

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.

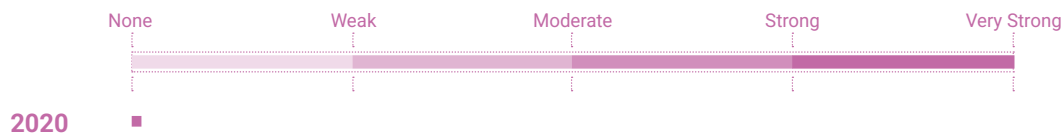
1. In 2013, 72 urban areas acquired the status of city, and 499 new municipalities were created. However, the operationalization of the measure is not yet fully effective.
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26296VNR_2020_DRC_Report_French.pdf (2020)

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.

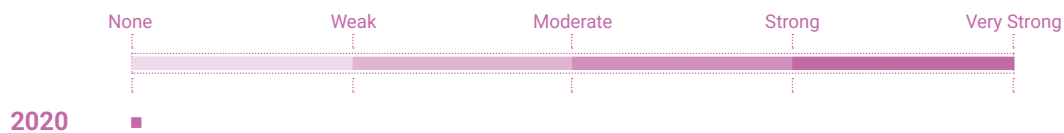
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



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



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-optation 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>