

# TIMOR-LESTE

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Timor-Leste is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government, made of 12 municipalities/districts and one special administrative region, and of 442 villages (with elected *suco* councils).



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

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **SDG Roadmap**, produced in 2017, outlined how the global goals align with the national **Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030**. The SDP sets out the pathway to sustainable and inclusive development in Timor-Leste through focusing on state-building, social inclusion and economic growth.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

An **SDG Working Group** was established, which comprises government ministries, parliament, academia, private sector, media, religious organizations, and representatives of civil society, with the United Nations as observer. The creation of a National Commission for the SDGs has been proposed. In the Office of the Prime Minister, the **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA)** co-chairs the SDG Working Group.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The process for developing the 2019 VNR has been led by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the General Directorate of Statistics, with support from the United Nations. A **VNR secretariat** (including the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA)) was established to manage the data collection, writing and consultation process for the report. It convened the **SDG working group** (see above).<sup>2</sup> SDG 16 was chosen as the overarching theme of the report. The data collection process involved working with the General Directorate of Statistics.

### 1.3 MONITORING

A key recommendation of the 2019 VNR is to elevate the working group to create a National Commission for the SDGs that would review progress against the goals and coordinate future VNRs in line with reviews of the government's programme. It will also play an important role in overseeing alignment of the SDP with SDG indicators. As for now, the establishment in 2015 of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA) in the Office of the Prime Minister has supported the government to effectively integrate planning, budgeting and monitoring processes. As part of the continued reform of program budgeting (see below), the national government has been reviewing all programme outcome indicators to ensure alignment with the SDG indicators.<sup>3</sup>

1. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23417TimorLeste\\_VNR\\_2019\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23417TimorLeste_VNR_2019_FINAL.pdf) (2019)

2. In addition to civil society being represented on the SDG Working Group, a CSO advisory group was established. The group was made up of the national NGO Platform, the National Youth Council, the network of women's organizations, and a conflict-prevention NGO. The purpose of the group was to advise the VNR secretariat on how to effectively engage excluded groups in the consultation process. The advisory group supported the design of the consultations and assisted in the facilitation of the consultation meetings in Dili and Baucau (Timor-Leste's second biggest city).

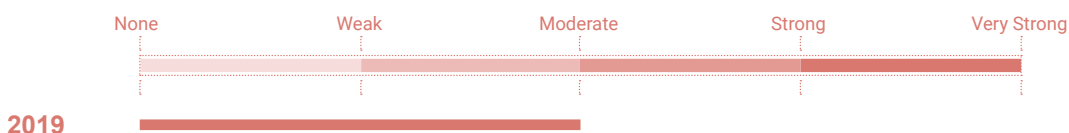
3. Data availability for each SDG is detailed in the VNR, 2019, p. 111.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

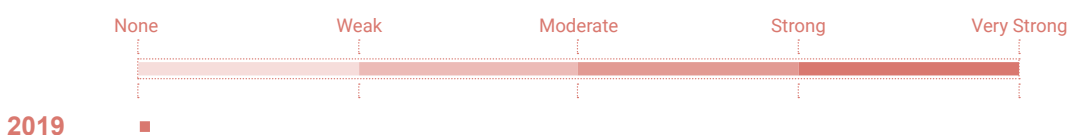
As part of the 2019 VNR process, multi-stakeholder consultations were held in **Dili**, the capital, and **Baucau**, the second biggest city. These consultations involved local government officials from both municipalities, as well as members of the government officials, the private sector, CSOs, youth, women's organizations, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ groups, among others. The 2019 VNR emphasizes that further work is needed for the sustainable development goals to be mainstreamed into municipal development plans and budgets and to strengthen the public financial management and financial capacities at municipal level.

### 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

#### ► In the VNR process



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



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

LRGs are mentioned throughout the 2019 VNR, which highlights that “strengthening public institutions at municipal level is critical for achieving the SDGs” and that “decentralisation can play an important role in tackling disparities between municipalities and ensuring no one is left behind” (see VNR, 2019, p. 41). However, there are no examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

### 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

A **budgetary governance roadmap**, developed in 2017, with support from the OECD to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of budgeting, is a key lever for supporting implementation of the SDGs. The 2019 VNR states that more efficient budgeting will also improve the effectiveness of government resources and reduce the need to finance development from withdrawals from the oil fund. Crucially, the budgetary governance roadmap is part of broader public administration and public financial and fiscal reform. An inter-ministerial council, chaired by the Prime Minister, will oversee the reform. Medium-term planning and budgeting are underway to link sector plans and budgets to the SDP, to help with implementation and crucial costing of commitments in the SDP, and thereby the SDGs. The introduction of programme budgeting across all government ministries and agencies, as part of public financial management reform, has allowed the alignment of government programmes to the SDGs. The VNR also indicates that the planned decentralization of services to municipalities will also strengthen the capacity for programme budgeting and medium-term planning at the municipal and local levels. Through promoting five-year plans and expenditure frameworks this will support the implementation and crucial costing of commitments in the SDP, and thereby the SDGs.

**Dalan Ba Futuru** is an innovative new government planning, monitoring and evaluation web-based information system. It was rolled out in 2018 for use in the 2019 budget and planning process. Each ministry, public agency and municipality will have, by the time it is completed, access to the system to prepare their annual and multi-year plans, monitor their performance and track progress against targets. *Dalan Ba Futuru* will provide performance information matched against budget and actual

expenditure, which is vital in monitoring progress against the SDP and the SDGs. The transparency monitoring dashboard is designed to promote transparency of the national budget and will be accessible to all citizens of Timor-Leste and all stakeholders.

### 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Decentralization plans in Timor-Leste have been included as part of the SDG implementation process, with the aim of modernizing the public administration (including its budgeting and planning), strengthening public services and reducing disparities at local levels. However, in recent years, the country has been severely hit by natural disasters (cyclones, climate deregulation and volcanic activity), which have hampered the implementation of such initiatives.<sup>4</sup>

#### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Currently no women are appointed as administrator at municipal and sub-district levels. However, the Village Election Law, which requires at least one woman to stand for election in every suco (village), has led to an increased number of female village chiefs from 2.5% in 2009 to 5% in 2016, although this is still very low. This rise in female village chiefs can partly be attributed to the innovative '100% *Hau Prontu*' advocacy initiative ('100% I'm ready'), which encourages and prepares women for leadership regardless of party affiliation.<sup>5</sup>

#### 3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

### 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>6</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		3.9 (2018)
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	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		33.4 (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)		16.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

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

5. It is a government-NGO partnership which encourages and prepares women for leadership. This programme aims to increase the number of female candidates standing for upcoming Suco and municipal elections. The "100 percent *Hau Prontu*" campaign began in 2014 through an alliance of Government partners, civil society organizations, and international agencies. The campaign identified 319 women leaders and prepared them to stand for election. The Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Equality and Inclusion also provided financial support to the Fundação Pátria organization to implement leadership training for potential women candidates in three municipalities, giving them guidance on electoral law, gender equality, public speaking, campaigning and advocacy.

6. 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/tls>