. The project is supporting 10 community partnerships, using a phased approach over three cycles from September 2016 to April 2021. The partnerships between First Nations and municipalities across Canada focus on joint initiatives on issues such as employment strategies, business parks and land-use planning, and mapping culturally significant sites to aid with tourism and improve public consultation.

The Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) by the **FCM**, in the framework of the Partnership for Municipal Innovation program, began in 2021. This project will work in five countries: Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia. On the basis of the Canadian experience, this initiative will support women municipal councillors and local governments in partner countries as they work to deliver more inclusive services and reduce the barriers to women's participation in local governance. The FCM will engage regional networks in Africa and Asia, as well as global municipal networks, in the implementation of the program. The Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) is a six-year program, supported by a contribution of up to \$26 million from Global Affairs Canada, with an additional in-kind contribution of \$1.61 million from Canadian municipal experts.¹¹

The FCM, through partnerships with and funding from the Government of Canada, delivers more than \$25 million annually in nearly 30 countries, working in collaboration with municipal governments and agencies across the globe, with an emphasis on strengthening local governance and democracy, fostering economic development and promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability. The FCM launched, for example, a \$20.7-million, five-year initiative to mobilize municipal leaders and staff to provide peer-to-peer technical assistance to elected officials and municipal staff in Jordan, where some 1.4 million Syrian refugees seek housing. The program seeks to strengthen leadership and administrative capacity, enhance solid waste management and share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned to benefit municipalities.

► The **Association of Municipalities Ontario** has taken action at a more local level by creating a low-carbon Economy Opportunities Task Force to advise member municipalities in their transition to a low-carbon economy, as well as offering municipal perspectives on provincial and federal policies.¹²

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

The city of **Winnipeg** published two VLRs, in 2018 and 2020.¹³ **Kelowna** developed its VLR in 2021.¹⁴

10. See: http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/Pls/Portal/Docs/Page/Proj_urbains_fr/Media/Documents/Transportation_elec

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

11. See: http://www.cib-uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg-cib_gender_equality_publication_june2021.pdf

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

13. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/winnipeg_2018.pdf and https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/winnipeg_2020.pdf

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kelowna_2021.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In its latest budget, the national government committed USD 37 million (approximately CAD 50 million) to establish the SDG unit within Employment Social Development Canada and monitor and report on Canada's efforts on implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Municipalities and local stakeholders have raised a certain degree of awareness and mobilized on disaster resilience in the face of climate change threats and impact. Nonetheless, there has been little local action to update local policies, infrastructure or resources to manage this threat. A case such as **British Columbia (BC)** – where all municipalities are now required to have local climate change action plans and 84% of them have undertaken public mobilization and education initiatives as part of their climate change-related policies – remains more an isolated example of good practice than the symptom of a structural trend.¹⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women represented 16% of mayors and 27% of councillors as of 2014. There is however wide variation across the different jurisdictions: in the three territories, women account for one quarter to three-fifths of all elected local government members, while Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the lowest representation of women.¹⁶ The FCM produced in 2012 a policy note on "Women in Local Government: Getting to 30% by 2026".¹⁷

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		25.6 (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	84 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.01 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		99.0 (2015, Toronto)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		6.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

16. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Canada.pdf

17. It is available here: https://data.fcm.ca/documents/reports/Women/Getting_to_30_percent_by_2026_EN.pdf

18. 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/can>



DOMINICA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Dominica is a unitary republic comprising 7 districts containing a network of town, village and urban councils.¹ There are five council types: a city council for the capital Roseau, a town council for the second largest urban center Portsmouth, an urban council for the third largest conurbation Canefield, the Carib Council which covers the Carib territory, and village councils. Council elections take place on a rolling basis, with each council election occurring separately.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The government of Dominica has promulgated three key documents for achieving the SDGs, namely the **National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS)**, **Dominica's Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2030**, and the **Disaster Risk Financing Strategy**. These documents represent the roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda, while identifying critical 'accelerator points' for the SDGs and key enablers for policy coherence.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy** has the overall responsibility for national planning, coordination, and monitoring of policies and plans in relation to the SDGs. The Ministry fosters partnerships and collaborative arrangements with stakeholders from the private sector, the public sector, civil society, the Kalinago and development partners.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy** led the preparation process of the 2022 VNR. The Ministry chairs the **National SDG Committee** and guided the development and review of the VNR in collaboration with other ministries and agencies. The Committee was tasked with reviewing the draft of the VNR as well as verifying the information and data, with the support of the United Nations Country Team in Dominica and other UN agencies. Stakeholders including the public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and youth organizations were engaged through virtual workshops, consultations, and online surveys.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** is the agency responsible for the compilation of official statistics, including data and case studies, that are used in the 2022 VNR. The CSO has adopted a selection of regional indicators for monitoring the Caribbean specific SDGs. Moreover, a database is being developed to register the SDG indicators, their definitions, responsible stakeholders, level of completion, and the method of reporting. The database largely relies on the 2022 Population and Housing Census for data related to the SDG indicators. With the aim of supporting the localization of the SDGs in the future, the government plans to conduct a national assessment of Dominica and to develop a protocol for producing official statistics that informs evidence-based policy planning as well as facilitates better monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

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

2. For more details on the councils, see: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Dominica%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** reports regularly participating in the national coordination mechanism at a consultative level.⁴ The association also contributed to the VNR. However, although the 2022 VNR mentioned two planned SDG localization efforts, there is an absence of an SDG localization strategy in the country.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA) has contributed to the VNR.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA) participates regularly in national coordination (at a consultative level).

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 2022 VNR, there is very little reference to LRGs' role in implementing the SDGs and locally-led initiatives, although the report states that "the local government system is very entrenched and active in Dominica." Whereas the VNR mentions that the national government is working towards implementing reforms to strengthen local authorities as well as community-driven participatory development projects (see VNR, 2022, p. 164-165).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► During the implementation of the National Action Plan and Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018-2022, the **Office of Disaster Management (ODM)** strengthened the coordination between different levels of government by defining the organization and functioning of disaster management mechanisms at the national and subnational levels.

► While the **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** did not implement specific activities to disseminate the SDGs, it participated in the monitoring of shock-responsive social protection programmes, with the support of the UNDP country office and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Resilience, and in support of housing recovery "building back better" initiatives for climate adaptive communities. The association also continued its capacity-building initiatives for sustainable local economic development within communities.⁵

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 VNR mentions that the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** is expected to enhance the financing landscape by introducing new partners and financing sources. While private capital and the **Citizenship by Investment** programme, whose revenue accounted for 30% of GDP, are identified as important sources of financing, there is no reference to the budgeting regarding SDG implementation.

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

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

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Dominica, there is no constitutional provision for local government. Districts contain a network of town, village and urban councils, whose responsibilities are generally limited to road maintenance. All authorities and district associations are members of the **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)**, though membership is voluntary. Some of the seven districts have their own organizations, called district council associations, to bring together local authorities in their area.⁶

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2016-2017, female councilors were 35% of total councilors (28/80) across both urban and rural councils, down from 42.2% in 2015-2016. The proportion of mayors/chairpersons who were female in 2016-2017 was 34.9% (15/43), up from 30.2% (13/43) in 2015-2016. In 2011-2012, women made up 30% of councilors in town councils, 43% in village councils, 37% in urban councils and 14% in the Carib Council.⁷

3.2 COVID 19

The 2022 VNR mentions some of the measures taken by the national government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and summarizes the impact of the crisis. The **Dominica Association of Local Community Authorities (DALCA)** was active in supporting local authorities' actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

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)		20.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

6. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

7. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Dominica.pdf

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

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

GRENADA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Grenada is a unitary constitutional monarchy without local elected governments. However, the government is exploring ways to fulfill the constitutional rights of the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique by setting up a council.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

In 2018, Grenada developed its first long-term **National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2020-2035** in alignment with the SDGs. The Plan will be implemented by the medium-term action plans (MTAP). Also, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2017-2021 provided a strategic framework for building climate resilience in Grenada.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

There is no reference to national coordination mechanisms regarding SDG implementation. Among the future priorities mentioned by the 2022 VNR lies “formalizing a coordinating mechanism to allow for greater synergy between various agencies and SDG stakeholders”.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A technical review project was conducted between April 2020 and February 2021, involving **stakeholder consultations** with over 17 groups and individuals, with support from the European Union and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Affairs, multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations were held in partnership with the United Nations system in Grenada. National stakeholder consultations were held with over 30 groups from the private sector, government, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations.

