

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Niger is a unitary republic. It has 255 municipalities and 7 regions. The municipality is the basic territorial authority. Of the 255 municipalities, 214 are considered as rural municipalities, 37 as urban municipalities, and 4 as municipalities with a special status, or "cities" (Niamey, Maradi, Tahaoua and Zinde).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 institutional mechanisms for SDG implementation in Niger are those defined for the **Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI) 2035** and the **Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2017-2021**.³ They include an implementation, coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The **PDES 2022-2026** is currently being formulated.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The governance of the PDES is ensured by the **Council of Ministers** chaired by the President of the Republic. The Council of Ministers approves the decisions of the **National Orientation Council (CNO)** chaired by the Prime Minister. This Council reports quarterly to the Council of Ministers on the progress of the implementation of the PDES. The secretariat of the Council is provided by the Minister in charge of Planning. The Ministry of Planning ensures the technical coordination of the implementation of the PDES and the SDGs. It is assisted by a **National Coordination Committee (CNC)**⁴, **Sectoral Coordination Poles**⁵ and **Regional Coordination Units**. The State-PTF (technical and financial partners) Committee, chaired by the Minister of Planning, ensures the coordination and harmonization of all public interventions and international partners for the implementation of the PDES, and consequently of the SDGs.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2021 VNR process was led by the **Ministry of Planning**. For the elaboration of the report, a **technical working group** including the Ministry of Planning, the National Institute of Statistics, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD), CSOs including representatives of youth and disabled people's organizations and the United Nations System Agencies has been set up. As in 2020, the 2021 reporting process consisted of 9 steps and was based on the institutional arrangement of the PDES.

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19886Niger_Revue_nationale_volontaire_ODD_Niger_Final40718.pdf (2018);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26355VNR_2020_Niger_Report_French.pdf (2020);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282722021_VNR_Report_Niger.pdf (2021)

3. The Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) has provided for a development management program that aims to improve the instruments for planning and coordinating public policies as well as the management of public finances, by strengthening the coherence and quality of the instruments for planning, programming, budgeting, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of public policies. The implementation of this program is in line with the achievement of three SDGs: SDG 8, SDG 10 and SDG 17. Despite some progress, major challenges remain in Niger, these include: produce disaggregated, quality and up-to-date statistical data for monitoring policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects and Sustainable Development Goals; strengthen the coordination and centralization of sectoral statistics; improve financing for development.

4. The CNC is a consultation mechanism that brings together the various ministerial departments, the financial and technical partners, civil society and the private sector. It ensures the synergy between the different sectoral coordination poles, the quality of information and that reports are submitted by the sectoral poles and regional units.

5. The sectoral coordination poles are spaces for coordination and dialogue with all the actors concerned. They are structured around the strategic priorities of the PDES and they are: (i) the "rural transformation" cluster, (ii) the "private sector" cluster, (iii) the "demographic transition, health, education and training" cluster, (iv) the "infrastructure and equipment" cluster, (v) the "water and sanitation" cluster, (vi) the "governance and modernization of the State" cluster and (vii) the "development management" cluster.

1.3 MONITORING

The monitoring and evaluation system is integrated into the institutional framework of the PDES. A **Division for monitoring the SDGs** was created within the Ministry of Planning and is specifically responsible for monitoring-evaluation and reporting. The production of data and information for reporting purposes is in charge of the Ministry of Planning, and more specifically of the National Institute of Statistics. Despite difficulties (inadequate human and financial resources), significant progress has been made in the mastery of statistical data and in monitoring and evaluation: (i) the databases of the national monitoring and evaluation system are regularly updated as of 2018; (ii) the development of the main monitoring and evaluation tools has been completed.

At the regional level, information collection and diffusion is ensured by a **regional unit** composed of the Deputy Secretary General of the Governorate, the Regional Director of Land Management and Community Development and the Regional Director of the National Institute of Statistics. This unit collects and analyzes data on the development actions carried out, and ensures the validation and regular transmission of the monitoring-evaluation reports of the PDES.

