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**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2021
2018
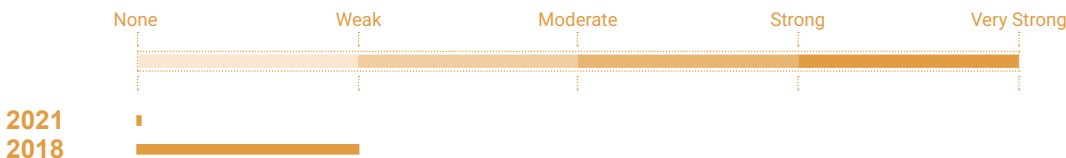
► **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2021
2018

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 INDICATORS[4]

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