

EGYPT

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Egypt is a unitary republic, with a two-tiered subnational structure made of 462 local governments at the intermediate level, and 220 at the municipal level. Local councils/assemblies are elected, but the executives (governorates, presidents) are not.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

As Egypt's first-ever sustainable development strategy, the national strategy, "**Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030**" (SDS) was launched in 2016. It is the national framework that guides and sets policies and programs in order to achieve the SDGs, as well as other national objectives.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The launch of the national strategy for 2030 was followed by the establishment of a national committee, the **National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the SDGs**. It falls under the remit of the prime minister's office and is composed of representatives of 17 ministries and state entities. Furthermore, sustainable development units and working groups in different ministries were established and assigned to act as the focal points for developing and implementing sustainable development plans and strategies within their own entities. The whole coordination and monitoring process is led by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was led by the then Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform. Members of the national committee and the focal points in the different ministries and governmental entities all contributed to the reporting process. The 2021 VNR elaboration process was led by the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Development**. The process involved a series of consultations with government entities, private sector and civil society representatives as well as development partners. Multiple virtual meetings with the committee's members, in addition to the sustainable development units previously established in the different government entities, facilitated the consultations which were an essential resource for reviewing the SDGs and their indicators.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)**, as a member of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), plays a pivotal role in the monitoring process of the SDGs and the Sustainable Development Strategy through its sustainable development unit. The 2018 VNR acknowledges that measurements at the national level do not reflect regional development disparities in SDG implementation. A project aimed at collecting data at the municipal level by actively engaging LRGs in the process. The 2021 report mentions the creation of the Integrated Electronic System for Planning and Monitoring. Through this system, all public projects are requested by public entities, managed and monitored by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. Additionally, this system is linking every public project with the objectives of the government plan as well as with the SDGs.

1. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10738egypt.pdf> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20269EGY_VNR_2018_final_with_Hyperlink_9720185b45d.pdf (2018);

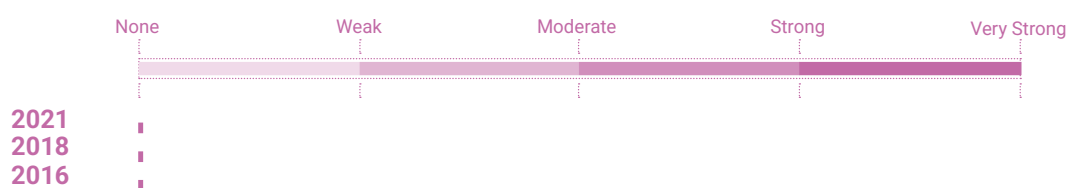
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279512021_VNR_Report_Egypt.pdf (2021)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

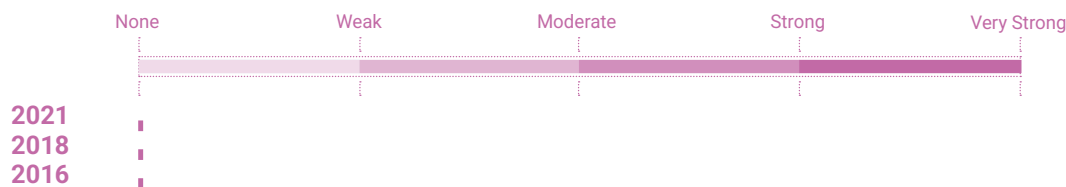
In the 2018 VNR, there was no reference to LRG participation in the reporting process, nor in the general national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. The VNR mentioned the fact that Egypt had begun to decentralize its election and planning systems, with the aim of empowering municipalities and local communities. A law on local administration and a unified planning law were then under development; the first law was expected to decentralize local councils and organize district elections, while the second would grant more power to governorates, cities and villages, allowing the governorates to draft their own strategic plans depending on their developmental needs. In 2021, the VNR states that Egypt is well aware of the importance of the local dimension and accorded significant attention to the localization of the SDGs at the governorate level to address geographic disparities. The government focused on empowering local governments and elaborating SDG localization reports for all 27 governorates.

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

In the 2018 VNR, LRGs are only mentioned regarding the lack of disaggregated data at the municipal level and the up-coming laws on decentralization. The 2021 VNR has a special subsection called "Localization of Sustainable Development" and it refers to: Governorate-Level SDGs Localization Reports;³ Governorate-Level Competitiveness Index;⁴ Governorate-level Investment Allocation Formula (GIAP).⁵

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► **Qalyubeya Governorate** is a local example of participatory policy co-production in the informal waste collection sector. Local informal waste pickers were central to the launch of an integrated community-based solid waste management system. The system improved the local environment, raised the living conditions of local residents, alleviated the problem of solid waste and created new jobs without affecting current ones. This innovative project was awarded the third Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation in 2016.⁶

► The city of **Aswan** has also developed a comprehensive strategy that integrates gardening and water conservation programmes in schools, as well as diverse entrepreneurial training opportunities for all groups of society.

► The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development launched the Citizen's Plan for two consecutive years (2020/2019 and 2021/2020). It aims to enhance community participation, transparency, and accountability, and ensure the citizen's right to be aware of Egypt's annual sustainable development plan. The Citizen's Plan is developed on evidence-based planning databases and performance indicators of all the development fields in the 27 governorates to bridge development gaps amongst different governorates.

3. These reports aim to provide an overview of the status of SDG implementation at the governorate level through measuring and updating the values of 32 indicators for 11 SDGs.

4. It is expected to serve as a monitor of the implementation of the SDGs and Egypt Vision 2030 at the governorate level. It will also identify and address development gaps among the governorates, and motivate them to improve their competitive performance by creating a positive environment to boost their competitiveness and directing additional resources to marginalized governorates and most vulnerable groups.

5. As a result of the implementation of the formula, the allocation of local investment per capita between governorates has exhibited a convergence trend denoting a more equitable distribution of investment.

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

► The Presidential initiative “Haya Karima” (Dignified Life) was launched in 2019 with a budget of EGP 675 million (~USD 43 million) to accelerate poverty eradication on a local level.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Public investment allocation decisions are based on the prioritization of projects that achieve sustainable development. Additionally, the transformation from a line item budget to performance-based budgeting is gradually being implemented in Egypt’s state budget. The 2021 VNR presents the **Governorate-level Investment Allocation Formula (GIAF)**, a formula-based process for allocating local investment funds among the 27 governorates. It was introduced in 2018. This process is being administered by an inter-ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In terms of Finances for Development (FfD), 2020 marked the issuing of the first green bond in Egypt and in the MENA region. This not only added to the diversification of finance tools at the disposal of the GoE but also pushed the agenda of “greenifying” public projects. Additionally, the national government, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the UN, will launch in 2021 the first ever comprehensive national report on FfD to give an objective taxonomy of FfD in Egypt.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference to women participation in politics at the local level.

3.2 COVID 19

Despite the pandemic, the national government launched the second phase of the economic reform program in 2021 aiming at streamlining the structure of the Egyptian economy and raising its competitiveness. There is no reference to locally-led initiatives.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

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	73 (2020)
	Rural	63 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		5.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		86.6 (2012, Cairo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		72.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		74 (2020)

7. 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/egy>