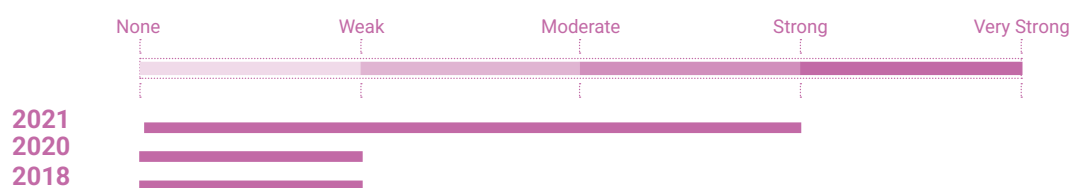
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Since 2018, several efforts have been made in terms of integrating the SDGs into planning tools at the national, sectoral and local levels. To encourage ownership of the SDGs, the government has organized outreach and awareness-raising sessions for local governments, as well as for other stakeholders. In addition, the capacities of state and non-state actors at the national and local levels have been strengthened, for the integration of the SDGs in strategic documents.

In 2020, local authorities were invited to the national workshop organized as part of the 2020 VNR process. In 2021, the **Associations of Regions of Niger** participated in validating the VNR, while the **Association of Municipalities** didn't participate at all. In sum, regions seem to be involved, municipalities no. This is the same for participation in the national coordination mechanisms: the regional LGA is regularly consulted (no decision-making). However, they are not mentioned in the VNR.

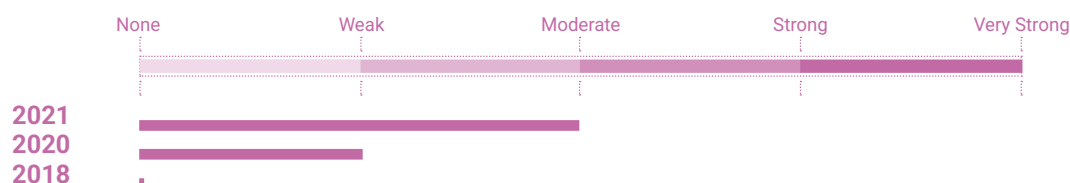
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Regions were involved in the 2021 VNR process, municipalities were not. (GTF Survey 2021. This is not mentioned in the 2021 VNR).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Regions are consulted through the ministry (the Association of Regions of Niger is a member of the National Committee coordinated by the Ministry of Planning); municipalities are not (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

The 2020 and 2021 reports do not have any specific section or chapter for the LRGs initiatives or strategies. LRGs are mentioned a few times.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The 2020 VNR highlights that the **Niamey** municipal district, and the urban municipalities of **Dosso** and **Tillabéry** have set up consultative councils for the development of the neighborhoods, called Development Advisory Boards (CCD). There are other civil society structures such as the water users' association and the health center management committees, which participate in the management and development of cities, towns or regions.

► There is no reference in the 2021 VNR: there are contextual details on the regions, without reference to locally-led initiatives.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2020, the mobilization and absorption of sufficient resources, particularly domestic resources, was the main credo for the implementation of the PDES. This is all the more important as the World Bank estimates that 50 to 80% of what will be needed to finance the SDGs should come from domestic resources. No reference to local governments.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR points out that the ordinance 2010-54 of September of 2010, concerning the General Code of Local Authorities, gives the possibility to the cities, municipalities and regions to set up structures for the direct participation of civil society in the management and development of cities, municipalities and regions (articles 15, 16, 35 and 204). Some cities, municipalities and regions have already adopted these structures.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The 2020 VNR presented the **National Gender Policy (NGP)** that was launched by the government in 2017 and its five-year Action Plan (2018-2022). Also, the creation of the **Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMP)** represents the will of women political leaders to work for the promotion of women leadership. Nevertheless, there is no mention of women participation at the local level. The 2021 VNR mentions that the quotas for women in elective and nominative positions have been raised to 25% and 30% respectively. In the 2020-2021 municipal, legislative and presidential elections,⁶ there has been an increase in women candidates.

3.2 COVID 19

Both the 2020 and 2021 VNRs mention that a **comprehensive plan to respond to COVID-19** in the amount of US\$2.4 billion over two years has been adopted and is being implemented with the support of development partners. It does not mention specific information about subnational measures or policies involving LRGs. The PDES 2022-2026, currently being formulated, will take into account COVID-19 recovery.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		15.8 (2011)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	25 (2020)
	Rural	18 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	43 (2020)
	Rural	11 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		58.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		29 (2012, Niamey)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		93.2 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		84.7 (2018)

6. These elections led to the advent of the first democratic changeover in Niger.

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/ner>