

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>