1.3 MONITORING

Grenada has adopted the Core CARICOM SDG Indicators consisting of 125 indicators from the global SDG indicators. The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** and the Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic Development and Physical Development of Grenada, published the second compendium of environmental statistics in 2020, which was supported by both the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Not applicable.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

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

and <https://www.thenewtodaygrenada.com/commentary/carriacou-and-petit-martinique-local-government-act-wishful-thinking-or-reality/>

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

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Not applicable.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the SDGs are reportedly supported by frameworks under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. There are no further details on the means of implementation for the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Grenada's Constitution states that there should be a local government council on Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Although they have yet to be implemented since being outlined in 1995, plans to establish a county council were reportedly at an advanced stage as of 2018.³ However, there has not been any progress hitherto.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

3.2 COVID 19

The government of Grenada adopted a multi-dimensional approach incorporating a suite of health, social and macroeconomic measures in response to the pandemic. There is no reference to the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		6 (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)		22.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Grenada.pdf

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

JAMAICA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Jamaica is a unitary country with a single tier of subnational government, which comprises 14 municipalities: 12 parishes, 1 municipal council (the Portmore Municipal Council) and 1 municipal corporation (the Municipal Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation - KASC).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

Vision 2030 Jamaica — National Development Plan (NDP), the country's first long-term national development plan, commenced implementation in 2009. It is aligned with 91.3% of the SDGs. The fourth **Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)**, for the period 2018-2021, has been implemented. The **MTF 2021-2024** reflects priorities from an over 98.6% alignment with the SDGs. In addition, Jamaica formulated a **Roadmap for SDG Implementation** in 2017, which identified the **MTF** as the primary mechanism for monitoring the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica and accordingly the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination mechanism for the 2030 Agenda is multi-tiered and integrated into the Vision 2030 Jamaica framework. It comprises the **National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee (NAOC)**;³ the **thematic Working Groups** of Vision 2030 Jamaica⁴ and other sector-specific committees; and the **National SDGs Core Group**.⁵ Apart from the **Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat**, an **SDGs Secretariat** has also been established in the **Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)**, with responsibility for supporting all aspects of the work of the NAOC and its sub-committees (communications; data, monitoring and reporting; resource mobilization and financing).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The approach for the 2018 VNR was two-fold: stakeholder consultations and sessions for local authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society and the general public were organized, as well as consultations with ministries, departments and agencies on each of the SDGs. A communication and public education campaign was also implemented to increase the level of awareness of all stakeholders and to develop partnerships around the SDGs.⁶ Other stakeholders were convened through the Thematic Working Groups of Vision 2030 Jamaica. For the 2022 VNR, a stakeholder engagement plan guided the consultation process with over 600 participants from government partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society. An online questionnaire and key informant interviews were also conducted.

1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Jamaica.pdf. As a member of the Commonwealth realm, Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy and a unitary constitutional monarchy, whose official head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, is represented at the national level by the Governor General. The Governor General is appointed by the Queen, for no fixed term, on the advice of the Jamaican Prime Minister.

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/19499JamaicaMain_VNR_Report.pdf (2018); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Jamaica%20Report.pdf> (2022).

3. The NAOC, which reports to Cabinet, was established in 2017 and is a technical body comprising high-level representatives from government (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), civil society groups, private sector, academia, trade unions, political directorate and youth. The mandate of the NAOC is to provide policy and strategic level advice for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

4. These working groups are multisectoral and multi-stakeholder bodies that, together with other committees, "form the critical arm of the institutional structure". More details in the VNR, 2018, p. 110.

5. The Core Group is composed according to a tripartite mechanism comprising three key national focal points: the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

6. The main platform for engaging the public on the SDGs was through the staging of the Dialogue for Development Series, which focused on the theme "The Jamaica We Want: Vision 2030 Jamaica advancing the SDGs... Leaving no one behind". Overall, the campaign deepened interaction between government and the people to set a platform to achieve the principles and objectives of the SDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica.

