

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 (RCPCA 2017-2021)** and sectoral development strategies. The RCPCA 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 RCPCA'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

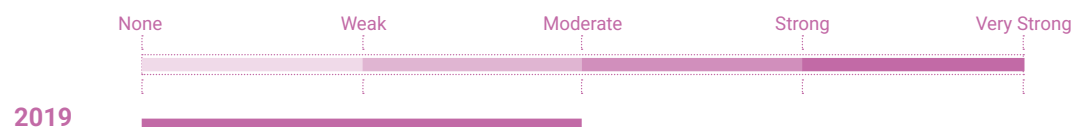
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23414RAPPORT_VOLONTAIRE_DE_SUIVI_ODD_RCA_FINAL_SIGNATURE_MINISTRE_003.pdf (2019)

3. 37% of the SDG targets are in line with the RCPCA. 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 RCPCA, 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.

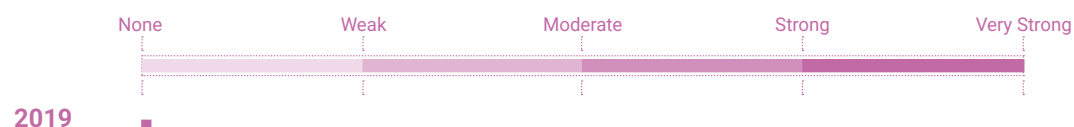
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► 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>