

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Rwanda is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, comprising 30 districts.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

The SDGs have been integrated in **Vision 2050**, the **National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) 2017-2024** and related sectors and districts' strategies.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government tasked the **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)** to oversee and facilitate the SDG implementation process at all levels. A dedicated **SDGs taskforce** bringing together ministries, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector was established to serve as the nucleus and focal point for ensuring inter-agency collaboration and coordination.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDGs taskforce** played a crucial role in providing technical guidance and quality assurance during the 2019 VNR report's preparation. Focal points across ministries and agencies were designated and tasked to provide necessary information from their respective sectors for the preparation of the report. In addition to data collection, information and clarifications were obtained through consultative meetings and round table discussions with key sectors, especially with the CSOs platform, the private sector federation and key sectors in government.

1.3 MONITORING

SDG monitoring and implementation in Rwanda is being done through various fora and systems that include performance contracting (*imihigo*), which is now being mainstreamed under an online results-based management system. The **National Institute of Statistics (NISR)** is responsible for the annual assessment of performance contracts for all government agencies and districts; as well as citizen report cards and an **Annual National Dialogue (Umushyikirano)** attended by top leadership and a cross-section of all leaders, and representation of Rwandans in the diaspora. The Annual National Dialogue is streamed and broadcast live on all media and citizens can provide instant feedback or comments to their leaders.

However, one drawback is that these mechanisms do not seem to be directly connected to the **National Urban Fora (NUF)** that Rwanda has held since 2008. The NUF are regular multi-stakeholder platforms to support sustainable urban development processes and debates through action-oriented meetings. These meetings address the way in which cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, through cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders and various urban actors. The purpose of the third of these meetings to be held in 2019 was to assess the progress made and reflect on the continuing implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Rwanda.

The National Institute of Statistics has also launched an **online SDGs portal** containing latest data available on Rwanda SDG indicators.

Furthermore, **Rwanda SDGs METADATA handbook** was developed, providing definitions and methodology among others, to ensure data sharing and reporting.

Rwanda has used various systems to collect localized data (e.g. performance contracting, citizen report cards, etc.).

Imihigo (performance contracts) is a planning, monitoring and evaluation tool that the central and district levels use to set delivery targets and assess progress against agreed annual development targets, including SDGs.³

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

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23432Rwanda_VNR_Document_Final.pdf (2019)

3. More information on Imihigo can be found in the VNR, 2019, p. 21.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)** coordinates SDG appropriation and implementation both at national and local levels. The widely consultative process organized for the elaboration of the NST1 2017-2024 as well as sectors and districts' development strategies offered a unique opportunity to create SDG ownership and awareness from central to local levels. **District development strategies (DDSs)** are being aligned with the national agenda and the SDGs through an assessment of the level of integration of SDG indicators with the support of the **Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)** in three pilot districts (**Bugesera, Gicumbi and Ruhango**). It is planned to roll out the results in all the other 27 districts of the country, although it will require further expertise and new resources to continue the work on SDG alignment and awareness-raising.⁴

Coordination between the national and local governments is mentioned in the 2019 VNR as part of the presentation of national coordination mechanisms: through **District Councils and Districts Joint Action Development Forums (JADFs)**, as well as **community outreach** through UMUGANDA and districts' administrative entities, e.g. sectors, cells and villages.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: The Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) participates regularly at decision-making level (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

Districts are mentioned throughout the 2019 VNR, in particular to highlight that there are SDG implementation/monitoring mechanisms at both national and local levels.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)** has been undertaking specific awareness-raising and training workshops on the SDGs and SDG localization for its staff and members with support from the CLGF/ EU and GIZ. In 2017, the RALGA convened a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue that brought together key local government decision makers, government representatives and other relevant stakeholders. The national association is also leading an SDG localization project supported by the CLGF and the EU to strengthen the capacity of local governments to adapt the SDGs to their local realities. The project's components include SDG awareness-raising campaigns; providing technical support to three pilot districts (Bugesera, Gicumbi and Ruhango) for the inclusion of the SDGs in their development strategies; and helping monitor SDG implementation in their local development strategies. In addition, the RALGA Inclusive Decisions at Local Level (IDEAL) project, with support from Dutch VNG International, in all six of the country's secondary cities (Musanz Accelere, Rubavu, Huye, Muhanga, Nyagatare and Rusizi), is strengthening local capacities in areas such as planning, inclusive LED, sound local social welfare strategies and services, and gender sensitive policies.⁵

The RALGA got support from the EU and the CLGF to implement a project on the localization of the SDGs in 2017-2018, and is currently implementing phase two, corresponding to the period 2021-2022. Different awareness campaigns were conducted, and fact sheets were developed for each district in Rwanda. Also, a monitoring tool for SDG implementation at the national level was put in place by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, and by the RALGA for local governments.⁶

► The city of **Kigali** has based its action plan on local challenges, including aging infrastructures, energy insecurity, environmental degradation, lack of affordable housing and flooding.

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

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

6. Answer of the Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

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

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Spending needs to reach the SDGs and means of implementation are described in the 2019 VNR, but there is no information regarding the districts. It is worth noting that Rwanda is one of the few countries that has managed to establish a specific environment and natural resource fund, following passage of the 2005 Environmental Law that provided for the creation of the Green Fund FONERWA in 2012. FONERWA provides loans and grants to government institutions, the private sector and CSOs for green projects.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Rwanda is among the pilot countries implementing the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework** to enable the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees. This is part of the Global Impact on Refugees, which seeks to foster refugees' resilience and self-reliance in a way that also benefits host communities.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women's participation in leadership at the local level improved during the period 2016-2018, increasing from 16.7% to 26.7% among district mayors and 45.2% in district councils.

It is worth noting that financing gender equality and empowering women has been and remains a priority for the government of Rwanda. This is reflected in Organic Law N° 12/2013/OL of 12/09/2013 on State Finances and Property that was adopted to enforce gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). All budget agencies must annex a gender budget statement (GBS) to the budget framework paper, ensuring that the budgets they draft incorporate a gender analysis that identifies the implications and impacts of the budget for both women and men.

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁷

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		43.6 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	46 (2020)
	Rural	5 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	54 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		76.5 (2014, Kigali)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		39.7 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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/rwa>