

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Guatemala is a unitary republic with a single tier of local self-government comprising 340 municipalities. The 22 departments and 8 regions are deconcentrated entities with governors and presidents respectively, appointed by the central government.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).¹

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **K'atun National Development Plan : Our Guatemala 2032** was adopted in 2014. It is aligned with the SDGs through the “**Structure of the implementation strategy for development priorities**”, in which various actions are detailed and 129 targets and 200 of the SDG indicators are prioritized. The **General Government Policy 2020-2024** is aligned with national development priorities and, therefore, has become the main reference in the annual and multi-year planning processes.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national development plan was built in a participatory manner within the **System of Development Councils (SISCODE)**, thus covering the micro or community level, to the macro or national level. As of 2016, the **National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR)**, which is the highest representative body of the SISCODE, has been designated as the political space for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. It is coordinated by the President of the Republic. Within it, the methodology for the selection of the objectives, goals and indicators that the country assumed within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (including that of the SDGs) were approved. One of the 9 commissions of CONADUR, the **Commission for Alignment, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Plan**, is in charge of coordinating, aligning and monitoring the international development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, taking as a reference the priorities established in the national plan. The Commission is coordinated by the **Secretary of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN)**.

SEGEPLAN designed a new methodology to allow the integration of the SDGs into local development plans. By 2018, 91 municipalities had already made progress in this direction, but due to elections in 2019 at all levels in the country, the process has since slowed.² The implementation strategy of national priorities establishes inter-institutional coordination, with the **System of Development Councils (SISCODE) and the municipalities** for the inclusion of development priorities in the Municipal Development Plans and their respective management by means of multi-year and annual operational planning, in such a way that public budgets respond to strategic development goals at the local level.³

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

At the end of the first 5 years of the national development plan, the 2019 VNR included qualitative and quantitative information on the implementation of this national plan during the period 2015-2018. The conduct of the process was requested from **SEGEPLAN**, in coordination with public institutions, the regional and departmental development councils and mayors at the municipal level. The VNR process was also supported by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN). The 2021 VNR includes the contribution of the public sector, the private sector, international cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, among others.

1. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16626Guatemala.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25008REVISIN_NACIONAL_COMPLETA.pdf (2019). The 2021 VNR is still not published (as of March 2022).
 2. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>
 3. Answer of SEGEPLAN to the GTF Survey in 2021

1.3 MONITORING

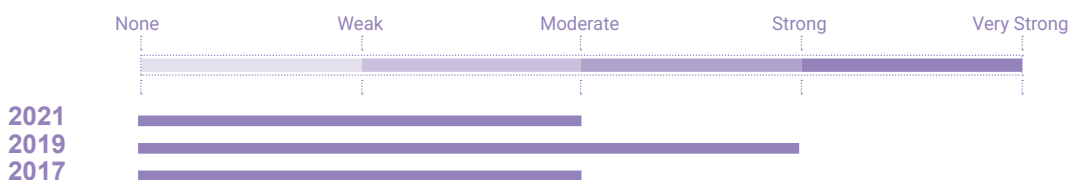
The **National Statistical System (SEN)** is made up of public institutions that produce official statistics, such as ministries, secretariats and decentralized organizations, among others, under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics (INE). As a result of the integration of the SDGs in the national development plan, 16 strategic development goals were determined, grouped into 10 priorities. The 2021 VNR presents progress regarding indicators and the implementation of an online platform that allows visualizing the indicators linked to the SDGs. This platform can be used by different actors, so that they can prioritize plans, programs and projects.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participated in the development of the K'atun National Development Plan through the involvement of SISCODE. Nations priorities, including the SDGs, are implemented at the local level through municipal planning and land use instruments, which are prepared, approved and implemented by municipalities: they should integrate the SDGs in their Municipal Development Plans (PMD-OT). In 2017, the government introduced the National Agenda for Decentralization 2032 to relaunch the implementation of the Decentralization Law approved in 2002. Along with Nicaragua, Guatemala stands out as having municipalities with the greatest competences and resources of Central America and the Caribbean.⁴ However, the involvement of local governments in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is still low; since there is not a continuous monitoring of the involvement and participation of LRGs in the logic of cooperation and dialogue. LRG involvement has been made visible only in the application of the tools for linking the plans, for the purposes of formulating the annual planning, as well as in the VNRs.⁵ The **National Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Guatemala** has integrated the SDGs into its work plans.⁶ As mentioned in the 2019 VNR, the regional and departmental development councils and mayors participated in the reporting process. There were public sector consultations, at the departmental, municipal and regional levels. In particular, municipalities were consulted through a survey: a total of 152 municipalities responded out of 340. In 2021, they also participated through a survey. In addition, they were invited to participate in information meetings. In this sense, the participation methodology evolved, through a process of socialization and involvement of local governments in the VNR process.⁷

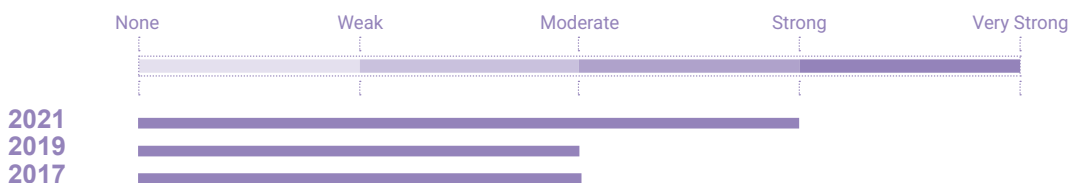
2.1 VNR REFERENCES

► In the VNR process



Comments: Occasional participation, and survey (GTF Survey 2021).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regular participación (consultative level), but low involvement of local governments in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. There is no continuous monitoring of the involvement and participation of LRGs (GTF Survey 2021).

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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the whole 2019 VNR (both municipalities and other tiers of subnational government). There are also many references to national and vertical coordination mechanisms regarding the implementation of the national development plan, the SDGs and the municipal / local development plans.

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

5. Answer of the municipality of Mixco to the GTF Survey in 2021

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

7. Answer of the municipality of Mixco to the GTF Survey in 2021

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- ▶ One example of successful SDG integration in the municipal development plans stands out: that of the municipality of **Salcajá** (in the Quetzaltenango province) and the localization of the SDGs in its local Territorial Planning Regulation.⁸
- ▶ The rural municipality **San Pedro La Laguna** committed to a sustainable participative plan to abolish the use of plastics in the town, and therefore to improve water quality, fish stocks and tourism.⁹

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Within CONADUR, a commission was set up that defined the criteria for the distribution, use and destination of the funds from the development councils contribution, a condition that minimizes discretion in distribution at the territorial level. Fiscal allocation criteria are formulated in a route that goes from the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN) to the departments, and from these to the municipalities, to decide the items in which to invest based on the priorities established in the K'atun. With regard to the responsibilities of municipal governments and the constitutional contribution to them (which is 10% of the General Budget of Ordinary Income of the State, according to article 257 of the CPRG), at least 90% should be allocated of the total to programs and projects of education, infrastructure works and public services that improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		11.4 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	65 (2020)
	Rural	46 (2020)
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 (%)		31 (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)		30.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		75.6 (2020)

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

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

10. 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/gtm>