

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a federal monarchy with a single tier of elected subnational government, made up of 32 urban and 265 rural governments. It also has one autonomous region: Bougainville. Recently, the New Organic Law on Decentralization changed the situation regarding the 20 provinces, which are progressively acquiring greater political, administrative, legal, and financial powers.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

PNG's national goals and directive principles, as well as annual budgets, are aligned with the SDGs. The Vision 2050 drives the crafting of the **Development Strategic Plan (DSP) 2010-2030** and the **Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) III 2018-2022**. Both of them are consistent with the 2030 Agenda. Among policies and strategies to operationalize the Agenda, there is also the **National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS)**. Besides, a **National Disaster Risk Framework 2017-2030** has been established. It is aligned with the MTDP III, the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The MTDP structure for SDG governance involves different steering and working committees (see more details in the 2020 VNR, p. 19). First, there is the **National Executive Council (NEC)** chaired by the Prime Minister. Second, there are **2 committees**: the National Steering Committee (NSC) at the parliamentary level, and the Central Agency Coordinating Committee (CACC). The **Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) Secretariat** is the central planning and monitoring department responsible for leading the integration of SDGs into national development frameworks. There are also technical and core working groups, involving government agencies, academics, private sector, civil society organizations, and UN agencies. Moreover, the Business Council of Papua New Guinea leads the private sector's engagement on the SDGs. The Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), established since 1998, brings together civil society organizations to work with public and private partners in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The **Provincial Local Level Government Services Monitoring Authority** is the body created to coordinate service delivery and coordination issues at national and subnational levels.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **DNPM** led the whole 2020 VNR process, and core members of the SDG Technical Working Group contributed to manage the SDG review process. The reporting process engaged stakeholders from the Parliament, national government departments and agencies, the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, the United Nations system, provincial and district administrations and the general public. Due to the pandemic, a mixed-methods approach was adopted to collect data (including desk-reviews, discussions, informant interviews and informal consultations). Data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) was also used.

### 1.3 MONITORING

PNG had not been able to monitor and track MDGs' targets and indicators. UNICEF had introduced the MDG tracking tool (DevInfo), but it was not sufficiently utilized. Similar tracking tools were introduced by the Department of Provincial and Local Government Authority (DPLGA) for the Provincial Information Management System and the District Information Management System of the Department of Rural Implementation and Rural Development. But again, they were not utilized. Thus, special

1. See: [https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country\\_profiles/Papua\\_New\\_Guinea.pdf](https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Papua_New_Guinea.pdf)

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26452VNR\\_2020\\_Papua\\_New\\_Guinea\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26452VNR_2020_Papua_New_Guinea_Report.pdf) (2020)

efforts were made for reviewing the SDG implementation. DNPM has developed the **PNG Strategy for Development Statistics** to map out all national data producers and sources. DNPM has also been building a **National Data Centre** that will have all the development indicators for the MTDP and SDGs. Regarding SDG localization, there was a need for a comprehensive review of SDG targets and indicators to determine their relevance to PNG. Resultantly, 46 SDG indicators were considered immediately suitable with feasible data sources and were thus included into the MTDP III. Overall, the 2020 VNR process has stimulated ideas on innovative ways of tracking SDGs in the future.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The SDG localization process involved a series of workshops and consultations with the private sector, civil societies, academia, youth, people living with disabilities and other interested groups. But LRGs participation is not mentioned in the 2020 VNR. It is specified that urban town authorities have limited human resources and technical capacity in developing strategies and undertaking key reforms towards the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, the VNR acknowledges that PNG's performance on the SDGs depends on provincial and local governments. The need to develop a roadmap to mobilize LRGs is mentioned, as well as the necessity of national engagement in regular dialogue with all subnational governments on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During the VNR process, provincial and district administrations participated through consultations, as well as many other stakeholders.

### 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

#### ► In the VNR process



2020

Comments: Provincial and district administrations participated in the VNR process through consultations. LRGs are mentioned throughout the report.

#### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2020

Comments: LRGs are not mentioned among the participants of consultations for SDG localization. SDGs' mainstreaming in provincial and district development plans seems to follow a top-down logic (as well as many of the national programs mentioned in the VNR, implemented at the local level).

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 mentions of local governments throughout the 2020 VNR. There is a subsection on decentralization (see VNR, 2020, p. 16) that briefly mentions the recent drive for increased independence of the provinces. At the end of the report, a subsection called "Strengthening Sub-National Government Capacity in SDGs" insists on their role in implementing the SDGs (see VNR, 2020, p. 86). Some cities are mentioned in the subsection on SDG 11, without references to locally led policies or projects.

### 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In **Port Moresby**, safe market programs for women traders are implemented under the city commission (National Capital District Commission).

► **Mount Hagen** and **Goroka** are also committed to improving unsafe and unsanitary markets and poor transport infrastructure.

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

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is a specific part on means of implementation in the 2020 VNR (see VNR, 2020, p. 42). The government crafted the **Medium Term Fiscal Strategy (MTFS) 2018-2022** as the main financing strategy of both MTDP III and the SDGs. For SDG financing at the subnational level, there are ongoing reforms under the Inter-Government Relations (Functioning & Funding) 2009 Act. In line with the National Service Delivery Framework, it aims at increasing the fiscal capacity and ability of all provincial and local-government administrations to manage and provide basic services. Through the **Service Improvement Programs**, the national government expends financial resources to districts and provinces.

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** SDGs have been mainstreamed in provincial and district development plans. However, the 2020 VNR states that **the local capacity for SDG planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is relatively low**. PNG's government is thus making efforts to strengthen local-level planning, monitoring, reporting, and implementation capacity by recruiting more local government staff (mainly monitoring and evaluation officers or statisticians). These efforts involve competency-based training through the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, the Department of Personnel Management, and the DNPM.

### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 1984, the National Women's Development Program was introduced to mobilize and build a strategic network of women's organizations from district levels to the national level. Nowadays, several provinces have **Provincial Family and Sexual Violence Action Committees** represented at the highest level. This works well in provinces such as East New Britain and Morobe. There is information on the still low representation of women in politics at the national level (in the Parliament), but not on the current situation in local governments.

### 3.2 COVID 19

Among the economic measures to cope with the pandemic, the 2020 VNR mentions the food security programs that are currently being initiated in **Port Moresby**, with subsidized shipping costs for farmers especially from the Momase and Highlands region.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>3</sup>

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	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	28 (2020)
	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)		11.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

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/png>