1.3 MONITORING

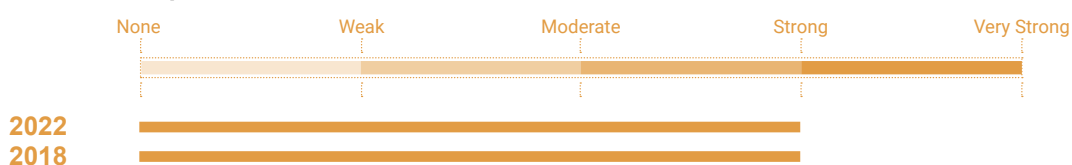
The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** and the **Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)** are in charge of SDG indicator development, and statistical monitoring. Through the STATIN, there is an ongoing process to address the gaps with support from bilateral, multilateral and other partnerships to develop a Data Quality Assurance Framework, and establish the National Statistics Commission. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the SDGs includes the MTF, the Whole-of-Government Business Plan, the Operational and Corporate Plans of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the SDGs Indicators Framework System. The **STATIN** has been engaging in efforts to establish a coordinated National Statistics System (NSS) as well as strengthen its capacity for producing statistics for monitoring the SDGs. However, it is noted that resource constraints had created lags in implementation and the achievement of results.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Efforts have been made towards strengthening national and regional development planning. This is captured in Vision 2030 Jamaica Outcome 15 – Sustainable Urban and Rural Development. Jamaica stands out for having adopted an SDG implementation framework and strategy in 2017, the **Roadmap for SDG implementation**, which explicitly acknowledges the crucial role of local governments.⁷ Since 2021, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has held consultations with the **Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ)** and started involving them in SDG implementation work.⁸ The ALGAJ also contributed to the 2022 VNR.

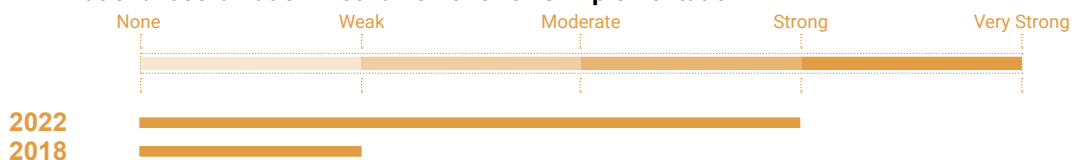
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Local governments have contributed to the 2022 VNR through consultations with national agencies on SDG implementation.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has been involved with local governments since 2021.

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 stated that "local level implementation of the SDGs is paramount to ensure that the principle of leaving no one behind is achieved" and dedicated a subsection to local sustainable development plans, which were presented as "providing an important mechanism for localizing the SDGs" (see VNR, 2018, p. 18-19). There were references to the local level, without many examples of locally-led SDG-related initiatives. The 2022 VNR includes a section on localization, where localization is considered a "central tenet of the implementation framework for the NDP" and the "translation of policy imperatives through the strategic framework of the NDP into sectoral, local, and other plans." (see VNR, 2022, p. 31-32)

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► A Disaster Risk Information Platform (DRIP) was developed for the parish of **St. Catherine** as a disaster risk reduction tool.

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

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

► The **Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ)** supported local authorities to hold meetings on the SDGs at the parish level with civil society. It also participated in a project founded by the CLGF and the EU to support parish development committees to develop local plans and indicators to follow up on the SDGs.⁹

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing is one of the main challenges for the full implementation of the SDGs and arising from the Roadmap for SDG Implementation proposals were made to address the financing of the SDGs in Jamaica from resources derived from both the public and private sector. In this regard, the 2018 VNR stated that a critical arm of the national planning process to address performance-based budgeting is the **Public Investment Management System (PIMS)**. The report also mentioned that the **Public Investment Management Secretariat (PIMSEC)** plays a critical role in budgeting and prioritizing the funding for the SDGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Despite the country's limited financial and political resources (and visibility), linked to its geography and location, Jamaica passed a series of **three local government reform acts**¹⁰ in 2016 that established a new governance framework, based on the principles of participatory local governance and local self-management. These regulations also expanded local mandates to foster sustainable development.¹¹ The 2018 VNR refers to this reform which "provides for the establishment of a framework to accommodate the various types of local authorities; expand their mandate to include sustainable development and the maintenance of civic order; create accountability and transparency mechanisms for local authorities; define the role and relationship between the administrative and political organs of local authorities; and empower civil society and communities in the governance process". Further to this action and in alignment with the national development strategies, work has commenced on the development of a **National Spatial Plan** which will outline spatial planning guidelines for national and regional development as well as set the national context for spatial planning at the regional and local level. The National Spatial Plan is complemented by the promulgation of Development Orders and Local Sustainable Development Plans (see VNR, 2018, p. 76).

