

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Kingdom of Morocco is a unitary country divided into 12 regions, intermediate government including 13 prefectures and 62 provinces, and 1503 municipalities. Morocco also has a network of around 25 000 villages and rural localities, which do not have a legal personality.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

The **National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2030 (SNDD)** integrates the majority of the SDG targets in its objectives and strategic axes. The **National Initiative for Human Development** is another initiative related to the 2030 Agenda, which aims to combat poverty and exclusion, promotes the provision of health and education services, and develop income-generating activities for the poor and the development of disadvantaged areas.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government designated a **National Commission for Sustainable Development** chaired by the Head of Government and composed of all ministerial departments, major national institutions, large public establishments, socio-professional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The **High Commission for Planning**, which is a member of the Commission, has the double mission of drawing up an assessment of the achievements of the SDGs by government departments and evaluating the prospects for their development in the light of the public policies announced by the government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was prepared with a participatory approach. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad** and the **High Commission for Planning** organized, with the support of the United Nations system in Morocco, a national consultation to take stock of the status of SDG implementation and prepare the country's participation in the 2020 edition of the HLPF. Representatives from the government, the Parliament, the Court of Auditors, public institutions, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, local authorities, universities, the media and non-governmental organizations participated. In collaboration with the regional councils, three regional consultations were organized, with the objective of extending them to the rest of the country's regions, in order to raise awareness among local actors of the contextualization of the SDGs at the level of their geographical areas and the need to set up regional statistical databases.

1.3 MONITORING

The Office of the High Commissioner for Planning, an independent national institution in charge of statistics, is responsible for preparing annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs. By virtue of the decree establishing this commission, the examination and reporting on the SDGs have become annual and a committee has been set up within the aforementioned national commission and is chaired by the Head of Government. It is responsible for monitoring and supporting the SDGs.

1. Six cities with more than 500 000 inhabitants (Rabat, Sale, Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech and Tangier) are managed by a municipal council and are subdivided into districts. They may not have legal personality but they do have administrative and financial autonomy as well as borough councils.

See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

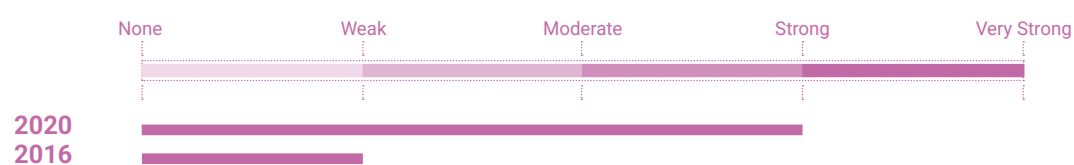
2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10560NVR%20\(Morocco\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10560NVR%20(Morocco).pdf) (2016); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26405VNR_2020_Morocco_Report_French.pdf (2020)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR details, regarding SDG 10, some strategies and programs that have been implemented in order to reduce inequalities between territories. These strategies include the **New Guidelines for Public Policy on Land Use Planning**. Their objectives are to specify the fundamental orientations of the national government in terms of territorial planning and development at the national, interregional and regional levels; to promote the territorial coherence of public interventions; to ensure the articulation of development choices and the supervision of territorial strategic planning documents; and to accompany and support sustainable territorial development initiatives in articulation with Morocco's international commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda. Advanced **regionalization** is mentioned as one of the key strategies and programmes in the country. This aims at promoting balanced territorial development, through the strengthening of the powers and resources of local authorities and the creation of two funds for social upgrading and interregional solidarity. In this context, the adoption of a new charter of administrative deconcentration aims to accelerate the reduction of inequalities through the consolidation of the process of territorialization and convergence of public policies at the subnational level, and thus, promote the establishment of a balanced regional development.

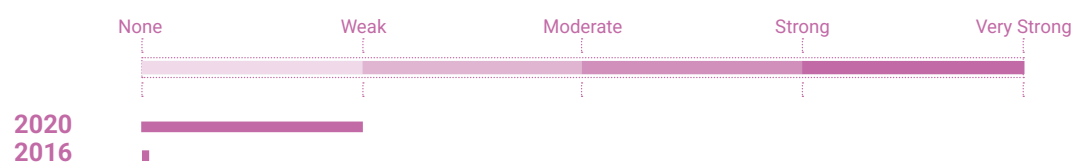
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultations were held at the regional level and national consultations included local authorities.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG direct involvement 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

LRGs are mentioned a few times in the 2020 VNR, without much specific examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. Regions are mentioned a lot more than other local governments (provinces, prefectures, municipalities).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► 11 Moroccan cities (**Casablanca, Marrakech, Oujda, Agadir, El Jadida, Kenitra, Tangier, Tetouan, Beni-Mellal, Dakhla** and **Khémisset**) have already implemented their urban mobility plans. The Directorate General of Local Authorities is continuing its efforts to support other local authorities, both technically and financially, in drawing up their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.

► The national climate policy pays particular attention to the territories and devotes one of its major pillars to the introduction of the imperatives of integrated management of climate change in the planning and management processes of the territories. This pillar also deals with the generalization of Regional Climate Plans (PCR) and aims to improve territorial knowledge on climate change. In the same spirit, concerning vulnerable territories, there has been the development of a project to revitalize oasis agro-ecosystems through an integrated and sustainable approach and landscape in the **Draa Tafilalet Region**.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The adoption of a new organic law on finance as a lever for modernizing the Moroccan public administration is aimed at making it possible to strengthen the coherence of public policies, and improve the performance of public action and the quality of services. The instruments used in this framework include the strengthening of budgetary deconcentration and contractualization between central administrations and their deconcentrated services. Also, the reform of the Regional Investment Centers and the creation of unified regional investment commissions, under Law No. 47.18, promulgated in 2019, is likely to strengthen the territorial attractiveness, especially of the most deprived regions and promote, consequently, the economic and social life in these regions.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR made it possible to show the achievements of the SDGs and to identify the challenges to be met in order to give new momentum to the process of their implementation. These challenges mainly concern ownership at the territorial level, coherence of public policies, coordination of the national statistical system and the development of financing. The **decentralization** of the development process within the framework of advanced regionalization is also a relevant approach to improving the effectiveness of public policies for the inclusion of disadvantaged people and territories.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

At the level of regional and other territorial councils, the presence of elected women has been steadily increasing. Between 2009 and 2015, their proportion in these councils rose from 12.38% to 21.18% at the communal level and from 2% to 4% at the provincial level. As for the regional councils, their number has experienced, during the same period, an increase from 27 to 255 elected women, bringing their weight in the year 2015 to 37.6%. It should be noted that two women preside over two regions in Morocco (out of a total of 12 regions). Morocco adopted in 2013 its first Governmental Plan for Equality 2012 - 2016 (ICRAM), which aims to entrench equity and equality between men and women in different sectors.

3.2 COVID 19

Morocco has taken a series of measures, under the High Royal Directives, including confinement and the creation of a special fund to manage the effects of COVID-19, to support the purchasing power of vulnerable households and the activities of damaged businesses. However, none of these measures specifically involves the local level.

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		20.9 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	91 (2020)
	Rural	61 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	41 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		9.2 (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)		28.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/mar>