

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Palau is a unitary republic. Its 16 states have their own local governments, which include local legislators, governors, traditional chiefdoms, elders and clans, in accordance with their respective Constitutions.



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

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Palau has embraced the 2030 Agenda at the highest political level and is using the **National SDG Framework** to improve implementation, monitoring, and reporting on national priorities. The national master development plan “**Palau 2020**” will be incorporated into the **National Sustainable Development Plan**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **SDG Coordinating Unit** has been created. The **SDG Working Groups** established for the 2019 VNR process, supported by the SDG Coordinating Unit, will continue to refine the National SDG Framework while facilitating SDG implementation across the national government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Eight multi-sector **SDG Working Groups** have led the preparation of the 2019 VNR. The groups have identified an initial set of core targets and associated indicators that collectively constitute Palau’s initial National SDG Framework. Two national consultations were held where the SDG Coordinating Unit, in partnership with UNDP, introduced the SDGs to government officials, traditional leaders, civil society organizations, and the public, as well as for the validation of the set of targets and indicators.

1.3 MONITORING

After mapping global targets and indicators against domestic priorities, Palau identified 95 targets that comprise the National SDG Framework.

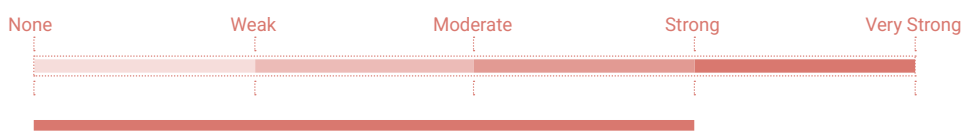
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local traditional leaders participated in the national consultations organized as part of the 2019 VNR.

1. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23606VNR_FINAL_21June2019_UN_Version.pdf (2019)

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

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 some references to Palau's states throughout the 2019 VNR, but no example of specific initiatives they lead to implement the SDGs.

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

Work is in progress to integrate national and SDG priorities into planning and budgeting processes. Identifying relevant SDG targets and adopting their associated indicators as performance measures will enable government ministries to better identify the budgetary resources needed to achieve the various sector and SDG targets. The national budget process revolves around a Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) which specifies Key Results Areas (KRAs). The 2019 VNR announces that the **Bureau of Budget and Planning (BBP)** will integrate the National SDG Framework into the KRAs. This is central towards facilitating greater accountability and transparency in the national budgetary review process and improving the allocation of scarce resources to priority issues.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The impacts of disasters and climate change on men and women differ; these differences need to be understood and considered during planning and decision making. **Palau has mainstreamed gender into the most recent work on disaster risk reduction with programs informed by gender disaggregated data.** Community-based disaster risk reduction toolkit that addresses the needs of women and vulnerable groups has been developed and implemented in 10 states. The 2019 VNR emphasizes that "women need to actively participate in all aspects of climate and disaster planning and response. Women need to be empowered with the skills they need to effectively advocate for their special needs to be reflected in disaster, climate, and land use planning and policies" (see VNR, 2019, p. 52). It mentions an initiative for disaster resilience training for women in Babeldaob. It is a collaborative effort by two NGOs (C-WEB and Palau Red Cross) and funded by UN Women and the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund. The focus of this training is on practical measures to be taken before, during, and after a disaster. The training will also equip women with the knowledge and skills they need to take active roles in disaster preparedness planning.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In state governments, women hold 4 out of 16 governorships (25%).

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS²

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		-
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	96 (2020)
	Rural	70 (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 (%)		-
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)		8.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		62.5 (2020)

² 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/plw>