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

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

10. Local Governance Act; Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act; and the Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act.

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

4. SDG INDICATORS¹²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		18.3 (2019)
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 (%)		57.1 (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)		14.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

SAINT LUCIA

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Saint Lucia is a monarchy with a single tier of subnational government, represented by 15 constituency councils. **Local elections have been suspended since 1979.** All council members are appointed by the minister in charge of local government.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

Saint Lucia's **Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2019-2022** focuses on specific SDGs with a goal of producing a domino effect across multiple key sectors and will guide their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Saint Lucia is also in the process of formulating a longer term **National Development Plan (NDP)**, which will be aligned with the SDGs.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers endorsed the establishment of the national coordination mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Saint Lucia. It comprises the **SDG Cabinet Subcommittee of Ministers (CSC)** and the **SDG National Coordinating Committee (SDGNCC)** which is the governing committee tasked to guide the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The CSC is chaired by the Minister for Sustainable Development, and is further constituted by the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister for Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment, the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Economic Development. The SDGNCC is a multi-sectoral committee co-chaired by the ministries responsible for sustainable development and economic development. It also comprises representatives of the private sector, academia, youth, civil society and NGOs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDGNCC** led the preparation of the 2019 VNR, through a consultant who administered the process in three phases. The first comprised an extensive desk review; the second phase benefited from stakeholder engagement; and the third was the drafting of the report.

1.3 MONITORING

The **SDGNCC** is mandated to monitor and report on the progress of the implementation of the SDGs. In 2015, the UNDS analyzed the institutional arrangements for collecting and disseminating statistical data; and the programmes and initiatives of relevance to statistical development, including development of indicators for SDGs. The study revealed capacity limitations in statistics, both from the National Statistical System (NSS) and the ministries. Overall, there is a shortfall in funding for the statistical systems required to provide information for sustainable development.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

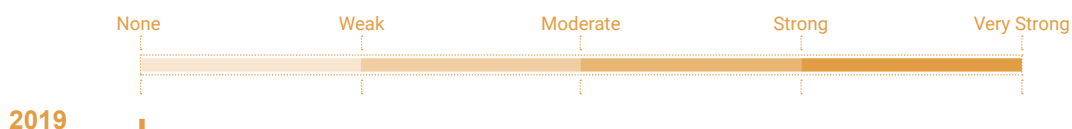
There is no evidence of any involvement of the constituency councils in the VNR process led in 2019, nor in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.

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

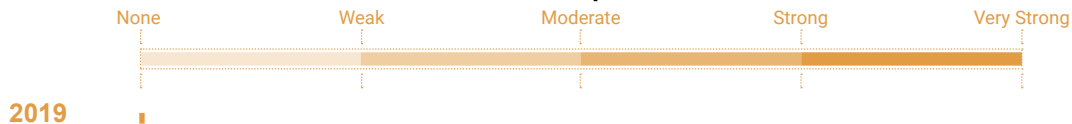
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23570SAINT_LUCIA_VNR_REPORT_JUNE_2019.pdf (2019)

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is no reference to constituency councils in the 2019 VNR.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Sessions have been held with public sector agencies with a focus on aligning the SDGs with work programmes, budget planning and reporting processes. Securing adequate financial resources to implement the SDGs remains a challenge for Saint Lucia.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Through the "Strengthening local government's role as a partner in development" project, the CGLF has also been working with the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment of Saint Lucia to strengthen the role of local governments and other local and national stakeholders in localizing and implementing the SDGs.³

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

3. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

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 (%)		11.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		100 (2011, Castries)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.9 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. 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/lca>



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



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



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 INDICATORS⁴

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)

4. 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/tto>



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