

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is a unitary country with two tiers of subnational government. It counts 10 regional democratic councils (RDCs) and 146 local democratic organs (LDOs). The latter comprise three types of council: municipal (6), neighborhood (65) and Amerindian village (75). First local elections since 1994 were held in 2016.¹



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

Guyana's **Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 (GSDS)** is synchronized with the overarching objectives of the SDGs.³

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Since the **National Budget** serves as the vehicle for implementation of development programmes, the **Ministry of Finance** has consistently been a key coordinator within the public sector for SDG implementation.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The development of the 2019 VNR started with an **Inter-Agency Coordinating Mechanism (IACM)** being established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁴ The Mechanism selected the **Ministry of Finance** to spearhead the VNR process given its role of inter-sectoral coordination and existing work integrating the SDGs into the national planning and budgeting framework. The Ministry of Finance developed a data collection tool, the SDG Indicator Collection and Assessment Tool (ICAT), which was issued to all budget agencies. It also facilitated technical group discussions on indicators. The draft report was then prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as a consultant provided by UNDP. The final stages involved an iterative process between the Ministry of Finance, government agencies and other stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Ministry of Finance** has been identified to lead the monitoring of Guyana's progress towards achieving the relevant targets of the SDGs. Thus, these targets and respective indicators inform the national monitoring and evaluation framework. Budget agencies have been encouraged continually, and mandated to prioritize improving the relevant capacities for data generation, collection and analysis, which underpin effective planning, programme delivery and reporting. The budget process mandates data disaggregation by sex and location to ensure that policies and programmes are appropriately targeted to the relevant areas and groups and that no one is left behind.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the 2019 VNR process nor in the national budget process aimed at coordinating SDG implementation in the country.

1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Guyana.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24297Guyana_VNR2019_FINAL_REPORT_070819.pdf (2019)

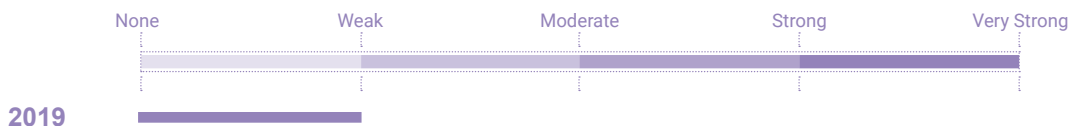
3. Vision 2040 was elaborated on the basis of a consultative process, namely through Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEGs) which comprised representatives from the public service, academia, civil society, youth, private sector, non-governmental organizations and development partners, among other groups. Additionally, Vision 2040 benefited from public consultations in all administrative regions of the country.

4. It included the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, the Bureau of Statistics, the Office of Climate Change and the Ministry of Education, among others.

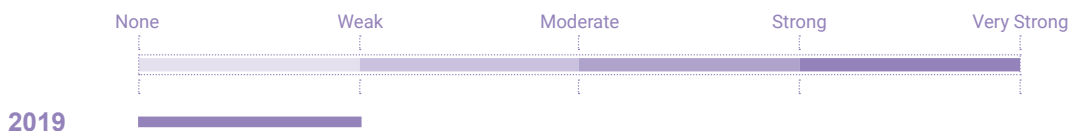
In 2016, Guyana introduced the **Plans of Action for Regional Development (PARD)** and the **Plans of Action of Municipal Development (PAMD)**, which are strategic plans to guide the development and planning processes for regions and municipalities. These plans utilize existing national and sectoral strategies as key inputs in their elaboration along with extensive consultations.

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 VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR mentions the regional and local councils, but no reference is made to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

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

The **Ministry of Finance** leads SDG integration into the national budgeting process, and in particular, into annual budget frameworks. Since 2017, the national budgeting process has required government agencies, in the articulation of their budget proposals, to explicitly identify the potential for alignment to Vision 2040 and the SDGs when proposing public programmes and investment projects. The national budget is the key means of implementation for Vision 2040 as well as the SDGs and other policy priorities. In 2017 as well, the Ministry of Finance conducted a sensitisation session for all budget agencies on the SDGs and how they should go about conceptualizing integration. The following year, a SDG mapping was done to assist agencies in identifying the targets applicable to their respective areas of responsibility, as well as the other agencies who share responsibility for achieving the Target. This served to further promote ownership and emphasizes the need for collaboration among government agencies in order to achieve the SDG and respective targets.

The 2019 VNR stresses that "local government organs, which provide for citizen participation and empowerment, are under-resourced and not as effective as they need to be. [...] However, the capacity of local authorities is being rebuilt with support of the Ministry of Communities and the Local Government Commission, though additional resources are needed to scale up much needed institutional strengthening" (see VNR, 2019, p. 84).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR acknowledges that Guyana's institutional and legal framework is functioning, but is heavily centralized. There is, however, a shift in the local government agenda from a centralized approach to a decentralized approach, with the main focal areas being empowerment and capacity building in all local organs. It adds that "the functioning of [local democratic organs (LDOs)] is imperative to ensuring inclusive decision-making and governance" (see VNR, 2019, p. 81). Over the period 2015 to 2018, four new towns were designated – in Bartica, Lethem, Mabaruma and Mahdia – with a view towards greater **decentralization and democratization of municipal administration** in the medium term.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

During the period 2015 to 2019, women representatives were more than 30% on a majority of regional democratic councils (RDCs).

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		38.7 (2018)
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 (%)		31.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73.4 (2008, Georgetown)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		23.1 (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/guy>