

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 (*hamaynaq*)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.

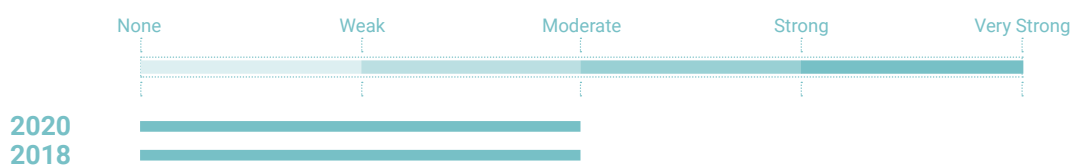
1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

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>