COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ANALYSIS OF SDG LOCALIZATION

LEBANON

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lebanon is a unitary republic divided into 8 administrative governorates, 25 districts and 1,018 municipalities. These can associate through Municipal Unions (there are currently 51). Beirut, the capital city, has a unique system, in which the elected mayor retains certain policy-making powers while sharing the executive power with an appointed governor.[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

Lebanon's most comprehensive cross-sectoral development policy, which to a certain extent integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development, is the **National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory (NPMPLT)**, adopted in 2009. Lebanon does not yet have a national integrated sustainable development framework.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A **National Committee** to implement the SDGs was formed in 2017, with members including ministerial officials, and representatives from CSOs and the private sector. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. **Sub-committees** (thematic groupings) have been established along the pillars of the 2030 Agenda (people, planet, prosperity and peace, with partnership mainstreamed) and a dedicated **statistical taskforce** has been set up.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Three workshops were conducted with government officials, the private sector and CSOs to raise their awareness of the SDGs and to launch the 2018 VNR preparations.

1.3 MONITORING

The **Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)** is mandated to collect, process, produce and disseminate social and economic statistics at the national level.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Committee of Mayors**, gathering the representatives of the country's major cities, has been active since 1995. The Technical Office of Lebanese Cities (BTVL), also known as **United Cities Lebanon** (Cités Unies Liban), has a membership of 66 municipalities and 22 federations of municipalities, comprising 80% of the country's population. However, when the national government prepared its VNR in 2018, the municipalities of the United Cities Lebanon were informed but not invited to contribute to the process.[3] Local governments are not included in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.[4]
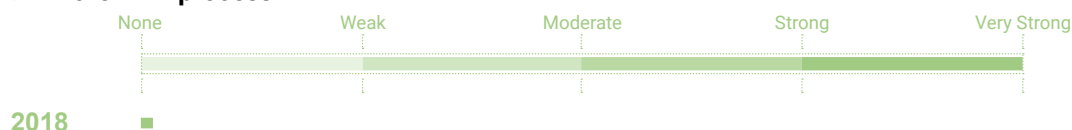
1. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19624LebanonVNR2018.pdf (2018)
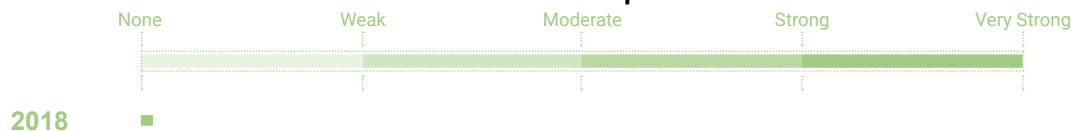3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
4. Answers of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities and the local government association United Cities Lebanon to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

▶ **In the VNR process**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2018 ▪

▶ **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2018 ▪

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

There are a few references to local governments in the 2018 VNR, without much recognition of LRGs' role in SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

▶ **Byblos**' resilience plan was created through dialogue with key stakeholders — the municipal council, government ministries, the police, NGOs, academic institutions, and civic groups. It prioritizes municipal data collection and use as a prerequisite for improved planning and city management.[5]

▶ To increase green public spaces, a pioneering project on soft mobility called "*Liaisons douces*" has been studied in **Beirut**. It would include safe pedestrian and cycling tracks along the main city axes. Also, the municipality developed a national disaster management strategy and draft disaster law.

▶ The WB-funded cultural heritage and urban development initiative aimed to create conditions for increased local economic development and enhanced quality of life in the historic centres of Lebanon's five main secondary cities: **Baalbek; Byblos; Saida; Tyre** and **Tripoli**. The initiative ended in 2016 and an evaluation of its results showed it had succeeded in rehabilitating historic urban cores in compliance with approved regulations.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific reference regarding SDG implementation, in particular at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In Lebanon, public participation in urban planning and development remains marginal, but has been improving: in 2016, a platform set up by NGOs under the slogan of 'Beirut My City' won 37% of the votes in the capital. The winner-take-all electoral system left the movement with no representation in the city council, but it won international acclaim.[6]

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the municipal elections in 2016, women constituted 5.4% of local government elected officials, compared to 4.6% in the previous round in 2010.

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

3.2 COVID 19

During the pandemic, **United Cities Lebanon** relayed the government directives on the measures to be taken vis-à-vis the population, such as distribution of material aids (masks, gels, gloves, etc.), the distribution of brochures and specialized books to fight against the pandemic, the organization of several explanatory and information sharing workshops, etc. Overall, local authorities have played a preponderant role despite the scarcity of financial resources, through the creation of crisis units, the involvement of civil society in particular the nursing staff, the mobilization of private financial resources, the provision of housing for people affected by the pandemic, etc.[7]

4. SDG INDICATORS[8]

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		4.0 (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 (%)		61.1 (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)		30.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2019)